

# The Toronto Wings



# Kickstand



Toronto Wings – Chapter “T” of the Gold Wing Touring Association  
Summer 2011



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### *Ramblings from your Editor(s)*



Hello Everyone,

Now that the [TO Wing webpage](#) is in order, Linda and I can devote some time to working on “the “Kickstand” newsletter which was so aptly named by Paul Haberman, it’s originator. It has been two years since the last issue and we look forward to its revival and our chapter members contributions.

Chapter T has been busy reshuffling our executive. This June, after 8 years of outstanding leadership, Nedda passed on the Chapter Director (CD) position to Paul C.

Now with summer here we anticipate the many bike trips: Black Hills South Dakota (SD), Wing Ding, Gold Rush, and the numerous Chapter T rides.

As we motorcycle to new or favorite places with our friends we hope to capture the sights, sounds, and experiences in our many pictures. These will be what we talk about to help sustain us over the winter time when we cannot ride in Canada. For now it is time to keep the rubber on the road, request that guardian angel be vigilant so we can do what we do best. Motorcycle riding is our passion.

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• Figure 1 click photo

“Destination Friendship” is the motto that Nedda embellished for her eight year term as the CD of Toronto Wings.

Great friendships develop over time and one needs to continue to tend the friendships in order for a chapter to thrive and grow.

There are many attributes that people look for in a CD. I have narrowed the list to "7" attributes that Nedda clearly demonstrated throughout her service to Toronto Wings.

**Respect**, although not necessarily number one, is very high on the list. You have to hold a person in high regard in order to look at them as a great friend, just as they have to show you the same courtesy. Nedda clearly respected everyone’s privacy, right to disagree, the choices and ideas presented.

**Listening** is also high on the list. Nedda listened to each of us in good times and in bad. She gave consideration to what was being said and showed empathy, praise, or sympathy; whatever the situation called for. Listening attentively is a powerful tool to possess when it comes to being a CD.

**Trustworthiness** and **loyalty** are two valuable qualities that go hand-in-hand when it comes to being a CD. Someone you can confide in without being betrayed by what you tell them. When a person meets these qualities, we tend to entrust our true thoughts to them in confidence.

**Availability** is important since we each have busy lives and respect our time. Nedda was always available even if you were miles apart and it meant scheduling a time to talk.

**Non judgemental.** Nedda accepted each member for who they were and did not try to change anyone.

Nedda **praised** the abilities and talents of her membership and overlooked the things that really did not matter.

We were very fortunate to have her easy going nature at our helm for this extended time period. Nedda we thank you for your eight years of service and devotion to Chapter T as its CD and also for your service as the Region J Communications Director this past year.

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**Region J: June 23 to 26 - FRIENDSHIP BIKE RALLY** in Minden Ontario located at the South Wind Motel and Camping.



Photos submitted by Stephen and Paul C:







click image to see an enlarged group shot!

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**Make friendships on 2 wheels via GWTA:**

When you are in an organization like GWTA you get to meet all kinds of people from all walks of life. Living in Toronto we are already a cosmopolitan mix. Add to this the diversity of the different types of motorcycles we own. We try to further show off our distinctiveness with LED lights, chrome accessories etc.

If you are one of the shy types you let Rose do all the talking. Her best opening line I've heard her say when meeting someone is "I like your bike" and then "who do you ride with?" Everyone can tell you some thing about their bike. They'll then start into a rendition of its history, year, make, model, resale value etc. Rose can certainly hold her own on that end as well.

I usually ask about the various places they have visited. You are always looking for destinations. Even when you stay in one spot for a few days you can't see it all and need to go back.

That is why we have chosen the Black Hills as our "Friendship Destination". We camp and have met so many fantastic people. We use Spokane Creek Campground as our base for the two weeks which is just outside of Keystone. Spokane has gas, food, shelter pavilion, laundry facilities, cabins, RV and tent campsites.

We consider Custer State Park as being the equivalent to the many National Parks we have visited if not better. From our "home base" we have everything to see within a 50 miles radius.



Best of all there is so much to see and do. This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> year returning.

Everyone talks about Deals Gap (which we have done twice). Iron Mountain Road or 16A can easily lay claim to being better in our opinion. In addition to the 17 miles of 314 curves, it has 13 switch backs, 7 tunnels, 3 pig tail bridges 2 splits and 4 presidents. Also in SD there are so many more motorcyclists. The roads are exceptionally well maintained (better than Toronto). Most drivers respect the motorcyclist. We motorcyclists too obey the rules of the road. You can pretty much travel 50 to 75 miles an hour in the state if the winds are not blowing too hard!

Both in our route down and back we saw first hand the flood devastation all along the Missouri River.



I-29 had sandbags about 4.5' in height to retard the flood waters so we could still journey north. Gas became a concern as the detours added to the mileage and available working gas stations dwindled. We pulled into one gas station that was reopened and could see sand bags around it. Rose did not trust getting gas there. All around our elevation was around 1100' or lower and places were flooded. Finally a small town just before Sioux City had an elevation of 1300'. Its elevation was still high enough that the waters did not effect the gas stations. Waters were still rising at this point on our trip and we worried as we were down to fumes. You never think of the consequences of not getting gas in a flood. After

all they opened the road so everything must be working. Just as a double check Rose asked a local fellow who was filling gas there if he had any problems with the gas at this station. Nothing like pumping gas, driving away and then having problems on the highway miles down the road! Then you are really stuck!



The lady who owned the gas station said where she lived the waters were still rising (in town 5 miles from the river). The army core of engineers had been there and said the worst case scenario was the town at the south end would flood. Now they had returned and the army was starting to sand bag the southern part of town. What a horrible situation to be in. I bet insurance companies were simply saying "flooding is an Act of God and so there was no compensation!"

She suggested that we better check before our return trip to see if I-29 would still be open. Three days before our return trip I was on the internet checking Iowa and SD sites. The sites

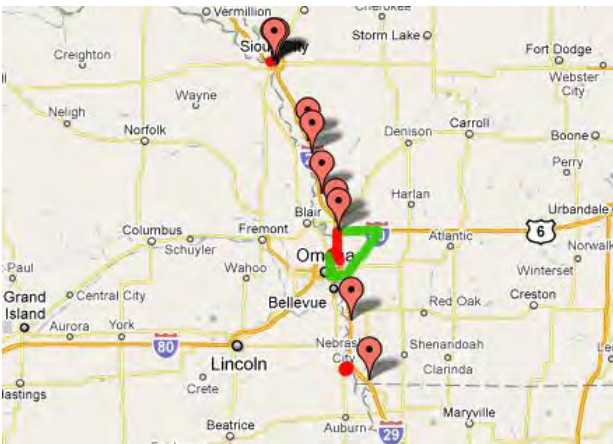


showed nothing but lots of repairs all along I-29.



We were able to travel through Sioux City on I-29 which was like a dam barrier where on one side there was flooding and on the other side there was not! In the above photo you can see trees and lamp posts in the water indicating where local roads were. Because the bridge allowed the water to pass under it it was flooding.

I kept thinking about the poor people and how their drinking water would be affected by this. All those fertilizers and waste were going into the water system. People who had been flooded were placed in camps. Initially on our way down on the radio it indicated they would only be allowed to stay there for two weeks. Upon our return trip the indication was these people would be there all summer. Imagine the heat with no air conditioning! We were in the Black Hills at a good elevation. It must be like a frying pan where those folk were!



On our return trip we took I-29 all the way to

Hwy 6 which then joined I-80. (see green area of previous map). This also had serious flooding as we were diverted from here on our route down but able to get through on our way back.



We got into South Dakota and it was clear sailing after Sioux City as I watched the elevation on my GPS climb higher. I thanked one trucker who "cb'ed" me it was clear sailing from this point on. Actually we encountered little traffic. Vehicles consisted of trucks, UPS, recreational vehicles and tons of motorcyclists.

During week one into our adventure we had rain, small hail, medium hail, and high winds.



Not what we expected but now into the second week of our vacation the temperatures were 100<sup>o</sup> +F with warm evenings. We prayed for clouds in the sky or just kept on riding to remain cool. The tent was still standing and dry

inside despite natures' wet and hailing weather!

The familiarity of the Black Hills area of SD is one of the great things we like. It feels like we are “coming home” each year. We know where to shop, what sights we still want to see, repeat seeing etc. Badlands was one repeat we did this year. You can see the mother and her young “kid” in the photo below. It was amazing to see them climb the rocks that even Rose would not dare scamper on!



Bad Lands National Park was located outside the Black Hills and has a lower elevation. The Mule deer (dark ears) is resting in the afternoon shade below. During our 2<sup>nd</sup> visit (as a park pass is good for 7 days) we saw more wild life and even a coyote. It took off quickly and our camera shot was only a distance shot!



This year was unusual. All the rain made the Badlands vegetation appear lush despite the high temperatures which rose to 104<sup>o</sup> F this visit. Global warming is evident everywhere.

Record heat waves were not just seen/set in Toronto.



Badlands above ....



2 Spearfish Canyon shots ...above and below



There is the wonderful wildlife you have to experience yourself. The baby buffalo are still with the herds at this time and the park boasts up to about 1300 head in the summer.



They pare the herd down to about 950 head as that is what can be sustained over the winter.



We actually had something funny happen this year while visiting the buffalo. Linda got out our tripod and went to the front of my bike taking shots. She commented to me that the buffalo were looking right at her. As I stopped taking shots I saw the front pair and other buffalo behind had stopped moving. The herd was backed up. I realized they must never have seen a three legged tripod animal before. They knew humans, motorcycles, noisy motorcycles, jeeps and cars but not a tripod ... everyone just drives by and takes photos out the windows or from a bike.



Don't let "not being a camper" like us, stop you from visiting this area. There is the President's Inn, Best Western, Rushmore Hotel or any number of accommodations to suit your needs. The town of Keystone has less than 300

residents but boasts over 900 hotel rooms!

There are shops and eateries and the 1880's train that travels to Hill City. I guess you know where we will be going again next year. There is some strong iron in these hills that magnetically draws us back each year. Linda says it's not the Black Hills Gold...honest!

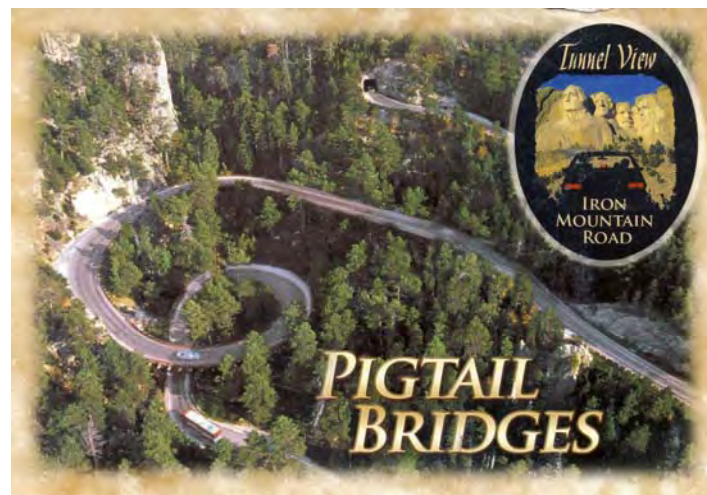
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### Iron Mountain Road or 16A:

#### Fun Facts of our favorite SD Road.

17 miles long with 314 curves, 14 switchbacks, 3 tunnels, 3 pigtail bridges, 2 splits and 4 presidents.

Below is one pigtail bridge and tunnel view along Iron Mountain Road. Imagine driving out of the tunnel and seeing the 4 presidents.



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#### Other Interesting SD FACTS:

South Dakota's state insect is the honey bee. Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs has been tasted by archeologists and found to be edible. To make 1/2 kg of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.



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**DID YOU KNOW FACTS....**

Did you know...the Eisenhower interstate system I-90 requires that 1 mile in every 5 must be straight? These straight sections are usable as emergency landing strips for planes.

Did you know....the USS SD was the most decorated ship during WW II?

Did you know....catfish have over 100,000 taste buds? SD's state catfish record is 97 lbs. It was caught in 1959 and held the world record for over 40 years.



Did you know....the moon moves approximately 2" away from the earth each year?

Did you know....Crazy Horse now in progress is the largest mountain carving in the world.? The mountain carving will be 563' tall and 641' long when completed.



Did you know...an adult porcupine has approximately 30,000 quills, which are replaced every year?

Did you know....if you stop getting thirsty you need to drink more water? When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Did you know....the temperature drops 3° F for every 1,000' of elevation? Harney peak is the highest point in the Black Hills at 7,422'.

Did you know....the SD state bird is the pheasant and they encourage you to get a hunting license and shoot it?

Did you know....if any of the heads of Mount Rushmore had a body it would be nearly 500' tall? Mount Rushmore took 14 years of carving at a cost of less than 1 million dollars.

Did you know ....one buffalo will eat approximately 3 - 4% of their body weight in forage daily? A mature cow will require 10 - 20 gallons of water daily.

Did you know....each card in a deck of cards represents a King from history?

Spades = King David  
Hearts = Charlemagne  
Clubs = Alexander the Great  
Diamonds = Julius Caesar



Did you know...the King of Hearts is the only King with out a mustache in a standard deck of cards?

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**Toronto Wings BBQ**

Nedda extended thanks to Patricia and Kevin for hosting the BBQ on Sunday, July 17.

Despite the sweltering heat and intense sun all was prepared and ready. Awnings, gazebo, tables and chairs made for a relaxing chance to socialize and eat together. Kabobs and sides were delicious.





Linda and I were in SD and had to miss the BBQ but when we looked at these photos we wonder what kind of meeting this was? Did the heat really did effect those attending (just kidding). Thanks for the photos Bob----->



Look at Kevin's mothers face in the above photo....it is priceless.



Looks like everyone was feeling pretty good after the sun subsided. "Strike a Pose!"



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"Thanks to Warren who led a ride of heat-loving members to Lindsay for an afternoon of "Cruising". An amazing variety of desserts including four flavors' of ice-cream topped the evening." from Nedda

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## Rose and her Driver's License saga!

One of your worst nightmares is to lose some form of identification. Now imagine this happening to you while on vacation. You would think being in the USA and not a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country would make it an easy fix.....

We arrived on our 4<sup>th</sup> travel day to [Spokane Camp Ground](#) before noon all excited. Spokane was to be our "home base." We had already toured Badlands National Park so we felt like our vacation had started despite the 2500 kms to get here. Linda dictated the pace of our travel time.

Christy asked me for my driver's license and as I searched and could not find it I got a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. She registered us without it as we had been there before and were still in the computer. She also graciously moved our site 1 spot over. As we unloaded the bikes I kept wondering where did I leave it? I checked our hotel rooms each day before leaving and I would have carried it in my wallet or maybe/hopefully have given it to Linda.



We had to set up the tent and only then would I be able to dig through the rest of my things in the hopes of finding my license. We set every thing up in a good quick fashion working well as a team. After the mattresses were blown up and the sleeping sides arranged it was time to go through all our materials. Linda looked as

well in the extreme event I may have given my license to her. No luck. Now I had to contact each hotel/motel where we had stayed. Of course the last one I called had the license. "Antonio" was the agent who had requested my card when we pulled into the Indiana motel at 5 pm. He entered my data into his computer and put my license down not returning it to me. He handed me the room key and since I had paid cash and not used my credit card (which I always make sure I get back) we went off to our rooms. The next morning I went to the office and I filled my cup with coffee. I then returned to our room to do a final check. Again I entered the office and handed in our room keys to Antonio who was working the next morning July 2<sup>nd</sup> when we left. Even then he did not give me back my license.



Upon my first call he said "Sure I have your license here" confirming my address. "call me back in an hour as I am busy". Christy (from the campground) had agreed to check the mail and allow the license to be mailed to the Spokane campground address since I was staying there for 2 weeks. My experience with mail delivery in the USA is it takes 3 days to be delivered. I called Antonio back an hour later, giving him the camp ground address. He said he would have to check with his supervisor as to what to do. The next morning I called him and he requested the camp ground address. I again gave it to him and had him repeat the address back to me. I am sure you can imagine the **relief** I felt at locating the license and then having made arrangements for its safe return. Since I initially called Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> and then Wed July 6<sup>th</sup> morning confirming he would mail it, I figured I would wait until Tuesday of next week before asking at the camp ground front desk if there was any mail for me. Now my vacation could start .....or so I thought.



I had not received the license so Wed. July 13<sup>th</sup>



I called and then called almost every day. The staff would tell me “he is not working” or “our manager is not available” or “we are not allowed to give out our employee's hours of work” etc. You get the drift of what was happening. I was now into my 2<sup>nd</sup> week and I was going to be returning. You know all the things that go through your head!



What to do??? The Indiana Sheriff's number was out of service. I then called the Indiana State Police. You won't believe what they said to me... Guess you will have to wait for the next Kickstand issue to hear the end of the story. I have vowed Linda to be silent until then!

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\*\*\* our biggest worry besides hail was “lightning”. While out motorcycling this year it was a big issue for us. We we are repeating an article on what to do and not to do! It could save your life!

## Electrical Storms

**Riding out from under them could be a big mistake**

**By: James R. Davis**

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You are out in the country and an electrical storm

blows in. There is no civilization (read: shelter) for a hundred miles. Should you ride out the storm? If not, what should you do?

No doubt you have heard that because your tires are made of rubber, and because rubber is not a good electrical conductor, so long as you keep your feet on the pegs lightning will not hit you since it cannot find a path to the ground through you and the bike. WRONG!!!

Though rubber is a pretty good insulator at the normal voltage levels we mere humans deal with, it is not very effective against the voltage in a lightning bolt.

On the other hand, you may also have heard that if a lightning bolt hits a car the occupants are safe because the car is riding on rubber tires, etc. Actually, this is almost true! So long as the occupants stay away from anything metal they will more than likely survive a lightning hit without any injury whatever.

What protects occupants of a car is not their rubber tires, but the fact that they are enclosed in a metal container. If a lightning bolt hits the surface of the car it spreads around the occupants, NOT THROUGH THEM, and goes to the ground.

A lightning bolt that hits you or your motorcycle is a different matter entirely.

Let me give you an idea of magnitudes we are dealing with here. The master fuse on your bike handles about 30 amps before it blows. An average lightning bolt produces a current of about 20,000 amps. Even 30 amps can easily kill you because it disrupts your heart's electrical system and the heart then simply stops working. Your heart doesn't stand a chance against a lightning bolt.

Anyway, if you are out in the open on your bike when lightning flashes begin, and if you can hear the thunder caused by those flashes in less than three seconds from when you see the flash, it's time to stop your bike and get off it.

- Immediately find low ground, but NOT under a single or small group of trees.

- Squat on the ground with your legs together, head lower than back, but NOT touching the ground. Do NOT lay on the ground.
- LET YOUR CLOTHES GET WET!!! (In this way, if you are hit the majority of the electricity will follow the moisture of your wet clothes around your body.)
- Do not get up until thunder following a lightning flash is AT LEAST five seconds after the flash. (Which means the lightning struck more than 1 mile away.)

Incidentally, lightning can, and DOES, hit the same place twice - frequently.

If there are more than 5 seconds between the lightning flashes and your hearing that thunder, head for shelter. This is the only time trying to ride out from under an electrical storm makes any sense.

The best shelter, of course, is a hard covered surface connected to ground with metal. Get under it and wait out the storm.

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## Congrats to GWTA's Region 'C' for....

### "Making A Wish"

Come True

*click to see the video*

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***Most Toronto Wing members are at GWTA's National Gold Rush Rally held in Boyne Mountain Michigan, USA.***



***We look forward to their stories, adventures and pictures etc to be posted in the next issue of Toronto Wings.....***

***..... "the Kickstand" .....***

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*New rider? Experienced Rider? Former Rider? Female Rider? Motorcycle Enthusiast?*

Want to meet new friends? **Share places to ride to?** **Talk Bike Tech/Repairs?**



*Join us for our coffee night*

Every Thursday 8:00 p.m.  
Tim Horton's  
4400 Dufferin Street  
(In the Canadian Tire Plaza)



...unless we have a meeting  
**(then we won't be at Tim Horton's that Thursday)**

Meeting dates/times/rides are posted on our website

<http://www.torontowings.com/>

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