

GWRRA Region N

Tennessee Chapter "M" FOOTHILLS WINGS-Lenoir City

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February 2012 Newsletter



Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge



Chapter "M" Gathering

Chapter M meets on the second Tuesday of every month
at Loudon County Medical Center, (behind Cracker Barrel) in Lenoir City,

Dinner is @ 6:00p.m. and gathering @ 7:00p.m.

Call Rob & Trudy Ashcraft @ 865-924-6794

Chapter Shirts

Sue Rohlwing

630-336-6694

ksrohl@charter.net

Chapter Store

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Chapter Directors Desk

Well, I hope everyone is ready for riding season, because it will be here before you know it! Don't forget to put the second Saturday of the month on your riding schedule starting in April. We will begin our Chapter rides then, and I have already planned some fun for that Saturday, April 14.

Speaking of fun, last month our Chapter once again attended Chapter B's annual Chili cook-off! As I have said many times in the past, you guys make being the Chapter Director easy, as we once again won the largest Chapter in attendance! I believe we had about 17 Chapter members present, and everyone had a great time! We even had one Chapter member dress up as a 'crazy tourist', and believe me, everyone laughed until their sides hurt, especially her husband! We were able to help Chapter B raise money for St Jude, and had a fantastic time too.



We meet on the 4th Tuesday of January, 1/24/12, at Sidetraxx Restaurant in Sweetwater. I believe we had 29 Chapter members present for some great food & fun, and 3 braved the cold and rode bikes! Once again we had some great camaraderie, if you miss these dinner rides; you are missing a lot of fun!



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As I mentioned last month, don't forget our 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Pot Luck Dinner. It is scheduled for 2/18/12 at 6:00 pm at the Lenoir City at Christian Church of Loudon County. Please remember to check with Trudy & Sue to see what you might need to bring. Remember we will have games, gag gifts, and I'm sure if it is anything like last year, a whole lot of laughs! Everyone that attends is asked to bring a gag gift, and remember the event is a Valentine Day theme, so please make the gifts theme appropriate!

Let's make this a fantastic year, see everyone on the road!

Ride Safe & Have Fun!

Rob & Trudy

Assistant Chapter Directors



Well hello to everyone. It has been a fun winter in Florida not very cold until now. Last night was down to the 30s and today a high of 52. The rest of the week expected to start out cold then return to the 70s by the middle of the week.

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Linda and I have went on a couple of rides, we rode to Sarasota and of course had to go eat. We went to a great Amish restaurant called Yoders and the food was fantastic. After that we went riding and sightseeing in the area. On the way home instead of seeing possums or deer on the ride we passed by alligators in the ditch beside the road ? That just goes to show why you never just stop to walk around some areas. Then we passed a sign located on a fence that read (beware alligators are present in area Do Not Trespass) Needless to say we got out of there quick. We went to Bartow with the Highland Ridge Riders club in Sebring they usually ride at least 3 times a week and we try to go on at least one of them. That day they took us to a catfish restaurant and we had a good time and some good food there also.

As most of you know we were back home for about a week in January because our house was broken into. We want to say thanks for all of the calls asking if we needed any help with anything. It meant a lot to us. Until next month have fun at the Valentines party and we hope you can get in some riding days.

Rick and Linda

Couple of the Year



Hello Everyone,

Understand everyone had a great time at the Chili Cook-off. Sorry we missed it, but had a prior engagement (Granddaughters Birthday). Congrats to the Chapter for taking the Largest Chapter Plaque (again). Had a great time at Side Trax on the Dinner ride. There was a good crowd and GREAT food. Thanks Carroel for suggesting it.

Hope to see everyone at the Valentine Party on Saturday.

Should be lots of good food and games.

Rick & Cindy Valentine

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Chapter Educator

(The following was copied from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Cycle Safety Information):

One of the things that makes motorcycling enjoyable is the freedom of riding in the open air. Unlike car drivers surrounded by a steel compartment, motorcycle riders feel as if they are a part of everything around them. Of course, sometimes being out there can have its drawbacks, such as when you are riding in extremely hot or cold weather, when it's raining, when insects are pelting you, or when debris flies up at you. It's for these types of situations, and possible encounters between you and the asphalt, that protective gear was developed. Protective gear has two basic purposes: comfort and protection. Uncomfortable gear can distract you from riding. Properly fitting protective gear will help you stay comfortable when encountering various riding conditions. In the event of a crash, protective gear will help prevent or reduce injuries. Here is a summary of some of the important gear needed for comfort and protection.

Helmets

The most important piece of protective gear you can wear is a helmet manufactured to meet DOT standards (FMVSS 218). This was emphasized in the University of Southern California (USC) researcher Harry Hurt's federally funded study, "Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures," also called simply "The Hurt Report". Essentially, an in-depth on-scene investigation was performed detailing the use of helmets and protective gear in 900 motorcycle crashes. Additionally, researchers analyzed 3,600 police reports of on-highway motorcycle crashes. This and other research has established that helmets save lives by reducing the occurrence of head injuries, and wearing a helmet does not reduce essential vision or hearing. This well-accepted motorcycle safety study's report has been corroborated since that time in many other research studies. In the 1990s, a number of studies on the value of motorcycle helmets were conducted and then published as part of the International 2001 Motorcycle Safety Conference Proceedings. Among them are: "The Snell Memorial Foundation – Past and Present" by Edward Becker; "Traumatic Brain Injury Associated with Motorcycle Crashes in Wisconsin, 1991-1997" by Wayne Bigelow; "Evaluation of Motorcycle Helmet Law Repeal in Arkansas and Texas" by Linda Cosgrove; "How Do Motorcycle Helmets Affect Vision and Hearing" by Scott McKnight; "Autopsy Study of Motorcycle Fatalities: The Effect of the 1992 Maryland Helmet Use Law" by Kimberly Mitchell, and, "Modernization of the DOT Motorcycle Helmet Standard" by David Thom. Copies of these studies may be obtained online from MSF by visiting www.msf-usa.org.

Face Protection

Any motorcyclist who has been hit in the face by a stone or an insect can tell you about the benefits of face protection. Windshields and most prescription eyeglasses simply do not provide adequate protection. Wind, insects and pebbles may be blown behind a windshield. Eyeglasses with shatterproof lenses may protect the eyes, but most don't seal out wind which makes your eyes water. "The Hurt Report" states that motorcycle riders with shields covering their faces suffered fewer facial injuries than those without. It also reports that helmets providing full-face coverage with strong chin pieces and energy-absorbing liners are especially effective in reducing face injuries.

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Chapter of the year Coordinator

Chapter B Chili Cookoff

Halls Senior Center

Chapter M traveled to Halls Senior Center to participate in the fun and folic of this year's Chili Cook-off for Chapter B. It was a rainy day and not as many as usual were in attendance. There was still fun to be had by all. The chili was good and everyone voted for their favorite. Patty Balzer was talked into being in the tacky tourist contest. She was so pretty in purple. Chapter B won, but we were 2nd. We gave \$165.00 for St. Jude's and, of course, Patty. We did win the largest Chapter again this year. We had 16 members and 1 visitor. This was on January 21, 2012. We missed those who were not there. If you had been there, we would have had even more fun!!!

January Dinner Ride

Jan. 24, 2012

The January Dinner ride was to SideTraxx Restaurant, Sweetwater, Tn. This restaurant is 2 miles below town on Highway 11 South on the left near the railroad tracks. Therefore the name. It had been a beautiful day, so there was a great turnout. We had 29 members, 2 visitors and even 3 bikes rode.

Only problem, for a Tuesday, it seemed everyone else decided to eat out, too. The waitresses were a little slow but there was a quite a few of us as well as others. Everyone liked the food. We had a good time as we always do. If you were not there you missed good food and a good time, and we missed you.

Our quarters winner was a new member: Marlene Kinney. I'm sure she didn't spend the windfall all in one place.

Carroel Edgmon

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"The Possum Drop"

By Millie Prince

Bringing in a new year has been a little boring lately, so when TN District Educators Gary and Patti Hamilton told me of their plan to go to a Possum Drop in Brasstown, NC, I was all for it.

It was fantastic! I left for my home in east TN on the 29th, rested the 30th, and left for Murphy, NC, on the 31st. We stayed at a Best Western there and it was one of the best lodging experiences any of us has ever had. The General Manager there went all out to make sure that we were happy and well taken care of. I believe we were 30 who gathered there and no one had any complaints when we left. Now that is very unusual.

Patti had arranged for us all to have dinner at Shoeboties Café in Murphy (<http://www.shoebotiescafe.com>) where we were again treated like royalty. The restaurant is a popular and lively place which was in full swing with patrons enjoying their last meal of 2011 there. The banquet room had been reserved for us and I enjoyed the best prime rib I have ever had. As always happens when Gold Wings get together, we had a blast. Lots of cutting up and laughter and lots of pictures were taken.

From there we parked in a local church parking lot and were shuttled on church buses to Brasstown, NC, self described as the Possum Capital of the World. We arrived at Clay's Corner (<http://www.clayscorner.com/index.html>) around 9:30 and the entertainment began. The colors were presented and we sang our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. There was a beauty contest (men dressed like women) and bronco riding beauties on stick ponies. A church choir sang beautifully for us and invited anyone from the audience who wanted to join them on stage to go up and do so. Some did. Miss Possum Drop of 2011 brought in the Guest of Honor who was happily enjoying the festivities in a gaily decorated wire cage. He was slowly raised to the roof of the building and continued to look around and "smile" at us. A couple of brothers and their family who were headed to Nashville the following week, sang for us and they were very talented. Jokes and stories were told by Clay himself who was the emcee.

Finally the countdown began and it surprised us all as we were having so much fun that we hadn't realized the bewitching hour was drawing near. "Henry" was lowered slowly and reached the bottom just as the clock struck midnight! There was a lot of cheering, laughing, hugging and fun. Then the fireworks started and they were magnificent. Disney fireworks have nothing on them.

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Meanwhile, back at the Best Western the GM and staff were busily preparing an impressive repast for us so we could continue celebrating when we returned to the hotel. And celebrate we did! We didn't call it quits till around 3:00 a.m. when all the food was gone and we were nodding off.

The next day we returned to Tennessee with plans to get together again for dinner at the Perkins in Dandridge. All east TN chapters were invited to that and again we filled up their party room. What a great weekend we had and what an unforgettable New Year's Eve/Day we enjoyed. Gold Wingers have fun no matter where they are as long as they are with each other... and eating. ☺

I wonder what Gary and Patti will come up with next year? I'm ready!



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First Date

From Jay Leno Show

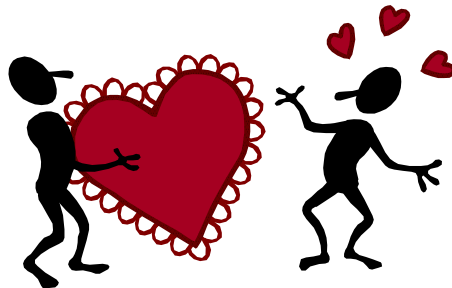
If you didn't see this on the Tonight show, I hope you're sitting down when you read it. This is probably the funniest date story ever, first date or not!!! We have all had bad dates but this takes the cake.

Jay Leno went into the audience to find the most embarrassing first date that a woman ever had. The winner described her worst first date experience.

There was absolutely no question as to why her tale took the prize!

She said it was midwinter...Snowing and quite cold... and the guy had taken her skiing in the mountains outside Salt Lake City, Utah.

It was a day trip (no overnight). They were strangers, after all, and had never met before. The outing was fun but relatively uneventful until they were headed home late that afternoon.



They were driving back down the mountain, when she gradually began to realize that she should not have had that extra latte. !! They were about an hour away from anywhere with a rest room and in the middle of nowhere! Her companion suggested she try to hold it, which she did for a while. Unfortunately, because of the heavy snow and slow going, there came a point here she told him that he had better stop and let her go beside the road, or it would be the front seat of his car.

They stopped and she quickly crawled out beside the car, yanked her pants down and started. In the deep snow she didn't have good footing, so she let her butt rest against the rear fender to steady herself. Her companion stood on the side of the car watching for traffic and indeed was a real gentleman and refrained from peeking. All she could think about was the relief she felt despite the rather embarrassing nature of the situation.

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Upon finishing however, she soon became aware of another sensation. As she bent to pull up her pants, the young lady discovered her buttocks were firmly glued against the car's fender. Thoughts of tongues frozen to poles immediately came to mind as she attempted to disengage her flesh from the icy metal.. It was quickly apparent that she had a brand new problem, due to the extreme cold.

Horrified by her plight and yet aware of the humor of the moment, she answered her date's concerns about ' what is taking so long' with a reply that indeed, she was 'freezing her butt off' and in need of some assistance! He came around the car as she tried to cover herself with her sweater and then, as she looked imploringly into his eyes, he burst out laughing. She too, got the giggles and when they finally managed to compose themselves, they assessed her dilemma. Obviously, as hysterical as the situation was, they also were faced with a real problem.

Both agreed it would take something hot to free her chilly cheeks from the grip of the icy metal! Thinking about what had gotten her into the predicament in the first place, both quickly realized that there was only one way to get her free. So, as she looked the other way, her first time date proceeded to unzip his pants and pee her butt off the fender.

As the audience screamed in laughter, she took the Tonight Show prize hands down. Or perhaps that should be 'pants down'. And you thought your first date was embarrassing. Jay Leno's comment.... 'This gives a whole new meaning to being pissed off.'

Oh and how did the first date turn out? He became her husband and was sitting next to her on the Leno show.

This "quacked" me up!!



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Gary Benedict Feb.4

Renee McInerney Feb. 21

George Maples Feb. 21

Gary Coffey Feb. 27



Sharon & Glenn Bush Feb. 14

Ruby & Tom Valentine Feb. 18

FOR SALE

- **Trunk Net - Elastic support net holds smaller items in place. Fits 2001 - 2010 GL1800 Brand new, still in original package. Installation required. \$25 call Ken Gray at 865-693-0246.**
- **Original Honda Service Manual 1980-81 GL 1100, \$30; Wing World Magazines March 1982 - 2009, \$200 for all; Complete Receiver Hitch Kit GL 1500, \$50; Ultragard Half Cover GL 1500, \$20; Please call Rick Gibson 865-458-3731**
- **Saddleman Seat, adjustable backrest and passenger backrest, fits Goldwing 1500, Jell seat, used once \$525.00 please call 423-334-5512**
- **2000 Honda Shadow black chrome fenders 2200 miles \$4100 please call 691-7870**
- **14.5 HP Craftsman riding mower 691-7870 Benny**

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CHAPTER "VA MEDICAL CENTERS" CONTEST RULES FOR 2012

1. Visit as many VA Medical Centers as you can. This is to include: VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, or Vet Centers. You must take a picture of your bike/bikes in front of the sign designating the VA Medical Center or a picture of your bike/bikes with the VA Medical Center in the background. A list of all sites for all 50 States is here: <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>.
2. If a group visits a VA Medical Centers, then everyone but the photographer should be in the picture. This allows for the fact that someone else may not be available to take the picture for you.
3. The winner will be selected on a points system. Points will be awarded to each couple/bike visiting the VA Medical Centers as follows:
 - 1 point to each couple/bike for each VA Medical Centers visited.
 - 2 points to each couple/bike if there are 4 or more couples/bikes in the group.
 - 2 points to each couple/bike if the VA Medical Centers is \geq 250 miles from the Chapter Meeting Location.
 - 3 points to each couple/bike if the VA Medical Centers is \geq 500 miles from the Chapter Meeting Location.
 - 4 points to each couple/bike if the VA Medical Centers is \geq 1000 miles from the Chapter Meeting Location.
 - 10 'Extra Points' for each time a couple/bike participates in **any** Medical Center/Hospital sponsored ride. An example would be the ride David Bluford sets up every year to help with the Chaplains at Park West.
4. All distance calculations will be made using Mapquest and calculated from the Chapter meeting location (Fort Sanders Medical Center, Lenoir City) to each VA Medical Center.
5. Points will be calculated by the contest committee (CD, ACD, COY, & Ride Coordinator).
6. The DEADLINE FOR THE CONTEST IS NOVEMBER 13, 2012 (Chapter Gathering/ Meeting).
7. Any questions/concerns should be addressed to the Chapter Ride Coordinator. If he can't get them addressed, he will discuss them with the Contest Committee. The decision of the Contest Committee is final.
8. Prizes will be awarded at the Christmas Party in December 2012.
9. **REMEMBER**, the goal of this Contest is to get Chapter members out & riding the beautiful roads of Country! Let's make this one of the biggest and best Contest rides we as a Chapter have ever had!

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Tennessee Chapter "M" **FOOTHILLS WINGS-Lenoir City**

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If you have articles & photos for the newsletter, please email

tashcraft@comcast.net

OR

rashcraft@comcast.net

OR

Mail to 116 Oak Leaf St.

Kingston, TN 37763



GWRRA Region N

February 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day Monthly Chapter Gathering 6 pm	15	16	17	18 Chapter Valentine's Day Party/Dinner 6 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Monthly Chapter Dinner Ride 6:30 pm	29	Notes:		

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March 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Monthly Chapter Gathering 6 pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Monthly Chapter Dinner Ride 6:30 pm	28	29	30	31

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April 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Monthly Chapter Gathering 6 pm	11	12	13	14 Monthly Chapter Ride TBD
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Monthly Chapter Dinner Ride 6:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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May 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Monthly Chapter Gathering 6 pm	9	10	11	12 Monthly Chapter Ride TBD
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Monthly Chapter Dinner Ride 6:30 pm	23	24	25 Chapter St Jude Golf Tournament	26
27	28	29	30	31		