

July is off to a rip roaring start with heat. We had our monthly ride to Marilyn's in Osage City with 13 people in attendance. We only had 4 bikes but with the heat in triple digits it sent some of us into our enclosed vehicles with Brenda and I being one couple. Brenda flat said she wasn't riding and with 20/20 hindsight it was a good decision since the additional 120 miles we would have had to ride wouldn't have been a lot of fun in that much heat. The food was excellent with the exception of Rita Thompson having to eat with an individual eating liver and onions on both sides of her. She did manage to survive but it appeared to me to take a lot of willpower on her part. We were joined by two "strangers", Don & Deb McCullough made the trip down from Harveyville. It was the first time they have been able to join us in quite a while. It's always good when old friends can make it. We also had a new couple join us for the first time Sam & Ronda Boling on their California Sidecar trike with a lot of bling. Sam & Ronda welcome to the Chapter.

The wait staff did a great job especially since they also had another large group when we arrived. Teresa Gull decided she wanted to try liver so she conned Rick Thompson out of a taste of his but he got the last laugh. Teresa looked like a little baby with its first taste of lemon. She shivered and shook while making all kinds of faces in addition to drinking about half a glass of water chasing the liver. I don't think the piece was as big as a dime. It was too bad nobody thought to take a video of her.

We switched our extended ride up a bit this month with "starting" it in Manhattan. Actually Brenda and I were leading the ride and were going to the Boyer Museum in Belleville so we decided to meet in Manhattan, which was on the way. Four bikes and seven people linked up with us at the Dara's Fast Lane more or less on the west side of town and headed out via the big metropolis of Keats. Since it was already getting a bit warm we made one stop before we got to Heavy's BBQ in Concordia. Surprise surprise there was a poker run someplace and they were pretty much packed with customers. We had called ahead and they had tables just about ready for us. The waitress gave us some menus and asked us to share because she didn't have enough (it was that crowded). Being in an ornery mood I said fine but it would be a 30% discount for our inconvenience. She never missed a beat and said that was fine because there was a 50% gratuity for our orders. The rest of the meal went downhill fast. John Gull and Rick Thompson both ordered

sandwiches without pickles, but Rita Thompson spoke up and said she would take them so the waitress said she would take care of it. When the food arrived she had actually put the pickles on the wrong plate but Teresa Gull just gave them to Rita. She caught her mistake and in a couple of minutes returned with a small plate full of pickles just for Rita. The rest of the meal was uneventful with great food. Since we were in a BBQ place only Randy and Denise Benteman ordered BBQ the rest of us ate other stuff. Everybody said their food was good so we were all happy, especially myself. Heavy's was open when we got there and as it is well known in the Chapter, Brenda and I can find just about anything closed. Just to mention two. We found the 4 Corners Monument closed (it was being remodeled) and one weekend while out riding with Jamie & Gayle Conway we found the city of Council Grove closed (that one was due to a power failure city wide).

After lunch we headed out the approximately 30 miles to the Boyer Museum and didn't even get lost with the construction in Belleville. The Museum is well worth the \$6 that it cost to go thru it. It is small as it only has two rooms but you will see plenty of "mechanical/animated things" you won't see anyplace else. It is all made by the staff's father who is in his 80's now and also in bad health, which only allows him to work a couple hours a week now when he feels like it. Everything is handmade and without plans or pictures. He says if he can see it in his head he can make it.

As we were leaving the museum somebody said they needed some fuel and Rita and Teresa piped up and said we needed to find a Dairy Queen. It actually happened to be right across the road from the Casey's where we fueled. The Dairy Queen was a big shock to us. With the temperatures in the 90's it was busy but that didn't stop us. We ordered anyway. The shocking part was our orders were ready almost before we got them paid for. That was the fastest service I've ever seen in a Dairy Queen. As we were leaving John Gull stopped and told the manager that was the best service he had ever gotten at a Dairy Queen. For GWRRA members to say that makes a point since we all know Dairy Queen is a top priority stopping place.

With our ice cream fix complete we headed out toward home more or less. As we were coming into Clay Center, Rick came on the radio and said Teresa needed a bathroom break. In case nobody knows Rick is psychic in that way because Teresa

was riding with John and (thank goodness) she doesn't have a push to talk switch at the present time. Anyway we stopped and the facilities were used by those that needed them and we all got cold drinks. While we were finishing our drinks Teresa was talking about the merits of Hagan Das coffee flavored ice cream. While she was saying this she looked at Rita and asked her if she ate ice cream (flashback to the two that wanted to stop at Dairy Queen). Rita almost spit her drink in Teresa's face but managed to swallow it instead. On that cheerful note we headed out and went to Wamego via Olsburg and with Brenda and I splitting off in Wamego and the rest returning to Topeka.

Our meeting started with 23 in attendance and Bill Hanson being recognized for becoming our Rider Education Officer. He now gets to be the individual that "officially" comes up with safety topics and gets to fill out paperwork each month while getting no pay whatsoever for doing basically what he's been doing for several months. Thank you Bill for volunteering to go thru the process of getting appointed to the position I know it was an "interesting experience doing it. Bill's "subject" this month was a discussion about two of his friends that were riding some other brand of bike were caught in a heavy rain on the interstate near Emporia and decided to pull under an overpass to wait it out and as they were slowing down on the shoulder of the road they were crossing the rumble strips there and both bikes went down at a very slow speed. Nobody was hurt so all was well in that area. Neither rider had a clue why they went down they said they were right side up and then down. After a good discussion it was determined or at least guessed it could have been caused by either hydroplaning over the rumble strips or oil from the road that hadn't washed away. Nobody is sure exactly what happened but it is food for thought to be extremely careful under those conditions.

There will be two MSF courses in Wichita in September. There will be a trike course on the 18th and a two wheel course on the 25th. In addition to the range course there is a classroom portion. As it stands now the classroom portion will be on Saturday evening probably at Rick & Carolyn Stevens' home. The reason for the split sessions is to keep from having to do the range portion in the heat of the day. Because it is hard to fill a trailering course both courses can be accomplished with or without a trailer. The choice is up to the rider. Co-riders are encouraged and welcome to participate. The cost of the course is \$25 with a \$5 discount for every course taken consecutively down to a minimum charge of \$15. Just as a

comparison the same course at Wing Ding costs \$50 for the rider and the co-rider is free. When I took it at Wing Ding in '09 they gave a \$20 refund when you completed the course, but I don't know if they are doing that this year or not. Even if they are doing it the cost is still higher and the money doesn't go to the district it goes elsewhere. If there are any questions Bill Tucker can be reached at wtucker1@cox.net or Rick Stevens at rfstevens@gmail.com. Bill's cell number is 316-315-2782. If you call him have patience he's like me and doesn't like a telephone too much. If wanting to enroll in any of the courses contact either of the above individuals directly. The course is limited to 12 bikes or 24 people.

The Chapter birthday party was discussed and decided to reschedule since 4 couples at a minimum were unable to attend. The new date is August 27th at John & Teresa's home at 4020 SE 34th Terrace starting at 2:00 pm. It's requested you arrive early in order to help carry tables and chairs upstairs to help John & Teresa keep their workload down. Also bring a covered dish and be prepared to enjoy the afternoon.

With nothing further do discuss the 50/50 drawing was held with Rod & Lara Williams doing their usual and winning the largest amount and then promptly winning the second amount, which was graciously redrawn with Jamie & Gale Conway winning that one. We had enough this month to have a third winner and that was Brenda & I.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
2	Ken Felch	5	Rod & Lara Williams
		5	Randy & Denise Benteman
		12	Jamie & Gayle

Don & Brenda Williams

CD/Newsletter editors