

# Washington Wing News

Washington District Newsletter

WWW.GWRRR-WA.ORG

MAY 2008



## Around the District

### RECENT CHANGES

Washington District Leadership Training Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in Buckley.

### EVENTS

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> - Chapter M will hold their Saturday BBQ at Wixson Park in Selah and the Fun Run at Poulson's Honda in Yakima on Sunday.

May 10<sup>th</sup> - Chapter F's One Crazy Ride is happening at Crazy Larry's in Lakewood. Pick one of five destinations and bring back a receipt.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - Chapter L is hosting their Spring Fling at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Kennewick.

## Mike and Peggy Hudnell District Directors



### WHEN DO I PLAN?

This is a question that most Chapter Directors have asked not only themselves, but their appointing officer as well. Most of the time, it begins with a topic. What is it that you wish to plan for? As directors we have a variety of things to plan for. Our first gathering, if you are a chapter director, is one that really puts you on edge. Hopefully with prior exposure, it's not that big a deal. I recall planning my first gathering and being nervous even though I'd had considerable exposure to public speaking. So, why would I be nervous?

The first gathering a Chapter Director plans for is the one that everyone will recall. If you fumbled through your notes, lost your train of thought or experienced a little stage fright, folks in your chapter will always recall it. Most of the time, it's in a humorous way. One thing you definitely want to plan for is setting the direction you wish the chapter to go and the tempo for you to get there. Then you need to consider planning your first fundraising event. That can really make you nervous because most of the time, it's what makes the chapter solvent for the year in covering expenses of training, education and chapter fun.

I am pretty sure some are thinking, no kidding, but where do I get the answers I need to set me on the correct path for success? I've already mentioned the first place, to your appointing officer. Inside your own chapter you may have several former officers who can also help. But won't people think that I can't handle it if I ask for help right from the start? The answer to that question is no, we won't. I would rather have someone ask for direction and answers before they spend a month or two causing everyone to become unsatisfied and disgruntled with the way things are going. And believe me, they can get dissatisfied in a hurry but never seem to have a solution to go with their being dissatisfied.

In Washington District we have, and have had for some time, a very active education and training program. We make good use of the leadership training and rider education resources. But it is about to get better. We're developing a mentor/coach program that will give each director even more resources. The mentor/coaches will be filled with ideas to help you through just about any situation. Several years ago, this type of program was being developed and it was placed on hold. I am taking that program off from hold. Starting this fall we'll move forward with this program. Bill Ellis has informed me there are several modules of the leadership training that each individual will need to attend. I have asked Bill to further outline the basic qualifications and expectations for anyone to serve the membership in this capacity. There will not be anyone in this program just holding a position for the sake of holding a position.

The continued success of GWRRA and its participants depends on well qualified, trained and motivated people. That's why for the last thirty years you've seen education and training as a number one priority. If you are interested, or have previously indicated you would like to be part of the Ambassador program, you will be the first ones contacted to take part in this opportunity. Former officers and those with a training background are next.

With the recent change to the term of office to just one year and the desired tenure being only three years, now is a good time to plan for your replacement if you are in that three-year category. Anymore than three years and the fun can become burdensome. We all know what that's like, especially if we are long-term

## Under Construction

~ 2008 District Rally ~  
July 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>  
In Lynden

~ 2008 District  
Leadership Training ~  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
In Buckley

~ 2009 District Rally ~  
July 16<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>  
Location to be announced

~ 2009 Region J Rally ~  
July 31<sup>st</sup> thru Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>  
In Maple Ridge, BC

members of GWRRA. Watch for the announcements coming in the future, and if you thought “this is me” when you read this, the time to plan is now. Yes, someone is looking to talk to you about your professional development.

Mike and Peggy Hudnell  
District Directors

When you're in a car, you're trying to get there. When you're on a motorcycle, you're already there.

**Hank and Marilyn Smith**  
Assistant District Directors



### THE RED BARN

April 5<sup>th</sup> was the yearly joint chapter gathering at the Red Barn in Prosser. This gathering came about due to the fact that Chapters WA-M (Yakima) and WA-R (Walla Walla) both meet on the first Saturday of each month. So once a year, they have a joint gathering at The Red Barn.

This year they had 50 motorcycles, 85 people and Chapters WA-N, M, R, L, I, F and ID-H were present. Some of the motorcycles that came from the west side had to come up the river as snow was still on White Pass. It's good to see some of the people from the west side that we haven't seen all winter and to do a lot of talking and catching up.

Even with all the talking, CD Ron from the host chapter did keep things moving. The only thing wrong with the whole day was why it is that all the door prizes and the 50/50 are always won by someone from the west side?

Hank and Marilyn Smith  
Assistant District Directors



**Erv and Phyllis Granahan**  
District Treasurers

### PHYLLIS'S APPLE CAKE

Several of you requested Phyllis's Apple Cake recipe so here you go! FYI this recipe came from The Captain Whidbey Inn at Coupeville, WA.

- 3 Eggs
- 2 cups of Sugar
- 1 Cup of Oil
- 2 cups of flour
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- 1 cup of walnuts (or pecans)
- 4 cups of thinly sliced pared tart apples (5 medium apples)
- Cream Cheese Icing

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs with electric mixer until thick and light. Combine sugar and oil; pour into eggs with mixer on medium speed. Stir together flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt; add to egg mixture with vanilla; beat to mix. Stir in walnuts. Spread apples in buttered 13x9x2 inch pan. Pour batter over apples, spreading to cover. Bake 1 hour. Remove from oven; cool. Spread with Cream Cheese Icing. Refrigerate until serving. Garnish with additional apple slices. Makes 12 to 13 servings.

#### Cream Cheese Icing:

Soften 2 packages (3 ounces each) of cream cheese. Beat until fluffy. Beat in 1/4 cup melted butter; then beat in 2 cups confectioner's sugar and 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Spread over cooled cake.

Erv and Phyllis Granahan  
District Treasurers



**Dan and Carmen Weakland  
District Membership Coordinators**

**WE'RE OFF!!**

Dan and I are without a membership tip this month as we prepare to head to Arizona to visit our eldest son, his wife, their oldest son (almost 2) and meet the new grandbaby who was born in January. And yes, there is the promise of great riding for us on our son's customized VTX 1800 (Oatman and the Laughlin River Run, here we come!!!).

Have a good month and we look forward to seeing you all at District Rally!



Dan and Carmen Weakland  
District Membership Coordinators

*Those who dance are considered crazy by those who do not hear the music.*



**Dale and Shirley Dufner  
District Couple of the Year**

**ARE YOU READY?**

As I sit here pondering riding and this article, the weatherman says we'll get about 6 inches of SNOW this week. Now that doesn't sound wrong for Spokane, but it's April 21<sup>st</sup>!!

The Family Reunion is just around the corner and our fearless DD, Mike Hudnell, is on the fast track to make this a special event. Shirley and I look forward to greeting all the

Chapter Couples attending, even if they're not looking to be next year's District Couple.

Those couples entering the selection process should be getting their resumes finished and submitted to Bob Thurgood. Shirley and I will make arrangements to meet with each couple when they're identified, before the Rally, to help them with the process. We truly believe that the better they're prepared, the easier it will be for them. (When we participated, we didn't know what to expect, and that's a little unnerving. And we didn't expect to be selected - also unnerving.) We're enjoying our time as your District Couple, and look forward to assisting those who follow.

As Shirley and I prepared for the time we'll become our Chapter's Directors, we talked about how we were going to support the Chapter Couple program. We came to the conclusion that we'll support it just like the other programs in GWRRA. We'll sign an MOU to support all GWRRA programs, as every Chapter Director does. And we take our commitments very seriously. Basically, that's why we agreed to enter the selection process last year - to learn more about the program so we could support it. This program has been improved this past year, and Shirley and I are going to give it our best if we have the opportunity to go forward.

Looking to the future, we believe that somewhere down the road Region I will provide an International Couple of the Year. We've heard all the stories about this selection process, even though we've not seen it. If the stories are true then we, as Chapter Directors, should take the lead to "honor" a Couple of the Year and work to better prepare them for what's ahead. We'll use the assets we have - the knowledge and experience of those who have gone before; one need not do it alone.

At each step in the selection process, a couple is honored and with this honor comes greater responsibilities. We all need to celebrate our Couples, encourage them and support them, so they're ready for the opportunities. It's only a matter of time before Washington District and Region I will be recognized for the outstanding Couples we have here.

Dale and Shirley Dufner  
District Couple of the Year

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CHAPTERS C AND P!!**

## MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

*And because of that, I've co-opted the following words of wisdom from the Region E website, by MAD Coordinators, Charles & Nancy Mallett:*

How many times have you parked your bike and had a motorist approach you? Then the motorist makes a comment, maybe something like "Sure is a sharp looking bike." Seize the moment as that person has just communicated to you that he or she likes your machine. Take five minutes out of your day to talk with that person and answer questions about your bike. Your communication and dissemination of information to that driver can help get the motorist awareness word out. Leave them with a positive feeling that under those helmets are real people, nice people, who could be their friend, neighbor or relative. The time you spend and the message you communicate might be all that's necessary for that motorist to start looking for motorcycles as they drive.

**These businesses provide much appreciated support to our organization. Please return the favor!!**

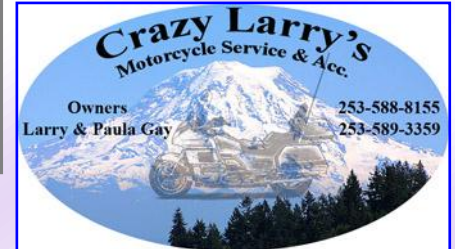
### **American Laser Works**

*Custom Laser Engraving*

*1860 California AV SE  
Port Orchard, WA. 98366*

*(360) 871-3738*

[Nwagner@americanlaserworks.com](mailto:Nwagner@americanlaserworks.com)



## THANKS FOR THE GRAND PRIZE AT OUR FAMILY REUNION RALLY

*We'd like to share the "Thank You" letters that Mike sent to the sponsors who made our rally's grand prize possible:*

### **To Andrew Preston, CEO of BUSHTEC MFG. & SALES, INC.**

I would like to start by saying thank you for the continued support. As a customer I have received nothing but the finest service. As a user of a Bushtec trailer I have had nothing but the finest handling and reliability that anyone could ask for; now beginning my eighteenth year of towing the same Bushtec trailer.

When I contacted your business to inquire about the cost of a trailer, the thought of your becoming a sponsor to our event had not crossed my mind. I know in the past Bushtec was contacted by Washington District with sponsorship in mind and of course you were there with full support.

My goal this year was to obtain a grand prize that everyone would appreciate and be able to use for many years to come. With your help we have truly met that goal. The rally itself is held in an area where people in Washington love to go. Now they have a fantastic grand prize to look forward to winning, or at least having a chance at winning. This will only add to the attraction of our event, our site selection, and a fantastic prize.

Enclosed you will find our check for the amount you specified. I have also included the email where you listed the cost. I enjoyed talking with you and do every time I call. Bushtec is the trailer I tow and the business I refer everyone to when they have a need for a motorcycle trailer. Again, thank you for your support and service.

### **To Larry and Paula Gay, owners of CRAZY LARRY'S**

I would like to recognize the both of you for your longstanding contributions to the motorcycling community. It seems there is no end to your support of all the events planned each year. The success of all these events is directly tied to your support. The Gold Wing Road Riders Association, as well as other organizations, has a true friend that cares deeply about our success while maintaining a business that we all can rely on.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 you again showed what caring is about when you committed to provide service free of charge to a motorcyclist who may not be riding safe without this donation. Not to mention the countless hours of labor and parts that you had already donated. Being part of that day is something that I will never forget.

Knowing only part of the things you and Paula do to support all the motorcycle organizations simply amazes me. Yet when asked to be a sponsor for the Washington State Rally you didn't hesitate to help make a Bushtec trailer become the grand prize giveaway. This simply would not have happened without your support.

On behalf of all the members of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association in Washington State I want to say thank you for your support, reliable service, and most of all the friendship you both give to so many of us without hesitation.



## THE ROAD CAPTAIN RIDING COURSE

On April 18<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>, we went to Spokane and met up with Dale and Shirley. On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, we went to a chapter gathering that was not in our District so it wouldn't be named; however, it was about a 20 minute drive East on I-90. This chapter is our type of chapter... many hugs collected, even if their chapter colors are really bad. One of the members lives in Montana, 130 miles away. She was by herself as her husband was working. It makes my six miles to our chapter gathering sound good. The chapter had just finished up the riding course for Road Captains and one thing they talked about was, if the Road Captain can't get anyone on the CB, maybe he should slow down and let the rest of them catch up. We came away with two vests and tickets to win a quilt, plus we got to help sell 50/50 tickets until our food came.

The rest of Saturday, we spent at Dale and Shirley's home fixing all the problems with everything. Did you know that at one time the people that live around them thought Dale had shot her and she was planted in the back yard? Long story, ask them.

Sunday, we went to WA-N gathering and their famous Brown Bag Auction, what a good time. Try to make this sometime, it's a kick. We got snowed on coming home, where is spring?

Hank Smith  
Assistant District Director

## LYNDEN 2008

The focus for our 2008 Rally has been, from the start, getting back to the basics. Let's have more time to ride and fewer things to do on the rally schedule. In the draft itinerary being published, I want you to note the time set aside for riding, exploring the community and just visiting with your GWRRA family at the Reunion. In the past years, a lot of things have been on the schedule that were not well attended. To let you know your District staff is listening, we got rid of them. If you don't wish to participate in them, we're not going to have them. Instead we'll have more time for the things we want to do. Ride, eat, be entertained, sleep and do it some more.

I also want to thank my immediate support staff for the work they do. They spent several hours in discussion of the schedule and have some fantastic ideas for your chapter to have a more active role in your rally. For example, planning your own family reunion t-shirt for the Saturday BBQ. Joining in with the Raspberry Festival car show and inviting the car show participants to join our grand/light parade. Having a large common area in the campground where we can just sit and visit with our favorite beverage. Having music entertainment virtually every day of the rally. Having a large grill available for you, to better your camping experience with your chapter family. Even sharing in something special yet to be announced..... sorry, I just came back from the garage because I went out and started the bike. I got so excited, I wanted to leave now.

Take a look at the itinerary, share your thoughts and ideas, but don't leave yet - we can't have the fairgrounds until noon, July 17<sup>th</sup>. I feel like a kid at Christmas, I can hardly wait to see each and every one of you.

Mike Hudnell  
District Director

## 2008 EVENT SCHEDULE

### MAY

- 3-4 WA-M BBQ & Fun Run
- 10 WA-F Crazy Ride
- 23-26 WA-L Desert Spring Fling

*(May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, so check for events in your local community!!).*

### JUNE

- 7 WA-D Duck Hunt
- 12-14 OR District Rally (Prineville)
- 13-15 WA-Q Elma Rest Area
- 19-21 WY District Rally (Newcastle)
- 21 WA-X DAV Benefit Ride

### JULY

- 1-7 Wing Ding - Greenville, SC
- 12 WA-Q "Here's your Sign" Ride
- 17-20 WA District Rally (Lynden)
- 24-27 MT District Rally (Lake Hebgen)

### AUGUST

- 2 WA-F&G Mountain Run
- 14-16 Region I Rally (Powell, WY)
- 16 WA-O Picnic in the Park
- 29-31 WA-B B at the Ocean
- 29-31 Idaho District Rally (Kellogg)

*(This schedule is subject to change, so please check on the websites for current information.)*

### SEPTEMBER

- 6 WA-G Chili Cook-off
- 13 WA-X Fund Raiser
- 13 WA-L Bowling Challenge (tentative)
- 14 WA-Z Chicken Run
- 19-21 WA-P Oyster Feed

### OCTOBER

- 24-26 WA-F All Motorcycle Mall Show
- 25 WA-Q Halloween Dance

### NOVEMBER

- 1 District Leadership Training

### DECEMBER

- 13 WA-D Festival of Light

## FAMILY REUNION RALLY EVENTS SCHEDULE

### Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup>

- 12:00 – 6:00 Registration opens and Vendor setup  
Camp setup and visitation  
Scenic rides and supper on your own
- 6:00 – 8:00 No host social with entertainment by Dave Shafer

### Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 – 5:00 Registration all day  
Vendors open
- 10:00 – 11:00 Opening Ceremonies
- 11:00 – 3:30 Visitation, area rides, walkabout and lunch**
- 4:00 – 5:30 Chapter Couple recognition by CDs  
Reception for Couples in the selection process  
District Couple selection
- 5:30 – 6:30 Hot dog feed with open grill
- 6:30 – 8:00 Entertainment by Dave Shafer  
Treasure Chest of Memories
- 8:00 – 8:15 Light parade meeting
- 8:15 – 9:30 Grand Parade/Light show

### Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 – 9:00 Breakfast (hotcakes)  
served by District Staff and CDs
- 8:00 – 2:00 Registration open
- 8:00 – 4:00 Vendors open
- 8:00 – 9:00 CD Staff meeting with District Director
- 9:00 – 2:00 Visitation, area rides, walkabout and lunch**
- 1:30 – 2:30 Road Captain- Riding portion
- 2:00 – 2:30 Trikettes Drill Team
- 3:00 – 4:30 Talent show and Treasure chest of memories
- 5:00 – 6:30 T-shirt judging  
Potluck Family BBQ with open grill
- 6:30 – 7:30 Closing Ceremonies
- 8:00 – ??? Entertainment by Dave Shafer

### Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 – 9:00 Church services by  
Christians Motorcycle Association
- 9:00 – 12:00 Pack up and go home

Downtown Bike Show to support local food bank, Regular Bike show, ARC class, and seminars are not listed.

## WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK?

We're all aware that we participate in a sport that has built-in dangers, and even the best rider can be the victim of circumstance. Although we work hard to hone our skills, bad things can still happen to good people. And sometimes those good people have critical roles in our organization. How prepared is your Chapter to soften the blow, if it comes?

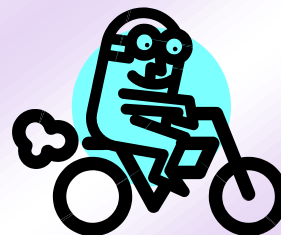
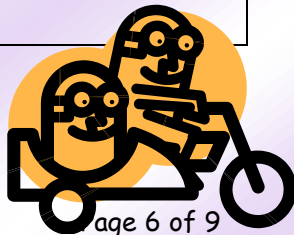
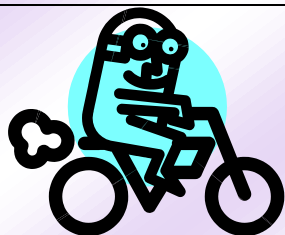
The CD has a well-chosen backup, but is the ACD up-to-date on everything, including communications with the staff and District? If an emergency happens in your CD's life, will your ACD be able to step into those shoes without missing a step? And what about backups for your other critical staff positions? Do you have someone who can carry on the Chapter's business and plans if the ACD, Treasurer, Educator or an Event Coordinator is suddenly unavailable? Making a backup plan is just a natural extension of the skills we use as motorcycle riders: SIPDE - Scan the situation, Identify potential problems, Predict possible results, Decide on a plan of action, and Execute the decision.

And having a backup plan has benefits beyond being prepared for the worst. It allows our most dedicated volunteers to take a vacation without worry, it provides assistants if the workload gets too heavy, and it can help identify and train successors for those critical staff positions.

Before the riding season gets too busy, take the time do a "T-CLOCK" on your Chapter's backup plan. If you don't have one, work with the staff to make one. And get the staff (and their backups) scheduled into the Leadership Training seminars offered at this summer's rallies and/or District Leadership Training Workshop next fall.

That's good insurance, good leadership, and good for your stress levels. They've got your back!!

Shirley Dufner  
District Newsletter Editor





## A BODY IN MOTION

There are enough laws written to fill a million courthouses. "Don't do this. Don't ride there. Don't do that." But there are certain laws that a good rider knows should never be violated. The laws are: Friction, Momentum, Centrifugal Force, and Gravity. A rider won't get a ticket for breaking these laws, but violate any one of them and they could find themselves in a ditch.

Friction, or traction, is the one that keeps you stuck to the road. The first step in maintaining traction is a good set of tires with **proper** inflation. If the pressure is too low or high, the tire will start to lose traction. A bike with poor traction will start to go sideways in a curve, take longer to stop, and tend to swerve (skid) during a hard braking maneuver. Sounds like some kind of a carnival ride, doesn't it?

When you approach a curve, is your speed low enough coming in? How far can you see into the curve? Is there gravel on the road or a stopped car just around the bend? Is there some dope coming toward you, passing or hanging over the yellow line? Does the curve get tighter half way? Is it an older road that is not banked or worse yet, banked the wrong way? Hit your brakes in there, and it's a distraction and hello centrifugal force!

If you need to brake hard in a curve, you need to brake through it in a straight line as learned in the Rider Course. If you must brake hard, and your rear wheel locks up, **LEAVE THEM LOCKED** and steer in the direction of the skid! If you release a skidding rear tire, you will create a severe change of balance as the rear tire immediately moves back in line with the front tire which **will** cause a sudden loss of control, and a high-side crash. This will flip you off the motorcycle, and wherever you land, your motorcycle will land there a moment later.

When on slippery roads, anything that changes the smooth flow of your forward momentum can cause the motorcycle to head off in a direction you did not intend. Easy acceleration and smooth steering are necessary here. Braking is negative acceleration, and acceleration is the square of your velocity. If you double your speed, you'll need almost four times the distance to stop. Triple your speed and you'll need almost NINE TIMES the braking distance.

Following distance is like money; you can never have too much, but if you have a little less than you need, you're in trouble.

Isaac Newton said it first, "Gravity Sucks!" • Respect the laws of Physics, and you will go a long way toward keeping the shiny side up.

*(Bruce McMahill provided this article. Thank you, Bruce!)*

## **Ride with a plan**

*By Bret Tkacs*

A few years ago a fellow motorcycle riding instructor offered me one of the best riding tips I've ever been given, a golden nugget I share with others at every opportunity. Being a motorcycle instructor, I pride myself on my ability to critically coach others to better their riding; yet somehow this was a simple tidbit that had eluded me. I have been riding legally on the road year-round for about 17 years now (*I'm not that old, really...*) yet it has been the last few years that my riding has improved the most. This tip is the catalyst for my greatest improvements.

The story goes something like this... I was out teaching a Basic Rider Course in Tacoma when my friend Bruce showed up. He had just gotten back from attending a well-known out-of-state track school. With all the enthusiasm he could muster (*which unlike myself is always calm and controlled*) he began to share his newfound treasure. He told me "Bret... I learned the greatest thing" with an impatient response I asked him to share all. He told me, "I learned I should always ride with a plan." I paused for a moment trying to figure out what the big deal was. I told him "I do ride with a plan... I plan on riding over to Yakima for breakfast tomorrow and then I'm headed east... that's my plan." He gave me that look telling me I just missed the point. "NO" he said... "Before you head out for a ride you should always plan to work on a specific skill." WOW! How simple I thought, what a great idea, all I have to do is pick one thing to focus on during each ride! Since that time, I have shared this little tidbit with each of my students during my graduation speech; knowing that without incentive most of my students would not practice their newfound riding skills until they came back to take an Intermediate, Advanced or Street Skills course. This is the one piece of advice that can help you hone your skills during every ride.

It works like this: each time you mount up to go for a ride, you should pick one specific item to focus on. This can be something like eye placement (*Keep them high searching for traffic or entry points for cornering*), or maybe try for the perfect line through a corner. If you don't feel like focusing on your physical abilities try picking a mental skill such as playing the "what if" game... "What if that car pulls out in front of me, do I have a plan?"... "What if this corner has a stalled car on the other side, what if I get a flat?" Most riders understand the value in taking a motorcycle class or reading a book to improve skills but if those skills aren't practiced on a regular basis they will not be there when you really need them. Homer Simpson once said something like "boy, in unfamiliar times you go with what you know." Ride safe... ride with a plan. You have to be disciplined to do this and gain the most from it. Remember ONE item at a time, isolate your skills and hone each one individually. Save this article and refer back to the following drills to practice on your next ride.

Rider Coach Roy Puchalski practices cornering on one of his many bikes. DOL locations that have a marked area for motorcycle endorsement testing are good to visit during non-office hours so you can see just how good your basic skills are.



## 15 skills that can be practiced during any ride

- **Eye placement for cornering** – during cornering you should be looking as far through the corner as possible with your next entry point being the focus point.
- **Eye placement for traffic** – while in traffic you should be scanning out into traffic with your eyes up and moving regularly, remember to scan at least 12-14 seconds ahead of you and keep your eyes moving. Don't space out or focus on any item too long.
- **Lane placement** - while in traffic ensure you are in a position that allows you to create a space cushion and provide you with an escape route. We have a footprint of maybe 3 inches and have 12-14 feet of lane from side to side... use it!
- **Braking** - when traffic is sparse, practice your emergency stops to see if you can really stop as fast as you think you can (the one skill not used in daily riding is emergency braking). Work on maximizing the front brake without skidding the rear. The front brake can carry 70-100% of your braking depending on the bike, environment and rider skill.
- **"What if"**- hone your mental skills by creating worse-case scenarios while riding and creating an appropriate plan of action. Constantly look for the worst case and find a solution. This can even be acted out to hone physical skills like swerving (just don't piss off the cage drivers around you).
- **Other drivers** - practice reading other drivers, watch for eye contact, cell phones, weaving, tailgaters, out-of-state plates, missing mirrors, etc. Try to predict what they will do and then see if you were correct.
- **Grip** - while riding, make sure your hands are relaxed at ALL times. The more tense you are the worse your bike will handle.
- **Body position** - be conscious of your body position, are you pushing the bike under you? Are you relaxed? Slouching? Hanging off? Try to use this to your advantage to create maximum traction, ground clearance and stability.
- **Reading the road** - practice reading the environmental clues that tell you what the road is going to do...
- **Lines** - practice picking the best cornering line for every corner (outside-inside-outside, or outside-inside-inside depending on the corner). The best line is the one that gives you time to deal with the unknown.
- **Entry point** - practice putting your tire on a specific point, use it as your entry point into a corner. This should be done while keeping your speeds slow enough to stay comfortable. If you really want to test your skills at speeds that would generate a ticket, I recommend going to a regulated track event.
- **Throttle** - practice riding with the throttle, keep it SOoooo smooth that you are unable to feel the on-off transition.
- **Swerving** - while following traffic, try swerving around points that appear from underneath the vehicle in front of you. This can be storm drains, paint, light colored pavement or whatever.
- **Following distance** - try counting off 1-motorcycle, 2-motorcycle to see if you have your minimum following distance (*best done during rush hour*). Try counting off the following distance of traffic around you. You might be amazed how close the drivers REALLY are.
- **Communication** - focus on clearly communicating your intentions to other drivers and looking for others trying to communicate with you. This may not be just the obvious turn signals but could be a head-check, change in lane position, etc.

Bret Tkacs is the president of Puget Sound Safety, a Northwest company specializing in motorcycle skills for beginning, intermediate, and advanced riders.



"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Confucius



Everyone knows that a good helmet can be a real life saver. Is yours up to the challenge?



## WASHINGTON DISTRICT STAFF

<b>District Directors</b>	Mike and Peggy Hudnell
<b>Asst District Directors</b>	Hank and Marilyn Smith
<b>Asst District Directors</b>	Bob and Patty Spencer
<b>Educators</b>	Jim and Pam Swart
<b>Leadership Trainers</b>	Bill and Barbara Ellis
<b>Treasurers</b>	Erv and Phyllis Granahan
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Carmen and Dan Weakland
<b>Stores</b>	Greg and Janet Beek
<b>Webmaster</b>	John and Barb Smith
<b>Couple of the Year</b>	Dale and Shirley Dufner
<b>Individual of the Year</b>	OPEN
<b>COY/IOY Coordinators</b>	Bob and Thess Thurgood
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Shirley Dufner

The website has contact information: [www.gwrra-wa.org](http://www.gwrra-wa.org)

## REGION I STAFF

<b>Region Directors</b>	Roy & Pearl McKenzie
<b>Asst Region Directors</b>	Steve & Sandra Henicksman
<b>Educators</b>	Steve and Lori Fretts
<b>Leadership Trainers</b>	Mike & Lynn Briggs
<b>Treasurers</b>	Marlene & Don Weikart
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Della & Loren Heideman
<b>Stores</b>	OPEN
<b>Webmaster/Newsletters</b>	Donna & Doug Deskin
<b>Couple of the Year</b>	Suzanne and Mike Kasko
<b>COY Coordinators</b>	Sam & Marjoe White
<b>Instructor Coordinators</b>	Eric & Mona Carlson

The website has contact information: [www.bigskyregioni.org](http://www.bigskyregioni.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Nat'l Day of Mourning (Canada)	29 Greenery Day (Japan)	30 Children's Day (Mexico)	<b>MAY 1</b> Law Day Lei Day May Day Save the Rhino Day	2	3 <b>WA-M BBQ Fun Run</b>  World Press Freedom Day
4 <b>WA-M BBQ Fun Run</b>	5	6 National Nurses Day	7	8 <b>V-E Day</b>	9	10 <b>WA-F Crazy Ride</b>  Motorcycle Awareness Day
11 <b>Happy Mother's Day</b>	12 Int'l Midwives Day	13	14	15 Peace Officer Memorial Day	16	17
18 <b>District Staff Meeting</b>  Armed Forces Day	19 Victoria Day (Canada)	20 <i>Full Moon</i>	21	22	23 <b>WA-L Desert Spring Fling</b>  World Turtle Day	24 <b>WA-L Desert Spring Fling</b>
25 <b>WA-L Desert Spring Fling</b>  Int'l Towel Day	26 <b>WA-L Desert Spring Fling</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	27	28	29	30 Harvest Festival (Malaysia)	31 International No-tobacco Day

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak...