

RUBBER CITY RIDERS NEWSLETTER AKRON, OHIO

CD's POINT of VIEW

By Paul & Nyki McWilliams

CD's POV	1
ACD's POV	2
RIDER ED	3
TECHNICAL	4
SECRETARY's REPORT	5
FUNDRAISER	6

Hello Chapter T Family! We hope this edition of your newsletter finds you warm and healthy. Old Man Winter has sure let us know he is still around and strong as ever, hasn't he? Figures he would flex his muscles right before the last meeting, so thanks to everyone for their understanding in our delaying the meeting for a week. We had a pretty good turn out, and the weather was a darn sight better than the week before. Thank goodness! And....it won't be long now before we'll be able to get out there and get our trusty steeds going again. We are starting to get very excited about the upcoming riding season. There will be a lot of fun things to do and great rides to take, and we hope you are looking forward to it too! But, before we get to that, we need to do just a brief recap for those that were not able to make it to the last meeting. I thought last year was an "okay" year for Chapter T, but you know what? It was a great year. We were able to walk away from Cabin Fever with several plaques, which we should all be very proud of. Well deserved recognition goes to Jim Veneskey and all his hard work, who won runner up for the state's best Chapter Web site. Along with that, Robert G. and Angela Williams made us all extremely proud by being selected as the State Rider Educators of the Year. This shows just some of the outstanding efforts made by our members, and we should all be grateful for their efforts, because they do it for all of us in Chapter T. We are privileged to be associated with all of you.

Speaking of Cabin Fever, it was a really good weekend. Lots of fun, lots of good food and entertainment, seminars and even Chrome & leather. Next year's theme will be "Comic Book Characters". We should be able to have lots of fun with that. Design a logo for next year and turn it in to us by the April meeting, and we'll take it to the officers meeting where the winning design will be chosen. The winner receives free admission to Buckeye Rally in Marietta. For those that have not attended a cabin fever, think about going next year. You might just like it. The more you participate, the more fun you'll have. Like everything else, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.

A suggestion has been made we are going to try. If you have something for a bike you are going to part with, whether it be by sale or just give it away, jot down a good description of it on a piece of standard sized, 8 1/2 X 11 paper, and bring it to the next meeting. Maybe bring a couple of copies. Be sure to put your name, phone, e-mail, etc on it so someone interested in it can contact you. We will place these flyers on one of the tables up front for everyone to look at to see if they are interested. If this works out, we can keep doing it until either we run out of stuff or room on the table. Don't bring the item, just the flyer.

We had a good turn out for our First aid & CPR class, which included folks from other chapters and even our very own Assistant District Directors, Mike and Lisa. I think we all learned a lot of important info, but hope we never have to use it. If we do, we'll be like a good Boy Scout: prepared.

Things coming up include our Chapter Auction, Skills Day in Wooster, the open house at Mid West Motorsports, lots of good eating and fun. We hope to see you all soon.

Be safe out there!!

Paul, Nyki and Ajna.

ACD's POINT OF VIEW

By Steve Detwiler and Pam Jeanneret

Hello All,

Hope everyone is well, at least better than I have been a little under the weather, like a lot of people this year. There seems to be a lot of ill people no matter where you go. I was doing well for most of this season until my wife decided to share with me, thanks, Dear! Enough about that, on to a new month and warmer temperatures. I'm sure if you haven't been in the garage (checking out our bikes) already you will be out there this month! Enjoying the warmer temps and sunshine helps get us into the right mind set, just as it did when we were much younger. I'm sure we can remember back when we all were in our school years – coming out of winter we all were waiting and hoping for Spring Break and Summer vacation. We got out probably for the first time with that new bike we received at Christmas. Riding anywhere and everywhere, visiting other friends. Matching up with a few friends and doing nothing just riding around. If during one of those times we stopped and our new bike was dirty or muddy, we would pull out a shirt tail and wipe it off. Then after riding all day, we would come home and wash it down. After wiping off the bike we would sit down and think about how to make it “our own”. Like no one else has – Customize it!! We would put cards in the spokes, maybe a sissy bar and a banana seat, “stuff” hanging from the handlebars, maybe even a head-light, possibly red reflectors on the back or a little red light on the rear that lights up as we pedal so we could be seen at night. Since we all rode a lot after dark as kids (yeah, right!) How many of you can remember doing any or all of these things? Isn't it ironic the older we get, the more we are like Kids!! If you did any of the items above as a Kid, your destiny in life was already set. “You have grown up to be a Gold winger!”

Upcoming Events!

Midwest Motorsports – Open House March 17th
Come support Midwest and Chapter T

Chapter G-2 Fundraiser March 31st 5:30 p.m.
Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction Mantua Civic Center. If you would like to enter some of your chili, please do so! This is open to all. Plus I hear they have a lot of nice items in the auction.

We would also like to take a minute for those that weren't at the last meeting or at Cabin Fever to inform you that Robert G. and Angela Williams, our Chapter Educators, have been selected Ohio Educators of the Year. We feel both have done a great job as Chapter Educators. So when you see Robert give him a pat on the back but when you see Angela, she definitely gets a big hug! Again, Robert and Angela job well done, Chapter T is proud to claim you as our own!!

Steve and Pam

RIDER EDUCATION

By Robert and Angela Williams



Congrats to: Cindy Jarrett for wining the Levels Travel Cup.

Levels program update: We now have 41 members participating in the GWRRA Levels Program. This brings us to a total of 24 Level I Riders, 4 Level II Riders, 6 Level III Riders and 7 Level IV Master Tour Riders. **Ride On**

Riding Topic: I was recently asked to write up what are the level's program requirements. So in a nut shell here are the basic requirements of the Levels program.

Level I: Required to be a current GWRRA member and commit to ride safe.

Level II: Required to be current Level I GWRRA member. Rider must have 5,000 safe miles since joining GWRRA and a valid MC endorsement. Rider must have an approved riding course with 3 years; ERC, BRC, GWRRA rider courses, TRC, ESC Sidecar/Trailing. In Ohio we can use the Skill Days event to advance to Level II.

Level III: Current in Level I and Level II. Rider Agrees to carry a First Aid kit on the bike. Rider must be current First Aid or CPR Certified.

Before moving on the Level IV Master Tour Rider lets review Co-Rider requirements as well as Level updates.

Level I: Co-Rider must be a current GWRRA member and commit to ride safely just as the Rider does. No Updates are required to maintain Level I for either Rider or Co-Rider.

Level II: Co Rider must be a current GWRRA member and must take a Co-Rider Seminar or 2-up Riding Course within the last 3 years. In Ohio we can use the Skills day events to update both Level II Rider and Co-Rider.

Level III: Co-Rider must be a current GWRRA member as well as be current in both Level I and II. Co-Rider must maintain current First Aid or CPR certification.

I want to this opportunity to thank Paul and Nyki for hosting in their home last week the Chapter T First Aid and CPR course. Plus they provided plenty of good food as well.

This brings us to Level IV Master Tour Rider: Rider and Co-Rider must be a current GWRRA member and current at Level III for one full year. Completed a minimum of 25,000 safe miles and be current in both CPR and First Aid. Carry a first aid kit on the bike and agree to wear proper riding apparel. To advance to Level IV the Rider must have an approved riding course within 3 years; ERC, BRC, GWRRA rider courses, TRC, ESC Sidecar/Trailing. The Skills day events will NOT count toward this requirement. However to update your Master Tour Rider certification in Ohio, the Skills Day event will satisfy the rider course requirement.

The whole idea of the Levels program in my opinion is to highlight our commitment to safe riding. Instill by example the method to acquire the needed skills to be a safe rider. If you are NOT currently involved, get involved. I like you, want to enjoy my sport for a very long time and the Levels program will help me keep my skills at the level required to meet the every day challenges we encounter on the road.

Robert G & Angela M Williams
Ohio Chapter T CE's
Rubber City Riders
Akron, Ohio

TECHNICAL TALK

By Chuck and Marlene Isom

We recently had one of the deadliest Sundays in the past 30 years here in Florida with 9 fatalities. Hillsborough county where Tampa is located had the bloody day. Florida had 3,533 deaths in 2006 that is well over 9 a day. The causes were bad driving by negligent drivers. I hope this sad news will cause each of you to take heed. Soon it will be spring and we will have some nice weather once again. When on your motorcycle or in the car Please drive like you might have a wreck. Be more alert. Be more observant. Slow down. Don't drink and drive. Don't use your cell phone while driving. More lives are lost in Florida per year than all that have BEEN LOST IN THE 4 YEAR WAR IN IRAQ. What a waste of lives in both instances. Here population growth, congested roads, and bad weather (can you imagine that?) all contribute to horrible driving conditions. But traffic doesn't cause crashes. Roads don't cause crashes. Drivers cause crashes. The key to better driving is adjusting to your surroundings. "If conditions are worse than what you're expecting, reduce your speed". "Be more considerate". It is hard for me to understand the decisions people are making driving their motorcycles and cars and trucks. Besides speed drinking, drag racing, eating, shaving, talking on the phone, the list goes on and on astounds me. This is what causes accidents. Drivers are too distracted. We all need to do a better job of driving. My tip is to "Please pay attention to every detail while driving."

Now lets talk about your vehicle, if it is not maintained can also contribute to accidents. Badly worn tires, or under inflated tires for example. Not taking care of your breaking system. Check the brake pads every time you change tires. Check the rotors, I know some of our members could not pass the legal limits of rotor thickness. Check for loose or broken and missing bolts. I know we are not riding Harley's but pieces and parts falling off can be a real danger while riding on two wheels. Make sure every thing that needs lubrication is well taken care of. A minor break down can cause a serious accident. My suggestion is to always use Honda parts, don't go cheap, Your motorcycle deserves the right correct parts. Using the wrong parts could cause your motorcycle not to be covered under warranty. Like the oil filter, or wrong antifreeze for examples. Having a trailer hitch could cause warranty problems also if your dealer really wants to bring it up. If you have a heel / toe shifter or automatic shifter of any kind can also present warranty problems. Some of the after market stuff, Like chrome most of us like plenty of that and convenience stuff we like that too. If not properly installed can present more headaches than they are worth. don't forget the battery. I know Sears die-hards may be good but I don't want one on my motorcycle.

Insurance tips. Did you know that a good credit history can have a direct impact on your insurance cost ? It does. Some companies offer discounts if you own more than one motorcycle in the family ask if yours does. You may want to raise the deductible on your collision and or comprehensive to save also. Seniors should consider taking a drivers refresher course, such as those offered by the AARP or AAA which may qualify them for a discount. The message here is Don't put your insurance on auto pilot. Shop around mention all the safety stuff on your motorcycle such as ABS brakes , air Bags, etc. A safe driving record say three or more years without an accident or moving violation may get you a discount. Try to get insurance with a reputable Company. Cheapest may not be the best way to go. Should you ever need to use it you want the best.

Some of the years (BEST) Headlines.

- (1) IF STRIKE ISN'T SETTLED QUICKLY IT MAY LAST AWHILE. (you think?)
- (2) COLD WAVE LINKED TO TEMPERATURES. (who would have thought?)
- (3) RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGES.(you mean there's something stronger than duct tape.?)
- (4) TYPHOON RIPS THROUGH CEMETERY: HUNDREDS DEAD (did I read that sign right?)
- (5) MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTING: FACES BATTERY CHARGE. (he probably is the battery charge)
- (6) WAR DIMS HOPE FOR PEACE. (I can see where it might have that effect)

A Teacher asks her 3rd grade class to name two types of Light. The room fell silent until one small wise young man in the back of the room raises his hand and said " Uhhh, Miller and Bud? "

That's it Friends, this months Fun, Safety and Knowledge Stuff. What a great concept. Glad to be a GWRRA Member. We miss everyone. Hope all are able to ride soon. It is Shorts and T-shirt weather here. OOOPS!.

Your Technical Coordinators, Chuck and Marlene

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Julie Veneskey

The February meeting was held on February 21st, 2007 at Lindsay's Restaurant in Akron, Ohio. The meeting had been postponed from the 14th due to weather conditions. The meeting was called to order by Chapter Director Paul McWilliams at 7:15 pm. The evening's guests were introduced. Don and Cindy Davis visited from G-2. We also had visiting Skip and Debi Beadle.

Cindy Jarrett talked about our fundraising auction and spaghetti dinner to be held on April 28th at the Randolph Community Center. The chapter would like each member to try to get at least 2 items for the auction. Please turn in donations before the day of the auction. Cindy also mentioned that if you or someone you know would like to advertise in the newsletter prices are \$25 for a quarter page and \$50 for a half page per year. Also please see Cindy if you are interested in the new chapter patch.

CD Paul McWilliams presented our web page editor Jim Veneskey the yearly web site award for the runner up position. Robert Williams was awarded a plaque from the state for being one of the members from our chapter that helped out with games at this year's Cabin Fever. It was also announced that at Cabin Fever Robert and Angela Williams were chosen as Chapter Educators of the Year for our district. This award is well deserved. Also given awards for bringing new members into GWRRA were Bob Jarrett, Dale Hudson, Paul McWilliams, Steve Williams, and Bob Saffles. Chuck Pangburn was given an award for retention and recruitment of members.

Chapter Educator Robert Williams awarded the travel mug to level participant Cindy Jarrett. He mentioned that Skills Day classes can now be used to advance to level 2 or 3 and to get recertified for level 4. A Motorcycle Ohio rider's course is still required for advancement to level 4.

Dale Hudson talked about the open house to be held at Midwest Motorsports on March 17th at 10:00am. They have enough people to man tables but need donations of cookies. A sheet was sent around for suggestions for a Goldwing accessory wall that Lee wants to put up at the store. If you have any ideas let Dale know.

Nyki announced that Keith and Vicki Williams will be taking over the duties of sunshine committee. Paul announced the theme for Cabin Fever 2008 is comic book characters. If you would like to design the logo please submit to Paul and Nyki by April 14th. Paul also mentioned that if you have something for sale or to give away please bring a handout describing the item to the meeting. Angela mentioned that we are need of donations for door prizes to hand out at the meetings.

Upcoming events:

- 2/24- Euchre party at Steve and Debbie Williams' home
- 2/25- Safety Sunday in Shaker Hts.
- 3/17- Euchre party at Ted and Beth Daniels' home
- 3/31- Chili Cook-off and Auction sponsored by Chapter G-2
- 3/31- Rigatoni Dinner sponsored by Chapter M

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

FUNDRAISER
By CINDY JARRETT

Hello, Chapter T friends,

It's that time of year again— time for our annual fundraiser. The next two months will be critical to the success of this year's Spaghetti Dinner, Bake Sale, Silent auction, and Auction. The event is scheduled for Saturday, **APRIL 28**, at the Randolph Community Center. It is time to start collecting items to be auctioned off in either the Silent Auction or Verbal Auction. **The items should be new or like new.** If you can get your place of work to donate something, if you can make something(last year we had afghans, jewelry, cross-stitch pictures, crocheted items and wood carvings), if you have an item at home you would like to donate, or if you would like to ask your favorite restaurant for a gift certificate or two, that would be great. We will take any and all items people are willing to give us. Believe it or not, we already have some items for this year's auction collected at Cabin Fever. Letter and donation forms were passed out at the February meeting. We are asking that each member donate at least **TWO** items. Turn your forms in to either Paul And Nyki or Bob and I . You can bring them Sunday breakfast, a meeting, or our houses. The last two years the fundraiser has been a huge success because almost everyone in the Chapter helped in some way. We need that cooperation again this year. The more people who help the more fun we all have and the less work for everyone.

Make a day of it with a Chapter T friend and go to businesses collecting items. That's what I've done for the past two years, and it is a lot of fun. Make sure you take your letters and collection forms with you. You will be surprised at the donations you can gather in one day! Be sure to tell them that they will be acknowledged at the Auction, that they will receive a personal thank you letter, and that we encourage Chapter members to support those businesses who have supported us. Happy Gathering!

Cindy Jarrett
Ways & Means