



Official Newsletter of
Chapter WA-L
Tri-Cities, Washington
"The Looney Tunes"



ACME TIMES



Gold Wing Road Riders
Association
Region I — WA District
January 2012

Another busy month...

I've been so busy getting ready for Christmas, I hadn't had time to write my article for the newsletter.... so here goes.

It's Christmas morning and I'm watching my granddaughter Brytni help her mother start Christmas dinner, one should be taking pictures of Brytni stuffing dressing into a turkey's butt! Pretty funny.

It's been a busy month with all the different dinners and parties. I felt the chapter Christmas dinner was a lot of fun. I'm looking forward toward Jan. 1st for our annual chili feed and New Years' Day ride. Just don't wait until Jan. 1st to see if your bike will start and be ready to go. We're planning on riding around 11:00 am, for a ride around town, then coming back to our house to eat chili & cornbread. I'm going to build a fire in the fire pit. Should be a fun day! But, you need to come to have fun and besides, the more the merrier!

I need to know how many plan to go to Casino Night, Jan.28th at Camp Murrey. So please let me know. Early registration is due Jan.2, 2012.

Jan. 6th, we're going to a Hockey Game. I hope you are signed up and paid to go, we always have fun.

Jan. 7th, we need to go to Chapter "R"'s meeting. They are installing a new Chapter Director, so let's plan on going to that.

Feb. 11th, 2012. Rider Ed Workshop in Buckley. A lot of good information there. We should try to attend.

See! Lots to do. I hope everyone has a Great New Year!!

Lloyd Finley, WA "L" CD




Looking Back

By Tom Denny, WA-L Rider Educator

The other day I was riding down the street in front of my house as I prepared to turn into my driveway I was almost run over by a women in a small sedan. It is the closest call I have had in several years.

The street in front of my house is a three-lane road with two lanes of travel and a center turn lane. I was riding in the left track of my lane approaching my house with my right turn signal on. As I neared my driveway I looked in my right side rear-view mirror and saw a light colored sedan coming up behind me. For some reason I decided to add a hand signal and raised my left arm, bent 90 degrees at the elbow with my hand and fore arm straight up, the classic Right Turn hand signal. As I began to decelerate I noticed the car behind me closing the distance between us fairly rapidly and I thought the driver was just delayed in their braking. As I slowed some more my mirrors showed the car behind me coming up fast, it had moved over to the right side of the lane putting its right wheels over the fog line.

It was at this point I realized that the driver of the car coming up behind me was going to pass me on



the right! With my right turn signal still blinking I took hold of the handlebars with both hands and moved left into the center lane as the car shot past my right side at about 35 MPH. If I had turned into my driveway that car would have run into me. It had approached too close and was going too fast to have avoided me had I followed my intended path and turned right.

Initially I was stunned by what had happened, then I got angry and decided to follow it and have a good talk with the driver, perhaps educate them. In the next several blocks I began to cool down and think a little more clearly. After another ten blocks or so the vehicle pulled into a driveway. I stopped on the street and shut off my engine.

The driver turned out to be a female approximately 30-35 years old. When she was out of her vehicle she turned and looked at me. Before she could say anything I called out to her, "Are you okay?"

She looked puzzled and answered, "Yes" then "Why?"

"Because you almost killed me in front my house!" I fired back.

"No I didn't", she said.

"I was just about to turn right into my driveway when you passed me", I told her.

Her answer to that was, "You were signaling for a left turn."

"I was what?" I thought. I went back over it in my mind, right turn signal on, left arm up. No, I was certainly signaling for a right turn.

"No, I wasn't", I threw back at her.

"Yes, you were!" she said.

Then it hit me, she must have thought that my left arm up was a left turn signal. I sat there on my bike

while she stood next to her car as we each looked at one another in silence. I was furiously going over in my mind what I should say next when I simply shook my head in resignation and said to her, "Just be careful". With those words of advice hanging in the air between us, I fired up the bike and rode home.

There are at least two lessons to learn from this event. Probably there are more but I will only address the two that I think are the most obvious.

One, always look behind you when slowing down. In the ARC classes you are taught to look behind you when stopping but it is also a grand idea to check your rear even when just slowing. Ideally you are looking in your mirrors every few seconds. I like to talk to people about looking ahead while riding but one should not forget to look behind as well. If I had not been looking back to see her gaining on me I most certainly would have turned in front of her vehicle with expectedly disastrous results.

Two, be ready for the unexpected. As unexpected as it was to me, there are apparently some people who do not understand hand and arm signals. In this case the driver obviously misinterpreted my left arm up as a left turn signal. Your only defense in the face of something like this is to be wary. To be wary is to be watchful and relaxed. Expect other drivers to do the wrong thing all the time and you won't be caught unaware or unprepared very often.

To help get ready for the unexpected you can play "What if?" What if another driver does the exact wrong thing? Where will you go; what if you can't go there? What will your reaction be? By playing the "What if" game and considering your responses to their possible actions, you won't be as surprised when they do something off beat or just plain dumb. You will have already considered a plan of action and your reaction time will be much quicker.

I believe that riding a motorcycle in the city is becoming more dangerous every year. There are

more things to distract drivers today than ever before. Things like cell phones, GPS, On Star, CD players, voice commands, etc. Traffic is becoming heavier all the time while the list of driver distractions grows with every new 'phone app'. While riding, please keep your head on a swivel, look all around you, keep your mind on your ride and hopefully you can look back on every ride as an enjoyable and uneventful one.

Ride safe.



A Ride to Remember: Part 2

By Tom Denny

Last month in part one of "A Ride to Remember" I rode from Kennewick, WA to Newburg, New York to participate in the International Association of finished saying my good-byes to Santana, Tim and Mindy until approximately 11:30AM. After leaving them I stopped at Mikey Teutul's art gallery in Montgomery, NY to take some pictures before leaving the area so it was approximately 12:45 PM when I entered the on-ramp onto the interstate en route for Charleston, WV.

The ride to Charleston was made under gorgeous



weather. The temperature was in the mid to high 70's all day with plenty of sunshine, light breezes and lots of beautiful scenery. Leaving Montgomery, NY I went west to Scranton, PA then generally southwest from there to Charleston, WV. Along the way I went past the exit to Frackville, PA. I don't know anything about the town or the people there but I found the name amusing.

Fire Fighters memorial motorcycle ride to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks and to honor those fire fighters, police, EMT's and other public safety employees that lost their lives on that day. Prior to leaving New York I found a group of five fire fighters from Arizona that were riding to Colorado Springs, CO to attend the IAFF National Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. On the third Saturday of every September the IAFF holds a ceremony to honor those fire fighters that have lost their lives in the line of duty for the prior year. In 2011 there were 87 names being added to the memorial. It seemed like a fitting thing to do to follow the 9-11 remembrance ride.

The five Arizona fire fighters, two with their wives riding with them, left Newburg, NY at 0730 Monday morning the 12th of September. I didn't get



After 575 miles I arrived at the Knight's Inn at about 9:30 PM and found the Arizona folks in the restaurant next door. They had ordered their food but hadn't got it yet. It turns out they had only arrived a half hour earlier and were quite surprised I had caught up to them so soon. Over the next week I became friends with this group of fire fighters from Arizona. They are great people and treated me like one of their own.

The next day it was a 530 mile shot straight west from Charleston, WV along I-70 to the Days Inn at Woodland, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, MO. That afternoon the group was passing a semi-truck when one of the truck's rear trailer tires exploded. Three of the bikes in our group had already passed the rear

of the trailer although one of them was just a few feet ahead of the trailer's rear axles at the time. When the tire blew up I was about 300 feet behind the semi-trailer with one of our group between the trailer and me and one bike behind me. I was amazed that I could hear the explosion through my helmet from that far back. The two closer riders both assured me that they had no trouble hearing it! There was a great loud boom simultaneous to a cloud of dirt and dust issuing from under the rear of the trailer. Almost immediately a complete truck tire tread flew out from behind the semi-trailer. The tread flopped down the road for a little way before coming to rest near the centerline of the highway. The three of us behind the semi's trailer were able to ride around it but I'm sure all of us were a little wide-eyed in the process. That evening we ended the day in the hotel parking lot re-living the semi-trailer tire explosion over beer and pizza. Does life get any better?

Wednesday we awoke to low, dark clouds and the threat of rain. Before we got a mile from the hotel it began raining and continued unabated for the next 200 miles. By the afternoon the rain finally stopped and we ended the day at the Rodeway Inn in Salina, KS after a total of 421 miles. It had been a chilly, wet day of travel. A stiff wind blowing from the south gave us a side wind to deal with all afternoon. Even after the rain had stopped the weather stayed cool, the temperature never getting out of the low 50's.

From Salina, KS it was only 423 miles to Colorado Springs, CO. That morning, Thursday, started off again with rain. Rain and very cool temps. We left the Rodeway Inn with my temperature display telling me it was 45 degrees. The farther west we went, the closer to Colorado we got, the colder it became. Eventually reaching a low of 39 degrees with the rain still falling. At this point the group pulled off the highway at Goodland, KS and into a McDonalds to get something hot inside us. We were all cold, chilled to the bone. Several of the group went across the street to a large variety store to buy warmer gloves. With some new gloves and full of

McDonalds coffee and hot apple pies we ventured back into the rain. The rain only lasted for another 50 or 60 miles and then we ran into thick fog. Riding through the fog without the rain it warmed a little, getting back up to the lower 40's.



The fog was unusual because while there was a stiff side-wind blowing, the fog didn't seem to have any movement to it, weird. Due to fog

we took the wrong exit at Limon, CO and one or riders got separated from the group. Thanks to the miracle of cell phones he was able to locate us and we joined back up and continued through the fog along US highway 24 losing only about an hour an hour in the process. Somewhere around Peyton, CO we finally rode out of the fog and a few miles later arrived in Colorado Springs. We had only ridden 430 miles but with the cold, rain and fog it seemed like the longest day of the trip.



Friday we cleaned the bikes, washed clothes, looked around Colorado Springs and generally rested up.

Saturday was the memorial service. It began with a motorcycle ride from north Colorado Springs to Memorial Park where the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter

service was conducted. Fire apparatus from all over the western United States led the precession. After the Fire apparatus come the motorcycles. All along the route people are standing and waving American flags. At Memorial Park the streets is completely blocked by fire apparatus and motorcycles. The actual service is a very moving experience and one that I can recommend to everyone, fire fighter or not. The names of the 87 fire fighters that were been added to the wall in the last year are read aloud and their families are given an American flag in a presentation case. It is a somber experience. It is also a proud experience. We are all proud of those that have served and we honor those that have answered the highest call of duty.

On Friday and Saturday evening the city of Colorado Springs closes off one block in the downtown area for the fire fighters. At approximately 8:30 PM both nights the combined bag pipe and drum corps made up from fire department drummers and pipers from all over the country, march down the street while being led by a fire truck. The pipes and drums stop in the middle of the block while the fire truck leaves. There in the street, at night, they play five or six songs filling the downtown area of Colorado Springs with the sounds of bagpipes and drums. When finished, they turn around and march out of sight around the corner all the while piping and drumming. To be standing on the street with this procession coming at you, the drums pounding and pipes wailing, is a remarkably memorable experience.



Sunday I left Colorado Springs to come home. The weather was a cool 45 degrees that morning but the sun was shining and the wind was behind me, until I got into Wyoming. Throughout the entire state of Wyoming I fought a stiff headwind. In spite of that the temperature rose into the mid 60's and early that afternoon I found myself in Ogden, UT, for a total of 605 miles. The next day, Monday, I made it home to Kennewick, WA after a 589-mile ride. I put a total of 6,283 miles on my Goldwing from home to New York, to Colorado Springs back to home.

The reason for the ride was to remember the 9-11 terrorist attack on our country and to honor those fire fighters that fell while serving their communities. It was a ride to remember those that follow the creed of "service before self". It was a ride to remember the 343 fallen fire fighters at the site of the twin towers collapse and a ride to remember those 87 fire fighters who fell in the line of duty from September 2010 to September 2011 and to stand in front of the black wall in Colorado Springs and pay my respects to all of the fire fighters in America that have fallen while on duty. It was a ride to remember and a ride that I expect I will never forget.

**Have a question about upcoming events?
Call Phil or Joyce LoParco (509) 582-6994.**

Christmas Dinner 2011

Just a note to thank you all that came to the Christmas Party. For those of you that didn't you missed out. We had a great time and a special thanks to the kitchen crew for all the good food. I know they put a lot of work in and it showed. Phil & Joyce LoParco for letting us use your church and there facilities.

Gary Domas




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CHUCK RILEY

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Your Gold Book contains information that will help you ride like a seasoned member of the group, trailer your bike with safety, and know who to call in an emergency. Keep it handy!



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Reminder:

January 6th 7 PM vs. Seattle...). Money due to me by Dec 26th.

February 18th 7 PM vs. Spokane... same prices.
\$16 Adults, \$13 Senior (61 & up. **Money due to me by Feb 13th.**

Terri: bofussss@msn.com



Calendar of Events

January 2012

- 1st Ch B Brunch at Little Creek Casino
14th Ch X Swap Meet
28th Ch I Casino Night

February

- 11th Rider Ed Bremerton
24th-26th Ch P Mall Show Three Rivers Mall

March

- 9th-11th Ch D Mall Show South Shore Mall Aberdeen
16th-18th Ch E Surf Watch
17th Ch I Bowling Challenge

April

- 8th Ch V Rest Stop
14th-15th Ch C Early Spring Fun Run
15th Ch N Brown Bag Auction
20th-21st ARC, Bremerton

Chapter L — The Looney Tunes
HOLD A REGULAR MEETING THE 2nd
SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

**Red Lion Inn in Pasco. 2525 N, 20th
Ave Pasco, WA. Breakfast is at 8:00
AM with an all you can eat, one-time
through, or you can order from the
menu. Meeting begins at 9:00 am.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 4 th	Georgia Finley	Birthday
Jan. 10 th	Loren Heideman	Birthday
Jan. 10 th	Tom & Santana Denny	Anniversary
Jan. 14 th	Joyce Hull	Birthday
Jan. 15 th	Tyler Denny	Birthday
Jan. 19 th	Phil & Joyce LoParco	Anniversary
Jan. 19 th	Cheri Callahan	Birthday
Jan. 23 rd	Pam Myers	Birthday
Jan. 24 th	Todd Domas	Birthday
Jan. 29 th	Chuck Hull	Birthday



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Twass the night...two wheeler style...

Twass the night before Christmas
And all through the garages
Not a motorcycle was rumbling,
Except for Santa Clause's.
The leather was hung in the closet with care
In hopes that nice weather soon would be there.
Our bikes were all nestled snug in their covers
With visions of blacktop and burning up rubber.
With momma in her bandana and I in my skull cap
We had just settled down for a long winters nap.
When out on the lawn, arose such a rumble
I sprang from the bed as I started to grumble.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a pack of motorcycles, with riders and gear,
With one old driver so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be biker St. Nick.
He was dressed all in Leather, from his head to his foot
And his clothes were all tarnished with bugs and road soot,
A bundle of chrome he had flung on his back.
Down the chimney he came, carrying a big red sack.
He spoke not a word but went straight to his work
As he filled all the riding boots, then turned with a jerk,
And laying a finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his motorcycle, to his team gave a sign
As they all cracked their throttles and got into a line,
Now Honda, Now Harley, Now Triumph and Indian On Kawi,
On Suzuki, On Yamaha and Victory.
But I heard him exclaim as he roared out of sight
Keep the rubber side down and have a good ride.



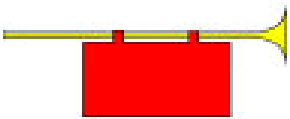
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Submitted by: Alex Piper

Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for
celebrating New Years Eve.

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E V E Y
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R
S Q I N F E T O O D M U A Y O E I A
E F C G F I N A S L S U E R F K R P
D H E F N F R R R R I A S E D A T S
A I U S E I A S E B R D N I E M Y K
R B B T T E S M T I E S A F C E F R
A M T A Y I A N N O R L A Y E S I O
P I S W L E V R O E F T E E M I R W
N D E A R L E I N I H J V C B O S E
D N E T R V O N T E T E A S E N T R
A I S W I A A O R I N A S N R O H I
Y G Y E O B I T N T E I R R U K C F
O H W I N E I T S S K S I O H A T S
N T Y L I M A F N O I S A C C O R T
E T S A E F S N O I T U L O S E R Y
S R E Z I T E P P A Y F R I E N D S

APPETIZERS	DECORATIONS	HATS	PARADES
BABIES	END OF	HOLIDAY	PARTY
BALLOONS	DECEMBER	HORNS	PUNCH
BANNERS	EVENTS	KISS	RESOLUTIONS
BUFFET	FAMILY	MIDNIGHT	SINGING
CELEBRATE	FATHER TIME	MUSIC	STREAMERS
CHAMPAGNE	FEAST	NEW YEARS	THIRTY FIRST
CONFETTI	FESTIVITIES	DAY	TIARAS
DANCE	FIREWORKS	NEW YEARS	WINE
DAY ONE	FIRST OF	EVE	YEAR IN
	JANUARY	NOISEMAKERS	REVIEW
	FRIENDS	OCCASION	



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Let it be known through out the Region

King Lloyd and Queen Georgia Finley

Lord and Lady Turner  *Lord and Lady LoParco*

of



Request all the Knights and Ladies of the

GOLD WING CLAN



to

Celebrate the Festival of Camelot

May 25, 26, 27, 28, 2012

Benton County Fair Grounds

Kennewick, Washington

*Come join the band of merry riders and
explore the wonderlands of Camelot.*

*Challenge yourselves with the Games.
Attend the Banquet in the Great Hall with
your Knights and Ladies at the long tables.*





Gold Wing Road Riders Assoc.



Washington Chapter "L"

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

<http://www.gwrra-wa-l.org/>

Lloyd & Georgia Finley	Chapter Director 509-948-2063 / 509-783-9789 h.
Mike & Janet Turner	Assit. Ch. Director 509-845-1069 c.
Phil & Joyce LoParco	Assit. Ch. Director 509-546-1166 c. / 509-582-6994 h.
Tom Denny	Chapter Educator 509-582-8779 h.
Joyce Hull	Treasurer 509-586-0350 h.
Christine Eide	Secretary 509-539-6509 c.
Joyce LoParco	Membership 509-531-9939 c. / 509-582-6994 h.
POSITION OPEN	Couple of the Year ---
POSITION OPEN	Individual of the Year ---
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Bob Goodman	Ride Coordinator 509-967-8986 c.
Terri Watson	Special Events 509-545-9286 h.
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Georgia Finley	Historian 509-94802965 c. / 509-783-9789 h.
Mike Messinger	Web Master 509-582-4560
Joyce LoParco	Public Relations 509-531-9939 c. / 509-582-699 h.

Gold Wing Road Rider Association

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

<http://www.gwrra.org>

Region "I" Staff

<http://www.bigskyregioni.org/>

Region Directors	Mike & Peggy Hudnell
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Coordinator	
Leadership Trainers	John & Dianne Kester
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Region I Ambassadors	Hank & Marilyn Smith
Couple of the Year Coordinators	Dan & Carmen Weakland
Couple of the Year	Larry & Barbara Kuzma
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Newsletter Editor	Shirley Duffner

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<http://www.gwrra-wa.org/>

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Asst. Rider Educator	Tom Denny
District Leadership Trainer	TBD
District Stores	TBD
District Webmaster	Rebecca Minor
District Coy Coordinator	TBD
Couple of the Year	Mike & Janet Turner
District Ambassador	Jerry and Judy Thompson
District Newsletter editor	Brad and Dee Kane