

GWRRA Chapter

WA-V

March 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTORS:



April! Where is spring?

However, you cannot keep a true Goldwinger down with a little confused weather. We joined several members from Chapter 'Y' and headed to the 'Spring Fling Ride' in Everett. Rain or shine, this is a truly fun ride, for sure.

Now is the time to begin concentrating on the South Hill Mall Show in May the emphasis this year is on making the cyclist safer from others who share the roadway with us. Also, to get the word out that motorcycle riders, are not 'mobsters'. It is also important that we concentrate on the staffing for the Federal Way Rest Area from Easter Sunday to the Wednesday following.

It looks like many of our chapter members are returning from Arizona, and other points south. We welcome all back to our meeting, the first Thursday of the month at the Auburn Eagles. We also welcome Joe & Patti Diambri to chapter 'V'. We are glad you have joined with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry L. & Maxine Alexander

FROM ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTORS:



Well, riding season is upon us. And it sure would be nice to not get wet when I ride. I for one am getting tired of the rainy season. I want sun shine and warmth.

We have a lot of activities coming up. It would be hard to not be involved in something that the chapter as a whole has gotten set up for us. We have the rest area, rides that Jim has set up and the mall show next month and more rides.

Next month of course is the Mall Show and more rides. Get involved with your chapter and remember to have fun. Maybe, just maybe, we might see an elusive creature that hibernates in Arizona and comes back to the NW in the spring. Welcome back!

Dennis

FROM HONORARY ASSISTANCE CHAPTER DIRECTOR:



Hi everyone! It was a tough month for March this year. Little time for riding bikes, mostly covered wagon weather and right at the end of March we nearly got flooded out, and April isn't starting out any better. BUT if you start thinking positive the rest of April is bound to be better and with the rides Jim is coming up with you gotta THINK POSITIVE!!

Our maintenance/social work shop this last month had a decent crowd and for those of you that missed it, you lost out on a BIG feed at lunch time. To say nothing about your missing the chance to changing the fluids that should be changed in the spring. You might get by without changing the

antifreeze, but as you all know the brake fluid is a different story. It will absorb moisture just sitting there in your garage.

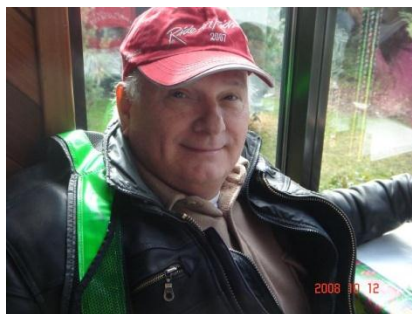
When was the last time you checked the color of your brake and clutch fluid. The clutch is a more critical, its mounted on the rear of the engine which generates a lot of heat, and the moisture in your fluid can boil and that could cause your clutch to fail. Just ask Garry, he can tell you all about it. A couple of years ago, on a hot summer day in heavy traffic his clutch gave out and he had to set on the side of the freeway for almost a hour waiting for everything to cool down before his clutch became active again. Lucky no state patrol came along, they might have wanted Garry to call a tow truck.

Something to think about! Maybe we ought to have a maintenance shop in the fall. winterizing so to speak for those of you that don't ride in cold and rainy weather. To say the least its a good time for a chapter social.

Ride with care

Ken/Marion

FROM THE CHAPTER EDUCATOR:



Just a few notes for this riding season. One of the things we should be pulling out of our bikes and checking over is the often forgotten first aid kit. We should be checking the band aid supply to make sure that they are not dried out. Check the supply of first aid cream. Remember, these kits most times are stored in the saddle bags right over our hot mufflers.

Did you know that out of all riders that think they are safe riders, only 33% are. That number increases to 67% when the people make a commitment to riding safely by enrolling in Level I of the rider education program. And, it increases even more as they continue to Levels II, III, and IV and improve their awareness and skills.

Credit: Richard Olszewski, Rider Educator Chapter M Yakima

Sincerely,

GWRRRA Chapter Educator –

JOHN E. DOUGHTY

FROM THE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EDITORS



Thirty-one days ago I said something about the windy month of March, well I don't remember too much wind but it sure did rain. And April has started out much the same. The rain keeps most of us indoors, keeping us nice and dry. You know, that is a good chance for you-all to sit down at your table or desk and write a little story. Maybe there is something you'd like a little help with but don't know who to ask, write a short note and put in our newsletter. You'll get a response from someone.

You know that this newsletter is yours as well as every member of the chapter and not just the officers. So why is it that only the officers are writing articles. Come-on people, I know your not bashful and if your reading this I know that you have a computer. The computer makes it so easy to type a letter, even if you use just one finger.

Just remember to send your articles to hart96@comcast.net on or before the second Saturday of the month.

Keep the articles coming

Ken/Marion

FROM THE CHAPTER SECRETAY



Chapter "V" April 7th Gathering Minutes

Chapter "V" held the April gathering at the Auburn Eagles.

Garry Alexander, Chapter Director and his Assistants and staff held our April Gathering at the Eagles in Auburn. Special guests include Dean Kalles, Chapter WA "Q" and visitors Joe and Patti

Diembri.

Upcoming events include Chapter "C" Spring Fling Run, Chapter "N" Brown Bag Auction, and our own Chapter "V" Federal Way Rest Area. Members are requested to sign up for a shift at the rest stop if possible.

Chapter "V" Ride Coordinator, Jim Johnson, has rides scheduled for April 16th and April 23rd. Watch for an e-mail with details.

Chapter Educator, John Doughty, reminded everyone of the importance of keeping the proper air pressure in our tires. GWRRA safety levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 need to be continually kept up to date by taking the proper safety and CPR and First Aid classes. If interested in helping with the Special Olympics' at Fort Lewis this year the date is June 4th. Contact John Doughty for more information.

The South Hill Mall Show is May 20th - 23rd. We will be having a planning meeting before the end of April. Please watch for an email with the details.

Jan Ljunggren=

FROM THE CHAPTER COUPLE OF THE YEAR:



We thought that with the onset of a calendar spring day we would be past the days of cold temperatures and white stuff on the ground. Especially at the elevations we live in. But, no sir, Mother Nature has a bad day too and some

of us can make snowballs while others just wait for the frost to melt away.

We did have a break in the weather so we could take our bikes out and do the annual maintenance routine. Thanks to Ken and Marion Harter we had a building large enough to accommodate quite a few bikes at one time and all the tools one would need. Oil and brake fluids were changed and coolant was checked. We even installed a trailer hitch on one bike. Time went by fast and soon the lunch bell rang and we did a maintenance on our bodies as well.

Now that the bike is ready for traveling I am waiting for the days when I can look outside and not be greeted with rain. We have plans for an extended trip with our toy-hauler starting in May. Which means the bike will be loaded up and we will be able to use it as we stop for several days along the way. Sharon found a book titled "1,000 Places To See Before You Die" that we still have about 990 more to go. Of course we will have our Gold Book with us and might even have an opportunity to join a chapter in another state for their meeting or other function. We will have our "Passport" book with us and I would like to have more entries added to it. Always wanting a reason to ride and meet old friends and make new ones.

Our chapter has several rides scheduled for this year and I know we can't attend them all, but looking forward to enjoying the time spent with others when we can. I hope you are included in that group.

Ride with a smile, but the face shield down.

Vic & Sharon

FROM THE CHAPTER TECHNICAL ADVISOR:



If you don't get Motorcycle Consumer News then I would suggest that you get a subscription. It is a well thought out publication that is not ad driven. They are unbiased and if you order online it is only \$22.00 a year. This is where I found the article on a new battery that you might be interested in. And looking online I found them for half price. It's worth a look. shoraibattery.com

NOT A NEW technology, but new to motorcycling, lithium iron (LiFeP04) batteries are now available for motorcycles from Shorai in two case sizes ranging from 7 to 18 Amp/hour lead/acid equivalents Plus, Shorai promises a third size that will offer 24, 27, and 36Ah equivalents in April 2011.

Unlike other lithium cells, Shorai uses iron instead of cobalt, manganese, or nickel for the cathodes, so the LFX isn't subject to many of the same problems that plague the familiar rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. Among the claims: greater tolerance for heat and cold, a lower self-discharge rate(so the LFX battery can hold its charge for up to a year without any maintenance); a. faster recharge, no explosive gasses are produced during charging and it won't sulfate like lead/acid batteries.

But perhaps the biggest advantage for motorcyclists is its much lighter weight. For instance, the Shorai in my Gold Wing weighs under 2lbs. compared to over 15 lbs. for the stock lead/acid battery. And when a battery is mounted high (the F800GS/650GS BMW twins are a prime example) this can noticeably reduce the bike's CofG. And since the battery contains no liquids, it doesn't degrade with vibration, and it can be mounted in virtually any position.

Unlike other lithium batteries that use cylindrical cells, the LFX uses prismatic cells, which Shorai says provide both better current and voltage characteristics, and they are encased in a carbon composite shell for the lightest weight.

Shorai claims that under normal use, their batteries will last twice as long as a lead acid battery, which, if true, helps offset their higher cost (\$186.95 MSRP for the 18Ah). The only caution is not to use chargers with an automatic desulfation mode (a high voltage pulse), and Shorai lists approved chargers on its website.

I have been testing Shorai's 18 Ah equivalents in both a 2010 Concours and a 2009 Gold Wing for the past few months. The Concours stock battery was a 14Ah, so the Shorai 18 was a significant upgrade, while the Shorai LFX18 was a slight downgrade in capacity on the Gold Wing, which uses a 20Ah stock.

Due to its smaller size, Shorai provides foam shims to fill the unused battery box space so it can be properly secured. And the Shorai terminals are also lighter, so be careful not to over-tighten the bolts.

Observations: In the Concours, the Shorai provides improved cranking speeds and faster starting, while the Gold Wing cranks over slightly faster despite the OE battery's higher rated capacity. Both bikes have been used normally, and neither has been charged when parked. Resting voltage floats at around 13.4V.

Because lithium batteries tend to create a crystalline layer on the anodes at rest, increasing internal resistance and causing a drop in output, first drawing current from them will break down this layer. In colder temps, it can take longer to break it down, so this was tested during cold spells when each bike was cranked over without starting in 40° temperatures at least a couple dozen times. At no time did the Concours battery show any signs of weakness, although it didn't crank quite as fast as it did when warm. The battery in the Gold Wing had a little more difficulty, and on the first attempt, it would crank it over pretty slowly, though it did start the bike. Subsequent attempts got progressively better as some current was drawn from the battery, heating it up. Shorai says to let the headlights run for 5-8 seconds before starting in cold weather, and doing this did, indeed, make it crank faster. At any temp above about 30°, this was not necessary, and most folks won't be riding in such cold anyway, but you should be aware of it.

All in all, the Shorai LFX series batteries appear to be an excellent OE replacement that offers significant advantages over a lead/acid battery. While initially more expensive, the promised increased life-span should make up for the increased costs, and the two-year warranty is icing on the cake. Note: Shorai batteries are made primarily from Japanese components and assembled in China with final inspection, testing and charging in California before distribution.

Credit:-Fred Harmon Motorcycle Consumer News

Dennis

RECIPE CORNER:

Butterless Oatmeal, Raisin and Pecan Cookies;

You can forgive yourself if you have a few of these Butterless Oatmeal, Raisin and Pecan Cookies. The recipe uses more healthful ingredients.

**Yield: 48 cookies. Start to finish: 15 minutes
preparation, 12 minutes to bake, 10 minutes
to cool**

2ripe (medium) bananas

1 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 egg whites

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup whole-wheat flour

1/2 sup ground flaxseed meal

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 1/2 cups old-fashioned oats (see Cook's note)

1/2 cup raisins

1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

Cook's note: Use uncooked old-fashioned oats, also called rolled oats.

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Place the bananas and both sugars into the large bowl of an electric mixer, and cream together on medium high. Add the egg whites and vanilla extract. blend well.

In a medium bowl, combine the flours, flaxseed, backing soda, cinnamon and salt, and whisk to blend well. Add the flour mixture to the banana mixture, folding to incorporate.

Gently stir in the oats, raisins and pecans. Drop by rounded table-spoonsful onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake 12 minutes or untill the cookies just begin to brown. Let the cookies cool until they can be removed to the cooling racks. Cool at least 10 minutes or until room temperature. Store in cookie tins or other airtight containers for up to one week.

CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS:



Charles Carroll

Joe Johnson

J D Miller

Ed Miller

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES



Jim & Ruth Johnson

Ed & JoAnn Miller

John & Neene Stoner

Vic & Sharon Parr

Did You Know

State Flower

Coast Rhododendron

In 1892, before they had the right to vote, Washington women selected the coast rhododendron as the state flower. They wanted an official flower to enter in a floral exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Six flowers were considered, but the final decision was narrowed to clover and the "rhodium," and voting booths were set up for ladies throughout the state. When the ballots were counted, the rhododendron had been chosen as the Washington state flower. In 1959, the Legislature designated the native species, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, as the official flower of the state of Washington.

