



The Blue Ridge Rambler

Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge – CHAPTER SC - T, GREER SC

A Duly Chartered Chapter of GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION, Region A, SC District

Note From The Director



I would first like to thank everyone for their support of Beth & I as we take on the responsibilities of Chapter Directors for Chapter T. Beth & I have been members of GWRRA and Chapter T for a year now and are

honored to have been chosen for this position. We look forward to the fun and challenges ahead of us.

We have found a great home with everyone in Chapter T and look forward to growing and enhancing our relationship with all of you. One of our goals for 2009 is Strong Participation. We have a great group of people in Chapter T and we look to increase our participation in events, rides, visitation and support of our fellow members in the other Chapters of South Carolina and GWRRA altogether.

Wayne and Angel did an outstanding job in their three years as Directors and Beth & I are committed to continuing the hard work they have established. We extend an “open door” policy to everyone and anyone who would like to discuss ideas and improvements on how to excel Chapter T to the top of South Carolina Region A and GWRRA country wide.

Thank you again for your trust and support and we look forward to a great year.

Curt & Beth Maras
Chapter Directors; SC-T
Greer, South Carolina

January, 2009

- Chapter Directors
Curt & Beth Maras • 864-275-2480
Asst. Chapter Director
none
- Chapter Educators
Ward & Phyllis Cossano • 864-489-3575
- 2008-09 Chapter Couple of the Year
Randy & Kathy Phoenix • 864-292-6563
- Treasurer
Wayne Cossano • 864-237-2940
- Ride Coordinators
Randy & Kathy Phoenix • 864-292-6563
- Secretary
Kathy Phoenix • 864-292-6563
- Sunshine Person
Kathy Phoenix • 864-292-6563
- Chapter Couple of the Year Coordinators
Malcolm & Lavona Wilborn
- Newsletter Editor
Angel Cossano • 864-529-5356
- Scrapbook / Historian
Pat MacGregor • 864-469-0349
- Web Masters
Carlos & Dee Lozano • 864-884-2217

- SC District Directors
Carl & Donna Blackston
Region A Directors
Bob & Nancy Shrader
Executive Director
Melissa Eason
(Other District Staff Officers listed on Page 14)

Newsletter Contents

Note From The Director.....	1
Note From The Educator.....	2-3
2008 Christmas Party.....	4-5
New Years Day Ride.....	6-7
January Dinner/Day Ride.....	7
January Meeting Fun.....	8
Awards & Prizes.....	9
2009 Staff Photos.....	10
Misc. Information.....	11
Calendar of Events.....	12
Editor Note/Tips/Humor.....	13
Visitors/Rally Info/Dist. Staff/Sponsor Ads.....	14

Next Chapter SC-T Meeting

Saturday, February 7th, 2009 at Denny's
on Wade Hampton Blvd. in Taylors, SC
6:00 pm to eat – 7:00 pm to meet



Note From The Rider Educator



Extend your riding season: Cold weather strategies - By Bill Andrews

Old man winter lets loose a final blast to knock that last orange leaf to the ground. For some, it's time to roll the two-wheeled companion into a corner of the garage, throw the battery on a trickle charger, and hope for an early spring. For others, there is no end to the riding season, just a change in riding gear.

No, we're not talking about those who live in perpetual sunshine and warmth, but rather, folks who don't let cold weather deprive them of their favorite form of transportation. With a little knowledge and a few cold weather tricks, your riding season can be extended.

Here are some strategies for dealing with the worst winter has to offer:

ICE

Black ice — really just an ominous name for hard-to-see frozen water on the road — can occur any time the temperature has been near the freezing point, or where frost can form. Some touring bikes have an air-temperature thermometer, but adding one to any bike is a cheap fix.

Bridges are susceptible to icing because they are disconnected from the warmth of the Earth and cool faster when air temperatures drop. Watch for spots on the road that are shaded from the sun. Well-traveled roads are often better, because passing traffic melts and dries the moisture.

If you do feel like you're on an icy patch, don't make any sudden moves, and don't touch the brakes. Pull in the clutch and let the bike coast until you're clear.

HYPOTHERMIA

That cold shiver up your spine isn't just uncomfortable. It could also be a warning.

Hypothermia occurs when your core body temperature drops significantly, and it can be deadly.

Temperatures don't need to be below freezing to induce hypothermia. Wind chill gets worse as wind speeds increase, and the longer you're out, the worse it gets.

One early sign of potential hypothermia occurs when you start feeling cold and you can't decide if you should pull over or not. The answer is always yes, but your judgment may be clouded. Long before this point occurs, you should have pulled into that nice warm cafe and had some hot chocolate or soup.

Uncontrolled shivering and chattering teeth are signs of real danger. You may start to feel dizzy, or even drunk, as your muscles begin to stiffen. Continued exposure may cause the shivering to slow down or even stop, but by then you're in serious trouble.

THE WELL-DRESSED RIDER

How do you mitigate the dangers of cold weather? First of all, cover up.

It all boils down to insulating your body. To do that, you need to layer.

Synthetics work better for your inner layer than cotton, which holds moisture against your skin. On top of that, wear fleece, wool, or other layers that provide insulation. The idea is to let your body create a warm pocket of air between you and the environment.

Finally, you need to stop the environment from stealing your warm air. Your outer layer needs to block the wind. Leather works; denim, for example, doesn't. These days, we also have a broad array of choices in nylon gear made specifically for motorcycling that provides versatile weather protection with vents, removable liners, waterproof membranes, adjustable fit, etc. If you choose outerwear that isn't waterproof, such as a leather jacket, be sure to carry a rain suit that fits over it. Getting wet robs you of your insulation.

Whichever outer layer you choose, remember that it should provide crash protection, too. Buy gear made for

(continued on page 3)



motorcycling, not the fashion show. Hands can be particularly vulnerable to the cold. Gauntlet-style gloves will help you seal the gap between gloves and jacket. Gloves with a breathable, waterproof liner will keep rain out while allowing moisture from perspiration to escape.

It may be obvious, but a full-face helmet will keep you warmer than no helmet, or an open-face helmet. Sealing the area around your neck with a bandanna, or better yet a fleece or wind- and waterproof neck warmer, can make a dramatic difference. A balaclava under the helmet provides a lot of additional comfort for minimal bulk.

WHAT ABOUT THE BIKE?

No matter how well you're dressed, cold air has a way of sneaking in and robbing heat. The longer you're on the road, the worse it gets. Your front line in the defense against cold is to block the wind.

A windshield or fairing is a good front-line defense. Mounting a small windshield on your handlebars, if your bike doesn't have one, can be enough to divert the wind off your chest and help keep your upper-body vital organs warm.

GOING ELECTRIC

No matter how well you dress, if you're on the road long enough, you'll lose more heat than your body can generate. Long riders resort to electrical assistance.

Heated clothing, which uses your bike's electrical system to power heating elements, makes a huge difference by not just insulating you, but adding heat to the whole equation.

Gloves start around \$100. Vests, depending on the style, can go from \$100 to \$200. Socks can range from simple D-cell powered items that sell for around \$25, to \$90 systems that hook into the rest of your electric riding gear.

Make sure your charging system can handle the load. Find out the output of your charging system, add up the draw from all your electrical gear, and make sure you're not draining your battery. Also, leave a margin of error, because your bike's output may be measured at cruising rpms and it may produce considerably less electrical power at idle.

For many riders, a vest alone is enough. If you keep your torso warm, your body will focus on pumping warm blood to your extremities. If your torso gets cold, your body will abandon the extremities to try to keep the vital organs warm, and that's when you can suffer from dangerously numb hands or, possibly, frostbitten toes.

CHEMICAL OPTIONS

Another option is a lightweight, disposable heat pack, which offers a different kind of protection.

Imagine you're out for a ride on a nice fall day. You're so consumed with the changing leaves that you don't notice how far you've ridden. It's getting dark and cold — fast. A bit of quick heat can make all the difference. An outdoor gear store, or even one of the big-box retailers that sell recreational goods, will have chemical packs of the type hunters' use. Be careful, because some can produce up to 150 degrees, so don't put them next to bare skin.

KEEP HYDRATED

One last thing to think about — that you might not think about: Drink lots of liquids. Dehydration may be foremost in your mind in the hot months, but you still lose moisture in winter. Cold, dry winter air can suck moisture out of you and you may not notice that you're perspiring.

The more you know the better (and Safer) it gets.



Merry Time for All

by Peggy Casciere

Our annual chapter Christmas party was held once again at the Episcopal Church in Greer. What a great place to gather. The festivities started around 4:00, and we were eating around 5:30. Many thanks to our cooks – Lavona, Pat, and Angel for preparing the chapter ham and turkeys. .. they were wonderful! Members also contributed to the meal by preparing side dishes that were too many to name. I don't believe anyone went home hungry.

The charming snowmen adorned the hall, and laughter filled the room when the Christmas exchange began. This year seemed to be pretty tame on the sealing of gifts from each other... until the end, when in a flash Angel and Wayne spoiled our plans of robbing Angel of her snowman. This quickly was followed by the same maneuver by Theresa and Adrian. We never saw it coming...and both of their precious snow people were saved ... But wait until NEXT YEAR!!! We will be ready for you. Ha!

I believe all that attended had a great time, and the ones that could not join us were missed. This time of year we should all count our blessing for our fellow chapter family members who we so love.

Merry Christmas!



(photos continued on page 5)





A Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



New Year's Day Ride

By Becky Lees



January 1st, 2009 started out cold and gray. 5 brave lads and 2 lassies dared to ride this cold day. Curt Maras, Wayne Cossano, Pat Toth, Butch & Pat MacGregor and Ron & Becky Lees chose to ride their Wings. Beth Maras and Tony followed along in the warmth of the car.

We passed Butch and Pat on Tigerville Rd on our way to Spinx. We pulled into Spinx and gassed up the bike. Curt was at Dunkin Donuts having a light snack before riding out. Wayne rode in next making the statement that he was cold. Few minutes later Pat arrived. We left Spinx on highway 25 with Ron in the lead, taking us down Tigerville road to highway 253 to highway 414 out to highway 11. The temperature at time of departure was 36 degrees. A bit chilly.

Our destination was Highway 11 restaurant. It s been a while since Ron and I had eaten there and we were looking forward to our usual meal. Everyone kept looking for the restaurant as we went along Highway 11, not realizing the name of the restaurant was actually Highway 11. I guess we had a few first timers.

We arrived shortly after 12 and were seated together. We reviewed the menu and placed our order. Pat decided to try one of the specials...a bbq bacon cheeseburger with onion, this was one colossal burger (see picture). Wonder how she got that down? Anita Green came in not long after we placed our order. We made room and that brought our group total to 10.

After our scrumptious meal and lots of chatter it was time to load up and head home. Wayne and Pat decided to go back by I-85. That left Curt, Butch & Pat and

(continued on page 7)



us to make our way back down Highway 11. We turned onto Highway 414 and Curt split off from there.

Butch and Pat being new to the area had not seen the Covered Bridge, so we made a slight detour. Upon arrival we were the only ones and within minutes 4 other vehicles showed up and you know how crowded it can get due to the limited amount of parking. We walked around, took pictures and got back on the bikes to head home. It had warmed up to a cool 41 degrees by this time.

We split off from Butch and Pat not far from their house and headed for ours. It was sunny but cool for the first day of the New Year. But I can't think of a better way to start the New Year than riding our bike, having a good meal and enjoying time with our GWRRA family.



JANUARY DINNER AND DAY RIDE

Please try to join other chapter members on our future Day Rides and Dinner Rides. You are sure to have fun and great fellowship. Make sure and watch your email for upcoming events and join in every chance you get. Our next Dinner Ride will be hosted by Curt & Beth Maras at Logan's at Pelham & I-85 (53 Beacon Dr.) in Greenville on Thursday, January, 22nd @ 7:00. Randy has scheduled a Day Ride around Southern Greenville County and possibly into Anderson on Saturday, January, 24th. We will meet at Palms on Wade Hampton in Taylors and pull out around 10:30. Randy will send out another email mid week with more details. Come out and join in...the more the merrier and you could experience the ride, dinner, friendship and laughter of a life time!

RIDE SAFE AND KEEP WARM!

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE



January Meeting Fun



AWARDS & PRIZES



Wayne and Angel Cossano receive a plaque for 3 years as Chapter T Directors. Best wishes to Curt & Beth Maras!



Becky Lees receives a certificate of appreciation for 3 years as Sunshine Person. Keep us smiling Becky!



Peggy Casciere receives a certificate of appreciation for 4 years as Chapter T Treasurer. Thanks for all your hard work Peggy!



Becky Lees wins the free meal from Denny's for Participation Award... way to go Becky!



Ron Lees wins his share of the 50/25/25 drawing...some couple's have all the luck!



Randy Phoenix also wins his share of the 50/25/25 drawing...share the wealth Randy!



Pat MacGregor wins the Terrific Tiger award for the wonderful turkeys she cooked for the Christmas Party... Yummy in our tummies!



Wayne Cossano keeps his streak going and wins the Skunk award again for not having Curt prepared? Curt... you did a good job!



Jerry & Teresa Hill from Chapter E won the project gift of gift cards to Logan's, DQ, Blockbuster and other goodies donated by Curt & Beth Maras, raising \$60 for PBTF.





SC Chapter-T Directors
Curt and Beth Maras



SC Chapter-T Assistant Director
To be determined



SC Chapter-T Educators
Ward and Phyllis Cossano



2008-09 SC Chapter-T COY
Randy and Kathy Phoenix



SC Chapter-T Treasurer
Wayne Cossano



SC Chapter-T Ride Coordinators
Randy & Kathy Phoenix



SC Chapter-T Secretary
Kathy Phoenix



SC Chapter-T Sunshine Person
Kathy Phoenix



SC Chapter-T COY Coordinators
Malcolm and Lavona Wilborn



SC Chapter-T Newsletter Editor
Angel Cossano



SC Chapter-T Scrapbook/Historian
Pat MacGregor



SC Chapter-T Web Master
Carlos & Dee Lozano



CHAPTER PRIDE

Pam Jordan's member number was selected at the January meeting, but Pam was not present, so the award is up to \$15.00 at next months meeting. Be sure to join us and show your Chapter Pride!

Birthdays

January

Larry Casciere.....19
 Malcolm Wilborn.....20
 Dee Lozano.....25

February

Peggy Casciere.....1
 Kitty Toth.....14
 Jim Lee.....15
 Carol Richardson.....21
 Cynthia Knight.....28

Anniversaries

January None

February

Pat & Kitty Toth.....6

Project Gift Sign-up

January.....Curt & Beth Maras
 February.....Carol Richardson
 March.....Butch & Pat MacGregor
 April.....Larry & Peggy Casciere
 May.....NO MEETING
 June.....Randy & Kathy Phoenix
 July.....Ron & Becky Lees
 August.....Jim Weaver
 September.....OPEN
 October.....OPEN
 November.....OPEN
 December.....NO MEETING
 January 2010.....OPEN

Dinner Ride Sign-up

January.....Curt & Beth Maras
 February.....Carol Richardson
 March.....OPEN
 April.....Larry & Peggy Casciere
 May.....Randy & Kathy Phoenix
 June.....Butch & Pat MacGregor
 July.....Ron & Becky Lees
 August.....Jim Weaver
 September.....OPEN
 October.....OPEN
 November.....OPEN
 January 2010.....OPEN

We have lots of OPEN months for the Project Gift and Dinner Rides... please see Curt or Beth to sign-up.

Prayer Requests

Joe & Terry Windsor

Charlotte (Peg) Longhurst
 Friend of Kathy and Randy Phoenix
 She is in St. Francis Hospital with pneumonia

Children & Adolescents facing peer pressure



JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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18	19 ML King Day	20	21	22 SC-T Dinner Ride Logan's-Pelham & I-85 7:00 pm	23	24 SC-T Day Ride Southern Greenville Palms-Wade Hampton in Taylors 10:30 am																																																																																											
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FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7 Plaque Attack - SC-J Myrtle Beach, SC Eat-12:00, Meet 1:00 SC-T - Eat 6-Meet 7																																																																																				
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Note From The Editor



Hello everyone! I would like to thank the following people for contributing photos, articles, tips, ideas, time, etc. to this month's newsletter...Curt & Beth Maras, Ward & Phyllis Cossano, Peggy Casciere, Becky Lees, Lavona Willborn, Carlos & Dee Lozano, Kathy & Randy Phoenix and Wayne Cossano. Please keep sending your articles, photos, tips and any other ideas you may have for the newsletter. Without you all, this newsletter would not be possible. Thanks to you all! Happy reading and safe riding! KEEP WARM!

Angel Cossano
Chapter-T Newsletter Editor

The Flies

A farmer got pulled over by a state trooper for speeding, and the trooper started to lecture the farmer about his speed, and in general began to throw his weight around to try to make the farmer uncomfortable.

Finally, the trooper got around to writing out the ticket, and as he was doing that he kept swatting at some flies that were buzzing around his head.

The farmer said, "Having some problems with circle flies there, are ya?" The trooper stopped writing the ticket and said - "Well yeah, if that's what they are, I never heard of circle flies".

So the farmer says- "Well, circle flies are common on farms. See, they're called circle flies because they're almost always found circling around the back end of a horse."

The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Then after a minute he stops and says, "Hey---wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horses butt?"

The farmer says, "Oh no, officer. I have too much respect for law enforcement and police officers to even think about calling you a horses butt." The Trooper says, "Well, that's a good thing," and goes back to writing the ticket.

After a long pause, the farmer says, "Hard to fool them flies though."



Coffee filters ..who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree for almost nothing.

COFFEE FILTERS: Not just for making coffee....

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
2. Clean windows and mirrors. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
3. Protect China. Separate your good dishes by putting a coffee filter between each dish.
4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
5. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
6. Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
8. Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.
9. Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
10. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
11. Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
12. Do you think we used expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.
13. Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc on them. Soaks out all the grease.
14. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."

Submitted by Kathy Phoenix



Special Visitors



JERRY AND TERESA HILL FROM CHAPTER E JOINED OUR JANUARY MEETING. THANKS FOR VISITING AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU GUYS COME JOIN AGAIN SOON!

SC District Rally

April 30 - May 2, 2009

Myrtle Beach, SC

For more info, visit the following website:

<http://gwrrasc.org/>

Region A Rally

September 10-11-12, 2009

Dothan, AL

For more info, visit the following website:

<http://www.gwrra-regiona.org/>

Wing Ding

July 2-5, 2009

Tulsa, OK

For more info, visit the following website:

<http://www.gwrra.org/>

District Staff Officers

District Directors - Carl & Donna Blackston Assistant District Directors - Buddy & Kim Summer

Assistant District Directors - Doug & Faye Skipper District Trainers - Larry & Mary Rosselot

District Educator - Don Blevins Assistant District Educators - Jesse & Sue Sammons

District Member Coordinators - Charles & Kathy Coleman District Treasurer - Ronald Russell

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The Blue Ridge Rambler

January, 2009 • Page 14

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