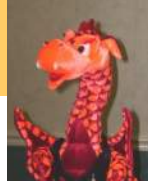


DRAGON TALES

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



"Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge"



Chapter R2 Grand River Riders

Michigan District

Region D - "The Great Lakes Region"

VOLUME 21

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October 2017

Chapter Team Directors' View

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[www.gwrra-mi.org/chapter/r2/
index.html](http://www.gwrra-mi.org/chapter/r2/index.html)

2017 COUPLE OF THE YEAR

Jim n Ann Sowle

GENERAL GATHERING

R2 General Gathering
At **Blue Water Cafe, 323
West Main Street**, Ionia at
6:30 the first Tuesday of each
month. Come early for dinner.



Where has the time gone? Fall is here, and just look at how many leaves have fallen; soon there will be many more. As you are out riding, and we are sure many of you will be, we ask you to be careful with the fallen leaves on the roads. The colors are already starting to look pretty and we are hoping we all will get a nice Color Tour Ride in this Fall. Watch for Not

ONLY those leaves, but those four-legged deer running around too.

We had our Spaghetti Dinner at our home, a small turn out, but we still enjoyed doing it. We were asked, "What did we do to deserve it?" "Nothing" was our response. We are just wanting to have some FUN and who else to do that with, other than our members. We hope to do it again next year.

We have been thinking about the time those beauties are going to have to be put away, covered up and told to rest a few months. We know most of you are saying, "Well, those of you who are going south or to warmer climate will be able to ride all the time." Yes, they will. But don't forget, we will be thinking of all of you up in the COLD.

We want to remind our members of some upcoming events. First, **R-2 Planning Meeting** - October 28, 2017. We would like to have everyone come. We will be having it **at the Ada Fire Station in Ada at 5:30 p.m.** There will be Sloppy Joe's furnished; so, please bring a dish or snacks to pass and let's get our 2018 Tuesday night rides planned and any other event you want on the calendar for next year.

Fall Officer Meeting will be November 4, 2017. All officers should attend, all members are welcome. Our New ADDs for the North and West Section will be installed, along with District MECs! A new place for the meeting is **River Tree Community Church, 3113 Lansing Avenue, Jackson** at 10am; social time starts at 9:30. This is Chapter J's Gathering location. We want to invite any of you to attend, and encourage all officers to go, if possible.

Mark your calendars for **Our Holiday Party**. It is planned for **Sunday, November 5, 2017**. There will be more information coming later.

Now you ask, are we having any more rides this Fall? Sure, we will. We are planning a ride to the "Village Inn" in Fruitport on Sunday, October 15. Hope the weather will be great for that day. We will most likely get a ride up to Uncle John's or some other orchard for lunch. Watch your emails to see what is happening. If you want to take a day ride to see the beautiful colors, let us know as

... Continued on page 3.

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50/50 Ticket Sales
Harold Irish



**Couple of the Year
2017**
Jim n Ann Sowle



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Chapter Team Directors' View - continued

we always enjoy doing that, too. Now, on October 29, there is going to be a "October Fest" held at our home. There will be more said at our October Gathering. So, please come and listen to what has all been planned.

Last, but not least, we need to have some of you put your thoughts together so I don't have to write most of the stories for the newsletter. With me not here this coming winter, I won't know what has happen or going on, so please help me out. It doesn't take that much time and it doesn't have to be real long either. I will be waiting to hear from some of you. We thank all of you who have done writing for the newsletter and we want you to keep doing it.

Ride SAFE this Fall. DO LOOK out for those cages running around, as they say, "Oh, I didn't see you" and we don't want to hear those words being said. Just be SAFE. RIDE with OPEN EYES . . . BRIGHT COLORS . . . MANY BRIGHT LIGHTS.

Al n Merriann Lawson
GWRRA - MI-R2
Chapter Team Directors
Couple of the Year 2012

Chapter Ride Educations



My oh my, time sure does fly!! Here we are already into fall! With fall here, we need to be even more aware of the 4-wheeled buggy's. Some may think with fall the bikes are not out, but they are wrong! This is our almost favorite time of the year! Leaves are changing colors and with the cool crisp air (ha ha maybe someday, as it's been in the 90s), we need to watch out for those wonderful colored and dangerous

leaves. Just like tar snakes, they can be very demeaning.

Of course, with fall comes the not so welcoming loss of sunlight and cooler temperatures. With that being said, just like summer when we have to take extra clothes off, in the fall we may need to put more on. With losing daylight, we will now need to plan our riding trips out a little more carefully; otherwise, we may be riding in the DARK!!

When riding in the late evening, we also need to slow down a bit to adjust to the dimness of light and be aware of those 4-legged creatures. As it gets cooler and mating season approaches, they get more aggressive.

So, the moral for the story is "plan ahead," Ride safe, Dress appropriately, enjoy every minute we have left; and watch out for those Deer!

Thanks for Riding Safe
Brian and Becky Anderson
Chapter R2
Safety Educators

Assistant Chapter Team Director



Who would have thought, 90-degree heat for a week in the end of September . . . what a ride! The odometer turned over 110,000 miles, not bad. We will see what the next 110,000 miles does . Have had a good time riding this summer; hope to have a little more seat time before that four-letter word, "s - - w," starts to fly.

Already looking forward to next season and where to ride to and what we will see. Sounds like things are looking okay down south and hope all the snowbirds will have fun down there.

As far as the new look for GWRRA, time will tell. But, if it still works, leave it be. So, we will see what it will look like; hope all will be good. For now, see you all on the long winding roads.

Best regards,
The Ride Guy.

Daryl ☺

GWRRA - MI-R2

Assistant Chapter Team Director

Membership Enhancement Coordinators



Thanks for all you do!!

We had a great gathering in September, great FUN!

We honored Kay Oligney for her 10 years as our Membership Enhancement Coordinator – **THANK YOU KAY!**

We also celebrated our Chapter winning the Brag Book completion at the Rally this year – **THAT IS A BIG THANK YOU TO MERRIANN!**

We had visitors from Chapter J – (Jackson) which brought our group up to 23! It was great fun to have them here with us: Gary & Carol Williams, Randy & Loraine Lea and Mike VanTassell. It was nice they could ride over and join us!

Our "special" gift card went to Len Snyder this month. Maybe it will be you this next month! **You will have to guess at what the reason for the prize is, the reason will be revealed at Christmas party, so you will have to just guess until then!**

Also, we had 3 more couples/individuals who completed the Safari rides. Gift cards went to our visitors – Mike VanTassell, Randy & Loraine Lea, and Dan & Barb Nugent who have completed the Safari rides. It was nice that our visitors could get gift cards also! Keep working at the Safari—you will be next to get a gift card!

Barb Nugent won the raffle ticket for her membership card being pulled, she will get a raffle ticket for next year's raffle when the tickets are available. And Mike VanTassell from Chapter J won the 50/50. `

Come to our gathering next month, and see if you get the next special award!

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Congratulations to Harold n LaRain!!!

We were happy to be invited to celebrate a Wonderful Day. For Harold n LaRain celebrated 50 years together. Their children surprised them with a very nice party at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant. **Glenn n Bonnie** and **Bill**, along with **Al n Merriann** were able to attend. We were also surprised to see **Dave n Sherrie** there. We had not seen them for a very long time. We all had a very nice visit and we invited them to come join us when they can. There was a nice turn out and Harold n LaRain were happy to see us all.

Harold met LaRain at a Roller Skating Rink. Harold was an instructor or teacher in learning how to Roller Skate. When he saw LaRain he said to himself, "This one, she is going to be my wife." Well, another thing was LaRain liked bowling. She did a lot of that. It wasn't long and they were dating and the day did come that they got married. This is one reason the kids had the party at a Bowling Alley. LaRain went there a lot when she was younger. Well, you will have to ask them for the rest of the story.

We want to wish them a Wonderful Year and hope they have many more. We told Harold, we want to see them make another 50. He didn't think that would happen. It would make him **really** old.



Safari Run

By Bonnie Anderson

Glenn and I went to Roxie's Café in Jackson on Friday, September 15 during our Safari drive. This was a great stop! The Food was very good. On the menu it said **they don't open cans, they make the food.** The place was full, prices were good, and service was great! They had something like 18 different Egg Omelets! Quite something!

The Décor was interesting, all kinds of signs around on the walls. And the ceiling tiles were the advertisements! It was something to see!

I did a picture of part of the menu as well. Very nice restaurant to visit and eat!



Look Who Got Married!!



It was a beautiful day and a **HOT** one at that. Saturday, September 23, **Jeff n Lisa** got married. Thank goodness they had a canopy and shade. There was a little breeze but it was **WARM**. **Al n Merriann** along with **Bonnie** were able to be there to celebrate their special occasion. There were family and friends there to help make this a special day for them. You would never guess who the Ring Bearer was; yes, it was their little dog, "Reese." Jeff held her the whole time during the ceremony. When asked for the rings, he took them off her collar. It was very nice and we wish them the **"Very Best."**

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff n Lisa!!!

Canada



August 18th St Ignace Ride with Continued Adventures through Canada

Written by Art King

Al n Merriann, Barb n Dan, Darryl, Brian n Becky, JJ, Rick and Myself gathered at the Backwater Cafe in Lowell for breakfast. And, at 9:00, 8 bikes and 9 riders left Lowell headed for the Straits of Mackinaw. The weather was cool and had started to drizzle. On the ride up the drizzle would come and go, but didn't really stop until we had gotten most the way to St Ignace. We reached our first destination, Interlochen, about lunch time. Several riders went to have their pictures taken at the motorcycle shop for the Safari. A few waited for them at the Wendy's in Interlochen. After lunch, we continued north. Merriann found us a route that bypassed Traverse City. We rode through the Tunnel of Trees to Cross Village, which was another Safari stop. After crossing the Bridge in High Winds, we arrived at the Whitetail Hotel about 6:45 PM. We all opted to have dinner at the hotel restaurant; a very nice place with good food. They have a nice staff, but sometimes get a little overwhelmed with larger groups like ours.



The morning of the 19th we had breakfast just as soon as the restaurant opened at 7:00AM. We planned a full day of riding that included a stop at Whitefish Point for Safari photos. We passed GWRRA Chapter G on the Whitefish Point Road; they were getting their photos as well. It was a beautiful day and the group wanted to do H58 for sure. After leaving Whitefish we headed across M123 through Newberry then across M28 to Shingleton and turned north up H15 to the Beartrap Restaurant. After lunch, we went across H58 as a group to the east end DNR station. After a brief rest, we headed west on H58 as a "free for all" meeting back at the Beartrap parking lot. Wandering our way back to St Ignace, we arrived about dinner time. The group stopped for dinner at Timmy Lees to meet up with Mick, who was staying in St. Ignace. We returned to the Hotel about 7:00PM. About 380 miles of scenic UP roads good friends, good food and great weather. It doesn't get much better than that.



Sunday morning the group had breakfast at the hotel restaurant again. That was the last day of the group together. Three bikes headed home, 2 bikes headed to Quincy Mine in Hancock, and 3 bikes headed for Canada. After breakfast, we all said our good byes. Dan, Barb and I started our adventure on this very foggy morning turned west. About an hour down the road we headed north and the fog started to lift. We stopped at Jeffrey's in Marquette for lunch. Following 41 for about 50 miles, then heading west on 28, and ending up in Ashland, Wisconsin. I think it was Dan who first saw the murals painted on several buildings. We saw 4 or 5, but there may have been even more down some of the side streets. These murals are the size of buildings and seemed to have a theme that matched the historical function of the building. We had dinner at the Ashland Family Café. The food was so good we ate breakfast there the next day.



The morning of the 21st we woke up to a beautiful sunrise over Lake Superior. It was a bright, red, but fortunately the old saying "Red sky in morning sailor take warning" was not true. Although cool in the morning it turned out to be a very nice day. Traveling through Duluth, Minnesota, toward the Canadian border, we went through 2 tunnels and saw countless scenic views of Lake Superior. We ate lunch at Silver Bay, Minnesota. The only restaurant in town was the Northwoods Family Grill; good food, but prices a little high, the 21% exchange rate helped cover the cost. Border crossing was quick and easy, as we continued to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Once we arrived in Thunder Bay, reasonable priced hotels seemed a bit harder to find than we had thought. We found the only slightly expensive hotel called Bob's Hotel. This hotel was very basic with no air-conditioning, we didn't need it anyway, and it was very close to the airport. After a 5 AM wake up from the garbage truck our next day's ride soon began.



We all got up and going about 7 AM the strange thing is we found very few places to get breakfast. In a large town with a busy airport you would think there would be more restaurants serving breakfast. We planned to stop and see the Ka-

Canada - Continued



kabeka Falls just west of town and Google said there was a Cafe there. On the way to the Metro Mouse Cafe we saw a bear run across the road. This very small cafe had great food with a Finnish flair to the menu. The owners told us there is a large settlement from Finland in the area. We stopped and saw the Falls, which had walkways to view them from both side and even under the falls. Heading east there were many scenic turnouts and rivers that flowed under the highway. This is the day for the Eclipse; unfortunately, the sky had turned quite overcast and we just barely saw the eclipse through the clouds. We stopped for lunch at Drifters Cafe in Terrace Bay; good food, but being a resort area, the prices were quite high. With the sky starting to get dark and a few drops falling during lunch, we donned our rain gear. We selected White River as our nights destination which was about 100 miles east. Arriving at White River with light rain and 50 degrees we found a hotel. The White River Hotel was very nice and clean, but being one of only two hotels the price was high. Having stopped early we did some laundry at the truck stop with only one working washer and dryer. We ate dinner at the Continental Restaurant; the service was poor, the prices were very high, but at least the food was bad. If this was the only choice I had for dinner again I would rather get a gas station microwave burrito.



Wednesday morning, we woke to rain and about 46 degrees. The good news is we found another restaurant, Michelle's Bread and Breakfast; it was truly a bright spot in a dismal day. With rain gear in place we headed east, stopping in Wawa for a break. They had a new Tim Hortons that was busier than any place I had ever seen. People must come for miles to get a muffin and coffee. After hot chocolate, we topped off the tanks, because Timmins was 204 miles and slim chance for gas along the way. We did find gas at Chapleau, one station with 2 pumps. We also had lunch there at Dominion Cafe. It felt like they didn't like strangers in that town, but we didn't stay long. Food was good service felt grumpy. Still raining off and on and the temperatures had only climbed to 52, we headed toward Timmins. We found the town of Foleyet just in time for a butt break; they had gas as well and an "everything" store with clean restrooms. About an hour after Foleyet, we arrived in Timmins, a very large mining town. We stayed at a brand-new Microtel. After a full day of riding in the cold and wet we weren't picky. Not wanting to ride in the rain more, we ordered pizza to be delivered. After dinner, I'm not sure about Dan and Barb, but I was exhausted, so early to bed I went.



We woke to a beautiful, but cold Thursday morning. We ate a hot breakfast at the Microtel. Again, making sure we topped off our tanks, we headed 184 miles south to Sudbury. Route 144 is a good road, scenery being the woods mostly. A billboard said there was gas at Gogama, so we drove off the main road 2 miles to find out they had a pump, but were out of gas. My motorcycle will go 180 miles on a tank, but not much farther. We asked someone in town, she said there was gas about 36 Km down the main road. We found the truck stop just as she said, they had gas and a restaurant, but the kitchen was closed because they had a fire the day before. Continuing south, we made it to Sudbury and headed west toward our destination, the South Baymouth Ferry to Tobermorey. Just before Espanola we found a truck stop for lunch; Jeremy's restaurant was great food, service and prices. Turning south on 6 at Espanola we headed across Manitolin Island to the Ferry dock, largest fresh water island in the world. We had motel reservations for the night (which turned out to be a complete cottage with two bed rooms, a complete kitchen and living room) and reservations for the ferry the next morning. We ate dinner at Carol and Earls Cafe in South Baymouth; great homemade food.



Friday morning, we got going early and had our bikes staged at the ferry dock about 7:30. The boat didn't leave until 9:10, but we had to be there by 8:10 or risk losing our spot. Once we parked our bikes we ate at the Dock Side restaurant; good food, service and prices were reasonable. The boat ride was great! There was a family feeding the sea gulls cheese puffs. The gulls would fly alongside the boat and grab the puffs out of their fingers. After leaving the ferry we headed south on Route 6. About lunch time we stopped in Wiarton. It was a very busy, congested town. We ate at the Green Door Café; food was good, but the menu was limited to very fancy cuisine. After fighting our way through traffic in this little town, we continued south. We crossed the border at Sarnia, Ontario, into Port Huron, Michi-



Canada - Continued



gan, without any difficulty. We found a very inexpensive hotel in Marysville for the night. It just so happened there was a car rally going on in town, so we got to see a lot of neat cars during dinner. We had dinner at Seros Restaurant; the food and service were so good we returned for breakfast Saturday morning.

Saturday morning, we parted ways after breakfast I headed home and Dan and Barb sought out a couple more Safari stops. After a very cool morning ride home I got home about noon. Dan and Barb arrived home about 4 PM Sunday.

All in all, a great ride only had one really bad weather day. We had a great scenic ride through some very remote parts of Canada. Covered about 3000 miles in all with only very minor bike issues, mostly CB radio. Beautiful scenery mostly smooth roads and good friends that's a pretty good week.

This space is reserved for your story. Please submit it for next month's newsletter. We would be very happy to share it with the whole chapter! We'll be happy to make the space even bigger, if we need to.



Calendar

Summer Ride Season is here! — Tuesday night dinners will now be at 6:00
Unless otherwise mentioned, we'll leave the Mobil Station at 5:30
(corner of Lincoln Lake and Vergennes - north of Lowell)

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 - R2 Monthly Gathering, Blue Water Café, 323 West Main Street, Ionia. (Come early for dinner.)

Tuesday, October 10, 6:00 - Pizza Hut, 347 Dexter Street, Ionia. Weather permitting, we'll leave the Mobil Station at 5:30. If you can't meet us there, meet us at the restaurant about 6:00. Hope to see you there. (616.891.6055)

Sunday, October 15, 11:00 - Sunday Lunch Ride to Fruitport. We'll leave the Mobil Station at 11:00. Come along for a fun day.

Tuesday, October 17, 6:00 - Nighthawk Food & Spirits, 6950 Whitneyville Avenue, SE, Alto. Weather permitting, we'll leave the Mobil Station at 5:30. If you can't meet us there, meet us at the restaurant about 6:00. Hope to see you there. (616.868.6336)

Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 - Bagger Dave's, 28th Street & Kraft, Grand Rapids. Weather permitting, we'll leave the Mobil Station at 5:30. If you can't meet us there, meet us at the restaurant about 6:00. Hope to see you there. (616-977-4349)

Saturday, October 28, 5:30 - Planning Meeting to plan our 2018 calendar, Ada Fire Station, 6990 East Fulton Street, Ada. There will be Sloppy Joe's furnished. Please bring a dish or snack to share and your favorite beverage.

Tuesday, October 31, 6:00 - Olivera's Restaurant, 390 S Dexter Street, Ionia. We hope to meet you at the restaurant about 6:00.

Sunday, October 29 - October Fest will be held at the Lawson's home. Details will be shared at the October Gathering.

Saturday, November 4, 10:00 - Fall Officer Meeting, River Tree Community Church, 3113 Lansing Avenue, Jackson. Social time starts at 9:30. Plan to go and learn more about the future for GWRRA.

Sunday, November 5, - Our Holiday Party, More details will be available at our October Gathering.

Tuesday, November 7, 6:00 - Penny's Five Star Pizza, 1033 Fourth Avenue, Lake Odessa. We hope to meet you at the restaurant about 6:00. (616-374-8813)

Watch your email for additional "pop-up" FUN.

Wingless Weekend: Will be held March 9-10, 2018 at the Lakeside Resort in Houghton, Michigan. Details to come.

Michigan District Spring Officers Meeting: Will be held March 10 after Wingless Weekend.

Michigan District Rally: Will be held July 19-21, 2017 at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall, Michigan.

Wing Ding 40: Will begin August 28, 2018, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

For registration information go to: <http://wing-ding.org/40/#pricing>.

For accommodation information go to: <http://wing-ding.org/40/#details>

Please check our website for updates and changes. **For more Chapter events, details and updates, visit the GWRRA Michigan webpage at <http://www.gwrra-mi.org/ChapterEvents.htm>**

Barbara Nugent
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GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



Ionia Chapter R2



District 2012, 2015, 2017 Brag Book Winner

**District 2010 Chapter of the Year for
Outstanding Promotion of the Rider Education Program**

District 2010 Chapter of the Year