

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Iowa Chapter I

Volume 36 – Issue 3 March 2018
“Friends for FUN, Safety, and Knowledge”



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**Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Chapter IA-I Gathering - February 25, 2018
Junie's – Elk Run Heights, IA
Eat @ 5:30; Meeting @ 6:00**

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

Are you ready for some FUN!?! Chapter I has a lot of FUN activities coming up for 2018!

Here we go!

***March** will begin with our first Sunday lunch ride on March 11. We will meet at the Pizza Ranch in Waverly at noon. Our gathering is March 25.

***April** showers will find us meeting again for a Sunday lunch ride on April 8. Our gathering for that month will be April 22.

May** flowers will bring a Sunday Lunch ride on May 6 and our Gathering on May 20 ***Note this is the 3rd Sunday of the month due to the Mystery Ride.

Iowa DOT Safety forum will be Friday, May 11. Our Iowa District Safety Weekend in Ankeny is May 18 & 19. The May Mystery Ride will be May 26 and 27. Where will it be? Hmmmmm?

***June** 10 will be a FUN Sunday lunch ride and June 24 our gathering.

***July** 8 will be a Sunday lunch ride and our Gathering will be July 22. Our annual Christmas in July ride will be July 21.

***August** 12 will be a Sunday lunch ride and our Gathering will be August 26.

***September** 9 will be a Sunday lunch ride and our Gathering will be September 23. Our annual ride to and for the Western Home will be on Sunday, September 23. Our Iowa District Rally will be September 28 and 29 at the Best Western in Ft. Dodge.

***October** brings a Sunday lunch ride on October 7. Our annual Chapter I/F Leaf Ride will be October 13 & 14. Our Gathering will be October 28. A Chili Dump is being planned...watch for the upcoming date.

***November** will bring a Sunday lunch ride on November 11 and our Gathering on November 25.

***December** 8 is our annual Holiday Party in LaPorte City.

Please watch your newsletter for dates of other activities going on with our other Goldwing friends.



We are excited to announce the Chapter I Challenge: This year we would like to encourage you to visit Veterans' Parks. Our veterans mean a lot to our chapter members and this is one way you can show your respect by visiting a Veterans' Park. Snap a picture of yourself, your spouse, or both of you and send it to Steve and Michele Lensing. The prize will be AWESOME!

An overwhelming consensus finds our Chapter I Charity of Choice to be the Home for Homeless Veterans in Waterloo. Our Chapter I ladies will begin a quilt for our fundraiser. We look forward to again helping host a picnic in the park for veterans this summer. Meeting some of the veterans reminded us of all they have done for us. We sincerely hope you will be able to participate in this year's picnic.

We hope you find that there is something for everyone to participate in and have FUN with friends. We look forward to seeing you this year.

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 Chapter I Directors

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

CHANGE!!! Do you like change? Does change matter? Change is everywhere and occurs daily. Change is inevitable and can be stressful. We may not be able to control change, but we can control how we cope with change. We first deny change, we resist the fact that it has to be, we are angry that something that has worked so well has to change. We become stubborn, blame others and complain. Then we start to explore why this change is occurring in our routine lives. We find answers as to why this routine part of our lives needed changing. We start seeing the possibilities. It may spark a new energy, new skills, a different way of thinking. Once we commit to the “change” we can focus on making it great and incorporate it into our lives. Change can be difficult, we become negative and that negativity can become contagious. Try to accept that change is inevitable and it is how we react to change that makes the difference. Think of it as an opportunity for growth and learning. Change is a part of our personal and professional lives. I will close with a quote from Jimmy Dean, “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”



Enhancing our Members
Michele Lensing, MEC

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

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From Assistant Chapter Directors – Don and June Detwiler

I heard a rumor that spring was coming, but I think it got lost on the way. I don't mind the snow, but the really cold days are another thing.

This month we went to the Sweetheart Weekend. It was the 30th anniversary, which makes it the longest continuous chapter event in GWWRA. It is an awesome event if you haven't been to it. It is a gathering of friends, with games to be played and prizes to be won. Chapter A was there in force so they could win the traveling plaque. They took the plaque back to Des Moines with them and are very proud. It will be February 9th next year so mark your calendar.

Don and I visited our first Veterans' Memorial Park this weekend in Fort Madison, so the game is afoot. What a great way to see how Iowa honors its vets!

There are lots of winter getaways in what used to be our region if you can work them in your schedule. They are a great way to meet new friends and say hello to the old ones.

I can't wait to see everyone at the gathering. Be safe as you travel these winter roads.

God Bless and Big Hugs,
Don and June



From the Iowa District Educator – Greg Hayes

This month's article is the start of a series of articles that I have in mind that takes information from a study done for the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute on motorcycle crashes. This was a very interesting study done recently and there is a lot to learn from it on what factors that can help us in avoiding motorcycle crashes. There are two previous well known motorcycle crash studies. The first was the Hurt Study done through the University of Southern California by Harry Hurt, published in 1981. The second one was done in Europe called the MAIDS study about 10 years later. MAIDS stood for Motorcycle Accidents in Depth Study. All three studies were based on 2 wheeled motorcycles, and some factors that affect bikes are not of major concern for trikes, but many still apply. Today I wanted to focus on one item and that would typically only apply to bikes.



A lot has changed since the Hurt Study was conducted. For example, the average motorcycle is much more powerful today and cell phones did not exist before 1983. Also, research methods have improved. The Virginia Tech study used GPS, multiple video cameras, and other instruments that measured brake pressure, acceleration, and other items, which were all fed back eventually to Virginia Tech. The Hurt Study was limited to retrieving reports and conducting interviews to create statistical reports and to draw conclusions, whereas the VTTI (Virginia Tech) study was able to also record "near accidents" which provide good information as well as actual accidents. In the VTTI study they studied 100 motorcycles, which logged 366,667 miles and had 30 crashes and 122 near-crash events.

One fault of the VTTI study was that 100 motorcycles is a rather small sampling and conclusions can be a bit misleading. However, understanding that shortcoming, we can still learn a lot about what factors are more likely to cause crashes. In the end, statistics are just statistics. They won't tell us what will cause our next crash, but we can pull out information on what we can do to lessen the likelihood of being in a crash.

So, the first thing I wanted to pull from the study was that the most common incident for motorcycles - and trikes, this likely won't pertain to you at all - is the dropped bike. Okay, we really don't consider that an accident, unless someone got hurt. I mean other than the hurt ego. But, it was rather surprising that we drop our bikes a lot more often than we would like to admit. Certainly, a big heavy bike such as the Goldwing is going to be more affected by gravity more than some 250cc bike. So, not having the handlebars squared up at a stop makes dropping the bike pretty likely. Most of the bike drops are at low to no speed. The most common causes are having a bike lean as you are coming to a stop, just beginning to move from a stop, making a turn at low speed, including a tight U-turn, and backing into or pulling out of a parking space or your garage.

This made me feel good to know this is a lot more common than what I thought. What? This has happened to others? Of course, we are going to get that bike picked up as quick as we can and hope no one saw it. For us on Goldwings, we just need to remember that the bike is typically only go over about 45 degrees if we are on level ground. Though there usually isn't any injury to us or the bike, a possible injury is a broken ankle from putting our fall-side foot out in the wrong place. Another potential injury is from not picking the bike correctly. There are some YouTube videos to show the proper technique, if you haven't had the pleasure to perform this already. But, the general technique is to 1) if the bike fell on the right side then put the side stand up, 2) rotate the handlebars so the front tire is pointing up, 3) turn away from the bike with your hands on the passenger seat hold and the handlebar grip, then 4) using your butt against the edge of the seat use your leg muscles to push up and walk back until the bike is upright. If the bike had fallen to the left then once the bike is upright, sweep the side stand down and rest the bike on the stand.

To avoid the tip over always have the handlebars squared up when coming to a stop, practice making those tight turns (there are several techniques that I can write about in future articles), and make sure your bike is as upright as possible when you are backing into a parking space. Don't beat yourself up too much if you do drop your bike. This happens to a lot of us and now we have some empirical evidence to show that. I promise to get into some more factors in crashes in the coming months, ones that are more likely to cause damage to ourselves and our motorcycles.

Greg Hayes
GWRRA Iowa District Educator

2017 Quilt Raffle winner with
Chapter IA-I member,
Patty Bowser,
who sold the winning ticket!

Thank you to all who helped support
our charity of the year,
Home for Homeless Veterans!



Upcoming Events

1. Missouri Spring Fling in Osage Beach - March 3, 2018
2. Iowa District Training Day in Toledo at the Reinig Center - March 3, 2018
Sessions at 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM
Crazy Supper in Toledo at the Reinig Center - March 3, 2018 (Cost: \$10 per person)
3. Iowa District OPS meeting at the State Bank in Toledo - March 4, 2018
4. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – Pizza Ranch, Waverly – Noon – March 11, 2018
5. Chapter IA- I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM –
Gathering @ 6 PM – March 25, 2018
6. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – April 8, 2018 – Stay tuned for details.
7. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM –
Gathering @ 6 PM – April 22, 2018
8. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – May 6, 2018 – Stay tuned for details.
9. 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>
10. Iowa District Safety Weekend in Ankeny - May 18-19, 2018
11. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM –
Gathering @ 6 PM – May 20, 2018
(Note this is the 3rd Sunday due to the Mystery Ride.)
12. Chapter IA-I Mystery Ride – May 26 & 27, 2018 – Where will it be????
13. MO District Rally “Wingin the Ozarks in Branson - May 31 - June 2, 2018
14. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – June 10, 2018
15. KS District Rally in Pittsburg, Kansas - June 14-16, 2018
16. Chapter IA-E Chicken Run - June 24, 2018
17. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM –
Gathering @ 6 PM – June 24, 2018
18. MN District Rally at the Best Western Plus in Wilmar - July 6-7, 2018
19. Chapter IA-I Sunday lunch ride – July 8, 2018
20. MI District Rally at the Calhoun County Fairground in Marshall, Michigan - July 19-21, 2018
21. Chapter IA-I Christmas in July ride – July 21, 2018
22. Chapter IA-I Monthly gathering – Junie’s, Elk Run Heights – Eat @ 5:30 PM –
Gathering @ 6 PM – July 22, 2018
23. NE/SD District Rally - July 27-28, 2018 *Stay tuned for details*
24. IL District Rally in Litchfield - August 2-4, 2018
25. Wing Ding 40 in Knoxville, TN - August 28 - September 1, 2018
26. Chapter IA-I Western Home Event, Cedar Falls – September 23, 2018
27. OK District Rally “Cruising on a Wing” at the Apache Casino Hotel in Lawton - Sept. 27-29
28. IA District Rally at the Best Western in Fort Dodge - September 28-29, 2018
29. 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!

March 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 Rick & Penny Ohrt | 2 Tim Peverill | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Sue Tasker | 6 Rick & Claudia Montgomery | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Sunday lunch ride – Noon Pizza Ranch, Waverly | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Newsletter Articles due | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Jon & Rhonda Knight | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 George & Vicky Green Ch IA-I Gathering- Junie's Elk Run Hts. Eat @ 5:30 Gathering @ 6 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |