



## GWRRA ID-E

Well, It's March, the temps are rising, and riding season, for those of us who've had to endure a snowy Winter, is right around the corner. Richard and Carol Huff ventured out on their trike the other day, so it can't be much longer for the rest of us. There are several things going on in the Chapter and around the District, so let me share a bit and bring everyone up to speed.

1. As of now, there's no District Rally for 2020 on the schedule. I had been organizing "The Best of the Great Northwest Meet & Greet" through one of the Goldwing forums before taking a position as our Chapter Director. Since this event was already in the works, we've opened it up for any of you that would like to attend. There's no charge, this is more of a ride-in/meet and greet affair. More information about this can be found in the District newsletter.
2. Along those lines, during our last Zoom meeting, it was agreed that District Rallies are an important part of the GWRRA lifestyle. They bring our Districts, Chapters, and associates together, as well as providing a great platform for classroom and rider education, not to mention the camaraderie. The first thing suggested was to possibly do another ride-in/meet & greet later this year, in another location, to get further acquainted with the other Chapters and the areas they ride. Looking forward to 2021, we discussed speaking with our membership and getting their opinions on locations, rides, training, and other aspects important to producing a good Rally. Basically, what do they want to see from and for our District? So, let's put our thinking caps on and see what we can come up with.
3. Chapter E doesn't have any rides scheduled for March or April, but that doesn't mean we won't be on the road. Weather permitting, for anyone who wants to get out and stretch their legs, myself and, I'm sure, others will be more than willing to join you. Just let us know where and when, and we'll put on some early year miles.

4. Speaking of getting out and shaking the dust off, it's a great time of the year to pull the riding gear out and check it out. Are the jackets clean and the pads in place? Does everything still fit (some of us suffer a degree of expansion over the Winter)? Gloves, boots, chaps, are they still in good shape? Maybe check the helmets and make sure the liners are clean, the chin straps are serviceable and secure, and the lenses are clear. This might even be a good time to check those prescription glasses and make sure they're up to date. Don't forget the bike or trike, just because it was awesome when you put it away for the Winter, doesn't mean it's ready to just start and roll out of the garage. Is the oil fresh, are the tires in good shape, the tire pressures checked and set correctly, do all the lights work and work properly? If you're like me, Winter is when I do the maintenance and upgrades. This year, Black Beauty gets a fine new set of heated grips, a trailer hitch, a new front tire, and a set of mono tubes in the front forks. Some of these projects aren't complete just yet, so it's imperative they get done, done right, and checked to insure all the bolts and nuts are in place and tight.
  
5. For our new and old members alike, here's some food for thought. Goldwings are big bikes, and like so many others, no matter the brand, are not one size fits all. Many Pro riding courses point this out, and there are things you can do to make your bike fit you better and make it safer as well. If you're reaching to grab the handlebars or suffer neck and shoulder pain on longer rides, consider installing risers on the handlebars. There are several brands and designs to choose from, from reasonably inexpensive up to WOW. What they each do in their own way is move the handlebars up and back toward you, reducing strain in your neck and shoulders. This also improves steering input, because you're no longer stretching to reach the controls, thus providing a safer ride. Other riders may need to adjust the handlebars to accommodate their longer reach, and risers can help this as well, raising and spreading the handlebars to provide a more comfortable riding position for them. Not all of us are 6' tall, so having our feet touch the ground can become an issue when starting and stopping. Because of differences in bike design,

not all solutions will apply, but here are a few to consider. The simplest and least expensive, is having boots with thicker soles. The difference between a cowboy boot leather sole and a boot with a heavier Vibram sole can make a real difference. Sometimes an extra ½" is all that's needed. Other solutions can be a bit more expensive, but if they allow you to safely and easily enjoy your bike, that expense may just be worth it. For the Goldwing 1800's 2001 through 2017, there are several options. The first is the seat. Seats can be rebuilt, or custom built to not only provide comfort, but to lower the seated position, allowing the rider to safely touch the ground, or can have padding added or seating position adjusted to accommodate our taller companions. On those same model years, a company called LowerWing, makes a link that replaces the rear suspension link, which can lower the bike by ¾", 1", and 1 ¼". This was the solution for me, using the ¾" lowering link. I'm sure there are other options I'm not aware of, but the point here is, you don't have to suffer. It may come down seeking another bike that fits you better.

Helmet weight can also be an issue.

6. I'd like to thank Lori and Mike of Chapter T for their fine work. Adriana is doing great things producing a District Newsletter. If you go to the GWRRA Idaho website, you can view the District Newsletter there, with information from all the Chapters that send their information in. I'd also like to thank all the Idaho Chapter Directors for sharing their ride schedules and newsletters with us.
7. Now, the fun part! We're going to start pushing new membership and the Levels program. Mike left me with the forms for the Level program, so if you didn't get one, see me and we'll get it going. If you've filled one out, get it to me and I'll send them to Mike. I'm also going to be passing out some membership literature, so let's get those hidden members out of the dark.

Ride safe everyone, we look forward to seeing you on the road.

Dave and Leslie Hanna, CD, GWRRA ID-E