FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Bob & Sue Chute

Welcome to spring in Michigan! After spending four months as snowbirds in Florida, we came home April 1st to 33 degree weather……April Fools! First and foremost, we want to express our gratitude to our Assistant Chapter Directors, Rich and Cari Durecki, for their leadership of the Chapter while we were snowbirds.

We trailered our Goldwing to Sebring, Florida. While there we enjoyed many bike trips with four other couples from our Chapter. We also joined a motorcycle club there, the Highland County Ridge Runners. They provided the opportunity for us to ride with them on weekly lunch and ice cream rides! But we believe the highlight of our winter Goldwing travels was the 300+ mile ride to Key West with Tom and Connie Whalen, Mark and Carol Skinner, Wolfgang and Connie Gless and Bruce and Lucy McLeish. We had awesome weather, beautiful sites to view and wonderful accommodations. Thanks to all that made it possible for those memories! Now we’re back in the snowy tundra, we’ve hit the ground running!

While we were gone it was reported that five Chapter members attended the Chapter D2 chili cook off held in Garrett. There was a good attendance and a variety of chili recipes to sample.

Also, the Chapter Bowling event held March 26th seemed to be enjoyed by all. There were three lanes used and one of our chapter members, whom shall remain nameless, mis-stepped and landed on her backside. Since we weren’t there, we can only go by what was witnessed by others. Thankfully, no one was injured during this obviously entertaining occasion.

Our most recent event, the Nelson’s Port-a-Pit Chicken Sales, was held this past Saturday, April 9th. It was a brisk 23 degrees at 8:00 a.m., when we met at Callahan’s for breakfast. There were 20 members at breakfast all ready to brave the wintry blast! And we can honestly say it started out with truly bitter, blowing, unpleasant weather. However everyone pitched in……taking orders, dishing out the chicken and potatoes or holding signs walking up and down the sidewalks, while their fingers froze. Thank you to Deb for procuring extra zip lock bags and also to Joyce for making a much needed hot chocolate run. We also appreciate our past members for stopping bye to pick up chicken. A big thank you goes out to Rod Clark who took orders and delivered chicken to folks at his previous employer. The most memorable vision for me was that of one of our members dressed up as a huge plump chicken, flapping his wings at the cars! He said he didn’t need any “stuffing” and he was right! Our members prevailed thru all the elements and all the chicken and potatoes was sold by 2:00 p.m.

We are so very proud of all who helped, whether in spirit or physical presence, to make this undertaking such a huge success. We’re brand new at this Chapter Director Newsletter article stuff, so if we’ve left someone or something out, our apologies or as our past Director Vern would say, “My bad.” That’s all for this month. Remember, life is short……pay it forward by making a positive difference.

Bob & Sue
Welcome back Snow Birds, in other words IT’S RIDING SEASON. Time to get on the road!

Yes it’s great to have everyone back together once again. For those of us who stayed north through the winter it’s time to get those bikes out. Fresh off of a successful Chicken Sale fundraiser, I’d personally like to thank everyone for their efforts in making this fundraiser a great event.

Recently I attended the Region “D” Officer Certification Program in Coldwater, MI. It was a full day devoted to educate and inspire operations officers. A lot of information on GWRRA’s officer’s functions was presented to help me be able to serve you the members. It was presented very well and was quite enlightening.

A few of us went to the Chapter D2 Chili Cookoff in Garrett. This was the first time Cari and I were able to go and we had a very nice time. It was great to see the number of other chapters that came together to make their fundraiser a big success.

Those who came out to our annual bowling event that we hosted with our neighboring chapter Goshen Chapter “H” had a great time. We may not brought home many accolades but we definitely had fun with our friends from down the road.

Coming up April 17th Cari and I are leading a ride up to Grand Rapids Michigan to Meijer Gardens. It’s been a number of years since we’ve gone up there. If you have not gone to the gardens you’re in for a treat. Dress appropriately it’s about 80 degrees and humid. The butterfly exhibit is drawing to an end soon, so there should be quite a number of them in the arboretum. Dinner after that at BD Mongolian grill, yumm. If it’s a decent warm and dry day we’ll travel on bikes, if not we’ll caravan from the Discovery School leaving at 12 noon.

That’s all for this month, be good to yourself and to each other.

Rich & Cari
This month’s Newsletter Editor article is going to be a short one.

There have been two changes/corrections to the Notification Tree given to me recently, so I am about to publish a new one. I am asking all Chapter O2 members to look at their entry in said document and make sure your information is correct. The current version is 2016 Version 1. If you don’t have it, or can’t find it, let me know and I’ll send you a copy so you can look it over. I will give everyone about two weeks after publication of this newsletter to get corrected information to me and then I’ll publish the new one. Please do this so we can keep our information correct.

PS: The changes that I have are Gabbards dropping their home phone, and the correction to Deb Anderson’s address.

Vern
k9cmj@prodigy.net
Riding motorcycles among the Amish & Mennonite

April 2016

The Amish & Mennonite are a growing culture. They are spreading out everywhere. They also go to Florida in the winter. The Amish lifestyle shuns modern technology, but they have become more cooperative by placing more lights on their horse & buggies, but we also have to adapt to their lifestyle. You would think that these somewhat segregated settlements would keep to themselves but they have one problem. They have to pay taxes like everyone else. So they need to make money. Because of this they have to get out and sell their wares. Every year you hear about accidents and there is usually a fatality. One thing you have to remember is traffic moves a lot slower. Do you know what the normal speed is for horse drawn buggies? It ranges between 5-8 miles per hour. Sometimes traffic can get backed up because of it. You don’t know what’s ahead of you. Sometimes you may be in a hilly part of the country or near curves. People get impatient try to pass. They may not realize that there may be a horse and buggy off to the right side that they can’t see when they are passing a car in front of them. Sometimes there may be more than 1 buggy. Make sure you have a wide view ahead of you before you pass someone and be cautious. There may be times when you’re in a hilly area. Coming up over a hill to fast may find you behind a slowing moving vehicle sign or an Amish family riding bicycles. Hitting the breaks not soon enough may find you hitting the back of a buggy or a group of children on bikes. I feel for these people. Technology and outsiders are creeping in. Mennonite may drive. Amish don’t drive but can own a vehicle and have someone drive it for them. I doubt you will ever see them riding a motorcycle but that doesn’t mean they can’t appreciate them.
Meeting Notes:

I didn’t get an exact count, but there were around 20 members present at the April meeting, and no guests.

Bob opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and welcomed everyone back from Florida.

Rich talked about past events, including 5 chapter members attending Chapter D2’s chili cook-off, and the combination O2/H bowling event.

Rich then asked everyone who had Chicken Sale money to turn that in to Bruce and he passed around a signup sheet for the various jobs at the sale and asked everyone to indicate how long they intended to work the sale.

Rich asked for a show-of-hands for who might be interested in a summer ride to go zip-lining. Response seemed to be pretty good for setting up this event. Rich will look into it and get locations and prices. More information will be forthcoming on this possible event.

Bruce talked about the fall train ride and gave the prices for the ride. He mentioned that he will secure the tickets on his credit card and asked that people start paying him for their tickets as soon as possible.

Rich passed around a signup sheet for the Meijer Gardens ride. Looks like we’ll have a pretty good group for this ride. Since it is early in the season, April 17th, we may end up going in cars if the weather doesn’t warm up significantly by then.

Bob reminded everyone about Chapter H’s Chocolate Extravaganza coming up on April 23rd. The flyer is included with this newsletter. Bob also reminded everyone about the June 26th Ride-For-Kids and suggested that the chapter try to have a good showing at this event.

Wolfie promoted Spring Wing Warm-up and mentioned some of the events that will be taking place in Rockville.

Connie, our Chapter Educator, gave a talk about riding in Amish country. She mentioned that, due to the slow speed of the buggies, riding in this environment presents a whole different set of circumstances.

Jim Whetstone was honored for selling the most pre sale, Chicken Sale tickets.

Vern presented Uderly Fantastic to Rich and Cari for their work in setting up the Bowling event. And he presented Dumbo to Deb Whetstone for her outstanding performance at the Bowling event.

Past Events

Chapter Bowling

Thank you to Rich and Cari for setting up another successful bowling event. I think everyone had a good time. We had three lanes with 4 bowlers on two of them and 5 on the last, for a total of 13 bowlers. Plus we had several “spectators/scorekeepers”. It’s always a good time when we can get together with the members from Chapter H. Thanks to all who participated. — Vern

2016 Chicken Sale

Well, another successful Chicken Sale is on the books. It seems like the weather is just against us when it comes to that event. We moved it up by a month to try to avoid the bad weather, but as luck would have it, Saturday was the coldest day of the week with a little morning snow. In spite of that we had a successful sale. Thank you to everyone who worked at this event. We now have enough money to finance the chapter for another year, and to continue our charitable donations.

- Vern

Meeting Notes, continued

With that Bob asked if there was any other business that anyone wanted to bring up. With nothing being mentioned, he thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries:
May 13 . . Richard & Linda Wright
May 20 . . Larry & Donna Johnson
May 26 . . Jim & Deb Whetstone

Birthdays:
May 3 . . Richard Wright
May 5 . . Mark Skinner
May 7 . . Michael Daly

Ludington Ice Cream Ride
Rex Harwood is putting together a ride on June 11th to Ludington, Michigan, to attend an event being held by the Ludington House of Flavors. They are trying to beat the Guinness world record for longest Ice Cream Dessert. They need people to help set up and to consume the giant sundae. It will be a one-day trip and will leave early in the morning. Contact Rex or Bernadette if you wish to attend. They can be contacted at 574-904-9802.

Thursday Dinner Rides
Here is the list for the once-a-month Thursday dinners. Be at the restaurant at 6:00.

April 21 . . Flippin’ Cow, Elkhart

Actual Dinner Rides will be starting in May. Here is the list as it stands now. Remember, we meet behind Discovery School. Kickstands up at 6:30

May 12 . . Jim Whetstone
May 19 . . Richard Wright
May 26 . . Vern Daly

June 09 . . Bob Chute
June 16 . . Wolfgang Gless
June 23 . . Open
June 30 . . Open

All dates other than those listed above are currently open. Please be giving some thought as to what date or dates you might be able to lead a dinner ride. August and September are currently completely open.

Chocolate Extravaganza
Once again, Chapter H is hosting their annual Chocolate Extravaganza. This is a fun event held at the Blessin Haus in Goshen. Several Chapter O2 members have attended this in the past and it’s always a good time. I have attached the flyer for this event along with this newsletter. Take a look at it and see if you’re interested.
Got an item that you would like to sell? Advertise it here in the “For Sale” listing of the newsletter. This publication is seen state wide and could help to locate someone that is looking for your item.

Your Chapter Store Representative:
Cindy Norman

Chapter items for sale:
Hats ................. $13.00
Chapter Flags ....... $12.00
Gold Wing Clocks ..... $15.00

Various pins, patches etc. also available. See Cindy for details.

For Sale:

1800 USED rear rim with USED tire & TPMS for $70.00 OBO

Contact Jim Whetstone, cell 574-274-9700

T-Shirts Needed

To ALL GWRRA members;
Bernadette Harwood from Chapter O2 collects t-shirts, new or gently used, from various places you’ve visited on your motorcycle, to make quilts for our Pound Auction. The more variety of places and colors the better for her quilts. Please consider donating one or more. They can be dropped off at her house, 52552 Grape Road, Granger, or you can give them to ANY O2 member, or better yet, bring them to the Chapter O2 meeting. Any questions you can call Bernadette at 574-904-9802. Remember, all proceeds from the Pound Auction go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Changes and Corrections

The Thursday dinner on April 21st has been changed from Bob’s 19th Hole to the Flippin’ Cow on SR19 by Simonton Lake. Time is still the same, 6:00.

Please note that changes and corrections will not be repeated, so be sure and check last month’s newsletter to make sure you didn’t miss anything.

Save those pop tabs for next year’s Ronald McDonald Ride
Date: TBD

Monthly Item:
Pick anything from the Wish List

For Sale: 2004 GL 1800

White with Graphic’s & Pin Stripping.
109,000 touring miles.
Loaded with chrome aftermarket parts including wheels, valve covers, timing chain cover and many more. Baker Air Wings are also included. Decorative Lighting is installed from front to back.
A bargain @ $11,000.00
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