

Volume 32 - No. 9 and 10 – September/October 2015



WING of the ROAD

Soar Like An Eagle



Published By The American Gold Wing Association

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Hello:

Have you been riding? If so enjoy the weather as it will soon be changing to cooler days and evenings. In our area September brings cool days and plenty of rain.



Smokey Mountain Round Up will be the only AGWA activity for the remainder of the year. Gail and I will be riding if the weather allows or if the rain is gushing from the sky we will be attending the event on four wheels. Either way we will be there to meet old friends. If you are coming you know this event is very reasonably priced and very hard to beat the good food and friendship.

Lu and Crystal Brunetta will be the 2017 AGWA rally hosts. They have chosen Hudson, Ohio for their rally location. Hudson, Ohio is located on I 80 south of Cleveland, Ohio. They have chosen the Clarion Inn and Conference Center for the host hotel. The contract is completed and signed. As we look forward we will need someone to take the 2018 AGWA national rally. Please have a sight in mind and a rally host, before the national rally in Roanoke, Virginia in June of 2016.

Gail and I rode to West Chicago, Illinois for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation ride. We rode to Compton, Illinois and stayed with Wanda Densmore. Wanda had given me an ultimatum at the rally, if you don't come to my house and stay, I won't come to your house. That was strong enough words for me and I obeyed her. Sunday morning, Wanda prepared a breakfast fit for a king and we were off to meet David at a designated location. David led us to the starting location. There were many of the Illinois chapter members there along with many Harley riders. I found it best for my ears to ride at the front of the pack. An Illinois State Police car led the group on a ninety mile ride through several towns and lots of corn for our viewing. The ride was very well planned and we never stopped except for an unplanned train. There was a break at a McDonalds for a rest. At the conclusion of the ride we were at the Buffalo Rock State Park for a great burger or a dog. There were an enormous amount of silent auction and raffle items. A fantastic day. Thanks Jeff Matticks for a well planned ride

The Cover photo is of Larry Greco Illinois Chapter H. For the complete story see Soaring like an Eagle on page 11.

Thanks

Owen

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My First Biker Rally

Written By Maureen McFadden
Rhode Island/ Massachusetts

This is an account of my 'First Biker trip to a Rally'. I call myself a "Newbie". I

am Maureen McFadden and I rode on Paul Collins's bike to the Gold Classic XXXII at the Clarion Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky on June 12, 2015. This has been a whole new experience for me. This is an account through my eyes. It was fear, excitement, anticipation all thrown into my mixed feelings for the whole trip.

Paul & I are from Massachusetts and left very early Friday morning around 5 am (about 1 ½ hours) to meet up with everyone going on this trip from the Ocean State Touring Group in Rhode Island. It was a cool morning but gradually got hotter as the day moved on. I've really enjoyed everyone in this group. A very warm bunch of people and always making me feel like one of them.

The ride was basically on all highways. The speed was up to 65 and a little higher at times. As Judi Quinlan has said previously our first stop was the Blue Colony Diner in Newtown, Connecticut for breakfast. Always good to stretch my body, I'm not used to long rides.

We got to our destination in Lancaster, Pennsylvania at around 5:30. We didn't have to go far for dinner at a local restaurant attached to the parking lot of the motel. Paul & I headed to the bar for

a cool one. I liked the camaraderie – everyone glad to be relaxing with cool drinks and yummy food. We were one big table full of laughs. I would have loved to see the countryside of Pennsylvania Dutch Country but just not enough time. It was an early retirement as we all knew we needed the rest for tomorrow.

Saturday the 13th. It was a dry morning and afternoon and we had better roads for traveling. However, again lots of highways to ride, farms everywhere and pew-manure was strong or was it the chemicals? Viewing the beautiful green mountains on both sides of the road and just a continuous row of mountains was a spectacular sight. Another exciting point was to drive through the mountains. There was Blue Mountain, Kittany, Tuscara and Allegheny. They were very long dark tunnels. We have seen the Delaware River and later the Ohio River Scenic Byway.

We finally arrived at the Quality Hotel at 7ish in Marietta, Ohio. I couldn't wait to check in and take a shower and wash my hair. I am not used to wearing a helmet all day. Most of us ate at the restaurant at the hotel. One funny moment that we can laugh about now but for Ester & Jack O'Donnell not so funny. They ordered buffalo wings mild but what they got were so hot I could smell the heat. They cleared up my sinuses and our server said the same thing. A new order went in for a mild batch. Jeff's steak was tough to chew so he reordered Chicken Parmesan and guess what? He got a too spicy sauce, ya I tasted that! Again, not a late

night partying bunch and realizing we need our sleep, we all retired. Next morning after a not too terrific breakfast at the hotel, we all headed out. I didn't realize how long it actually takes to get state to state. Being an inexperienced rider, I'm never sure if I need heavy jacket or light weight clothes. I do remember getting caught in a few rainstorms, one on our way to Ohio, there was thunder and lightening so we stopped under a canopy at a funeral home. Still we had lots of laughs from a great bunch of people.

Again I'm remembering lots of mountains on both sides of the road, cloudy at times but when the sun poked through it was hot. It was pretty hot reaching Lexington and again I'm antsy about getting that room and washing up. I'm pooped!

It's Sunday night and we are thirsty and hungry. Paul & I decide to check out the bar at the hotel. We find out the restaurant is closed so we'll have to eat at the bar, walk to the closest restaurant or drive to one and forgo an ice cold beer. The bar staff are not too friendly, seems setting up a table for 12 was too much work. As more of our entourage start trickling in, some of us start moving tables together so we can all sit together. However, with no bussers on, some of our hungry people start clearing a table. Since we're not getting the service, we all decide to leave and walk over to Denny's and get the best attention they could give and filled our empty bellies.

The next morning Paul & I found the breakfast room at the hotel and are the

first of our group to get there. This hotel offered a hearty breakfast, very filling. Phil & Carolann Soder joined us, then Carl and Judy Bergden. It's always fun talking about our experience from last night and their past runs. We all meet in the parking lot for our first ride to Louisville for a luncheon cruise on the Spirit of Jefferson. The ride to Louisville was all countryside horse farms and ya I did get to see some horses. Our lunch was full of southern selections, also very filling. Although Paul & I didn't get to sit with people we knew, we met some new personalities. It was a scenic and relaxing ride along the river.

For dinner Paul & I decided to give the Sports Bar another chance. We were served by the vivacious Paula who knew how to treat her customers. She remembers everyone's name at the bar and constantly pays attention to you. Paul got to talk with other members of the Rally, friends from previous rallies. It was a satisfying night.

Tuesday, a number of us decided to go early on the Red River Gorge Tour and to take a slower route. However, we did end up getting back at 7pm instead of hours before. There was a second group who left later and got to their destination quicker. We drove to the Natural Bridge Reserve which was a campground and all had a delicious buffet lunch. Later taking a chair lift which brought us to the top of the mountain, however, while we reached the top we couldn't help but hear a thunderstorm approaching and I didn't want to be stuck on top so we came back

down while our other friends; Judy & George, Carl & Judy, and Ester walked to the other side to see the bridge. Jack stayed on land at the bottom in the store, dry. They all did get wet. We waited out the storm and headed back. We came to a one way tunnel headed in and $\frac{3}{4}$ way in a woman in a van who was $\frac{1}{4}$ in decided she had the right of way and wouldn't back up for us. Paul & Carl had to back up. Before going into the tunnel we all said hi to a few Harley drivers and now they stopped as they saw what was happening at the tunnel. The women, and they were a short stout lot, went into the tunnel to tell the van driver what these girls thought. One yelled, "If you can't back this van, get out and we'll show you how to back it up." One of the women yelled something back but we don't know what she said. So we decided to back up and get rolling. That was a scene! We made a stop and put our rain gear on, glad I got a new set that fit. Since Paul has a weather option on his GPS he lead us back to the hotel trying to avoid rain. Boy, Newbie Maureen was so glad to get back. After a shower and shampoo, out to the Sports Bar for beers and little something to eat. Paula, our bartender, was again on and paying attention to us. Carl & Judy joined us for a drink and then went off to the Ice Cream Social. Later most of us moved into the hospitality room and played CLR dice which Phil was explaining how to play. I never played it before but I had heard of it. It's fun and now I want a set.

After having a good night's sleep, woke up Wednesday morning a little later and

ending up the last of our group for breakfast. It was a rainy night and morning, when it comes to weather you just can't win! It was laundry day for some. As I walked back from the pool, I heard a lot of noisy girls giggling around the corner. Well, those girls turned out to be Carolann, Ester, & Judy B. By the time I went to our room to change and walked by the laundry again, Judy Q joined them. They were totally laughing up a storm. Who knew laundry was so funny. Paul decided to do some laundry so after the girls, we are in there. Carolann comes in and states in 15 minutes a number of riders are going on a tour of a horse farm. Darn, that's what I wanted to see, but we never made it.

Wednesday night is Sloppy Joe Night and ahem, we are late getting there and no room at the table of friends, so we end up with new people to meet. Of course Paul knows people from many years of meets. It's all about reacquainting friendships, new stories to tell. Later on I take a walk outside and meet a nice couple from Illinois who the woman, '69' drives her own trike. I enjoyed conversation with them. Tonight is the 'Light Show'. The show was lots of fun. We, the audience, sat on various corners of the parking lot. We had to wait until really dark, like 9ish. The lights on the bikes were illuminating; everyone made a big deal whenever they drove by us. We even gave them 'the wave'. The bikers were very appreciative of the attention. And then it was over! Paul & I and a few others retired to the bar like every night.

The rivers we went over—Kentucky, Ohio, Red River, and Delaware. We drove on the Blue Grass Parkway, Mt. Parkway. Also to the Natural Bridge in the area of Daniel Boone National Forest.

Thursday was our last full day. We had a good breakfast as usual. Carl & Judy showed up and joined us for a little light conversation and eats. Today's ride was to Churchill Downs in Louisville with Carl, Judy, Ester & Jack, Paul & I led by George & Judy. Now maybe I'll see some horses. The ride over was very enjoyable through winding country roads with horses at every large farm. The views were spectacular, lots of huge beautiful houses, lots of green lawns, & white fences everywhere. Many of the horses were grazing. Some close to the road, but we didn't stop to pat them. There were three horses being led on reins while the men were walking them. The middle horse was red while the other two were darker. He was a feisty one. He wanted to take off. We did stop and Judy & Judy had their phones ready for pictures.

By the time we reached Churchill Downs, it was Very hot. I finally get to go to the Kentucky Derby except no races today. Because of the excessive heat, the horses stayed in their stalls in the barns. We did go into the Museum and got to soak in so much of the history of the races. We all enjoyed the 360* degree high-def film. Seeing displays of the triple crown winner, American Pharoah. Some of us ladies went to the hat store and tried on some beautiful,

extravagantly expensive hats. The tour was so informative and we did get to see one older thoroughbred, Risen Warrior and their mini horse Winston.

Next for lunch and we all waited for a table inside the Museum. This was a buffet to put all others to shame. Paul & I ordered Mint Juleps and got to keep a glass. From there we ladies had to check out the souvenir shop and pick up a few items. It was a totally enjoyable day and it wasn't over. In the evening was the Awards Banquet. All the states members gathered in the Derby Room. Many gifts and awards for different categories were given out. I was totally surprised to get a plaque to put up on my wall. I didn't expect to get one. Paul was awarded for Long Distance 2 up.

In all, this rally showed me the friendships made every year, new and reacquainting old. Ordinary friendly, fun loving people loving the ride.

Friday finally has come and time to say goodbye, our little group divided into 2 groups because of the forecast of high winds and rains following us home. One group of us made it in two days, the other in three. For me it was a lot of constant riding and since Paul & I live in MA it was even longer and in the dark, which I would rather not in the future ride in the dark. I will always have good memories about all the states and people I met and who knows maybe I'll see everyone next year in Virginia. Never been to Virginia.

Ride Safely

Hello from RI,

On the road again... finally! The first official ride of the season was our annual May breakfast. Phil and Carolann led Judi, Carl, Greg, Ron, Laure, Alan, George and I to Persey's Place in Middleboro MA. Persey's features New England's largest breakfast & lunch menu; something for everyone. Thanks to Paul and Maureen for arriving early to secure a table as lines are out the door.



May Breakfast at Persey's Place

After enjoying a delicious meal, Paul led a great ride through southeastern MA. Our first stop was Savery Avenue in rural Carver MA, the first divided highway in America, a public works project during the Civil War opened to the public in 1860. The lanes are separated by a pretty row of shade trees.

Our next stop was Marion MA and Silvershell Beach. Marion is a charming residential seacoast community. The beach with Buzzards Bay on one side and its estuary on the other was a beautiful spot to watch sailboats plying the waters and many birds including a swan and blue heron. It was a lovely day

and wonderful to be back on the bike again.



Savery Avenue – America's first divided highway



Silvershell Beach, Marion, MA

Mother's Day was an open ride. George and I decided to take a ride along the shore to Watch Hill. Alan and Laure joined us for breakfast and on a short ride. Heading south from Exeter, we passed the Scrap Metal Scorpion, a large green and yellow scorpion made from propane tanks, engine parts and other scarp metal items.



Scorpion



Bay Street, Watch Hill

Traveling past Westerly and Misquamicut beaches, we arrived at Watch Hill, an affluent coastal village and exclusive summer resort. It is home to the famous wealthy like Taylor Swift and Conan O'Brien and the not so famous very rich. Lining the shore are sprawling turreted and gingerbreaded Victorian-style "cottages". After stopping to do a little window shopping on Bay Street, we continued into nearby CT over back country roads before returning home to enjoy time with the family. It was a beautiful sunny day for a ride.

Members of our club joined the Blue Knights for the Blessing of the Bikes at Trinity Episcopal Church in Canton MA. Blue Knights MA I Chaplin, Reverend Philip Jacobs, officiated. Food and beverages were available after, followed by a ride through Blue Hills.

The Blue Hills are located only minutes south of Boston and were named by early



Blessing of the Bikes

European explorers who noticed the bluish hue on the slopes while sailing along the coastline. Great Blue Hill is the highest of the 22 hills in the Blue Hills chain. The summit provides scenic views of the entire area.

What a great turnout for Phil's ride! Deb, Greg, Gail, Leo, Carl, Judi, Rico, Mechele, Ron, Jack, Esther, Bob, Shelly, Jeff, Brenda, George and I followed Phil and Carolann on a ride through the back roads and farm lands of nearby Bristol County MA, including Seekonk, Rehoboth and Taunton. Rehoboth, one of the oldest towns in MA, is mostly a rural, suburban community with many historic sites; a terrific place to ride. After a lovely ride, we stopped for lunch at La Familia, a new Italian restaurant in Taunton MA and a great choice. Everyone enjoyed the meal and you can see from the pictures that we all had a lot of fun.

Dave has started his weekly Mystery Rides. They have included Evelina's in



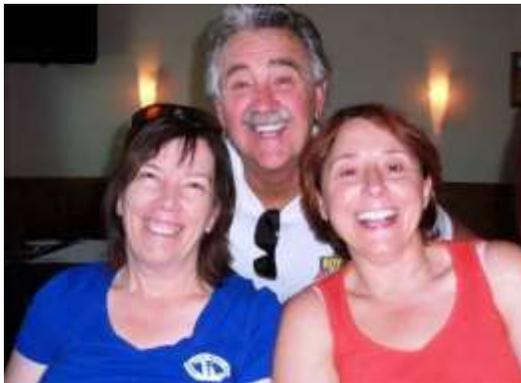
The Men



The Ladies



At La Familia



Deb, Phil and Brenda

Woodstock CT with a special stop in Woodstock before heading to the UConn Dairy in Storrs CT and the Clam Box in MA. His rides are always a big hit with all who attend. Happy Riding! See you all “on the road again”, next month.

A.G.W.A. Services Benefits Directory

Contact the following people for information about any of our service benefits and take full advantage of your membership in A.G.W.A.

AMA	Wanda Densmore	815-497-2497
By-Laws	Chuck Mincks	319-373-4175
Insurance Program	Bill Young	865-681-0113
Key Replacement	Bob Dombrowski	978-532-0634
Manufacturing Liaison	Vacant	
Publications	Owen Toomey	231-930-4703
Public Relations	Gail Toomey	231-930-4703
Rally Registration	Gail Toomey	231-930-4703
Safety Program	Chuck Mincks	319-373-4175
Sidecar/Trike Division	Ron Mentzer	717-203-4412
Special Projects	Owen Toomey	231-930-4703
Technical	Stephen Bergman	217-357-6697
VIP Program	Wayne Aten	815-923-2112

Chapter B and Community Days

Written By George Ramsey

Pennsylvania Chapter B

Once again we displayed our bikes at Shillington, PA's Community Days celebration for the Fourth Of July weekend.



This is a carnival-like event with rides, games of chance and of course plenty of food vendors. We have been doing this for more years than I care to remember.

We have Friday and the Harley's usually have Saturday.

As usual, we met at a Rite-Aid across the street and we counted ten bikes. We decorate our antennas with green and white streamers on the right side and red, white and blue on the left.



One of the riders was George Mertz whose wife gave birth to quadruplets 11 years ago. He is no longer a member but still helps out with parades and such. His wife Kim brought the quads in the car and lord how they have grown. Three of them wanted to ride on the bikes to where we display and I took young George with me. The one daughter (there are two boys and two girls), doesn't like the leaning (her daddy has a two wheeler), so she declined the ride. He also flies a plane and she doesn't like the banking either.



When we arrived, there was much confusion about where and how to park our bikes, mostly because a bloodmobile was on the street and took up quite a bit

of space. Anyway we finally got situated and had a good time the rest of the evening.

I was pleasantly surprised at how many old Chapter B members stopped by to chat. As a matter of fact, I went for a sausage sandwich and it took almost a half hour to finish it with all the chit-chat. But seeing old friends is more important than a sausage sandwich. There was a really good band entertaining the folks and the rides seemed to be busy. I know the food stands were.

When it got dark, we all lit up our bikes which the people always enjoy. After awhile, we left for home feeling that we did some good for others. It's a good feeling.

American Gold Wing Association

Club Items Available for Purchase

AGWA Hat	\$ 11.00
9" Embroidered Association Patch	\$ 13.00
4" Embroidered Association Patch	\$ 2.00
1" Membership Pins	\$ 2.50
Additional Year Pins	\$ 2.50
2-1/2 Decal	\$ 1.00
3-3/4 Decal	\$ 1.25
AGWA Flag w/Antenna Mound	\$ 12.50
AGWA Flag w/3/8 Flag Pole Mount	\$ 12.50
U.S. Flag w/Antenna Mount	\$ 12.50
U.S. Flag w/3/8 flag Pole Mount	\$ 12.50

Association items can be ordered from

The A.G.W.A. National Treasurer:

Wanda Densmore
914 Melugins Grove Road
Compton, IL 61318

Soaring like an Eagle

Written By Larry Greco
Illinois Chapter H

I guess that you could say this story started 50 years ago. Not sure what career I wanted to pursue after High School. I took jobs as a printer, grocery store stock boy, caddie and other odd jobs. One day I stopped by the Army recruiter's office. The recruiter showed me all his Army pictures and I was hooked, join the Army and see the world. As he explained it if I waited to be drafted I would be treated like any recruit but if I would volunteer I would be treated like a king. I was gullible and signed for 3 years. I wanted be treated like a king

Arriving at Fort Knox, Ky, I quickly find that no recruits are treated like kings but completely the opposite. After Basic training I am sent to tank mechanics school in Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. From there I am stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. It is the hottest part of the summer and I hate this base. One day an Airborne recruiter shows up and asks who would like to jump out of airplanes and be assigned to the 101 Airborne and be stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. You would have thought I learned my lesson and not volunteer for anything, but no I was the first one to raise my hand. I knew that this is my ticket to a new post. So now its off to jump school at Fort Benning, Ga.

After 5 jumps its off to Fort Campbell. Fort Campbell is like heaven compared to Fort Hood. It is close enough to Chicago to sneak home for 3 day weekends with the 3 day passes that I sold from the Commanding Offices desk when I was assigned to clean his office. A good thing does not last and before long I am on an airplane on my way to

Siagon, Viet Nam. After my one year tour is finished my last 5 months is at Fort Bragg, N. C. with the 82nd Airborne.

It's now 2014 and on an Illinois Chapter 'H' ride we find ourselves at a skydiving center in Rochelle, Il. Our chapter members are egging me on. Go for it Larry, you were a Paratrooper we want to see you jump. I am a little hesitant. There is quite a difference from the 1000 feet that we jumped in the Army with a 15 foot static line opening our parachutes and the 14,000 foot free fall with chute opening at 6,500 feet. When I see all the jumpers suited up it brings back many memories and the adrenaline is flowing. I am ready. I go to the check in counter and then the let down. A reservation is needed. Oh well, another day.

Now is 2015 and Chapter 'H' Director Les Chapman reminds me that I should make my reservation so we would have some where to ride one Sunday. He suggests July 12. I look at the weather forecast and all week it says 70% chance of storms. On Thursday I decide to go for it and make reservations for 2:00pm. Sunday morning the chapter rides to the Colonial Restaurant for breakfast or as Les calls it my last supper. It's off to the Rochelle airport and there is no rain insight, only cloudy blue skies in the 80's. Chapter members present to observe are Les & Bev Chapman, Mark & Paulette Brenton, Jeff & Klye Matticks, Joe Hughes, Lou Hatt, Cary Levin and Jim Garner. After a short training video that is no more than a disclaimer that they are not responsible for anything, Jeff Matticks comes forward and decides to also go jump with me. Bev Chapman buys a ride on the airplane to sit in the Co-pilots seat and Les Chapman hires a photographer to video tape the event. After a two hour

wait Jeff and I are on the plane with our tandem jump partner and Bev in the co-pilots seat along with several other jumpers. As the plane climbs to 9,000 feet several jumpers who booked a lower jump disappear out the open side door. The plane climbs higher and when the green light comes on it is our time. Jeff is ahead of me and in a wink he is out onto his free fall. Now it is my turn.



We scoot to the open door, next thing we are falling at 120 miles per hour. I notice the curvature of the earth, the little patches of crops that are really large farms.



Now we are spinning very fast and I am getting nauseated. The photographer comes in for some close photos and a fist bump after we stopped spinning. Checking the altimeter we are approaching 6,500 feet and almost time to pull the parachute. My tandem instructor takes my right hand and puts it on the pull cord.



My hand slips off the pull cord and the instructor pulls it so that we do not splatter on the ground. After several fast turns in the air with the parachute opened we make a soft landing on the air strip.



STATE DIRECTOR LISTING

The following listing shows the current State Directors for each state that currently has organized A.G.W.A. activity.

Connecticut	Frank Tierney	203-924-1330
Illinois	David Densmore	815-880-0254
Iowa	Chuck Mincks	319-373-4175
Massachusetts	Thomas Serino	978-741-5208
Michigan	Brenda Zuelch	586-771-2538
New Jersey	Diana Press	609-893-0840
New York	Ric Gurney	631-749-0533
North Carolina	Joe Lopez	74-951-8118
Pennsylvania	Lou Brunetta	610-262-1080
Rhode Island	George Quinlan	401-667-0568
South Carolina	Dee Marett	843-875-0526
Tennessee	Don Oller	731-444-1564

Hello from RI,

Written By Judi Quinlan
Rhode Island

July 4th weekend is a busy time for family and friends and ours was no exception. It got off to a great start as Dave led a group of bikes along country roads to the first stop at Janine's Frostee for lunch, a warm friendly place, "worth the drive from anywhere". The next stop was the Quabbin Reservoir, one of the largest man-made public water supplies in the US and a principal drinking water supply for MA. Surrounded by deep woods, it has become a wildlife area; a lovely pristine place to hike, bike, and bird watch or just relax. Finding a nice spot in Quabbin Park, the ladies climbed the Quabbin Observation Tower, affording them excellent views of reservoir and Mt Monadnock. The men rested, presumably watching over the bikes. Continuing on, the next stop was the Clam Box in Charlton MA, a club favorite. It was big eat fest with some riding in between and everyone loved it.



Janine's Frostee

The weekend ended on a high note at Carolann and Phil's with a BBQ before the monthly meeting. It was a perfect evening and they have the perfect



Quabbin Tower



The Clam Box

conversation. After the meeting, Phil treated us to a video presentation set to music of our trip to the 2015 Rally in Lexington KY that he had created. It brought back wonderful memories. Thanks Carolann and Phil for a great time.



Carolann, Dave & Paul



Carolann, Dave & Paul, Carolann, Phil, Jeff, & Brenda



Phill and Ric Kicking back

backyard and were wonderful hosts. Everyone brought something so there was plenty of good food and





Chowing Down



Rico hard at work



Winding Down



Watching the video

Sailfest New London is southeastern CT's premier summertime event in nearby New London; complete with major fireworks display (the largest in

the Northeast), amusement rides, free entertainment, Tall Ships, and over 200 vendors lining downtown streets selling local crafts, art, clothing, jewelry and, of course, food. There are multiple stages of free entertainment with musical genres ranging from Funk, Rock and Latin. Phil and Carolann led Jeff and Brenda on an early ride to get a prime viewing spot to watch the spectacular fireworks produced by world champion Garden State Fireworks.



New London Waterfront



New London Waterfront



Fireworks

Sunday was a special day as many of the Club attended Mike & Lisa's annual Friends and Family Ride and Party. Rico and Mechele led the ride to Mike and Lisa's in nearby CT to relax and enjoy breakfast before the ride. After breakfast, Phil held a pre-ride safety meeting for all those riding. After a lovely ride, it was back to their home where Mike fired up the grill for burgers and dogs. It was a beautiful sunny day; a perfect time to unwind and a great opportunity to socialize. Everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks to Mike and Lisa for opening their home to us.



Pre Riding Meeting



Wow, what a group!



Aly, Lisa, Carolann



Carolann, Esther, Deb, and Laurie



Jeff, Brenda, Dave, and Paul



Mike

The Pavilion Steak House in rural Ashaway RI was the destination on another beautiful summer evening. Judi, Carl, Jeff, Dave, Earl, and Lorraine followed Phil and Carolann there for the Friday Night Classic Cruise & BBQ. George and I with our grandson Ben met

the group there. The car show was one of the biggest I had seen. Some of the classics were magnificent, so beautifully restored. After linking up, we enjoyed dinner inside; joined by Phil's son and his girlfriend.



Jeff, Carl, and Judi



Ben, Earl, Lorraine, Phil, Carolann, Danielle, Kurtis, Dave, and George

A perennial favorite is Paul's ride along the shore south of Boston to TK O'Malley's in Scituate MA. Rico, Mechele, Jeff, Brenda, Mike, Greg, Carl, and Judi met Paul, Maureen and two of their friends in Middleboro MA. It was a lovely ride along the shore line, through the affluent towns of Hingham and Cohasset, historic seaside communities with immaculately kept antique homes. Turning onto Jerusalem Road, known as the "Gold Coast", we traveled past the mega, multi-million dollar homes with their spectacular ocean views. The drive is magnificent and one of New England's most scenic coastal drives. Lunch is always special, sitting on the deck at TK O'Malley's, enjoying the harbor with its commercial fishing fleet and numerous

recreational boats. The day was perfect as was the ride and the company.



En route to meet Paul



Beautiful south shore



TK O Malley's



Enjoying lunch on the deck



Scituate Harbor

Unfortunately our Sunday day ride had to be cancelled due to thunderstorms in the area we were riding to but all was not lost. That evening Dave and Laurie led a group to Mohegan Sun for their Midsummer Sizzler on the Riverview Garage rooftop offering gorgeous views from this open-air venue. It was back roads all the way to the casino where there was food, music, and a fireworks extravaganza. Festivities began at 6 with over 2500 fireworks set off at 9:15.

Please visit our new and improved web site at www.oceanstatetouringclub.com. Thanks to Rico, who has been hard at work updating and giving it a whole new look. Come and explore to find out about our Club and what we will be up to in the coming months.

Happy Riding! See you all "on the road again", next month.

Hi, AGWA Friends, from New Hampshire!

By Gayle Gurney, NY Chapter

Late July and the month of August have been quite busy for Ric and I. I am reminded daily of how far I've come in the past year. I spent nearly the entire month of July 2014 in Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH, except for two week long stretches in Tufts Medical center in Boston. The last time I saw Dr. Michael Kiernan at Tufts, in early

August 2014, he pointed his finger at me and said "Next time you come here, it'll be for a heart". He was right, of course, as I was called 6 days later.

This year, as I complete my first year of new life, I constantly amaze myself with things I'm now able to do: ride my bicycle, walk a mile without shortness of breath, go grocery shopping without needing an electric cart, to name a few. Progress every day!

For my one year anniversary, which was August 13th, Ric organized a party for me. We decorated with blue and green (the colors of the New England Donor Network) balloons and had brochures available about becoming an organ donor. Have you made the donor pledge? It's easy, and you can do it in most states at the Motor Vehicle Department. There's no charge. There are 6 organs that can be donated as well as 6 tissues including bones, corneas, skin, heart valves, tendons and veins. Your selfless donation can help someone like me enjoy their life, and family, longer.

Most of our neighbors came to the party, as well as Gloria and Ron Mentzer from PA, and Sue and Kent Lundstrom from NY. I believe a good time was had by all. While the Mentzers and the Lundstroms were here, Ric and they enjoyed some rides "in the Whites", including the traditional Kancamagus Highway.

After our guests left, Ric and I had to go to Tufts in Boston, for my first annual "check up". This was a two day battery of testing, and we had to spend the night in a hotel, because it's just too far to go back and forth (110 miles each way). I passed with flying colors, and don't have to go back until Dec. 1st.

Prior to the end of July, we were blessed to have our middle granddaughter Lauren, visit with us. It was really nice to have her here alone, without her little brothers. I think she

enjoyed the break from being the "big sister" too. We delivered her to Kimball Union Academy, in Meriden, NH, on July 16th, where she and her Shelter Island teammates participated in the Nike Green Mountain Running Camp. The entire Shelter Island cross country team attended, coaches included, in partial thanks to the Shelter Island 10K Community Fund. The Shelter Island 10K, held each June, attracts elite runners from around the world. Their main charity is the Special Olympics, but the community benefits from funds raised too. In 1990, my daughter Meredith and I received a "scholarship" from the 10K to attend Tervas 90, an international Scout Jamboree held in Finland. What an opportunity for someone who comes from such a small community!

Right now, nearing the end of August, we are hosting our two other granddaughters, Camryn and Lily. Ric just returned from taking the girls out on Lake Winnepesaukee on his jet ski. The two of them are practicing crocheting and, later this week I will take them "school clothes shopping", as I did with Lauren last month. When we take them home at the end of the month, we'll get to see the two little grandsons, Johnny (age 4) and Kenny (age 13 months). Last summer, I was fearful I would not get to meet Kenny before I passed away, so this is just another treat!

September brings some of the best weather in NH. The Lake is still warm, the country fairs are starting, and the "summer people" have gone back to their cities. Of course, many of them come up on weekends all year round. We're looking forward to enjoying pumpkins, mums, apple picking and "leaf peeping"!

Ride Safely

Current Motorcycling Trends in the U.S.

Written By Chuck Mincks
Iowa State Director
AGWA Safety Director.

Many different indicators from several different sources continue to show that the purchase of, and registration of, motorcycles has climbed significantly in the last decade. Whether you bought your ride to enjoy retirement, for occasional recreation, a mid-life "crisis," to reduce fuel consumption on your daily commute, or any of the myriad of reasons given by riders, you have joined a large niche of the American motoring public. With this passion for riding, many are coming to the realization that there are far more responsibilities for riders than previously imagined. Here are just a few that may be enlightening for you and, if considered appropriately, just may save your life at some future time.

In the U.S. most motorcycles we are considering are called "street legal," and must be registered with their particular state of ownership. With a few exceptions, like mopeds and motorized bicycles, these cycles are required in their own states, and under some federal transportation laws, to adhere to a minimum set of equipment and safety of operation regulations. Numbers of motorcycles purchased and registered has climbed significantly in the last 30 years. Paralleling that fact, and perhaps helping to explain it, is the increase in age of the average cycle rider up through the ages of 50-70 years old. More and more adults are buying cycles than ever before, with an increase in the number of female riders as well. However, the recent federal statistics show that still about 85-90% of owners are male, with those numbers slightly decreasing in

favor of female ownership in the most recent years.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) most recent fatality statistics, dated 2013, show 4,668 motorcyclists lost their lives that year. That is up from 3,714 in 2003 (26% increase), and 2,320 deaths in 1994—a 101% increase over 20 years. Especially alarming, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) shows that the driver death rates for those operating racing style bikes, also called “sport bikes” or “crotch rockets,” are “...nearly 4 times higher...” than all others. With a few exceptions, registered operators of sport bikes tend to be at the lower end of the range of ages recorded. At the same time, the size of sport bike engines and power ratings have generally increased as well. Never has a set of statistics glared as loudly to remind us of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation’s (MSF) credo for “Driving Responsibly.” Fast can be fun, but there is a time and place for it on closed-circuit tracks, while wearing the appropriate safety clothing and equipment, to make it as safe as possible.

Along with the increase in motorcycles owned and registered, there has been a concurrent increase in accidents, property loss and injuries to accompany the rising fatalities. Some of the most repetitive factors present in motorcycle crashes reported by law enforcement, insurance and research agencies are: 1.) intoxicated driver, 2.) speed, 3.) lack of safety equipment (helmets primarily), 4.) failure to negotiate a curve, 5.) operating at night, and 6.) striking a fixed object adjacent to the roadway. In other words, more cyclists are dying as the result of one vehicle crashes (their own errors) than any other. Each and every one of these factors is preventable by riders who sincerely operate as safely and

responsibly as possible. So far, these facts do not appear to apply to the average Gold Wing owner/operator as much as others but we should constantly remind ourselves that we are at the mercy of others operating beside and near us that could unintentionally involve us in their crash(s).

The MSF has long been touting the benefits of proper safety clothing and equipment. What was once recommended for helmets, face coverings including goggles or shields, gloves, boots and jackets, pants or one piece suits, is still highly suggested for those wanting to lessen the likelihood for road rash, and injuries no worse than bumps and bruises from most crashes. Yet, several new “space age” devices have come to be as the result of ever-growing research for the safety-minded cyclist. In addition to the airbag now available on some Gold Wing models, there are several versions of jackets and vests that will inflate upon separation from your bike much like a life preserver for a boater. Safety tethers will activate some type of gas cylinder, in most cases, to inflate and provide more cushioning than mere body armor, and lessen the direct effects of traumatic blows as we fall to the ground or on other objects in the crash. One example is the “Spidi Neck DPS Airbag.” It is a vest worn on the outside of any safety jacket or suit, and when deployed will inflate a safety collar around your neck within 0.02 seconds to minimize neck injuries in crashes. A more extreme example is the recent concept by a Canadian firm called “Safety Sphere.” It is a one piece suit that, when deployed, inflates into something similar to a large “beach ball” to completely surround the user’s body and help protect from traumatic blows during the crash. While perhaps not as comfortable to wear as the lesser

inflatable jackets and vests, it does present an interesting concept that could benefit those involved in future recreational activities along with cycling.

For the alternative riders, several companies are coming out with electric bikes which no longer require the maintenance of a carbon-based fuel engine. One example is Victory's Empulse TT, which can accelerate to 100+ mph, and the battery can recharge in just under 4 hours. While lacking the long distance convenience of a Gold Wing for cross-country trips, these types of bikes may just be the answer for shorter cross-town and to work rides while decreasing the carbon footprint for your own locales. Watch for the technology of these to quickly grow as other companies attempting to enter the market start vying for customers who are performance and ecologically minded. Another interesting development is a cycle with a single rubber track similar to a snow mobile for off road riding. Check out your browser for the "Hyanide" which is a cycle, ATV and snowmobile all in one. The degree of practicality of these tracked vehicles is not high for most Gold Wing owners, but they can have their uses in the right environment. They can be more agile and go in places ATVs do not fit, but are not likely to be as stable on slick surfaces as snowmobiles. Don't expect to see sales of these skyrocket soon, but they open the door for continuing research and testing that may show up on the surfaces of other planets someday while our buddies at NASA and other companies pursue the idea of terra forming. Who knows what is out there for us and our motorcycling friends of the future?

I hope you continue to enjoy the rest of this year's riding season and do so "responsibly." We want to see you in one piece as soon as possible. Here's to safe

riding, fun with our friends and more great memories from traveling on our 2 and 3 wheeled "chrome horses." Above all: drive RESPONSIBLY.

WELCOME

New AGWA Member

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WELCOME

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**Thanks to all who
contributed to this issue of
Wing of the Road.**

**Keep up the good work, I
need articles for the
November/December
issue.**

Directory Change

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Recipes

Rocky Road Chocolate Bars

Dee Marrett
South Carolina

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate pieces
¾ cup evaporated milk
1 cup chopped nuts
2 cups miniature marshmallows
4 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup powdered sugar

Add chocolate to milk in a small saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until chocolate is melted and sauce is smooth. Mix nuts, marshmallows, crumbs and sugar in a large bowl. Pour chocolate over the crumb mixture and mix until all crumbs are moistened. Turn into a well buttered 9 X 9 X 1 ¾ inch square pan. Press down in an even layer. Chill until firm. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired. Cut into bars.

Rocky Road Fudge

Diana Press
New Jersey

1 (350 g.) package semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 (300 ml.) can Eagle Brand condensed milk
2 Tbsp. margarine or butter
2 cups dry roasted peanuts
1 (250 g.) package miniature marshmallows

In a heavy saucepan over low heat melt chocolate chips with Eagle Brand and margarine or butter. Remove from heat.

In large bowl, combine nuts and marshmallows; fold in chocolate mixture. Spread on wax paper lined 13 X 9 inch pan. Chill 2 hours or until firm. Remove from pan, peel off wax paper, cut into squares, cover and store at room temperature.

Tip: If desired, mixture can be dropped from teaspoon onto wax paper lined baking sheet(makes about 40 squares.

Sour Cream Icing

Jo Hitch
East Tennessee Wings

1 cup sugar
1 small container sour cream
2 packages frozen coconut*
1 medium container Cool Whip

*Be sure you use frozen coconut

Mix first three ingredients: let stand minimum of 3 hours. Better if it stands overnight. Add Cool Whip.

Makes enough for 2 round 8-inch cakes. Depending on how thick you want the icing, you can ice 2 cakes of any size.