

Region E



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

December 2009

# MISSOURI CHAPTER "P"



## A Word from our CD's

*Chapter Directors*  
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*Treasure*  
**Shirley & Dean Williams**

*2009 Couple of the Year*  
**Dean & Shirley Williams**

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR. WE ARE ALL BUSY GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. DURING THIS TIME, WE IN CHAPTER P WANTED TO REMEMBER SOME FOLKS WHO ARE POSSIBLY LESS FORTUNATE THAN WE HAVE BEEN. KEN AND JANET, ALONG WITH MARVIN AND DONNA WENT TO ST. JAMES, MISSOURI, ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH TO DELIVER MONEY WE COLLECTED FROM OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE "ADOPT A VET" PROGRAM. THE FUNDS COLLECTED WILL ENSURE GIFTS FOR THE VETS AS WELL AS HELP WITH THEIR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION. THE FOUR OF US REALLY ENJOYED VISITING THE HOME.

ON DECEMBER 11TH, JANET AND I ENJOYED HAVING OUR CHAPTER IN OUR HOME FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY. AFTER HEARING AN UNUSUAL RENDITION OF "THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" BY KEN, PRESENTS WERE EXCHANGED AND ENJOYED. A HEARTY THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BROUGHT SUCH YUMMY FOOD.

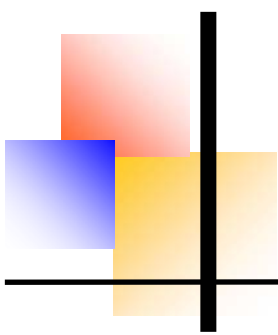
WE ARE HOPING EVERYONE WILL BE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FISH FRY WHICH WILL BE JANUARY 30TH, 2010. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT ME AT 314-304-2512.

LASTLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

KEN AND JANET

## Join Chapter P

For those of you who know GWRRA, you know it's a place to have fun! For those of you who aren't familiar, there are chapters of GWRRA members throughout Missouri so that any motorcycle enthusiast has a place to come and ride, laugh and grow with friends.



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## Rider Education

# Trailer Safety Preparation

By Shane and Deana Mead, Kansas Chapter C Educators and COY

We admire those of you who are talented enough to pack for a 10-day trip by stuffing every nook and cranny of your Wing with your necessities. We've done it, but when buzzing around on vacation, the last thing we want to do is spend an evening at the laundromat. We enjoy our Wing devoid of strapped-on trunk and tank bags, so we pull a small cargo trailer and love it.

Being initially ignorant about pulling a trailer behind a two-wheeler, we were quite fortunate to spend a large sum of miles riding with some septuagenarians who claim over 200,000 miles with trailer in tow. And we've learned a lot since then regarding the safety of trailer preparation.

Let's make the presumption that your trailer is actually roadworthy. Browse the following safety checklist. Don't presuppose that your trailer has made the grade until you check each one.

### **Hitch lubricant**

Read the can. It says *axle lubricant*, not *hitch lubricant*. We guarantee that black grease will seek out your clothing and skin, and attempt to attach itself to you. Besides that, when you unhitch your trailer, you'll have one heck of a mess to clean up. Similarly, don't bother with Vaseline. It can quickly turn to liquid and flow right out of the hitch. Vaseline is best left in the wife's makeup kit. Buy a small tub of white lithium grease at your auto supply store. It's heat tolerant, stays put where you smear it, and won't stain if it gets on your clothes.

### **Hitch adjustment**

Just because the tongue attaches to the ball doesn't mean that it will actually stay there. There is an adjustment mechanism on the underside of the tongue that is used to keep the ball in the socket when locked, and prevent its untimely departure. To adjust it, connect the trailer tongue to the ball, then using a ratchet and socket, tighten the mechanism until there is a very small amount of vertical free play when in the locked position. Make sure you can't lift the locked tongue off the ball. Be careful to not over tighten it, which can produce adverse handling characteristics, all while destroying the nice chrome finish on the ball.

### **Lid latch**

Don't take a chance on having your unmentionables strewn about while dragging a trailer. Secure the lid with the latch, and make certain it cannot open itself without your express written permission. We pull an inexpensive trailer, and the latch is just a simple garage door handle. We have little confidence in this cheap mechanism, so when in tow, our trailer lid is under constant persuasion to remain closed by using a bungee cord between the handle and the bumper.

## Wheel bearings

A-ha! We've found a use for the axle grease we told you to avoid earlier! When was the last time you had those bearings packed? If you don't remember, then they're past due. Some of these trailers use very small wheels, therefore must spin at high RPMs while at highway speeds (and above). Sure, you've got high-speed bearings in those hubs, but they'll live a short life without lubrication.

## Safety chains

Chains are functional safety devices, so forget about ornate cosmetics. Fashion statements don't save lives. Make sure the chain is strong enough to support the weight of a law enforcement officer should he/she decide to step down on them. Always use two chains, as you'll be legal in all states, even those that require only one. Furthermore, always cross those chains so that they will catch the tongue should the union between bike and trailer fail. When crossed, the chains will be at their tightest when the trailer is aligned with your motorcycle. Avoid unnecessary chain slack. Keep in mind that the trailer's tongue is aligned with the motorcycle's rear tire. Keep the chains short enough to prevent the trailer's tongue from reaching the tire following an unexpected disconnect. Conversely, avoid overly tight chains that can bind.

## Tires

No guessing! Make sure you know how much pressure you have in the trailer tires. If those tires just "*look about right*", then they're not, until you've checked them with a gauge. Nothing is more difficult to lug than a loaded trailer with low tire pressure.

## Indicator lights

When you put a trailer behind your ride, you're probably hiding some of your motorcycle's indicator lights especially the ones on the saddlebags. Therefore, check all your trailer lights immediately after establishing an electrical connection. If you can't convey your stopping or turning intentions to following drivers, a good riding day may quickly become dreadful.

## Loading and weight distribution

Never exceed your trailer's weight limitation specifications when packing it. But equally important, make sure you are cognizant of *how* you pack it, so you will achieve a desirable tongue weight. The rule of thumb is that you should have 10% of the total loaded trailer weight at the tongue. For example, if your empty trailer weighs 150lbs, and you've added another 75lbs to it, pack it so that the tongue weight is about 22-23lbs. Use bathroom scales if necessary, and weigh the tongue while supporting it with a short stick.

However, we don't personally use this rule. Our trailer is small so we usually try to keep the tongue weight at 15-20lbs, regardless of the trailer's load. Common sense should prevail. NEVER pull with a trailer with zero or negative tongue weight, unless you are willing to engage in the most unforgettably unpleasant experience of your life.

## Driving

Tugging a trailer can noticeably affect your motorcycle's performance. Be sure to allow for the slower acceleration and increased braking distances. Remember how far back the end of your trailer is when navigating corners and when passing others. Riders often say they "*don't even know it's back there*". That's good, because it means that trailering can be enjoyable and effortless. But it's also bad, because forgetting about your trailer can be treacherous. Don't let yourself forget about it.



**MO Chapter P presents check to Veterans Home of St. James, MO**

**The assistance League for the Missouri Veterans Home in St. James conducted its Adopt-A-Vet Program again this year. This gives opportunity for folks to help brighten the holiday for one of the 150 vets living in the home. A \$50 donation helps ensure that each of the Veteran's Home residents will have a Christmas gift under this year's tree. While veterans receive great care at the home, the adopt-a-vet program is the only resource available for providing gifts for them at Christmas. A gift of \$50 guarantees that our great American Heroes will have a special holiday celebration . They deserve our Thanks during the holidays and throughout the coming year.**

**It was with pride and pleasure that Chapter "P" presented funds to the Veterans Home that would give several Vets a gift this year. And, the Chapter "P" folks enjoyed a nice tour of the Vets Home while they were visiting.**

## GWRRA offers much to enjoy

- January 1, 2010 **Chapter G Polar Bear Ride** Contact Ken Lueckenotte 573-659-4641
- January 1, 2010 **Chapter W Polar Bear Ride** Columbia MO Contact Norman & Sandy Sallee 573-886-7811
- January 1, 2010 **Chapter W2 Polar Bear Ride** St. Charles, MO Contact John & Nancy Hoffman 636-922-4951
- January 16, 2010 **Chapter G LTD Training** Contact Ken Lueckenotte 573-659-4641
- January 22-23, 2010 **Illinois Winter Warm UP** “Winter Wonderland” Decatur Conference Center, Decatur IL
- January 30, 2010 **Chapter P Fish Fry** Sullivan IOOF Hall, 77 Hughes Ford Rd. Eat 1pm. Contact Ken & Janet Wahle 636-390-2158 [kwahle71@gmail.com](mailto:kwahle71@gmail.com)
- February 13, 2010 **Iowa Sweetheart Weekend** Comfort Suites 1780 Stonegate Center Drive, Burlington IA 319-753-1300
- March 13, 2010 **Missouri District Spring Fling** “Pirates of the Ozarks” Inn at Grand Glaize, Lake of the Ozarks, MO Contact: Bob & Diane Phelps [modirect\\_2010@sbcglobal.net](mailto:modirect_2010@sbcglobal.net)
- April 3, 2010 **Chapter K ERC Course** Contact Ryan & Mary Trinkler 816-318-9829

## LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB

As many of you know, Chapter P is on the web. Our address is [www.fidnet.com/~daved](http://www.fidnet.com/~daved) Most of Chapter P’s information will appear somewhere on the web-site. This site is in place for your convenience, and to let others, both members and non-members to know how much fun we have, what we’re about, and what we have planned to do. Likewise, the Missouri District has a new web-site. In fact, they have established their own domain. The address for the Missouri District web-site is: [www.mogwrra.org](http://www.mogwrra.org) Check both sites often to find out what is planned.

### **Web Sites**

*MO Chapter P*  
<http://www.fidnet.com/~daved>

*GWRRA*  
<http://www.gwrra.org>

*GWRRA Region E*  
<http://www.gwrra-region-e.com>

*GWRRA Missouri District*  
<http://www.mogwrra.org>