

Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
Iowa Chapter I  
Volume 36 – Issue 4      April 2018  
“Friends for FUN, Safety, and Knowledge”



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**Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
Chapter IA-I Gathering – March 28, 2018  
Junie’s – Elk Run Heights, IA  
Seminar “Riding in the Dark” @ 4:00  
Eat @ 5:30; Meeting @ 6:00**

*Be aware of changing spring weather!*

2017 Region E Newsletter of the Year  
2017 Iowa District Newsletter of the Year

## **The Good News from the Chapter I Directors - Roger & Lisa Fleming**

How long has it been since you had a banana split? It has been years for us. We decided to splurge and Roger had one last week and it made us think about how GWRRA and a banana split are alike. If we start at the top with the cherry, that represents the friendships and memories that are created with our Goldwing friends and activities. The chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream represent the different motorcycles and different riding styles we each have. The whipped cream reminds us of the smooth travels we have had and as the whipped cream melts, it reminds us of some travels that weren't that smooth! The nuts represent all of us and our different personalities. And at the bottom is our banana that holds it all together; that represents all of our GWRRA team who constantly strive to keep things fun and active for you. So, grab your spoon and dig in!



The next Sunday Lunch Ride will be April 8, 2018. We will be riding to one of our sponsors...Bills' Pizza and Smokehouse in Independence. We plan to meet there at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the Oelwein Kwik Star at 11:00 a.m. for those who would like to meet us there and ride our beautiful motorcycles (weather permitting.) After lunch, (weather permitting) we will go for an afternoon ride. If the weather isn't cooperating for a ride, we will catch a movie at the Starlight Cinema in Independence. We hope to see you there!

As you prepare for riding season and you prepare your bike, remember to not only add to or change your fluids, but also take a good look at your tires, look for wear and for cracks in the tread, and check the air pressure in them. Be sure to do a thorough check of all your lights, headlights, brake lights, tail lights, turn signals and don't forget to check your horn! We know that most of us will get our riding gear ready by washing it or airing items out. Be sure to check to your gear, zippers in jackets, holes in gloves, and scratches on helmets are all things that can disappoint you if they are not ready to go especially for that first ride of the season. These may seem like little things; but everything you do to keep yourself safe on your motorcycle is worth it!

Until we meet again, use your knowledge to keep you safe, gather your loved ones close, and smile, smile, SMILE!

**Roger and Lisa Fleming  
GWRRA IA-I Chapter Directors**

Our sympathies go out to Sue Bahe and family on the recent death of Sue's mom.

Get well wishes go out to Rhonda Knight on her continued battle with cancer. For update, please check out Rhonda's facebook page.

Get well wishes go out to Michelle Clemen on her recent surgeries.

## 2017 Iowa Chapter IA Couple of the Year 2018 Iowa District Couple of the Year – Steve & Michele Lensing

Engine oil and filter, rear end oil, spark plugs, air filter, brake and clutch fluid, all done and our trike is put back together. All she needs is a bath and we are ready for a test ride for the 2018 riding season. Steve uses the Winter Season to make sure we are ready to go come spring.



We have many destinations in mind for 2018, along with the many chapter rides. WE CAN'T WAIT! There will be many FUN times, with many FRIENDS old and many new ones. Make sure when you are out there riding you keep SAFETY in mind and share your KNOWLEDGE with those who ask.

We have a handful of entries for our 2018 Chapter Challenge. When you are out and about, STOP and visit those Veterans Memorials that are a part of many communities. Take a picture and send it to us. You not only get to experience history, you get your name entered for the chance to win, and the prize will be pretty nice.

Don't forget the 2018 Safety Weekend May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge.

Enhancing our Members  
Michele Lensing MEC and Steve Lensing Chapter Ride Coordinator

Support our Sponsors!  
They are proud supporters of our Couple and Individual of the Year!

**Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse**  
BILL VERSLUIS, Owner



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## **From Assistant Chapter Directors – Arden & Janice Terfehn**

Well, here it is March 4<sup>th</sup> and riding time is getting closer, we hope. We can still get a lot of snow in March though. I did get in some ice fishing this winter, but too many days of wind and cold.

We have our motel reservations and rally reservation sent in for the Missouri Rally in Branson. We also have campground reservations for five nights in Knoxville for Wing Ding. When we get back from Wing Ding, we'll be home for a week. Then we go back down to Branson for a

Navy reunion with some of the guys that were on the ship I was on for four years. There are not a lot of us left. The younger ones are in their late 70's. We are going to take about two weeks when we go to Wing Ding so we will probably drive down to Branson the second time. After two weeks on the bike every day, it just isn't as much fun. Most of the time when we get back from a long trip, the trike gets parked in the garage and we don't ride for a couple of weeks. Too many things going on in September – Wing Ding, Navy reunion, Western Home, and Iowa District Rally.

We have been seeing a lot of robins, but the last few days they might have wished they had stayed south for a while yet.

Ride safe and always keep the shiny side up.

Arden & Janice



## **From the Iowa District Educator – Greg Hayes**

Last month I started a series of articles I wanted to write about a study on motorcycle crashes that was done for the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. This is a recent study that was done over a 2 year period and involved 100 riders. These were all 2 wheeled motorcycles, but it did involve a mixture of cruising, touring and sport bikes, with a breakdown of 78 male and 22 female participants. The rider ages ranged from 21 to 79 years old with a wide variety of levels of experience, from novice to veteran, but

with an average of 17 years of riding experience. There was approximately 30,844 trips recorded, which represented 9,354 hours of seat time, and a total of 366,667 miles. However, as I had mentioned in the last article, this is still a fairly small number of participants so the results could vary from a different study that had more participants. Yet, there is enough information from these studies to make some important observations for any type of motorcycle.



In my previous article I noted one of the observations made in the study, which I found somewhat surprising, was that they found the most common incident amongst motorcyclists was the low speed or no speed tip over. Although most of us would not identify that as an accident, assuming no injury to the motorcycle or motorcyclist, I guess it falls in the “unintended incident” category. However, I think of it as the intention of gravity upon an unbalanced object to force that object toward a much more massive object, the Earth. It’s just a reminder of how the science of physics impacts our lives. The VTTI study observed that dropping a bike is a fairly common incident. Of course, this is not going to be a problem with 3 wheel motorcycles since you need a higher speed before a trike has enough momentum to tip over. This study, though, did not involve any trikes. However, I think most of the other types of accidents identified in the study could have easily been involving either a 2 wheeler or 3 wheeler. So, let’s move on to our next observation.

Another surprising observation from the study was how many motorcycles crashed into the back end of another vehicle or object. This represented 35 percent of the accidents in the study that were not single vehicle accidents. I think a lot of us on the road are worried about the car or truck behind us hitting the rear of our motorcycles. The study did not go into what the reasons were for these accidents. With proper braking technique we can stop pretty efficiently. Were the riders intimidated in using their brakes, afraid of locking up their front wheel, or was overly aggressive on the front brake and caused a low side fall? Were they going too fast to stop in time? Were they distracted and did not see the vehicle in front of them, or saw them too late? I am going to speculate that the answer is yes to one of those questions for many of those riders.

On the last possibility, being distracted, we can easily underestimate how far we travel in a given time period. For example, if we are traveling 45 miles an hour and look away for 2 seconds we have traveled approximately 135 feet in that time. The formula converting miles an hour per second to an approximate distance traveled is to take your speed per miles per hour and multiple it by 1.5. This will give you the feet you have travelled each second at that speed. The math is not exact. This only gives you an approximate distance, but it is easy math. The multiplier is actually 1.4667 if carried out to four places. But, I can’t do that math in my head. Since using that multiplier results in 132 feet versus my 135 feet approximation, I am willing to use the approximation method for this. The point being that 135 feet, or 132 feet, is a lot of ground covered by looking away for 2 seconds, especially if the car in front of me is only 30 feet away from my vehicle.

If the rider was just going too fast and was too close to the vehicle in front of them for that speed and that cause the rear-ender, then that means they did not have an adequate following distance. Isn’t the basic problem with going too fast is that our stopping distance is going to be farther, so we are going to be traveling a greater distance in the time that it takes us to see a problem ahead of us and for the brain to react to that situation prior to us actually using the brakes? So, driving at a smart speed and maintaining a proper following distance reflective of that speed can help prevent some of these rear-enders.

Improper, or ineffective use of our brakes was one of the factors identified by previous motorcycle crash studies, such as the Hurt Study and the MAIDS Study almost 40 and 30 years ago, as being one of the three major skill lacking in those involved many of the accidents in their studies. To be honest, how many of us practice stopping quickly? Hopefully we are not using that skill very often in our typical riding. GWRRA does have rider courses where you are able to practice that technique in a safer environment than on the street. But, you could also practice this on your own if you found a safe place to practice. You just don’t get the same type of feedback as you do in a rider course with a trained coach.

I should disclose that I am a GWRRA ride course instructor since the previous sentence sounds like an advertisement for taking a rider course, and I do my best to promote the GWRRA courses. But please note that I am not representing any organization's position on this article. The conclusions and opinions in this article are mine based on what I have read from the VTTI study and from other research I have read on this topic. I would encourage other people to read or research the study on their own if this interests them. But, I do have more that I want to pull from this study to share with you, which I will save for my next article. Until then, I wish you safe riding!

Greg Hayes  
GWRRA Iowa District Educator

## **Please Don't "Just Ride"**

I say that because I am coming up on the third time in less than five year that the opportunity to ride my Goldwing could be taken away.

Almost four years ago our riding could have ended on Hwy 18 near Madison, Wisconsin. Actually, without the training we received through GWRRA education, including having attended Safety Weekend a couple times, and wearing all our gear.... More than just our riding could have ended that morning.

Our riding could have ended as we healed from those injuries and made the decision to have our Goldwing repaired. As we've stated several times, the decision to continue riding was largely based on not wanting to give up the FRIENDS we had made during our time in GWRRA.... FRIENDS in our Chapter IA-I, the Iowa District, Region E, and GWRRA right up to Ray and Sandi Garris.

And now.... As of this writing I am ten days away from getting something corrected surgically that has affected my riding enjoyment since mid-summer last year. If you've seen me "gimping around" in the past month's.... and if you know how important it is to trust your left leg and foot as you ride (especially starting and stopping)... then hopefully you'll understand while I might not be quite as visible as usual over the next couple months.

So each and every trip I ride "like there is no tomorrow." That doesn't mean I ride reckless! Being a GWRRA Level IV Tour Rider, I (we) ride All The Gear - All The Time (aka. ATGATT). We've sent our registration in for the Advanced Rider Course during Safety Weekend in Ankeny in May.

And hopefully there-after we'll be out there again enjoying every sight, smell, raindrop, and gentle breeze that will come our way. Now if the wind is torrential... and that raindrop shows up with let's say a few billion of their fellow raindrops.... Well then, we'll be parked inside a car wash waiting for the sunshine to resume.

But we'll be together..... And enjoying being able to do more than "just ride".... See you at Safety Weekend!

Roger Bahe  
Level IV Tour Rider



Teresa Tjaden from Americans for Independent Living accepts a check from Chapter IA-I Directors, Lisa and Roger Fleming. This money was raised through the annual quilt raffle and will be used to help homeless veterans in the Cedar Valley.



Just a few of the many items that Chapter IA-I has donated over the past several months to help homeless veterans!

From Americans for Independent Living:  
“THANK YOU to the Gold Wing Road Rider Association Chapter IA-I for your generous donations. Your donated items and funds from your quilt fundraiser will be a great help to veterans in need. Thank you!”



**\*\*\* Sunday lunch ride – April 8 – 11:30 Bill’s Pizza and Smokehouse in Independence. For those who would like to ride together, meet at Oelwein KwikStar at 11:00. Ride after lunch, weather permitting. Otherwise, movie matinee at the Starlight Cinema in Independence.**

## **Upcoming Events**

1. Chapter IA- I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Seminar “Riding in the Dark” @ 4:00 P.M. Eat @ 5:30 PM – Gathering @ 6 PM – March 25, 2018
2. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – April 8, 2018 – Bill’s Pizza and Smokehouse in Independence – Meet there at 11:30 A.M. or meet and leave Oelwein KwikStar at 11:00 A. M.
3. Chapter IA-D Mall Show, Willowbrook Mall, Mason City – April 21, 2018
4. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM – Gathering @ 6 PM – April 22, 2018
5. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – May 6, 2018 – Stay tuned for details.
6. Motorcycle Safety Forum – Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center, Des Moines – 8:15 AM-4 PM - May 11, 2018  
*Latest info at: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcycle/motorcycle-safety-forum>*
7. Iowa District Safety Weekend in Ankeny - May 18-19, 2018
8. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM – Gathering @ 6 PM – May 20, 2018  
*(Note this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to the Mystery Ride.)*
9. Chapter IA-I Mystery Ride – May 26 & 27, 2018 – Where will it be????
10. Missouri District Rally “Wingin the Ozarks in Branson, MO- May 31-June 2, 2018
11. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – June 10, 2018
12. Kansas District Rally in Pittsburg, Kansas - June 14-16, 2018
13. Chapter IA-E Chicken Run - June 24, 2018
14. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM – Gathering @ 6 PM – June 24, 2018
15. MN/ND District Rally at the Best Western Plus in Willmar, MN - July 6-7, 2018
16. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – July 8, 2018
17. Michigan District Rally at the Calhoun County Fairground in Marshall, MI - July 19-21, 2018
18. Chapter IA-I Christmas in July ride – July 21, 2018
19. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM – Gathering @ 6 PM – July 22, 2018
20. NE/SD District Rally - Valentine, NE July 26-28, 2018
21. Illinois District Rally in Litchfield, IL - August 2-4, 2018
22. Wing Ding 40 in Knoxville, TN - August 28 - September 1, 2018
23. Wisconsin District Rally - Wintergeen Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI – September 14-15, 2018
24. Chapter IA-I Western Home Event, Cedar Falls – September 23, 2018
25. OK District Rally “Cruising on a Wing” at the Apache Casino Hotel in Lawton, OK - Sept. 27-29
26. IA District Rally - Best Western in Fort Dodge - September 28-29, 2018
27. Chapter IA- I/F Fall Leaf Ride – October 13-14, 2018

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## **2018 Chapter IA-I Challenge**

Visit veterans’ parks wherever you go. Take a picture of the memorial with you in it. Submit the picture to Steve Lensing. Each picture counts as an entry in the yearend drawing. More pictures = More entries!

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <b>Mary Peverill</b>
8 Sunday lunch ride – 11:30 Bill’s Smokehouse Independence meet @ Oelwein KwikStar @ 11:00	9	10 <b>Ginger Elrod</b>	11 <b>Jim Clemens</b>	12	13 <i>Newsletter Articles due</i>	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Ch IA-I Gathering- Junie’s Elk Run Hts. Eat @ 5:30 Gathering @ 6	23 <b>Denis Tasker</b>	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					