

Kickstand

News and views of the Toronto Wings – Chapter T of the Goldwing Touring Association
Volume Two Number 1 February 2004



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The Kickstand has had a hiatus. That is a diplomatic way of saying that it has taken a long time for us to recover from the holiday – and post holiday – season. And what a season it has been.

Things began with our wildly successful booth at the Toronto staging of the Canadian Motorcycle Show. Virtually all of the Chapter T regulars were taking part in this effort, and it showed in the quality of our presentation, and in all of the activity that we generated around the exhibit.

Special thanks go to Kevin Welch for spearheading and organizing the entire effort, as well as to Bob Lash and John Dorak who both supplied bikes for our exhibit. Thanks also to all of the members – too numerous to mention – who supported this effort by setting up, manning and breaking down our booth. It is reaching the point, where if the chapter wants to raise additional funds, we may be able to do this as show consultants!

The next event of the month was our annual Christmas dinner. In an effort to break with tradition, we chose not to celebrate with just a meal, but instead to attend Yuk Yuks comedy cabaret. Appropriate reservations were made, and all of the attendees arrived at Yuk Yuks on time – but the establishment was, and remained, locked up tighter than a drum. Yuk yuk yuk, the joke is on us.

At any rate, we dispatched our intrepid scout – Bruce – to survey the area and find an alternative

From the Decmber Bike Show

venue for our holiday fete. (Bruce has been called many things, but “intrepid scout” is a unique title for him).

We wound up in the local Outbacks restaurant, and all had a very good time. As for Yuk Yuks, well

Next came the January bike show at the International Center. Although this was not a chapter event, several of our members stepped up to the plate to support the Mississauga Wings in their effort. This group includes Kevin Welch, Sy Konkol and Bruce Whye. Thanks guys – forging links with other chapters is a great way to support them, while advancing the cause of Motorcycling and our own chapter at the same time.

Finally, we conducted our much awaited laser tag competition with the Newmarket chapter. What can I say? The only thing I can do is to dispel an unfortunate rumor. It is not true that the staff of the facility is still looking for our some of our members in the maze.

What does the future hold? Well, we have a morning of go-karting scheduled for February 28, 2004. In addition to this, a group is forming to attend the Motorcycle Show at the Automotive Building on March 27, and 28, 2004. We are also planning a spring warm up and various other rider training activities.

Come out and support your club.



Overview of the January Bike Show



**Manitoulin Island Weekend
July 30, 31, August 1, 2, 2004**

The Response Has Been Overwhelming

As of this writing, there is still accommodation available for our Manitoulin Island Weekend, but it will not last long! If you want to take part in a great ride/rally you will not soon forget reserve now.



Manitoulin Island is one of the best-kept secrets in Ontario. The island offers the friendliest people and several attractions often missed by most visitors. If we travel off the beaten path (Highway 6 north) we will find many interesting paved roads ideal for motorcycles.

This weekend is also the International Pow Wow in the south end of the island. Come see the fantastic handmade costumes and traditional dances.



Cascading waterfalls, small waterfalls and high waterfalls that you can swim in are a great way to cool off in the mid summer heat.

Join us on some challenging hiking trails with high vistas overlooking the green rugged terrain. Some trails are designed for the casual walker, others for the true adventurer.

Various restaurants along the way with superb homemade meals will keep you

going for the duration of the day.

The Details

There is no registration fee. This is a free event.

We ask that you inform Rose at Toronto Wings once you have made plans to go. As we look at the number of attendees, we will plan for tours and possibly a parade in Little Current to coincide with the town's festival. We have motorcycling friends living on the Island to help us with the arrangements.

Golf Shirts for the weekend

We have Manitoulin Weekend golf shirts available on pre orders only. They are red with black trim; with a front left pocket and the GWTA emblem on the left sleeve. The design is the same style as the Friendship Rally Shirts. The shirts are available in Small, Medium, Large, X Large, XX Large & XXX Large. All shirts cost \$25.00 taxes included.

Please inform Rose at Toronto Wings if you are joining us for the weekend and what size shirt you require. Rose must have your order and payment by June 21, 2004 to be sure your shirt will be ready for the Manitoulin Weekend. Preordered shirts can be picked up on the Island the weekend of July 30, 31 August 1, 2.

Accommodations

Accommodations are your responsibility and although there are still rooms to be had, it is certain that they will soon be reserved by others. We only recommend these motels due to their location. All are within easy walking distance to restaurants, gas, groceries and downtown Little Current and are reasonably priced.

Please mention the Gold Wing club when booking.

Bridgeway Motel (Little Current)
Jim & Elain Renton telephone 705-368-2230
or 705-368-2407

Hawberry Inn (Little Current) telephone
705-368-3388

Sunset Motel & Cottages
Summer Months - 705-368-2186 or other
times of the year 705-524-1523
<http://www.sunsetmotelandcottages.com/>

The Shaftesbury Inn telephone 705-368-1945

Getting There

You can gain access to the Island via Tobermory, then the ferry to South Baymouth (on the Island). Or on an all land route, south from Espanola then across the swing bridge to Little Current.

More information to follow soon.

Book now as space is limited !!

We hope to see everyone there!

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A Word from Your GWTA Operations Staff

INTRODUCTION:

This periodic newsletter is to keep our officer network informed of issues of importance within GWTA. Our chapter directors are the first and most important communication link to our members. This newsletter will give all officers and their staff needed information in a timely manner, so they can answer member questions and perform their duties efficiently.

Our goal is that this newsletter be forwarded through our chain of communication to the chapter within 72 hours. Thanks for doing your part to help us reach this goal.

The first deadline for Gold Rush Registrations is coming up on March 1,2004.

Registrations after that date will go up from \$35 to \$45 per person for the four-day event. When planning a party, it's always nice to have some idea of how many people are coming. To encourage early registrations we offer a reduced fee, so encourage the membership to take advantage of the reduction.

Be sure to also pass along, that we have attractive room rates in Baraboo, Wisconsin for Gold Rush but they will be going up soon also. Remind members to get their lodging reservation locked in now, even if they're not sure if they can attend. Members must mention GWTA to get the reduced rates.

Gold Rush registration forms can be found in the Document Library on the GWTA Web site. We're planning a great time for them at the rally and there's also plenty of fun to be had getting to Baraboo and going home.

RECRUITING DRIVE

We would like to thank our members and officers for all their hard work on the Valentines Day recruiting drive. We've heard from some members who had a great time with their drives. It's easy to sell something we believe in. We would like to encourage everyone to continue the recruiting drives, especially now through spring when motorcyclists are getting excited about riding again. We can always use a few more family members to share the fun with.

Thank you in advance.

Yours in Friendship
Bruce Keenon
GWTA Executive Director

Comments to:
newsletter@gwta.org

Dumping a Bike is No Sin
(Tell me all about it – The Ed.)

By James R. Davis

I have a suspicion that many here think that dumping a bike is to be avoided at all costs. That dumping a bike is extremely dangerous. That experienced riders simply don't do such a thing.

Nonsense! I do not know anybody who has a few years of experience on two-wheels who has failed to dump their bike, or who will not sooner or later do so.

To dump a bike should be an embarrassment, and is the stuff we kid each other about, but it need not be dangerous.

After a very long ride, I have seen very experienced people stop, get off their bikes and start to walk away from them - without having put their side stands down. I have seen people mount a bike that was parked on a right-biased slope and have the bike fall over to the right as a result. I have seen loose gravel cause a foot to slip away and the bike lay down before an eye could blink. But in virtually every case, there was neither damage to the bike nor to the rider.

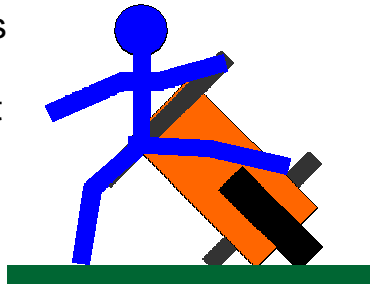
It is no sin to dump a bike, but it is stupid and dangerous to end up under that bike!

The VERY FIRST riding lesson I give a person who is moving up to a larger bike is how to dump it. If they are not, yet, riding a big bike, I even let them learn this lesson using my GoldWing.

I have them take the bike onto a grassy area with relatively firm ground and, with the engine turned off; I have them lean the bike slowly over to the left. I have explained before we do any of this that what I want them to learn is that there comes a point in leaning the bike where the center of gravity of the bike will move past the side of their tank and that most of the weight of the bike will be on their 'down' leg. That at this point NOBODY can hold up a GoldWing and that to try to do so can result in injury! That they are to decide for themselves when they have reached that point and then to STOP TRYING TO HOLD UP THE BIKE. They are to let go of the lower grip, QUICKLY step on the high peg and step as wide away from the bike as possible with their 'down' leg as the bike lays down.

If they do this correctly they will find that they remain standing, one foot on the ground, the other on the high peg, with the bike between their legs on its side.

It usually takes no more than two tries to get this right - the first try usually finds them landing on

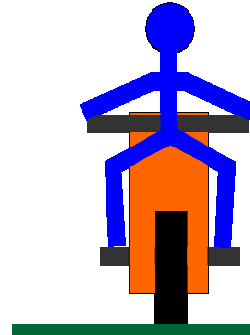


their hands. (If they do, I remind them that they might want to let go of the lower grip before it pulls them to the ground <G>.) But by the second time they get the idea that they have to let go of the lower grip, shift their weight VERY FAST to the high peg and step away with the other leg. This 'move' tends not to be forgotten long after it is learned.

With the bike down they then observe, at least for Wings, that it usually does not even leave its wheels because of the engine and saddlebag guards, and

that neither is there damage to the bike. This goes a long ways towards increasing confidence.

The next lesson, of course, is [how to pick up a 900 pound bike](#).



By the way, I extend this lesson into a

discussion of when you should keep your feet on the pegs and when you can safely step away from a bike that is going down: If the bike is moving faster than you can walk, keep your feet on the pegs! If it is going slower than that, stand on the high peg and let the bike fall between your legs and walk (hop) away from it.

A Warning to All Goldwingers: Garden Snakes are DANGEROUS!

Green garden grass snakes can be dangerous.

Yes, grass snakes, not rattlesnakes.

A couple in Sweetwater, Texas had a lot of potted plants, and during a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze.

It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants and when it had warmed up, it slithered out and the wife saw it go under the sofa. She let out a very loud scream.

The husband, who was taking a shower, ran out into the living room naked to see what the problem was.

She told him there was a snake under the sofa. He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it. About that time the family dog came and cold nosed him on the rear. He thought the snake had bitten him and he fainted.

His wife thought he had a heart attack, so she called an ambulance.

The attendants rushed in and loaded him on the stretcher and started carrying him out.

About that time the snake came out from under the sofa and one of the Emergency Medical Technicians saw it and dropped his end of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and it is why he spent weeks in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called on a neighbor man.

He volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and began poking under the couch. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief.

But in relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushion where she felt the snake wriggling around. She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa, and the neighbor man, seeing her laying there passed out tried to use CPR to revive her.

The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband on the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches.

An ambulance was again called when it was determined that the injury required hospitalization.

The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed he had been bitten by the snake. She went to the kitchen, brought back a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat.

By now the police had arrived. They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred. They were about to arrest them all, until the two women tried to explain how it all happened over a little green snake.

The ambulance arrived and took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife. Just then the little snake crawled out from under the couch. One of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table that was on one side of the sofa. The table fell over and the lamp on it shattered. The light bulb broke, and set the drapes on fire.

The other policeman tried to beat out the flames and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog, who startled, jumped up and raced out into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car and set it on fire.

Meanwhile, the burning drapes had spread to the walls and the entire house was blazing.

Neighbors had called the fire department and the arriving fire truck had started raising his ladder when they were halfway down the street. The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires and pulled out the electricity and disconnected telephones in a ten-square city block area.

The snake was seen leaving the blazing house by the open front door.

Time passed...

Both men were discharged from the hospital. The house was rebuilt. The police acquired a new car, and all was right with the world.

About a year later the original couple were watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The husband asked his wife if she thought they should bring in their plants for the night.

She shot him.. >>