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# New Hampshire Chapter E

**J.P. Stephen's Restaurant & Tavern**

**377 Route 202, Rindge, NH**

**MONTHLY MEETING – 9:30 A.M.**

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

**“WHERE GOOD FRIENDS MEET”**

**Webpage <http://gwrra-nh-e.weebly.com/>**



# APRIL 2015

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Hello NH-E,

Well it looks like Spring has arrived. Most of the snow is gone there are a few snow banks still lingering. Time to start riding. T-CLOCKS as Ted has taught us. Remember Please Ride Safe. I informed members at the March meeting of an Insurance issue with Trikes. I received a flier from AARP about motorcycle insurance and I actually took the time to read it. It stated that they insured Trikes. I thought about it and figured I would stop at my insurance agency and check it out the next day. When I found out that when I bought it and called my Insurance Company from the dealer and told them it was a 2007 GL1800 Champion Trike Vin #xxxxx. It was insured as a 2 wheeled Gold Wing. \$316.00 a year and I have not been covered for the trike just the bike. Progressive covers the bike and you must put accessory insurance to cover extras like trike conversions trailers and other extras. So if you have a trike please check to be sure you are covered. Jim Hicks also found he was in the same situation. AARP will cover my trike for \$366.00 a year.

NH-G Captured our flag at the March 29th meeting. When Susie and I were at

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the End of Winter Bash with ME-C in North Conway, NH this past weekend we got an email from Bill and Dee Bascom wanting to know if we wanted to go to NH-G meeting and capture the Flag. We met Bill and Dee in Tilton, NH and Captured the Flag. Susie and I had a really good time at the End of Winter Bash. We met a lot of nice people. We stayed at the Green Granite Inn. We sold some Raffle tickets while we were there. Guess what Susie found almost next to the Inn? Yes DQ she was delighted. Friday night we ate at the Sea Dog Brewing Company. Saturday night we ate at the Muddy Moose. Both meals were excellent.

The April meeting will be the 19th due to the RI-B Kick Off Breakfast which will be April 26th.

Please try to get some sponsors \$50 business card \$100 1/2 page \$200.00 full page for newsletter, face book, and web page.

We still need someone to take over as Rider Educator. if you are interested, please let us know.

Please try to sell the raffle tickets.

Thanks

*Ron & Susie*



Mike Vaillancourt, NH-G Chapter Director, Bob and Madyln Sprague, Susie and Ron Black  
NH-G Capturing NH-E Flag in March



Susie & Ron, Bill & Dee and Mike Vaillancourt(NH-G)  
NH-E captured the “Flag” back from G at their April Gathering.

## Chapter Educator Article

### ***RIDER ED 'GIMME 5'***

#### **TOPIC: How Are You Starting This Riding Season?**

Winter is finally gone, so let the riding season begin! Maybe you have recently taken a CPR/First Aid class or a seminar or two during this past off-season. This means you are better prepared to help in case one of your riding buddies has an accident or a health issue, or you are prepared to be a better co-rider. Now you are available to spend more time riding now that the season is here. Hopefully you have also taken time to make sure your motorcycle is ready to go, too. You may have done a T-CLOCS, or changed the oil, replaced worn tires, kept your battery charged, or discovered that you needed a new one and replaced it.

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There are other things that you can do to be at your best out on the road, too. Many of us will be out on the road before MSF or GWRRA Rider Courses are offered. So what else can you do to get in the right frame of mind and tune up your skills right away? There are a few things you can do as an individual or in a group (such as with your fellow chapter members) to be prepared to ride safely and with skill before the season is even two weeks old.

First, you can practice your skills in an empty, quiet parking lot with smooth pavement that is free of loose gravel or sand. Find an empty church or a school parking lot, or some unused out-of-the-way space at a shopping center safely away from moving vehicles. Choose a time when it is unlikely to be busy, (e.g., a school lot on Sunday) as your safety is of the utmost importance. Work on braking, turning, curves, stopping while in a curve (remember to straighten the handlebars *before* braking!), and turning when pulling away from a stop. When you practice alone, always remain vigilant to vehicles encroaching on your space.

Second, how about participating in a Parking Lot Practice? Also referred to as a PLP, this is an activity that many Chapters hold at the chapter level. The exercises in a PLP are all spelled out in the Cornering Practice Guide along with tips to execute the skills correctly. Talk to your Chapter Educator about holding a Parking Lot Practice for your chapter, or if there is a Facilitated Parking Lot Practice scheduled near you.

Third, you can attend a Team Riding Seminar. This Rider Ed seminar is available for presentation at your chapter, and may be available at some District rallies. This seminar is particularly good to hold at your chapter because the folks who are normally part of your riding team can all hear the same Team Riding tips. Why would you sit through a Team Riding Seminar? One reason is because most of us ride to various places around the state with our riding friends. And if you know what to expect from the others in your group – your *team* – you will be more likely to trust them. You will trust them because you'll know they are all going to ride safely and predictably in a staggered formation. That is what the Team Riding Seminar provides you.

Getting back to the bike for a minute, if you have new tires on your bike for the new season, know that the tire manufacturers recommend that you take it easy on those tires for the first 50 – 100 miles. That means go easy in the curves and easy on acceleration to prevent slide-outs. The reason is because the surface of the tire will be slickest (slippery) when new. There are a couple of common explanations why, but the result is the same – reduced traction. The rubber will get scuffed and roughed up enough over that distance during normal riding and the tire's grip will improve. Be particularly careful with new tires on painted stripes and metal plates, and all surfaces that are slick even when your tires aren't.

Remember that practice in a parking lot, by yourself or with others, is good for all of us after the long off-season. It is even more beneficial and important if you recently bought a new or used motorcycle. Get to know that new-to-you bike and how it handles in a safe environment. After brushing up your skills, you'll be ready to go out and enjoy a safe riding season!

### *Ride Smart & Be Safe!*

Bruce & Melissa Thayer

Former MI Asst. District Rider Educators

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, NH-E Chapter E Breakfast J.P. Stevens Restaurant  
Special Guest: ED Heath District Director

Sunday, April 26, RI-B Kick Off Breakfast APRIL

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### Chapter Newsletter Editor Notes



**Pat Thibaudeau**

April is here, Easter and Tax Day are past and it is time for me to head back to Massachusetts. I cannot believe that other than three weeks at Christmas I have been in Florida for seven months. As of late I have been saying good bye to most of the Florida snowbirds and the campground finally has a few vacancies. I have mixed emotions about returning home, but I do miss my family, Carter and Drew's little league and babe ruth games will be starting soon and I am unable to see any Red Sox games in Florida. It is getting too hot to enjoy any motorcycle riding as the temperatures are always close to 90 degrees and today it reached 92.

Bruce and Margo came to visit on Sunday, they have become true Floridians as they say the heat doesn't bother them that much, and they always travel with their two little dogs.

I am certain Joy is just going to hate returning to Winchendon, as she can spend all day outside here sunning herself, but there are too many coyotes and other hazards near the woods for her to stay outside up north unless I am outside with her.

I hope some of you get to attend RI's Kick Off Breakfast, that has been a long tradition and it was always a lot of fun. It appears Ron and Susie have been riding their trike and I hope some of you have been able to enjoy some spring riding.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the May NH-E Breakfast.

*Pat*



APRIL

Rod Stone April 24th  
Sandi Jones April 25

MAY

Bev Bushey May 18  
Jeanne Goodwin May 29



APRIL

Leo and Jeane Goodwin April 12th  
Bill and Dee Bascom April 20th

MAY

Steve and France May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Ted and Karen Zitnay May 24<sup>th</sup>

## District Notes:



**Ed Heath**

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

April is here and the weather is changing. I have pulled the bike out of storage, and checked it over using the TCLOCK check list to make sure it is ready for riding. Nothing is worse than to have a bike in the shop in the middle of the riding season.

I traveled to Lewiston, Maine for a Rally meeting along with the other District Directors and the All New England Rally is really shaping up to be a fun time. It's not too late to register and reserve your room.

Are you planning to attend the Rhode Island B Kickoff Breakfast on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>? It is at a new location and pre-registration is required. The flyer is in the newsletter. This is really the kickoff of the riding season.

I am pleased to announce that Brian and Dee Thomas have decided to stay on as Chapter Directors of VT-A. They had announced that they would be stepping down as soon as a replacement could be found and after encouragement and calls from the members, they have reconsidered and decided that they would remain for 2015.

I am also pleased to announce that after MANY (6) years, NH-G has an Assistant Chapter Director! While I was Chapter Director, I did not have one and for the first year that he took over, Chapter Director Mike Vaillancourt did not have one, until last month, at the monthly meeting of NH-G, when Mike, once again stated that he was in need of an Assistant, and Carole Sheehan spoke up and said she would do it! Carole had encouraged her husband, John, to become the Ride Coordinator for the chapter, and as soon as John accepted the Ride Coordinator, Carole accepted the position of Assistant Chapter Director! Good luck to both John and Carole in their new positions in Chapter G.

The "capture the flag" competition is still going strong. Sunday morning, while arriving at chapter G's meeting, who shows up, but Ron and Susie Black, Chapter Directors and COUPLE of the Year for NH-E. They had just left the End of Winter Bash in North Conway to travel to NH-G to get the flag. They had "back up" from NH-E as Bill and Dee Bascom were there to make sure that the flag went back to NH-E. Who will capture it next?

Until next month, be safe, and let's ride!

## **April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation would like to remind drivers that motorcyclists are out there.**

“Fender-benders are rare in collisions involving motorcycles,” said MSF President Tim Buche. “When two cars collide, the result is often minor damage that’s repaired a few weeks later once insurance kicks in. However, when a car hits a motorcyclist, there is often direct vehicle-to-human contact. I can’t imagine the lasting guilt of doing harm to a person who has a life, and a family who loves them, especially if that harm is the result of a momentary lapse of attention. This can all be avoided by making a conscious effort to drive fully engaged and undistracted.”

The MSF has created a collection of insightful tips for car and truck drivers. In this [publication](#) (Quick Tips: Ten Things All Car & Truck Drivers Should Know About Motorcycles), the first tip has to do with drivers actually looking for and seeing motorcyclists:

Over half of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle. Most of the time, the car or truck driver, not the motorcyclist, is at fault. There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle – they ignore it (usually unintentionally).

### **Driving Cell Free**

According to the National Safety Council, “Hands-free is not risk-free.” A full 80 percent of American drivers believe that hands-free devices are safer to use than their hand-held counterparts. “But that’s just not true,” said MSF’s Vice President of Training Systems Dr. Ray Ochs. “Distraction happens in the mind, and the mind can become distracted by the conversation itself, whether that conversation is hands-free or while holding a phone. The goal should be to completely free up the mind to focus on the task at hand – driving and watching for others, and doing so safely.” To do just that, the NSC recommends driving “cell free.”

The National Safety Council has created a list of strategies to avoid cell phone distractions while driving. They include:

- Turn off your cell phone, or put it on silent, before driving.
- Toss your cell phone in the trunk or glove box to avoid temptation.
- Pre-set your navigation system and music playlists before driving.
- Schedule stops to check voicemails, emails and texts.
- Tell coworkers, family and friends not to call or text you when they know you are driving.

### **The Mind’s Eye**

In the book *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)*, author Tom Vanderbilt echoes Ochs view that driving undistracted is all about what takes place in our minds. “Keeping one’s eyes on the road is not necessarily the same thing as keeping one’s mind on the road.”

Unfortunately, drivers don’t have to be distracted very long to get into trouble. According to Vanderbilt, one study found that almost 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involved drivers who were not paying attention to traffic for three seconds or less before the event. Distractions while driving can take many forms, such as eating, personal grooming, or even just mentally reliving a recent unpleasant conversation or event. “Beyond a certain threshold, the more that is asked of [human attention], the less well it performs,” says Vanderbilt.

One group of drivers – teens – is especially at risk. Teen drivers are more distracted than previously thought, according to a new study by the AAA Foundation of Traffic Safety. After analyzing approximately 1,700 samples of in-car video footage, researchers found that 58 percent of crashes among teen drivers were due to distracted driving. The study found that the main causes of distraction among teen drivers were interacting with other occupants, cellphone use, looking at something inside the car, singing or moving to music, grooming and reaching for objects.

“Improvement in any skill requires a constant intent to improve,” said Buche. “A great time to become intentionally focused on driving undistracted is while putting on the seatbelt. This is a safety-related action that we can all use as a trigger to make a focused, intentional commitment to driving undistracted”

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has created a website specifically for drivers of cars and trucks. ForCarDrivers.com is loaded with valuable resources to help drivers see motorcyclists. Complete with quick tips, safety videos, insightful facts and statistics, training modules, video kits and downloadable materials, [ForCarDrivers.com](http://ForCarDrivers.com) is an important place to visit before taking to the road.

MSF’s website has provided several safety booklets, quick tips, videos and other down loadable materials for motorcyclists as well as car and truck drivers. Please visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) and click Library.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation® promotes safety through rider training and education, operator licensing tests and public information programs. The MSF works with the federal government, state agencies, the military and others to offer training for all skill levels so riders can enjoy a lifetime of safe, responsible motorcycling. Standards established by the MSF® have been recognized worldwide since 1973.

The MSF is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by BMW, BRP, [Ducati](http://Ducati), Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Piaggio, Polaris Motorcycles, Suzuki, Triumph and Yamaha. For safety information or to enroll in the RiderCourse nearest you, visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) or call (800) 446-9227.

## MEMBER FOR SALE



**Gray Diamond Seat with accessories for GL1500**

**Seat custom fit to a 6' tall rider**

**Asking \$200**

**Items in photo from left to right: Passenger Arm Rest Pocket, Passenger Arm Rest Covers, Dash Board Cover, Back Rest Spacer, Stock Back Rest Cover, Diamond Back Rest, Diamond Seat**

**Contact: Ted Zitnay at [tedkaren@zitnay.com](mailto:tedkaren@zitnay.com)**



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