

# GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER NH-G THE LAKES REGION WINGS

April 2014

Our 26th Year



## *From the Chapter Directors*

Well...winter is finally over and May has finally come. Now if it would only warm up.

We had a successful Belknap Mall show with nine bikes including an assortment of regular motorcycles, trikes, sidecars, and trailers, and even a light show. Many thanks go out to the Reids, the Allards, the Hartleys, the Hirtles, the Cloutiers, the Hamels and last but not least, Mike Goldsmith for taking the time and effort to shine up your bikes and make it down to the mall for the 9 AM entrance time.

The Mall was nice enough to let us use an empty store front to set up tables and a video as well as put out the recruiting information and thanks to Mike Goldsmith who brought "Motorist Awareness" information. Many people commented that they heard about the show by the ads that were placed in the Laconia Sun and the Citizen.

We had a "Peoples Choice" bike show where mall patrons were able to get a ticket from our booth and place the ticket in a container on the seat of the bike that they liked the best. We had a tie between the Hamels and the Hartleys. The tie breaker was the total miles driven in the past year. The winners were the Hartleys with 12,000 miles driven. They get a dinner for two. Please bring us a doggie bag. We talked with many mall patrons, as well as a former Chapter G "Area Rep" from the 1980's.

The ride schedule is finally completed with ride schedules received from both Chapters A and E. The overnight ride in Vermont has been set up. The rooms block and rates are only being held for another two weeks. Don't miss out. I believe that there are seven rooms left.

Meri Hirtle is promoting a fundraiser for her bell ringing group. They are going to play the Star Spangled Banner at the Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> Fisher Cats baseball game in Manchester. Tickets to the game are \$10.00 each. Contact Meri at 603-395-5145 for tickets. See flyer in this newsletter.

The Chapter G Tire Fundraiser tickets were handed out at the last gathering. They are selling very fast. Please bring your sold ticket stubs and any money collected to the Sunday gathering. We don't want to wait to the end. We will be drawing the prize of the tires as soon as all the tickets are sold. They way they are selling, we won't make it another month. Great job everyone for pitching in!

Our store keepers Bob & Kaye Hamel now have a supply of back patches, rockers, Chapter G hats, and are taking orders for Chapter polo shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodie sweatshirts.

Again as a reminder, we are now meeting at the Greenside Restaurant at the Lochmere Country Club, 360 Laconia Road, Tilton, NH. Our next gathering is at 8:30 for breakfast and the meeting at 9 AM. The ride following is the "Ice Out" ride around Lake Winnepesaukee, weather permitting. There is plenty of paved parking in front of the restaurant as well as around back.

See you on Mothers Day the 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Mike & Dawn Vaillancourt*  
Chapter G Directors



Mike and Dawn

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## Rewind

This article is about what happened at the last Chapter NH-G Gathering

The Chapter met on April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Greenside Restaurant at the Lochmere Country Club. There were 11 in attendance. The breakfast was hot, reasonably priced, and we even got separate checks. How good is that???? We are looking forward to meeting at the Greenside for Mothers Day.



There was a lot of conversation about the ride schedule and at that time we had not received the ride schedules from either Chapter NH-A or NH-E. We now have both of them.

Due to the downpour that morning, the Chapter G "Ice Out" ride around Lake Winnepesaukee was cancelled and re-scheduled for the May gathering.



Meri Hirtle discussed a fundraiser that her Bell Ringers were doing by selling tickets to a Fisher Cats baseball game. See flyer in this newsletter.

Finally, all the final details for the upcoming Belknap Mall Show were gone over and then we took a number of orders for Chapter Clothing and hats.



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# Chapter G's Belknap Mall Show, April 28



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## Welcome to GWRRA Rider Education

*Until Chapter G gets a Chapter Rider Educator, my friend and Former Region F Educator and now Chapter CO-Q Educator, Howie Peterson, has graciously allowed me to publish his monthly articles in the Chapter NH-G Newsletter. Editor*

### “PRICE TAG”

I just finished reading my latest edition of Motorcycle Consumer News, and once again became somewhat agitated over the number of motorcycle fatalities that keep occurring. It was very interesting to note that while the article listed fatalities involving alcohol or drug consumption being part and parcel of the situation, nothing was mentioned about rider education. I find this lack in the study somewhat confusing as given the preponderance of various types of motorcycles involved; surely the study could have addressed rider education in some fashion.



Fatal Accident Reporting System operated by the Federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Another way of looking at the figures gives BMW a factor of deaths per 1000 units of 0.24. Harley-Davidson has factor of 0.55, and All Others a factor of 0.46. Again, these are pertinent to the discussion as we go along. In 2012, motorcyclist fatalities rose to 4743, with the percentages of factors remaining approximately the same.

There is an old Merle Haggard song that in part seems to run through my mind while reading the article which goes like this: “We keep drinking, and we keep smoking, having fun and never thinking; laughing at the **price tag** that we pay. We keep roaring down the fast lane, like two young men feeling no pain; and the reason for quitting getting bigger each day.” That sums up the whole article for the most part, given the figures and pie charts listed.

I realize I often quote Samuel Clemens regarding statistics, but a few need to be listed to get us through the article. 2005-2010 Motorcyclist Fatalities looked like this: BMW- 17 (there is a reason for doing this in the article), Harley-Davidson- 692, All Others-1330 for a total 2039. This information comes from FARS, the

Now we get closer into the causation of the fatalities; rider

deaths without helmets -38 percent; crashes involving measurable alcohol-40 percent. Blood alcohol by motorcycle type; Harley-Davidson 47.2 percent; All Others-35.5 percent. Before the reader draws the conclusion that I am picking on Harley-Davidson for some unknown reason, that is far from the facts. The reason these figures jump out at me is explained as we now go further into the article.

Motorcycle injuries and deaths causation factor is predicated on several more factors, no matter what type of motorcycle is being operated. First and foremost, attitude; which type of motorcycle(s) and therefore riders display most often unsafe attitudes towards safe riding, and even more importantly, motorcycle training? Which motorcycle operators by motorcycle

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type(s) display the attitude of safety gear while riding? And which motorcyclists by motorcycle type(s) are prevalent to ride under the influence of alcohol? I will let you draw those conclusions for yourself. These factors are predominantly an American issue given the attitude of “it’s my right” syndrome. Again, the reader can look at the figures and figure this one out.

A look at other Countries applies herein, and I will name only two, Japan and England although many other countries would factor into the equation also. In these two Countries, it takes five (5) years to get a fully certified motorcycle operator’s license. There are several steps involved along the way limiting motorcycle engine size, and motorcycle training, which is mandatory. The end result is graded by actual motorcycle officers along with written examinations. Display of the wrong attitude, inattention to riding gear, among other items results in licensing “washout”. Riding DUI with an endorsement of any type results in losing the motorcycle operator’s license.

And I ask myself, why not us? The fatality rates for these other Countries is nil compared to those here in America, and that should tell us something about our system of training, etc. And this does not even count their relicensing programs! Rider education plays the largest part in reducing motorcycle crashes (note I am not using accident) in all aspects. Along with skill levels, most programs address riding gear, alcohol and drugs, attitude, and more. Does this mean the motorcycle operator will become the type of rider we wish all riders would be? Of course not; however, it is a start.

Back to those other Countries for just a bit. I can identify a motorcyclist just about as far as I can see him/her as to whether they are out of Country, or not! Notice the gear, notice the riding techniques, and notice the attitudes, and it is no wonder these folks can “ride” and do it most likely safer than we Americans! Serious training can do that for a person.

Now the punch line, if there should be one; why did I list motorcycle types in the statistics? Who has the fewest

accidents and fatalities? BMW riders! Check these guys and gals out some time, and you will notice they fit all the positive factors of this article, or at least what the article is driving towards, pun intended. Now back to the Merle Haggard song; there is a **price tag** that is driven by us the motorcyclist. We can pay that price up front with all the correct or right aspects, or we can pay it later from all the wrong reasons. Unfortunately, the **price tag** in motorcycle crashes is paid down the line in all aspects as well. You can think about that one for a minute or two, and you will most probably come up with my meaning. I want to quote the bottom line that few consider regarding motorcycle crashes, injuries, and fatalities as follows.

**“However, the statistics revealed here clearly show that certain aspects of motorcycling, such as impaired riding (and I insert lack of rider education and training) dominate the sports fatality rates, and we must do a better job. For the good of our sport, the motorcycle community must be the source of any ”improvements.” And if our grades don’t improve, we can expect “tutoring” from the insurance industry, the courts, and the government.”** Folks, there is legislation in various states and in Washington D.C. pertaining to just these issues!

We as motorcyclists must become the shining beacon of reason within our motorcycling community in everything we do motorcycle wise; our behaviors, riding gear, attitudes, and more. Our goal should, and must be to improve the “grades” that indicates while there is risk involved, we as responsible “bikers” are doing our part to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities. **AND ABOVE ALL, RIDE WITH PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE!**

*Ace (Howie) Peterson*

Chapter CO-Q Educator

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# Chapter NH-G

## “The Lakes Region Wings”

### 2014 Ride Schedule

- May 11 Monthly Gathering. Mother’s Day and Annual “Ice-Out” ride around Lake Winnepesaukee.
- May 25 Ride to Chapter NH-E’s Gathering in Rindge. Meet at the Dunkin Donuts in Tilton behind the Tilton Diner at 7:00 AM. Group leaves at 7:15. Destination is the J.P. Stephens Restaurant, 377 US Route 202, Rindge, NH. Ride led by Mike Vaillancourt.
- May 31 Join Chapter NH-A for a ride to the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro or meet them there.
- June 2-7 Americade, Lake George New York
- June 4 Day Trip to Americade. Meet at Dunkin Donuts in Tilton behind the Tilton Diner at 8AM. Group leaves at 8:30. Should be home by 7PM before dark. Ride lead by Mike Vaillancourt.
- June 8 Monthly Gathering. Ride to Chutters in Littleton, N.H. Home of the World’s Longest Candy Counter. You name it, they’ve got it. Lunch at the Littleton Diner just down the street.
- June 14-22 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Laconia Bike Week. Check it out at: [www.laconiamcweek.com/](http://www.laconiamcweek.com/)
- June 22 NH-E Ride to Hart’s Turkey Farm and the Motorcycle Museum in Meredith. It would be fun to welcome Chapter E to our “back door”. Ride for Ice Cream afterwards.
- July 2-5 Wing Ding XXXVI Madison, Wisconsin.
- July 4 4<sup>th</sup> of July ride to the Maine Diner in Wells Maine for lunch. Meet at the Dunkin Donuts in Tilton behind the Tilton Diner at 8AM. Group leaves at 8:30.
- July 13 Chapter NH-A “Bug Run” fund raiser and Chapter Cook Out. Details to follow.
- July 24-26 GWRRR New England States Rally XIII, Sturbridge MA.
- August 10 Monthly Gathering. Ride afterwards to the “Vermont Country Store” in Weston, VT.

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## Chapter NH-G “The Lakes Region Wings”

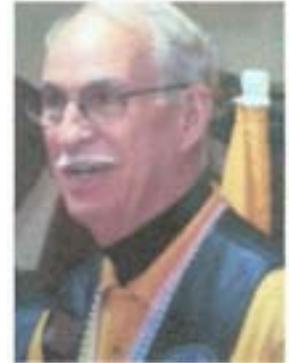
## 2014 Ride Schedule

- Aug. 23-24 Overnight Ride to Manchester Center, VT home of Orvis Outfitters, and “Hildene”, the Lincoln Family Home. We will tour the back roads of New Hampshire and Vermont. Ending up in Manchester Center, VT on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and staying at the Four Winds Country Motel, 7379 Main Street, Manchester Center, VT 05255. Call 802-362-1105. Their web site is [www.fourwindsmanchester.com](http://www.fourwindsmanchester.com) . We have a block of 10 rooms. (As of 5/1/14 we have 7 rooms left.) Just Mention the Gold Wing Road Riders Association for the room block. It will be your responsibility to book and guarantee your own room. **(This block of rooms is being held until May 16, 2014)** Dinner will be at the “Seasons Restaurant” in Manchester Center which specializes in American cuisine. Check out their web site and menu at <http://seasonsvt.com> . On Sunday you’ll be on your own to tour “Orvis” or “Hildene”. Group to leave Manchester Center Vermont at 2PM for the ride home with an Ice Cream stop along the way.
- Sept. 6 Chapter NH-E ride to the Anheuser Bush Brewery in Merrimack N.H. Chapter E should be arriving in Merrimack around noon. See the Clydesdales. Details to follow.
- Sept. 7 Chapter NH-A “Lets Go Chasing Waterfalls” Ride. Details to follow.
- Sept. 14 Monthly Gathering. Fall Foliage Picnic Lunch Ride over the Kancamagus Highway. Bring a picnic lunch and we will stop in one of the rest areas up on the “Kanc” for lunch. We will stop in Wolfeboro for Ice Cream on the way back.
- Sept. 28 Jim Venne Memorial Fall Foliage Poker Run Benefiting the New England Ride For Kids.
- Oct. 5 Chapter NH-A “Silver Lake Railroad Foliage Ride”. Details to follow.
- Oct. 12 Monthly Gathering. Weather permitting, Ride part way around the Quabbin Reservoir to Yankee Candle in Amherst MA. Better bring your trailers for all the stuff you’re going to buy! Lunch at Judi’s Restaurant in Historic Amherst.
- Nov. 9 Monthly Gathering. Ride afterwards at group discretion depending on weather and temperature.
- Dec. 10 Chapter G Holiday Dinner. Location not yet determined. More to follow.

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Until the Chapter gets a Motorist Awareness Coordinator, Nick Hoppner from the Colorado District, will graciously provide us with MAD articles. Editor



## Good News/Bad News

From the March 21 issue of *The Week* magazine comes this bit of good news/bad news:

Apple's mobile operating system wants to merge with your car.... The iPhone and iPad maker last week unveiled Apple CarPlay, which lets you "bring your own phone into your car's dashboard for mapping, messaging, voice controls, and more."

Volvo, Hyundai, Honda, Jaguar, Ferrari, and Mercedes-Benz have already agreed to integrate CarPlay into their upcoming models, while partnerships with BMW, Subaru, Toyota and Ford are in the works. Apple's offering is part of "a growing trend toward using your own device in your in-

car dash." CarPlay outdoes the competition, including GM's Mylink, which works with both iOS

and Android phones, according to Damon Lavrinc in *Wired.com*.

Not everyone is onboard, though, says James O'Toole in *CNN.com*. Some safety experts worry that CarPlay will simply introduce a new set of distractions for drivers who are multitasking. "We're very, very concerned about it," says David Teater, senior director at the nonprofit National Safety Council. "The auto industry and the consumer electronics industry are really in an arms race to see how we can enable drivers to do stuff other than driving."

For their part, the tech companies—including Google, which said in January that it would partner with Audi, GM, Honda, and Hyundai to integrate its Android operating system into cars starting this year—claim their software will make driving safer "by allowing drivers to keep their eyes on the road."

That may be true, but studies have shown that "talking in hands-free mode while driving is just as unsafe as driving

while holding a phone." Even motorists who keep their eyes focused on the traffic around them may find their "minds focused elsewhere."

As this writer culled from a previous article (*The Week*, November 8, 2013), inasmuch as we use the "everything boxes" in our pockets for so many different tasks, we develop a vast range of triggers and cues associated with pulling them out and looking at them. In essence, the smart phones themselves train us to respond to their insistent prompts—sometimes even at unconscious levels. Sometimes we respond out of curiosity, sometimes out of loneliness, sometimes just to scratch the itch the smartphone has planted in our brains. That's right—your smartphone has trained you to respond to its beeps just as surely as Pavlov's experiment trained dogs to salivate at the ringing of a bell!

What can we motorcyclists do to protect ourselves? First, we must assume that motorists around us will be increasingly paying less attention to our presence, and so we must be much more cautious. Second, we must all assume an unofficial responsibility to spread the gospel of motorist awareness—reminding the public (all our friends and acquaintances) to actively look for motorcyclists—live people—out there whenever they get behind a wheel.



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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to all those listed below



May 16    Lee Hirtle  
May 28    Sue Venne

May 15    Ernie and Donna Brown



*Chapter G Wishes You All The Best!  
Remember, We can't post your Birthdays and Anniversaries  
if we don't know the dates. Let us know.*

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### Member Wanted or For Sale

This part of the newsletter is for Chapter Members to sell any Gold Wing Related items, or are looking for Gold Wing Related Items. All requests will be run for 90 days and then removed unless told to continue or have been notified that the item is sold.

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**BASEBALL**

and



**HANDBELLS**

**Granite State Ringers**

will be **playing**

**The National Anthem**

at the **Fisher Cats** game on

**Friday, June 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM**

We are selling tickets to this game as a

**Fundraiser!**

Tickets are \$10.00 each.

There is a free Fisher Cats poster for the first 2500 fans.

Contact Meri Hirtle at 396-5145 for tickets.

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**The Jim Venne Memorial Fall Foliage Poker Run**  
**With All Proceeds After Expenses going to:**  
**The New England**



**Ride for Kids®**

**Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation**

**September 28, 2014**

Ride Starts at the N.H. Veterans Cemetery, 110 D. W. Highway N. , Boscawen, N.H.

Check-in is From 9 AM to 11AM.

Cost is \$15.00 per Person for the 1<sup>st</sup> Hand with any  
Additional Hands at \$10.00 for the Same Person

Come Ride, Have Fun, and Support a Great Cause that was Jim's Favorite

Coffee & Donuts @ Registration While it Lasts.

**Rain or Shine Event**



See us at [www.gwrra.nh-g.org](http://www.gwrra.nh-g.org)

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# 8th Annual Granite State ThunderRun

July 19, 2014  
Naults Honda  
420 Second Street  
Manchester NH

Registration 9:30am to 11:00am | \$25 per bike | \$10 per passenger  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ROLLING THUNDER® NH-1**

All registrations eligible to  
**WIN FREE BIKE at the end of run.**

\*Must be 18 or older and present to win

Lunch provided by  
**Carrabba's Italian Grill**



Photo courtesy of  
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