“Wings Of The North”
Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Chapter Y Michigan
Chapter of the Year 2009
Houghton Lake, Michigan

JUNE 2020
CHAPTER Y STAFF

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Asst. District Directors
Phil and Char Smock

MI District Couple of the Year
Dave and Carolyn Fraser

MI Individual of the Year
Dale Duncan
Hello Gold Wingers,

Things are finally looking up. I see a few chapters are taking bike rides. The weather is getting nice where we can finally ride. The restaurants are opening up for inside dining. On June 9th at 10am, we will have our first gathering of the year at Fred’s. They have asked that we give a head count, so please call us at 989-329-7533. This way they can set up the seating for safety. Please wear your mask and be safe. Dan and I are so anxious to see everyone. After our gathering, please support Fred’s by ordering lunch. Our local restaurants need to get back on their feet. The month of June we will be doing lunches in Houghton Lake. Remember, the Governor opened section 8 and 6 at this time only, so not all restaurants are open to the South. Also, Chapter-V is still having their “Biker Bash” campout June 12 and 13 at St. Louis Campground 8489 N. Bagley Rd. St. Louis, Mich. 48880 989-681-2581. Call and make your reservations- campground rates are $20.00 a night. It will be different, this campout you will have to provide your own food. We will have day rides, campfires and jokes. How nice to be able to see other chapters. We know this virus is not over and may be here for a long time, but we can’t live in a bubble, and stay at home forever. We can go out wear our mask and be safe. We will bring the Rainbow Connection Tickets June 9th, PLEASE help us with them take some to sell to your family and friends. You could buy a few more than you normally do. Please-we need the help! Also, there was a memorial set up June 27 for Leo, but that has been canceled until further notice. Hope you have those bikes ready-it’s time to ride! Bring your ideas to the gathering we will be glad to ride anywhere.

Hope to see you all June 9th at Fred’s.

Happy Father’s Day to All,

Dan and Loraine
Let’s Ride,
Enjoying the fresh air and sunshine is really important during stressful times. Waving at all those other motorcycles on the road makes you feel so much better about life and your hobby! Just to keep us on our toes, here is a great article filled with reminders about safety.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, so we’ve assembled a range of tips to increase your awareness of what you can do to share the road with other road users safely.

**Ride Like a Pro**
1. Take a skills refresher course with a professional organization. Off-road courses are ideal for teaching road riders how to deal with the unexpected on the road—like obstacles or loss of traction. Pro-riding courses teach valuable defensive riding skills and increase your proficiency.
2. Ride defensively and confidently, not timidly or fearfully. Anticipate what other road users are going to do and be prepared to react appropriately.
3. Practice. Head to a vacant parking lot and practice slow speed and emergency maneuvers.
4. Ride within your skill level. Most of us don’t have the skills or ability to tap into the full power of our bike. Proficiency and muscle memory take practice and saddle time to develop.
5. Ride smoothly. You can react a lot more quickly than any vehicle out there, but that doesn’t mean you have to turn, cut in and out, and make quick moves that startle others.
6. Scan your environment. Mirrors don’t tell the whole story, though, so do a visual scan as well.

**Ride Responsibly**
7. Ride within the speed limit. If you feel the need for speed, take it to a track.
8. Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. Motorcycles require less stopping distance than other vehicles, but allow enough distance in front of you for the vehicle behind you to stop, especially if it’s a loaded truck!
9. Slow down in inclement weather. You may have the skills to ride safely but consider that you’re sharing the road with others who may not have the same degree of proficiency, or attentiveness. You’re also less visible in rain or fog.
10. Know and follow the rules of the road. They apply to everyone. Other drivers anticipate that you’re going to follow the them and make their decisions accordingly.
11. Move away from poorly secured loads. It’s better to be in front of them than risk having an object hit you or a mattress land on the road in front of you.
12. Ride sober.
13. Ride unimpaired. Illness, stress, and medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, can weaken your ability to operate your motorcycle safely. If you’re taking prescription meds, ask your doctor or pharmacist about the drug’s effect on you, and the potential effects of combining it with other meds or alcohol.
14. Maintain a clear line of sight. When this is challenged, such as in traffic, increase your following distance.
15. Conduct traffic checks by scanning your environment while waiting at an intersection or traffic light. Proceed only when it’s safe.
16. Assume the proper blocking position at a stop, including optional angled position for right
17. Ride in the correct tire track. This will change depending on the circumstances and the number of lanes of traffic, but is never in the middle of the lane. Generally, on a two-lane road, ride in the left tire track.

18. Maintain an appropriate gap between you and the vehicle ahead of you when stopped. It gives you room to maneuver if your environmental scan alerts you to danger.

**Reduce Distractions**
19. Use intercoms only as needed and keep your chatting to an as-needed basis only.
20. Keep audio chatter to a minimum. That includes listening to music, chatting with friends or your passenger on your intercom. There are enough competing inputs without adding to what your brain already has to process.

**Increase your Visibility**
21. Make yourself visible with high-visibility reflective gear, especially on your upper body, where it’s more likely to catch the attention of drivers.
22. Apply reflective strips to your bike.
23. Use hand signals in addition to turn signals. That movement may be what gets noticed.
24. Add accessories to your motorcycle that make you more noticeable, like a high-decibel horn and accessory lights. Just don’t blind oncoming traffic.
25. Check blind spots before moving away, when coming to a stop, and before making a lane change. Motorcycle training programs teach riders to check (blind spot), signal, check, before making a lane change.
26. Refrain from riding in another driver’s blind spots.
27. Tap your brake light when decelerating. It alerts other drivers to your change in speed.

**Dress Like a Pro**
28. Wear appropriate gear. Fatigue, heat, and cold impair judgment and your ability to react. Dress for the ride and the weather, and be prepared to adapt to changing situations.
29. Wear proper fitting gear, done up properly. It’s better for gear to be snug rather than flapping in the breeze. In the case of a mishap, snug-fitting gear better protects you from abrasion and holds armour in place.

**Be a Leader**
30. Choose your riding partners wisely. Riding as part of a group—two or more riders—carries its own etiquette and responsibilities. It’s wisest to accumulate skills before riding with others.
31. Don’t give in to peer pressure to ride beyond your skill or comfort level.
32. Be courteous to other drivers. When they see you driving responsibly, they’re more likely to do the same.
33. Keep your cool. Getting angry and into a confrontation with another driver does nothing to diffuse the situation. In addition, while you’re focused on him, someone else may be getting ready to cut you off.

**Keep Your Bike in Top Shape**
34. Keep your motorcycle well-maintained. A breakdown while riding can lead to a crash.
35. Check brake lights, turn signals, and headlights.
36. Check your tires before your ride for sufficient pressure (refer to your owner’s manual, not the markings on the sidewall), adequate tread, and any irregularities or embedded objects.

Still hoping to see you on June 20th for the ARC and TTRC Rider Courses in Pontiac!

Dennis and Felicia
MI-DE
CLASSIFIEDS

That piece of metal lying around in the garage taking up space could be sold. Just contact Ron and give him the details. Can’t beat the cost of the ad, so start rummaging around and put your ad in our newsletter. Contact Ron at 810-397-7318

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have a restaurant you want to try, let us know and we will try to schedule it ASAP. We need your input in order to make our dinners enjoyable for all. If you have a suggestion please let Dan know at 989-329-7528

Just a reminder-We have our gathering at Fred’s Restaurant in Roscommon, from May thru September. It is on the second Tuesday of the month. We meet at 10:30am and have lunch after. Hope to see you all there.
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MJ’s in HL Meet at 11:30 Eat at noon
G’s Pizzeria In Houghton Lk Meet at 11:30 Eat at noon
Lil Boot’s in HL Meet at 11:30 Eat at noon
Randy’s in HL Meet at 11:30 Eat at noon

HL= HOUGHTON LAKE

4 Dale Sergent
5 Clark Wentz
12 Lou Pifer
13 Colleen Naumann
21 Ed Bailiff
6 Phil and Char Smock
12 Denny and Linda Sergent
15 Ron and Jackie Tidball
20 Nick and Nancy Poole
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