



# The Fox Tales

Volume 8 Issue 5

Chapter B2

May 2011

## Notes from the CD

B2 Staff

**Chapter Director**

John Katkus  
815-455-3942

**Treasurer/Secretary**

Mary Hewitt

**Educator**

Bob Shaw

**Chapter Advisors**

Dave and Gwen Carter

**Ride Coordinator**

Gwen Carter  
815-477-9893

**Dinner Ride Coordinator**

TBA

**Newsletter Editor**

Debbie Collyer  
815-425-8015

Well the riding season is here, I hope. The calendar says we should be having some really great weather, unfortunately the weather does not read the calendar. We are planning for our Men's ride as I am writing this and we hope this will be a great non-rainy riding event. Time will tell but I am planning for the best.

The Woman will be going to Al's Creamery in Elgin, IL at 11:30 am. Lina is looking forward for a great get together. Last year they had a great time and this should be repeated this year.

Some of our members have asked if we can have a list printed of the members of our group. I have been doing some checking around on what the best way to print the list. What I have found out is to do this in the manner that is done with the Gold Book. What would be listed is the Name, City, Phone Number. That is all that would be listed and each member would have to say that it was OK to be in the GWRRA B2 list. This list would only be given to our members and no one else. We will talk about this further at the meeting.

Dave Carter will be giving a talk about Team Riding after the meeting this Monday. We would encourage all to attend as this will talk about how we ride.

We have a major ride coming up to Nauvoo for the Memorial Day weekend. You can check the sites at – <http://www.cityofnauvoo.org/> or <http://www.historicnauvoo.net/> for this information. We will need to decide on where to go and when. There are many things to see at Nauvoo, so seeing all the events would be difficult to do. Due to my work schedule, I will have to come back on Sunday so I will be unable to see all of the events.

We are still planning to going to Wing Ding and we will have some plans on how to take the route. The roads in Tennessee are looking forward to and riding them and meeting new people.

That is all I have for now. Looking forward to this weekend and the meeting.

John and Lina Katkus

# May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any motor vehicle on the roadway. Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month is a national initiative aimed at getting motorists and motorcyclists to "share the road" with each other.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## How Was Harry Hurt?

by Robert Vaughan

Perhaps the most renowned study of motorcycle accident causes and countermeasures was done for the University of Southern California by researcher Harry Hurt. He investigated 900 motorcycle accidents and analyzed another 3600 motorcycle traffic accident reports. The Motorcycle Safety Courses developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation are designed largely to build the skills that the Hurt Study found to be missing in the accident-involved rider. Looking at just a few of the Hurt findings allows us to see the essential things we can do to avoid an accident.

**Who hits us?** Most accidents involve a car violating our right-of-way. Most frequently, the car turns left in front of the motorcycle.

**Where do we get hit?** Intersections are the most likely place for the motorcycle accident, with the car not only violating our right-of-way, but often traffic controls as well. Most accidents are on short trips such as shopping, errands, visiting friends, entertainment or recreation. Most accidents happen close to the trip origin. More than three-fourths of the hazards are within 45° of straight ahead.

**Why do we get hit?** The main reason is that the driver of the other vehicle does not see us in time to avoid the collision. Alcohol is involved in almost half of the fatal accidents. Most motorcyclists are smart enough to separate riding and drinking. Unfortunately, too many car drivers on the road are more mentally challenged.

**Why aren't we seen?** Conspicuity of the motorcycle is the most critical factor. Conspicuity is most critical from the front.

**How can we be seen?** Accident involvement is significantly reduced by the wearing of high visibility yellow, orange or bright red jackets. It looks as though we need to take extra care to make sure that we are seen. This means both the helmet (white or bright colors in the day and reflective material at night) and jacket should be highly visible. It also means positioning our motorcycles where we can be seen in traffic.

**How else can we avoid accidents?** Just paying attention to our driving improves our odds. We should use extra care on any motorcycle on which we have less than five months experience. Motorcycle rider courses reduce accidents and injuries in accidents. The courses teach the braking and swerving skills found to be lacking in many accident-involved riders. In many states, the Basic Rider Course also allows us to omit the on-street exam when we obtain our motorcycle license. Proper eye protection prevents the impaired vision which delays hazard detection.

**How can we prevent injuries in an accident?** Heavy boots, jackets, and gloves reduce or prevent road rash. Full coverage helmets increase protection and reduce face injuries.

**Knowledge is power.** Now we know where and why we get hit. We know how to make ourselves seen and how to avoid both accidents and injury. It's up to us to put this knowledge to use

# “Rain” is a four-letter Word

by Robert Vaughan

One word that can raise the hackles on the neck of any rider is “rain.” Though no one goes out riding just because it’s raining, you do get stuck in the rain at times. What can you do to improve your riding in the rain?

The first things you can do are done well ahead of the first few drops of rain. Much as you hate to think about it, selecting and purchasing a rainsuit is something that must be done. A rainsuit should serve two purposes. First, it should keep you dry. Second, and equally important, it should increase your visibility. When your evasive maneuverability is reduced by lack of traction, you want to be sure other drivers see you.

Maintaining all your lights also helps you to be seen in the rain. Of course, you keep your lights clean, but have you checked all your lights lately to see if any have burned out? Do you carry any spares with you? Next time you take your bike in for service, why not restock any spare bulbs you might be missing? You should stock spare fuses as well.

The other important part that needs maintaining ahead of time is your tires. Have you looked at them lately? If any of the wear bands are showing, it’s time to replace the tire. One of the major causes of hydroplaning is worn tires. It’s too late to check them after the rain starts falling. The sole purpose of the tread design on a tire is to carry off the water, but it can’t do its job if you don’t allow it enough tread depth to work with.

Hydroplaning occurs when the tires are not in full contact with the road. They ride on a thin layer of water, and sometimes oil, on the road. Hydroplaning occurs frequently in light mist or drizzle. Proper tread depth and tire pressures, slowing down, and riding in the tracks of other vehicles all help reduce the chance of hydroplaning. The cessation of a slushing sound, or any decrease in steering or braking may indicate hydroplaning. If this happens, slow down without braking and avoid any sudden moves.

Plan alternate routes in case of rain. Scenic, twisty asphalt roads are a lot of fun when it’s dry. When the rain starts to pour, the scenery turns gray, the turns aren’t nearly as much fun, and the asphalt doesn’t provide the traction you really need. It’s time to look for an alternate route along a duller, but straighter, concrete road.

Once it starts raining, there are still things you can do to increase your safety, if not your comfort. Pull off the road as soon as you find a place to get out of the rain. This gives you a dry place to put on your high-visibility rainsuit, and more important, it puts you off the road during the most dangerous first fifteen minutes of rain. When the water first enters the pores of the road, it forces up the oil that has been collecting there. A few more minutes of rain will wash this oil off the road.

Though the main danger of rain is hydroplaning, increasing your following distance, taking curves more slowly, and increasing your scanning distance all help your rain riding. Riding in the rain may never be pleasant, but it can be safer.

## Common Sense Motorcycle Safety Tips

Based on 2009 American Motorcycle Association reports, motorcycle fatalities have dropped by at least 10%. This, of course, is a good thing. However, it is obvious that the driver of a motorcycle is much more at risk of injury or death than the driver of an automobile. An accident that is merely a fender bender for a car or truck can mean death or disability for a motorcyclist. Here are a few tips that can increase your chances of avoiding accidents and/or injuries.

### Tip #1 - Buckle on that Helmet

There is often disagreement between those who believe in wearing a motorcycle helmet and those who don't. Common sense would say it is hard to isolate one single argument from the no-helmet brigade that makes any sense. Research statistics further substantiate the case for wearing helmets, showing that huge numbers of motorcyclists escape death by wearing them. This includes my wife and me in our one and, hopefully, only serious accident.

### Tip #2 - Wear Brightly Colored, Protective Clothing

Motorcyclists should ALWAYS wear appropriate gear for protection and be clearly visible to other motorists. A motorcyclist ejected from a motorcycle can skid along the pavement and, without protective clothes and boots, can forcibly embed rocks, glass and other objects in their flesh. This can have disastrous consequences in pain and suffering.

### Tip #3 - Keep Awake and Stay Sober

Drowsiness and fatigue can seriously impair a motorcyclist's reflexes and ability to react. Motorcyclists should avoid riding when tired. If you must ride, take regular short breaks. Alcohol and other drugs also seriously affect judgment and should be avoided when riding. GWRRA always recommends not to drink and ride/drive, which is another reason why our Association's safety record is excellent.

### Tip #4 - Abide by Traffic Laws

Motorcyclists should ensure that their license is current, and they should refresh their memories on the rules of the road and local traffic laws. Remember the old adage...speed kills. Don't speed!

### Tip #5 - Continuous Learning and Improvement

A large percentage of motorcyclists involved in accidents have had no driver training. Enrolling in a motorcycle training course is a good way of developing basic riding skills. Once the basic techniques are acquired, motorcyclists can sharpen their street riding and accident avoidance skills by taking a defensive driving course or advanced program.

Hopefully, the above mentioned tips make as much sense for you as they do to me. Remember to stay safe and have fun.

Joe Mazza International Assistant Director, Rider Education

## IL Chapter B2 – 2011 Calendar of Events

All regular chapter meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Giordano's Pizza, 1505 South Randall Road, Algonquin, IL. Dinner at 6:00 pm, order off the menu with meeting at 7:00 pm.

May	Saturday May 7	9:00 am - Men's Ride – Al Berquest memorial Ride – to brush up on riding skills. Meet a McDonalds, 386 Eight Street, West Dundee, IL
	Saturday May 7	11:30 am - Women's Luncheon – Al's Café & Creamery - 43 Du Page Court, Elgin, IL
	Monday May 9	Chapter Meeting
	Saturday May 14	6:00 pm - Coach House Dinner Ride,
	Sat May 28-30	9:00 am – Nauvoo, IL, weekend ride, Leave Flowerwood
June	Saturday June 11	8:00 am –Windridge Herb Farm, 466 Quail Trap Road, Caledonia, IL 61011, 815-885-1444 – Leave Flowerwood for breakfast and ride
	Monday June 13	Chapter Meeting
	Sunday June 26	Fitzgeralds Dinner Ride
July	July 2 – 10	Wing Ding 33 – Knoxville TN
	Monday July 11	Chapter Meeting
	July 17	White Pines
August	Saturday Aug 6	Poopy's
	Monday Aug 8	Chapter Meeting
	Sunday Aug 14	Thunder Bay – Rockford, IL
	Saturday Aug 27	Cedarburg / Port Washington
September	Saturday Sep 10	Pop Eyes – Lake Geneva
	Monday Sep 12	Chapter Meeting
	Sep 23 – 25	Door County, WI
October	Monday Oct 10	Chapter Meeting
	Saturday Oct 15	Galena Color Ride
November	Monday Nov 14	Chapter Meeting
December	Monday Dec 12	Chapter Meeting

## **This is for the Nauvoo Memorial Day Ride - May 28-30, 2011**

Holiday Inn Express – Keokuk

4<sup>th</sup> and Main Street

Keokuk, IA 52632

Hotel Reservations: 1-800-315-2621

Hotel Front Desk: 1-319-524-8000

Rooms listed under – GWRRA B2

Room Reservations Cut Off Date is 05-14-2011

13.88 mi (22.34 Km) from Nauvoo, IL

## **Wing Ding 33 in Knoxville, TN**

Room reservations are at

Best Western Cedar Bluff Inn

420 North Peters Road

Knoxville, TN 37922-2332

865- 539-0058

10 minutes from downtown Knoxville TN

June 21, 2011 is the last date for reservations at this rate.

Rooms listed under – GWRRA B2

Date are July 5-9 staying for 4 nights and checking out on Saturday morning

Rates are \$79 per Night Rate – which is the winter rate for the rooms. Normal room rate is \$109 per night. When calling in for the rooms it is under GWRRA B2.

Would recommend to make the room and WingDing reservations as soon as possible.

Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
Illinois Chapter G2  
9015 Loch Glen Avenue  
Lakewood, IL 60014



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