



# Mall City Wings News and Reviews



Chapter MI-D • Kalamazoo, MI

[www.mallcitywings.org](http://www.mallcitywings.org)

May 2012

## Chapter D 30th Anniversary Party!

Over 60 people gathered to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Chapter D. There were many faces from the past, people who had been very instrumental in forming this Chapter and helping it to flourish and grow. Dave Wing recognized many of the past leadership couples who were in attendance. Two couples, Jim and Dee Lash and Doug and Kathy Banner, were at the first meeting held at Denny's in 1982.

There were photo albums documenting the many events that have happened over the years, which in turn prompted stories from those who were there. Do you know the story about the "Green Weenie" from years ago?

Roger Miller entertained and amazed people with his slight of hand tricks. But his final trick of the evening was the show topper!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible: Jim and Dee Lash for making the 30th Anniversary plaques, the history booklets and providing the floral centerpieces; Dee Miller for inviting all the past leadership people and all that she did; Roger Miller for sharing his magic talent with us; Harold and Linda for preparing the meats; and all who stayed to help clean up afterward. All helping hands were greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to Steve and Kathy VanLeeuwen for becoming our new couple of the year and thanks to



*Anniversary greeters Jim Lash and Wendell Nielsen.*

Dale and Donna Simonton for serving for the past year.

The dozen floral centerpieces were raffled off. 50/50 winners were Dennis King and Eunice Mastin. And of course, plenty of delicious food for everyone.



*Members Gary and Pam Geeting visiting with other members prior to dinner.*



*Roger Miller entertaining with one of his card tricks.*

## Wing News

By Dave Wing  
Chapter Director

Recently I helped a 70ish friend pick up his Bergman scooter that he crashed last night. He went riding with a group that rides on Tuesday nights and leaves from a marina and Suzuki dealership in Coloma down the road from where he lives. His name is Bill Weirick. He and his wife, Shirley were looking forward to riding with our group and he had ridden with me with the "Old Dogs" ride on Thursday morning a couple of weeks ago. At that time he didn't feel comfortable riding a long distance with a group. So Bill, Wendell and I decided that it would be better for Bill to ride with just the two of us and get used to his new scooter that he had just picked up from Bruce Hughes the day before. Well, that went pretty good and after that he had been riding and getting familiar with his new ride. He even took Shirley riding and that was going well. They were enjoying the experience.

Then along comes this Tuesday night group ride which sounded fun to him. He knows the leader of the group who we had talked to two weeks ago. At that time, Bill was invited to ride with them. I mentioned to Bill about my thoughts on riding with groups of people that I don't know and my experi-



ences that make me cautious to do so. Now I feel that I should have counseled him a little more. I did tell him several times to always "ride your own ride." One thing that I am glad I did was to help him pick out proper riding gear. He felt that saved him from further injury. Of course he was wearing his helmet, that we now have a choice of leaving at home. What's your choice?

So he went on the ride with this group that at least two of the guys that I met were younger, experienced riders and have sport type bikes. (Bill had never ridden at all until this winter in Florida.) They went into a curve that the younger guy mentioned he didn't see any gravel or stones in the curve. The rider of one of the sport bikes as he rounded the curve "was scraping his foot peg." Bill came to the curve, slowed down, took it a little higher, did hit some stones (which I saw when I helped him get his scooter), caught the edge of the road and ended up on his back. As a result, he has a bruised lung, three broken ribs and is in considerable

pain. His co-riders kept on going, even when they noticed that he wasn't with them anymore. They thought he might have just gotten cold and gone on home. Now Bill says that he never wants to ride with that group again....

Here is my thinking on this incident. When riding with our group of people, someone always has your back and is interested in your well-being. Do you think that someone would crash and be unnoticed? Our chapter members have shown time and again that they are there in the time of need and prepared to give assistance. We care about each other. Taking first aid/cpr training and other safety classes prove that. Bill made the comment that things probably wouldn't have gone the same way riding with our Gold Wing group. I have to agree with him. I have so much confidence and trust while riding with our group. I feel when we invite other bikes to join us, that just maybe some of what we have learned from each other and what GWRRA stands for, will rub off on them and they will become safer and better bikers.

Thank you all again for making this organization what it is today.

Wendell and I will be attending the officers meeting on May 5, so we will see you somewhere in between or at the next meeting.

Happy trails to you, until we meet again,

Dave Wing

## Wendell's Notes

By Wendell Nielsen  
Assistant Chapter Director

I want to thank everyone for attending the 30th Chapter D anniversary celebration...what a great turnout we had, 62 people signed in! With the large turnout we had great

food that was shared, a tradition that never stops at our gatherings!

Thanks to all the former members for sharing memories and reestablishing friendships from years past! Without all the volunteers from the past, Chapter D wouldn't be here today. A big Thank You to all!

With GWRRA having been organized for 35 years this year, I'm honored to

be part of Chapter D to continue to make "Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge."

With the riding season starting, let's go make more lasting friendships and memories!

Ride safe!!!

Wendell

## Rider Safety

By Jim Lash, Rider Education Officer, [deejim@juno.com](mailto:deejim@juno.com)

May is motorcycle awareness month in Michigan so I have a couple of things you can do to make yourself more visible.

1. Maintain a safe distance behind the car in front of you.
2. Ride so you can be seen in the rear view mirror of the vehicle in front of you.
3. Since we are just getting into the riding season, people are not used to seeing motorcycles on the road, so we need to be extra careful at this time.
4. Keep your bike maintained properly. (Good tires and brakes are especially important.) Also go through the T-Clock inspection on your bike once in a while, you might be surprised at the little things that need attention.

That's all for this month so be careful out there.

Chapter "D"  
Rider Educator  
Jim Lash

## Mission Gifts

May	Linda Burgan
June	Marge McKee
July	Donna Simonton
August	Chris Langer
September	Laurie Shelburne
October	Dee Lash
November/	
December	Dee Miller

Thank you to all the ladies who so graciously give to this cause.

## May Activities

By Mike Wood,  
[woodmr1@yahoo.com](mailto:woodmr1@yahoo.com)

May 5, 2012

Chapter Gathering at Comstock Community Center  
8:30 AM Coffee & Donuts  
9:00 AM Meeting  
Ride to Sam's Join in Alaska, MI

May 12, 2012

Spread Your Wings  
Gary and Pat Geeting  
3120 Halbert Road East  
Battle Creek, MI  
Starts at 10:00 AM bring a dish for the potluck lunch

May 20, 2012

Lunker's Restaurant  
Leave exit 92 at 12 PM

May 26, 2012

Kerstings Motorcycle Museum  
8774 W. 700 N, Winamac, IN  
Leave exit 92 at 9:00 AM

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

By Kathy Hausman,  
[ljhaus@comcast.net](mailto:ljhaus@comcast.net)

### May Birthdays

5/3 Kaye Hickman  
5/5 Deb Peterson  
5/6 Liane Conine  
5/8 Bill Hendrick  
5/18 Linda Burgan

### May Anniversaries

5/14 Gary & Anna Munson  
5/18 Steve & Kay Schanzbaker  
5/20 Steve & Kathy VanLeeuwen  
5/29 Rex & Sheila Derksen



## Buy or Sell Items

### FOR SALE:

**Honda line windshield** for a 2003 1800 Gold Wing (2" taller than stock). \$50.

**Stock seat** off a 2003 1800 Gold Wing with built in Utopia backrest (less than 300 miles). \$200.

**Tent For Sale:** 8ft x 10ft x 6ft high. \$30.00. Contact Jim Lash at 377-4447 for all three items.

To place an item in this column, email [Kathy VanLeeuwen](mailto:KathyVanLeeuwen).



## April Meeting Notes

By Dee Miller

It was a chilly morning that brought three brave soles out on their bikes arriving with very red noses. Upcoming events - CPR/First Aide and the Anniversary Party were further organized and planned. It was the general consensus that the Anniversary Party remain informal; a time to reflect and visit. Harold and Linda are preparing the meat and taking care of the paper products. Dee will send out notices to past members and friends that she has addresses for.



Welcome returning members Norma and Charles Futrell.

We will be selling tickets at M&M on April 27 and 28 during their open house. A sign up sheet was passed around. Parade of Homes will take place June 8-16.

Charles and Norma Futrell are back with us and will be riding Jan Hollenbeck's bike. Since Charles took Jan to his appointments at Cleveland Clinic, he gave his bike to him. It's getting needed maintenance and will be back on the road.

Jim Lash talked to us about the brake recall and the Find a Friend rewards.

50/50 was won by Brock and Leola Inglehart, Dale and Donna Simonton, and Charles and Norma Futrell. Mission gift donated by Anna Munson won by Kay Schanzenbaker. Chapter pride won by Charles and Norma Futrell.

## Couple of the Year

We were very surprised to receive the honor of being Couple of the Year for Chapter D at the anniversary party. Steve has been riding dirt bikes and motorcycles since he turned 10. He introduced Kathy to the fun of riding on their very first date in May of 2006. And that was the start of a love affair—both for the couple and the pleasure of riding.

Laurie and Rusty Shelburne invited us to ride with the Gold Wing group on several occasions before we owned one. We had a good time with the group, and enjoyed the rides, even though we were riding the Yamaha Vmax at that time.

We have trailered the Vmax to Northern Michigan to ride the tunnel of trees and over the Mackinac Bridge. Taken it to Tennessee to ride the Blue Ridge Parkway, Tail of the Dragon, and other great mountain roads. Then to Daytona for Bike Week in 2009. After riding for the better part of a day in Florida, we stopped at the Honda dealership display at Daytona Speedway and it was the first time we had an opportunity to actually sit on a Gold Wing. Ahhh...heavenly! That was the point when we both said, "Someday we will own a Gold Wing."

*To be continued...*

### Chapter D Officers

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Kay Schanzenbaker	Treasurer	269-962-9437	tschanzcnb@aol.com

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