

Chapter C started the year out the same way we did last year. We “rode” to Red Robbin for our annual New Year’s Day ride and lunch. With the temperature hovering around zero nobody was dumb enough to venture out on a motorcycle. We had 25 people in attendance with the Gull family making up a big chunk of that number, since they managed to bring three generations. John’s son, his wife, daughter, her husband, and their son made up the gang. Bringing family to functions is always a big plus. With that big of a turnout we had to be on our best behavior and keep things to a low roar in order not to be offensive to the other people there eating. Our waitress did a fantastic job somehow. She took orders down one side of the tables then back up the other side even though most everybody was sitting across the table from their other half. She got the food to the table in a timely manner and didn’t mess up any orders, that I’m aware of, and even got the bills correct which amazed me because of the way she had them written down.

After about an hour or so we started to get ready to head out our separate ways when Randy & Denise Benteman invited everyone that wanted to, to stop by their house, which is only about 2 miles from Red Robin. About ½ of us ended up there for another hour or so. Coffee and tea for everyone and more catching up with anyone we weren’t sitting near at the restaurant. I don’t think we left the house in too much of a mess. Thank you for an enjoyable time.

Our monthly get together was on the 16<sup>th</sup> with 17 in attendance. Bill Hanson got things off with leading a discussion on “recalculating while riding.” He mentioned it was written by Eric Trow, who among other things writes a regular article for Rider Magazine. The manner in which he writes he used the term to basically draw a rider’s attention to the fact he/she needs to stay alert and aware of the constantly changing environment while still enjoying the ride. That led to various discussions on some of the different things we as riders encountered in our travels.

That discussion led indirectly into the In-site Newsletter I received a couple of days before we met. Originally Bill wanted to know what it said about the Chapter Ride Coordinator. We beat that one to death with what Anita had written and decided Bill is doing a good job and that things will pretty much stay the way it is, as it's working well for our chapter. After going back home and reviewing our discussion in my mind (many say it's warped) I came to the conclusion that Bill has been ahead of his time when his title was Rider Ed. He hardly ever gave a "safety brief" instead he picked a subject that was related to what would be valuable at the current time/season and tossed it out to the group for discussion allowing everybody to participate or not, while getting both good and bad ideas out for discussion.

After that we discussed various other portions of the newsletter in reference to the changes that have and are taking place in GWRRA.

Our supper ride will be the 6<sup>th</sup> of February with us just meeting at McFarland's in Gage Center at 6:00 p.m. Since it seems to be snowing every year for this event it's easier to just meet at the restaurant.

I also pointed out that Sarah Watts has set up a Facebook page for those who have accounts. It's a closed site but very easy to join. The title is GWRRA Kansas District. So far the posts are few, but who knows it might also get real busy. In addition to that some other district information is the March Summit will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Hutchinson at the Senior Center. Dale Trisch has posted the schedule in the January District Newsletter. Just to clarify a bit the trike class is the classroom portion of the MSF trike course and is a onetime requirement to take it prior to the range portion.

It was also pointed out that Sandy Davis has retired from Hallmark as of the 19<sup>th</sup> after 40 years with the company. **Congratulations Sandy!** Somebody asked if she was going to get a card and she said yes. She didn't say if she had to make the thing herself or not so that can be left to the imagination.

Teresa was taking donations for the COY basket for mid-winter and received several offers and suggestions for that project.

With no further information we held the 50/50 with Rick Thompson winning the larger one and yes you guessed it Lara Williams winning the smaller one. She said that they hadn't won in a while so just to make a point I let her know it was because they weren't there. That got a chuckle from her.

Mid-Winter was different this year since it was just a get together for fun with nothing "educational" going on. My personal opinion is that it was a success more so for some to be named later than others. I think the attendance was down a bit from the past years but most folks seemed to enjoy themselves. The facility lends itself well for an event like Mid-Winter. Again from my personal point of view the restaurant and also whoever catered the dinner at closing could use some improvement. Enough said about that.

At closing ceremonies some of Chapter C personnel were considering trying to sneak out the back door. To enlighten those that didn't make it. Even though the chapter only had 8 total people in attendance there were six prizes won and an additional prize returned to be drawn for again. The winners are: John & Teresa three of the Couple of the Year Baskets (yes three out of the six). In addition John won another basket prepared by Doris Schoeck, but he returned it so somebody else could win something. Sandy also won a COY basket with a bunch of money in it. I didn't hear how much there was but even if they were only one dollar bills, she didn't have to pay, for gasoline for the trip, out of her pocket. The other two prizes won was a nice clock Rick Kistler made and donated, Brenda won that. And last but not least...drum roll please... yes you guessed it, Teresa won an afghan donated by a member from Chapter F (sorry didn't catch her name) that had a patriotic theme for veterans. The big losers from the chapter were Rick Thompson and I with a big fat nothing. Bill and Margaret had to leave before closing so

they weren't in the running for prizes. It only took 4 of us to carry all of John & Teresa's stuff to their car. Everybody that was at closing will have night mares from now on when they hear the numbers "98" and "96"

The only birthday for February is Randy Benteman on the 13<sup>th</sup>. No anniversaries, which seems odd since it's the month of Valentine's Day.

***Don & Brenda Williams***  
***CD/Newsletter Editors***