



GOLD NUGGETS



Goldwing Road Riders Association

Region J, Chapter BC-A Vancouver

MAY 2009



Safety First

Welcome to the May edition of Chapter BC-A's newsletter. I would like to be the first to extend my thanks to Dan Fortin for his stellar work over the last year and in helping to make this transition relatively painless. In this edition and ongoing, we will have a 'theme' for the month which we will try to capture graphically (see my buddy to the left) on the front page. This is a newsletter 'for' and 'of' the Chapter. So be advised that I will be looking to and encouraging you all for content. This is your window to showcase your knowledge skills, talents and experiences to your fellow riders. Feedback on the newsletter is welcome and encouraged.

David

From the Chapter Directors...

Don't you think the NEW look of the newsletter is fantastic! Leslie and I would like extend our thanks to David on stepping up to take on this task from Dan and delivering a great first publication.

You can feel the excitement and energy from everyone. The weather has changed, riding season is in full swing and we've had some new energy infused into the Chapter. I'm amazed at what we've been able to achieve since the last newsletter. Let's see, we've managed to get seven Rider Education events, three organized rides, and numerous other rides. I can't thank all the volunteers enough for taking the time to put on all these events. And you know what—there is still a lot more to come!

Kelly Parkes will be hosting the Chapter meeting this weekend, while some of us will be in Winfield, enjoying the new location for Victoria Days. Leslie and I are looking forward to what is going to be a fantastic weekend, with some excellent rides and entertainment. We will have a full report for the following meeting. I'm sure Kelly will be a great stand-in, thank you Kelly.

A reminder to everyone to please sign-up for the Bob Davies Run on Saturday 6th June. This is our *annual Chapter event* honoring one of its founding members, and all those who have made the Chapter what it is today. Chapter BC-A is recognized as one of the oldest CDN chapters of GWRRA, so let's celebrate the accomplishment and all those that made it so. Our ride coordinator has created an awesome ride with a few surprises along the way, your really don't want to miss this event.

Have you signed up for the 2009 Region J Rally? Seating for the dinner on Saturday 1st August is limited so book early to avoid disappointment! We will have the biggest collection of vendors at a region rally, an incredible catered dinner, entertainment, education, and lots, lots more!

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 Peter & Sheila MacGregor 604 460 2017

Ride Safe

John & Leslie

Up and Coming...

This Month



May 9 – Ken Higginbottom Memorial Ride

This is a great ride with money raised going to the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation – directed to the Cardiac Education Program.

May 16 to 18 – Victoria Days (Winfield, BC)

This is the first time for this event in Canada. The new sponsors BC-G and BC-K having been working hard to get everything organized. This has always been a blast, and I'm sure this year will be no different. Details for the event are opposite this section.

Sun May 17 – Chapter BC-A Monthly Breakfast Meeting

For those not going to Winfield, there will probably be a ride following the meeting. Another opportunity to find out more about the activities coming up.

Sun May 24 – GVMC Gord Hepler Ride

This is a great ride for a worthy cause – Vancouver's Children's Hospital. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.gvmc.ca/>.

Next Month Highlights

- June 3 BC-D Dinner Meeting
- June 6 BC-A Bob Davies Run
- June 11 Region J Rally COW
- June 13/14 Mt St.Helens Overnight Ride
- June 20 Day Ride
- June 21 BC-A Breakfast Meeting & Fathers Day Ride
- June 24 Region J Rally COW
- June 27 BC-C Green Heart Ride
- June 28 Princeton-Canyon day-long Loop Ride



VICTORIA DAYS



Presented by GWRRA



Chapters BC-G & BC-K

May 16 to 18 – Victoria Days (Winfield, BC)

This is the first time for this event in Canada. The new sponsors BC-G and BC-K have been working hard to get everything organized. This has always been a blast, and this year will be no different.

Looking forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and having some fun. The weather looks promising, with rumors of white stuff in the passes.

Location Winfield BC
(10 km North of Kelowna on Highway 97)
George Elliott Secondary School, 10241 Bottom Wood Rd

Registration \$12
On line at www.vwh.ca/bc-g/

Registration includes: Grand Prize Ticket, Fun Run Ticket, Door Prize Ticket, Saturday Evening Entertainment.

Grand Prizes and Early Registration Draw

Flea-Market Saturday. Bring your motorcycle and / or camping items. The BC-K & G chapters will sell them for you (for a 10% commission) 8:00–11:00 am.

Fun Run Sunday May 17th to Benefit the "Make A Wish Foundation".

All motorcycles are welcome. First motorcycle out at 8:00 a.m. Last motorcycle out @ 10:00 am. All motorcycles in by 2:00 pm

Saturday Night Dinner served by your hosts – \$ 10.00

For more information, please contact:

Kirk Elliott Russ Verhaeghe
250-374-2583 250-707-1722



Welcome
Fighting Prostate Cancer
May 31, 2009



CR CYCLE



This is not a pink item, one that attracts (and rightly so) the attention of our female readers, but, given the genetic make-up of riders of the Honda Goldwing, anyone reading this article should take note. In the last month, those of us that went out on a regular Sunday ride found ourselves—twenty or so riders, turning up at the memoriam service for Mike Bruce.

Many of you may be wondering who the heck Mike Bruce is. I was in that camp, but I was also one of (guesstimate) close to 500 people who wanted to ask the question or who knew the answer!

Mike Bruce was a manager at Carter Motorsports in Vancouver at the time of his passing. He was also one of the founding members of the Ride for Dad team for Prostrate Cancer which was established in April 1998. Mike died from prostate cancer having got involved with this largely male problem from the diagnosis from his father in law.

Mike's celebration of life service was something of an eye opener for me. The first aspect was that someone so young (under 60) could die from something that has the perception of an older condition—cant say how old Mike was but definitely under 55! The second aspect—well not really surprise but more of appreciation, is that Mike had really made his mark on the local biking community because of his energy and enthusiasm for a specific cause. I say this because a few years ago—in the early 2000's, I was at the Bike show in Abbotsford and first got introduced to the Ride for Dad. It was new then to me, and I was interested for the ride but had no appreciation whatsoever of the cause. This last weekend changed that like a Tsunami!

So what is the point of this item in our newsletter? Well it is two-fold. The first is to recognize that in the 5 or so years that he was exposed to the issue of prostate cancer, a regular guy—Mike Bruce was able to make a difference in how this subject is perceived by male bikers in BC and in doing so, he has probably changed the course of life for a few men for the better. That is a legacy for Mike and his family, and more importantly it is a call to action for those of us in that potential or vulnerable category, to take this seriously. And I say that as one who saw this promotion 3 years ago and thought it was irrelevant because I was too young! That weekend ride has infact changed my life today—in a small but I hope, not insignificant way.

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Monthly Meeting

Chapter BC-A, Vancouver

The THIRD Sunday of each Month

ABC RESTAURANT

On the Corner of

Kensington & Hastings, Burnaby

Breakfast at 8:00 am

Meeting at 9:30 am



Enjoy breakfast with new and old friends, or come for a cup of coffee before the meeting

See you there!

Tuesday Night Coffee (ride in season)

Tim Horton's - Annacis Island

6 - 6:30 pm

Petey's Prattle...

Since I joined GWRRA in 1994, I don't think that I have missed more than 2 of WA-C's Early Spring Fun Runs (originally Spring Fever), and this year was not going to be the third. This is one of my favourite events of the year! It started out drizzly when I left home, but by the time I reached the Sumas border crossing, the precip had stopped. Once through customs with my new passport in hand, I headed south along Hwy. #9 to Everson, along #544 to #539 and on to Bellingham. I decided to stop in Fairhaven on the south side of Bellingham for a light lunch. Since it had been dry along the way and it was looking good, I decided to take off my rain gear. As I started to eat lunch, I turned around and looked out the window of the coffee bar to see a torrential downpour with hail. My first thought was that my helmet was hanging on the back of the bike filling with water. As it turned out, it did not get very wet.

Once the rain had stopped and I had dried off the Wing, I headed along Chuckanut Drive, and along Bayview-Edison Rd. and to La Conner. From there I took Chillberg Rd to Fir Island and Conway, #530 to Stanwood and Marine Drive along the shores of Port Susan to Marysville. It was a peaceful, relaxing and DRY ride! I really recommend riding down on the Friday if possible as it is much nicer than freezing on the ride down on Saturday morning!

Once I got into the Holiday Inn Express' underground parking, I saw that Jeff and Shirley Howard were already there, but there was no sign of Pat and Con Williams. Jeff and Shirley were ready for supper, so we walked almost across the road to Applebee's for a nice meal. Afterwards we sat in their room trying to get ahold of Con and Pat. It turns out they went to the casino! The next morning we all had the free continental breakfast at the Inn before heading to the Eagle's Hall for the start of the ride.

It turned out that I ended up leading a train of bikes that were mostly Chapter A on the ride. The ride took us through the beautiful back roads of Snohomish County including the wonderful Ben Howard Rd., and through the towns of Shohomish, Sultan, Monroe, Granite Falls, Arlington and eventually to the Smokey Point Cycle Barn for the Finish and lunch. These are fun and picturesque roads and I am never tired of riding them. After the closing ceremonies and Ivan Armstrong winning the most of the biggest prizes including the 50/50, the event was over. By the way, Chapter BC-D won the biggest GWRRA chapter (again!). One of these days we WILL beat them! J

Everyone then broke up into smaller groups for the ride home. I hooked up with a group lead by Mark Reidl along Hwy. #9. We ended up taking the road around the east side of Sumas Mountain (in the US) to Maple Falls and around Silver Lake Rd. before taking #547 to Sumas and home.

It was a fantastic ride with friends, and educational also when Gord MacDonald showed us how to plug a tire with the new gun-type plug set. It was interesting watching him laying on the ground while plugging the tire and reading the instructions at the same time. I look forward to being at the Early Spring Fun Run again next year.

Pete

ARC - From the Saddle of a First-Timer...

I have to say that going to the ARC (Advanced Riding Course), I was probably a bit cocky and not expecting to learn anything new. I have done my fair share of rider training in my desire for improvement. By nature this rider likes to be prepared and while the preference is to ride fast, it is paramount to ride safe. So a DVD was purchased (by the good lady wife for Christmas) on the riding skills taught to the California Highway Patrol (CHiP) and their Harley Davidson handling skills by a former rider and instructor—Mike Paladino. While not quite like a "Die Hard" movie, you are shown the skills taught to the CHiP and then shown these demonstrated (fast and slow speed) by a pair of 90 lb women turning HDs of 600lbs on a dime consistently! Well all this led to the purchase of a set of cones and finding a disused school car park in Richmond (not difficult) to practice. The ARC course—and especially the instruction was first class in helping me as a 'GLnewby' to appreciate the handling capabilities of my GL1800. I learnt a lot which I did not expect and the credit goes to the guys who instructed and know this machine and they way they work—there is no substitute for experience!!

David

2009 GWRRA Region J Rally

July 31 — August 3, 2009

...everyone is welcome

Albion Fairgrounds
Maple Ridge Dyke
Maple Ridge

Rally Information:

- ◆ Approximate attendance: 300 members
- ◆ Located at the Albion Fairgrounds in Maple Ridge, 40 minutes east of Vancouver
- ◆ Camping available on site
- ◆ Motel rooms blocked
- ◆ Early Bird Registration Draw
- ◆ Great Tours, Great Scenery; Grand Prize Draw, Door Prizes, *Activities Just for Women...*and more events to be announced!



Sponsorships Still Available

At the Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper Levels

...For our 2009 GWRRA Region J Rally.

For more information please contact:

Con Williams, Chair of the Vendor & Sponsors Committee, **604—293-2268**

Region J Website: <http://gwrra-regionj.ca/ralliesmain.html>

BC-A Website: http://gwrra_bca.tripod.com



Rider Education



The riding season is out of second gear and the road stretching out ahead bodes well for a great season. About twenty-five people registered for the Advanced Rider Courses that were held over the past two weekends and it was great to see the attendance as well as the enthusiasm.

At the end of each training day it is always encouraging to hear comments from riders of all levels about what they learned during the course. It might be something the instructor focused on but it is just as likely to be something that developed from a comment or sideline discussion with another rider. Some little gem gets revealed that will make a difference in how that person rides.

The importance of keeping your revs up during the maneuvers of most riding courses is part of the drill. This is emphasized by the instructors in several exercises because it helps to keep the bike upright and stable in the relatively slow speeds. In between exercises, Ian McAlpine was having a conversation with a few of the students. He was explaining the importance of keeping those revs up, not just at slow speed but even during higher speed cornering. (note I did NOT say "speeding"). When Ian described the "bouncing like a boat" while going through a corner with your revs too low it struck home. I'm sure most of us have experienced that sensation. I just hadn't put it together myself, I knew I found mountain highway cornering a lot more exhilarating when aggressively shifting down and up through corners, keeping the revs up. To heck with the fuel consumption, and leisurely riding, I figured this enjoyable experience was all about meeting the challenge of mastering the machine. Squeeze performance out of your wing while embracing the secure feeling of enhanced control that comes with keeping the revs up and the bike close to the crest of its torque peak. Ian's two or three minute dissertation on this topic was my "gem" for the day, and I wasn't even taking the course!

I am sure all of you who took the recent courses took away some gems of your own, some things to practice and some new things to try. To register your commitment to rider education please sign up for the Levels Program it is free. If you want more information contact any Chapter Educator or visit www.gwrra.org or go directly to the form at

www.vwh.ca/rider-ed-canada/forms/N.8-REP-Level-I-IIIApplication-Canadian-Rev4_30_08.doc

Ride safe,

Bernie Sparrow

Advanced Riders Course (ARC)

May 2009



Goldwing Women



There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.' One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him. Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.' This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Today

before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can't speak..

Before

you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before

you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion.

Today

before you complain about life - Think of someone who died too early

Before

whining about the distance you drive—Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when

you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job.

And when

depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: you're alive and still around.

The Weigh - Down, Round -Up

How much weight will we lose before the Region 'J' Rally?



From April-May: Total reported weight loss: **3 pounds** (think of 3 pounds of butter; that's a lot!)

Remember to email your results to me each week. All chapters are welcome to participate.

Thanks,

Leslie

PhotoBook



Note from the Editor...

Each month we would like to feature a collage of photographs depicting the life and times of the Chapter and its members. We are seeking your photos (no commentary) to display on this page. These can be shots of individual activities on your bike not related to GWRRA activities or, like the one's below, depicting the fun and games of Chapter and Regional events. In April we were bombarded with formal instruction from the mothership. For this month we have a personal account of the ARC 1 course held in April (supplemented by photos of the May course courtesy of Dan Renaud).

Many thanks

David



Oh..you mean the other Left...



He went that-a-way...



...and a bacon double cheeseburger



Was that little guy talking to us?...



Celebrations & Sales

Tuesday Night Rides

Tuesday nights are great for socializing.

TIM HORTON'S ANNACIS ISLAND

Rides start about 6:30 – 7:00 pm

All are welcome –hope to see you there.

Bike not mandatory!

Celebrations

Birthdays

John Schretlen	May 5
Leah Connell	May 15
David Richards	May 20
Norman K Munro	May 31
Sheila Macgregor	June 21
Patty McKenna	June 25

Anniversaries

John & Leslie Wait	May 2
Toby & Lorae Sandwell	May 9
Peter & Sheila MacGregor	May 10
Patrick & Lorraine Frampton	June 17

Congratulations to you all!

Lost In Nova Scotia

Two American tourists were driving through Nova Scotia. As they were approaching Shubenacadde (shoe-been-aack-id-dee), they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter, one tourist asked the employee "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are... ver-r-ry slo-o-ow-ly?"

The waitress leaned over the counter and says:

"Tiiimmmmm Hoorrtrttooonnns..."

FOR SALE OR WANTED

SALE: New complete muffler system for GL1200 cc fits '84, '85 and some '86. Made by Mac Products paid 600 USD asking \$450. Consider all offers

Ron Seligman 604-271-0739

SALE: PIAA Light Brackets for GL1800: Mirror Mounts. High quality steel brackets, black powder coated. Over ordered and never used. Asking \$100 - See Picture Book

David Priestley 778-998-1309. email: djpriestley@shaw.ca

SALE: Fuse Panel for GL 1800: Made by Electrical Connection. Add those farkels with confidence in your electronics. Asking \$25

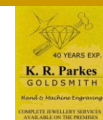
David Priestley 778-998-1309 email: djpriestley@shaw.ca

Saturday Rides

If there are **NOT** any Local day rides on the Event Schedule you can expect a ride to leave from the McDonalds at Willingdon Ave just North of Hwy#1 Coffee from 9am. Rides start about 10:00 am
Weather Permitting

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Storeroom

Item	Price	Item	Price
TEXX Blended Twill Shirts Long Sleeve (S-XXL)	\$44.50	Top Rocker-Great Northwest Region "J"	\$16.00
Short Sleeve (S/M/L/XL/XXL)	\$42.25	Bottom Rocker-Chapter BC-A Vancouver	\$24.00
Golf Shirt Short Sleeve (S-XXL)	\$35.00	BC District Pin	\$4.00
Added Text (10 Characters per line)	\$5.00	BC-A "Geese in Flight" Chapter Pin	\$4.00
Chapter Embroidered Baseball Cap	\$13.50	Chapter Hanger Bar	\$2.00
GWRRA 10" Black & Gold Crest Patch	\$22.50	Chapter Name Plate Brass	\$16.00
GWRRA 4" Black & Gold Crest Patch	\$9.25	(hanger bar provide free for executive)	

If you don't see something you want or to place an order contact

Leah Connell. 604 790 8135

Email Ircmay@yahoo.ca

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Chapter Historian	Ivan Armstrong	604 273 1004	patandi@shaw.ca



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Too bad the others will only get to admire it from behind.



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