



Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Illinois Chapter "U"

Region "E" America's Heartland

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Vandalia Ponderosa.
Eat at 6:00 PM. Meeting at 7:00 PM – Everyone is Welcome!

Chapter U Staff

January 2009 Newsletter



From Your Chapter Director:

Well, 2008 is over and 2009 has started off running. We had an impromptu card party at the Rahe's on the 20th and the New Year Eve party at the Depew's home went well. We had 23 show up to eat and have liquid refreshment for the New Year. All had a good time playing Skipbo and Mexican train. The Polar Bear run had a shaking start on the 4th as it was canceled at the last minute but Bill & Bonnie, Moe and a couple from chapter O showed up anyway. We did get it in on the 11th with 12 braving the cool weather. It was nice see Daisy out and about. Kenny, Bob, Moe and myself went for a nice ride through the country. This Saturday the 17th is a card party at Ron & Brenda's home at 6pm, so bring something good to share. Terry & Nancy Kalaher are hosting a potluck at their home in Gillespie at 1pm this Sunday the 18th, bring a covered dish. Winter warm-up is around the corner on the 23rd and 24th in Decatur. Several are going up on Friday and others on Saturday.

Don't get lost, but then again, that is half the fun.

Steve & Jeannie



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From the Desk of the Asst. Director



Well I think it finally got cold. Riding has pretty well stopped except for a polar bear or two.

The Christmas party was great at Jim and Brenda's, with very good card parties at Bob and Vicky's and at Gary and Francie Homes for the holiday season. I am looking forward to the party at Ron and Brenda's home next.

If you all have some place that you would like for us to ride to this season please let us know, so that we can get it on the calendar.

This will be our first winter warm up and I think from what I hear, it should be a good one.

Be good, ride safe (if you do) and enjoy the warm cozy fires for winter.

Best wishes,

Clint



For those of you that planned on attending the 2009 Honda Hoot.....it has been cancelled. Here is the information from the website:

Honda Hoot 2009 Canceled Due to Economic Uncertainty

12/19/08

Torrance, CA: American Honda announced today that the 2008 Honda Hoot will bring to a close 15 years of what has been one of the most successful motorcycle rallies in history. Over the years, almost a quarter of a million guests attended the Honda Hoot which was born in the hills of Ashville North Carolina and eventually moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. At the first event, a little over 3000 attendees enjoyed what would grow to become one of the largest rallies in North America

The Hoot set new precedence for what a motorcycle rally should be, offering not only a wonderful opportunity to test ride new products but also focusing on family fun and growing the industry from the ground up. Based on the current economic crunch which may have significant impact on our customers during 2009, American Honda will take this time to seek out new and innovative ways to engage with our customers so that we can continue to ride together.

American Honda extends our deepest gratitude to the more than 1,300 volunteers who helped make the Honda Hoot a success and to all our event sponsors, to our two host cities, Knoxville, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina, and especially to all the good people who helped make the Hoot such a great event.

From our Chapter Educator:

Headaches And Other pain Getting rid of them could prove fatal! By: James R. Davis

You are out on the road and a headache begins. At the next stop you take some over-the-counter medicine to get rid of it. No problem with that, you think, especially because you're not taking any other medication nor have you been doing any drinking. An hour later you fail to negotiate a turn and end up hurt ... or dead.

You have an abscessed tooth and your dentist prescribed a ten day supply of penicillin for you. You are not allergic to it and are not taking any other medication. The swelling has gone and so has the pain. The curve that you were going to take a little fast turned out to be your worst nightmare and you could not negotiate it at all. Penicillin, it turns out, does not cure road rash nor the loss of that leg.

These are not examples that just can't happen - they have!

Over-the-counter medication does not have to cause drowsiness to be a problem. Even if after reading the warning labels and finding that there are no side effects to be worried about, you should still be careful. An experienced certified MSF instructor recently described an accident he had that simply should not have happened. He was not riding too fast. The road and weather were perfect. The curve was relatively tame. But the antihistamine he took to help him get over a pollen induced headache caused him to become confused and less than competent in that curve. He ran off the road and was very lucky to have survived the experience.

In the case of penicillin, I was in the middle of my MSF instructor training class and out on the range working with 'students' on one of the more complex exercises. The abscess I had was no longer a problem and I had only two days left of the medication to go. While out on that range I suddenly got terribly confused. When asked to end the exercise by the other instructor, I was to signal the students to 'restage' and direct them to the staging area. Instead, I merely slowed them all down as they passed me, then **WALKED OFF THE RANGE** as if the exercise was done. The students kept riding around the range, without my supervision. It could have been worse. I could have directed those students into trouble. As it was, we were all lucky.

Why did these things happen even without the complication of mixing other drugs or alcohol? Because some medications act very strangely in combination with high heat environments! It was well over 90 degrees in my case and I had been out on the range all day long. I'm led to believe that heat was also a contributing factor in the incident the other instructor was involved in.

So, if you find that you are fighting a headache or some other pain and decide to take care of it and continue your ride, think again! At the very least, slow it down and tell yourself that you may think you are 100%, but the headache or other pain has already told you that **SOMETHING** is not right with you and you took some medication that, hopefully, is strong enough to get rid of those SYMPTOMS. If the medication is strong enough to do that, it is strong enough to make you less than a 100% rider.

In the real world you may have to ride a ways before you can get off the bike and park it until all is well with you. **SLOW DOWN** and drive with the knowledge that you are **NOT** 100%. No shame in that. But dying to prove how tough you were was hardly the smartest thing you ever did when you were alive.

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<http://www.msgroup.org>

(James R. Davis is a recognized [expert witness](#) in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics.)

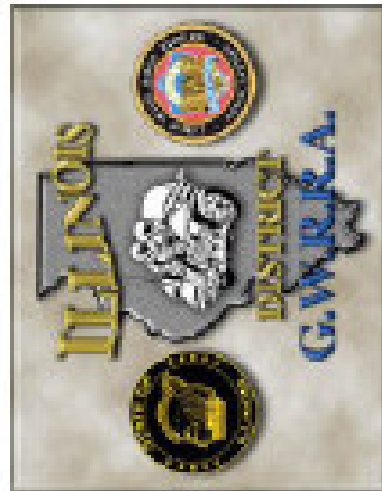
**Directions to the Decatur Conference
Center and Hotel....**

The hotel is on Rt. 36 West, just off I-72. From the North (Rt. 5 D), go west on I-72 towards Springfield for several miles, until you see the signs for Rt. 36 into Decatur. Go east towards Decatur on Rt. 36 about one mile. At the Stop light, turn right about fifty feet then left onto the frontage road leading into the hotel property.

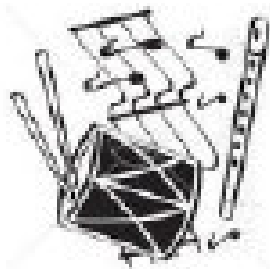
From the East, you can take I-72 around Decatur or follow Rt. 36 thru town. From the South, there is a "beltline" you can follow west around Decatur to Rt. 36. From the West, just "come on in!"

**HOTEL RESERVATION NUMBER:
(217) 422-8800**

Please note: If you call for reservations, your call may be routed to their outside "call center" if they are busy. The call center cannot give you GWRRA rates. You must speak to the Hotel reservations clerk. You might have to call back when they are not as busy. Keep trying!



2009



Illinois Winter Warm-Up

This Year's Theme:



January 23-24, 2009
Decatur Conference Center & Hotel
Decatur, Illinois

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday January 23, 2009

Registration opens - 12 Noon until 7 pm

Hospitality Room 2-5 pm

People Games 1-3pm

Traffic 3:30-5pm

Vendors

DJ and.....(DUBA) 3pm

Saturday January 24, 2009

Registration opens - 8 am to 2 pm

Hospitality Room 10 - 4 pm

SEMPARS... TRAIL... 10am-7

COY Reception 9 am by invitation only)

COY Selection... 10 am. Open to everyone

People Games 10 am to noon and 1-3pm

Team activities... 1pm (4-6 people)

Theme Competitions (Chapter, couple and individual)

Chapter and individual talent shows and Skits 3-5 pm

Banquet 6 pm

Awards 7 pm (all rally registrants are invited) Ceremony will start with Chapter Banner Parade*



NOTE: SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Competitions:

- Chapter Album Cover
- Chapter Scrapbook
- Chapter Newsletter
- Club Competition (bring your own Cards Pot to warm) Judging @ 11 am.
- Chapter Banner

*Chapter Banner Parade: Maximum of two chapter members to carry banner in parade. Participants will be staged in designated area.

**PRE-REGISTRATION
ENDS JANUARY 15, 2009**

Free
Rally pin for
the first three
hundred reg-

REGISTRATION FORM

RIDER NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____ GWRRRA # _____
 State & Chapter _____
 CO-RIDER NAME _____
 GWRRRA # _____

CHILDREN UNDER 16 ADMITTED FREE WITH PAID ADULT
 NAME _____
 NAME _____

FULL GWRRRA REGISTRATION \$25x _____ = \$ _____
 NON-GWRRRA MEMBERS ADD \$5.00 TO ALL PRICES
 FULL REGISTRATION W/O SAT MEAL \$15x _____ = \$ _____
 FRIDAY DAY PASS \$10x _____ = \$ _____
 SATURDAY DAY PASS, NO MEAL..... \$10x _____ = \$ _____
 SATURDAY DAY PASS W/MEAL
 based on availability..... \$25x _____ = \$ _____
 ...Check at registration table for remaining dinner tickets...
 TOTAL enclosed..... \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

GWRRRA OF ILLINOIS
 MAIL TO:
 BOB KUNCHELOE
 2500 OLD SALT TRAIL
 STONEYFORD, IL 62987

I/we agree to hold harmless GWRRRA, Co-sponsoring organizations and any property owners for any loss or injury to self or property in which I/we may become involved by reason of participation in this rally/convention

SIGNED _____ Date _____
 SIGNED _____ Date _____

A little bit of GWRRA History from Chapter Z:

Mike & Jan Buzick, Chapter Z L.T.D. Trainers

Before our Chapter meeting in November, we gave an L.T.D. class on the History of GWRRA, under Member Orientation. We had 13 members that attended, and we had some good communication on this topic. Those in attendance were Melody, Randy, Toney, Carol, Diane, Kevin, Karen, Dan, Lynn, Bill, Gail, Bill, & Linda.

Like I said, we had a good discussion and with that, it was decided then we would put into the newsletter every month arts of the 20 page article completed by Nic Hopper, named GWRRA: A Quarter Century in Review. So here it is, enjoy, lots of interesting facts.

Sometime in the mid-1970s, an electronics firm product manager named Paul Hildebrand traded in his Suzuki 750 ommuter motorcycle for his first Gold Wing, a red '76 GL1000. At the time he couldn't have foreseen the outcome of the decision, but by stepping up from a simple commuter motorcycle to Honda's smooth, quiet touring motorcycle, Hildebrand was to embark on a journey that would forever alter the face of American motorcycling.

Early on, the journey began with tiny, almost inconsequential, steps, but soon escalated into an international parade involving thousands of people from all walks of life. But we're getting ahead of our story. In spring of 1977 there weren't many single-marque clubs or associations for motorcyclists, particularly not for owners of a brand new touring machine then manufactured in Japan. But the machine was unique, and Hildebrand sensed other owners would enjoy getting together to kick tires and swap stories about their mutual interest. So he typed an open letter to all area Gold Wing owners, inviting them to an informal organizational meeting, and left a copy in every Honda dealership in his hometown of Phoenix, Arizona.

On June 4, 1977, Paul and his wife, Shirley, met Fred Rugg, Dave Nicolai, Tex Wilson and Beggs & Lil Nelson at a neighborhood family restaurant to establish the Arizona Chapter of the Fledgling Gold Wing Owners Association (GWOA) Everybody offered suggestions and the group began to take shape. Word got around quickly to other Arizona Gold Wing owners and with each meeting more Gold Wings rolled into the restaurant parking lot.

These early participants had ideas as to what a "real" motorcycle group should have, including identity items and regular communication: so, by September, the first retail item, a Gold Wing Belt buckle, was offered for sale through the typewritten monthly newsletter. Also featured in the newsletter was a ride calendar and an exchange of technical tips.

By November, however, the group received news the parent organization---GWOA---was struggling under financial and organizational difficulties. Fearing an absence of national support, the fast-growing Arizona group decided to go it alone, so the Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) was formed. A month later, participation growth necessitated a change to a larger meeting place, and the newsletter had grown to include a technical question feature (Dear GWIN "aka Gold Wing Information needed"), classified ads and offers of dealer discounts to members.



Birthdays & Anniversaries!

Birthdays

1/5 – Carl Christianson
1/27 – Brenda Bleisch
1/28 – Susan Sutherland

Anniversaries

(no anniversaries listed)

Upcoming Events

January 17th.....Card Party at the Tompkins @ 6:00 pm. Bring finger foods.
January 18thKalahers Potluck. Bring covered dish to share. 1:00 pm – Chapter E
January 23-24th Winter Warm up - Decatur
February 1st.....Chapter D2-Effingham's Monthly Meeting
February 6-8th.... Motorcycle show in Chicago. Sat. 9-9pm, Sun 9-5pm \$13.00 ea – Rosemont, IL
February 12th.....Chapter E – Litchfields Monthly Meeting
February 21st..... Card Party at the Rahe's @ 6:00 pm. Bring finger foods.

Jokes of the Month

**'It doesn't matter how big a ranch ya' own, or how many cows ya' brand,
the size of your funeral is still gonna depend on the weather.'
- Harry Truman.**

Acts 2:38

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the burglar robbing her home of its valuables and she yelled, 'STOP! Acts 2:38!' (Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven).

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, 'Why did you just stand there?
All the old lady did was yell a Scripture to you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an Ax and Two 38's!'

**PASS THIS ON TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A LAUGH TODAY
and remember knowing scripture can save your life in more ways than one!!!**

Please Support our Sponsors !!

NIEHAUS CYCLE SALES

**1-800-373-6565
Litchfield, IL**

Chuckwagon

Family Restaurant

2704 Janette - Rt 51 & I-70

Vandalia, Il 62471

**BREAKFAST ALL DAY - Lunch - Dinner
618-283-2220**

DOHACK'S

Family Restaurant

"Where Good Friends Eat !"

201 School St.

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Hrs - 6:00 AM-9:00 PM - Mon - Sun

217-532-3772

10% Discount with this ad

Ponderosa Steakhouse

Route 40 West & Exit 61 on I-70

Vandalia, Il 62471

All Major Credit Cards accepted.

All you can eat Buffet included with all Entries

Carry out Available

RV & Truck Parking

618-283-4559

2009 Upcoming Events

January 23rd - 24th	Fri & Sat	Illinois district Rally - Winter Warm Up in Decatur
February 6th - 8th	Fri - Sun	Chicago Motorcycle Show, Sat 9-9pm, Sun 9-5pm
February 16th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
February 21st	Sat	Card Party at the Rahes @ 6:00 pm. Bring finger foods
March	Sat	Card party at ?? (details to be announced later)
March 8th	Sun	Daylight Savings Time
March 16th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
April 4th	Sat	Meet the Chapters Ride to Gilman, Leaving Vandalia @ 9:00 am Meeting at 1:00 pm
April 5th	Sun	Meet the Chapters Ride to D2 - Effingham, leaving at 5:00 pm
April 9th	Thurs	Meet the Chapters Ride to E - Litchfield, leaving at 5:20 pm
April 17th	Fri	Meet the chapters Ride to D - Mattoon, leaving at 5:20 pm
April 18th-19th	Sat-Sun	Olney Safetey Weekend
April 20th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
April 26th	Sun	Blessing of the Bikes @ Bald Knob, Leaving Vandalia @ 7:30 am Leaving Greenville @ 8:00 am
April 30th-May 2nd	Fri-Sat	MO Dist Rally in Branson, MO at Area 57 / Dick Clark Theater Complex We will leave Vandalia at 8:00 am
May 8th	Fri	Supper ride to Pana - Details to be announced later
May 15th-17th	Fri-Sat	Niehaus Days. We have registration duties from 2-4pm on Saturday May 16th
May 15th	Fri	Supper ride - Details to be announced later
May 18th	Mon	Monthly Meeting

May 23rd-25th	Sat-Mon	Memorial Day Weekend ride to Caveman, Leaving Vandalia @ 8:00 am
June 1st - 6th	Mon-Sat	Americade in Lake George, New York
June ???	Fri-Sun	Pontiac Safety Weekend
June 5th	Fri	Supper Ride (details to be announced later)
June 7th	Sun	Chapter U Poker run, (till 11:00 am start, 3:00 pm - last in
June 15th	Mon-Sat	Monthly Meeting
June 17th-20th	Wed-Sat	Honda Hoot in Knoxville, TN
June 19th- 21st	Fri-sun	Chapter U Campout at Ramsey State Park
June 19th	Fri	Supper Ride (details to be announced later)
June 26th	Fri	Supper Ride (details to be announced later)
July 2nd - 5th	Thur-sun	Wing Ding in Tulsa, OK. Reservations have been made and we will be leaving Vandalia @ 8:00 am on July 1st, stopping overnight in Branson.
July 10th	Fri	Supper ride (details to be announced later)
July 17th	Fri	Supper ride (details to be announced later)
July 20th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
July 24th	Fri	Supper ride (details to be announced later)
July 31st	Fri	Supper ride (details to be announced later)
August 1-2	Fri-Sat	Illinois District Ralley (details to be announced)
August 7th	Fri	Supper Ride (Details to be announced later)
August 14th	Fri	Supper Ride (Details to be announced later)
August 17th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
August ???	Sun	Chapter Campout at the Bleisch's and Picnic. More TBA Later
August 28th	Fri	Supper Ride (Details to be announced later)
Sept. 4th-6th	Fri-Sun	Region E Rally in Moline, IL
Sept 11th-13th	Fri-Sun	David Rally in New Hampton, IA
Sept ???	Sun	New Baden Dare Ride
Sept 18th-20th	Fri-Sat	Southern Illinois Ride-In at DuQuoin, IL
Sept 21st	Mon	Monthly Meeting
Sept ???	Sun	Ride For Kids in St. Louis (Details to TBA Leter)
Sept 24th-26th	Thur-Sat	Wings over the Smokies in fletcher, NC
Oct 2nd-4th	Fri-Sun	Newport IN Hill Climb
Oct 4th	Sun	Ronald Mcdonald Toy Run Leaving Vandalia early 6:30 am, late at 9:00am
Oct 18th	Sun	23rd Annual Chili Dump at the Tompkins home at 2:00 pm
Oct 19th	Mon	THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THIS DATE !!!
Nov 1st	Sun	Daylight Savings Time
Nov-???	Sat	Card Party (Detals TBA Later)
Nov 16th	Mon	Monthly Meeting
Dec	Sat	Christmas Party

Note: All Rides are AS WEATHER PERMITS and ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Things will be added and changed so expect it!!

There will be supper rides on Friday or Saturday or Sunday.

The leave times are for those in the area that want to ride together from a central point and the start point is the Vandalia (Van)

McDonalds (McD) unless otherwise Noted.