



# THE MO-O REVIEW



**Gold Wing Road Riders Association ~ Region "E"**  
**Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge**

Volume 22, Number 10

O'Fallon, Missouri

January 2012

## *From the Oval Office*

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#### **Chapter "O" WEB SITE**

[www.gwrramoo.com](http://www.gwrramoo.com)

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
at: JJ's Restaurant,  
200 Veterans Memorial Dr,  
O'Fallon, MO.  
6:00 to eat, 7:00 to meet

It's hard to believe that 2011 is now in our past and we are on to 2012. We had a wonderful first year as your Chapter O Directors and we want to thank you all for the support you have given us through the year. We look forward to another **FUN** year with GWRRA and we encourage you all to make it your resolution to participate in more rides and events this year. I don't think that will be a hard resolution to keep! Losing 20 pounds, now that's another story!

We certainly had fun at our December meeting and Christmas Party. The Dirty Santa game is always a hit. This year I believe the LED Shop light was the big steal for the guys. The ladies had several items that stayed on the move. Our thanks to everyone who helped with the party, especially **Archie and Candy** for the set up and **Sharon and Mark** for the table decorations. A big Thank You to **Joe and Joyce** for the picture frames for each of us. And of course the big news of the night was the announcement of **John and Toni Nixon** as our 2012 Couple of the Year. We honor their commitment to the Chapter and we know they will be fine representatives of Chapter O during the coming year.

At our next meeting on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> we will be giving out our new Calendar for the year and announcing a new participation award program. If you have any ideas for rides or activities for next year, please let us or another team member know. The calendar is always flexible and we are happy to add new events and rides. We do need volunteers to host/plan dinner rides throughout the year. We would love to hear from you if you would like to take on this fun job. It is really easy. Find a restaurant and plan a way to get there. We have lots of folks that can help with this process if you need assistance. In case you were asleep at midnight on December 31, 2011 to miss our toast to you – here it is:

A happy New Year! Grant that I  
May bring no tear to any eye  
When this New Year in time shall end  
Let it be said I've played the friend,  
Have lived and loved and labored here,  
And made of it a happy year.  
Here is to a happy and healthy year for all of us!!

**WELCOME**

At our December meeting we welcomed **Steve and Patricia** from W2, **Jean and Walter** from IL O, and **Alyce Lake**, Steve's mom. Glad you were with us!

We also want to wish another warm Chapter O welcome to our new members **James McCermick**, and **Terry and Carol Moore**. We are so happy to share the GWRRA FUN with you!

**THANK YOU**

Our thanks go to **Joe and Joyce** for their donation to the Director's Giveaways. We also would like to thank **JJ's Restaurant** for their monthly donation of restaurant gift certificates. **Mike**, the general manager, also provided several trays of deserts at the Christmas party. They were yummy!

*Life's a Journey - Enjoy Every Mile!*  
*Gene and Karen Kaufmann*  
*Chapter Director*



*January Birthdays*

*2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Joyce Long*

*16<sup>th</sup> ~ Cathey Wright*

*21<sup>st</sup> ~ Bob Burns*

*26<sup>th</sup> ~ Peg Scholl*

*January Anniversaries*

*None*

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**Welcome to GWRRA Rider Education...**



**Our Motto...**  
**"Safety is for Life"**

**Our Mission...**  
**"To Save Lives Through Quality, World Class Education"**

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**Paying Attention is NOT the Same as Being Alert/Aware it is deadly, at the wrong time**

Found this article written by James R. Davis. It made me think do I ever fall into just paying attention to my surroundings or am I totally aware of them?

Yesterday I saw two motorcycle incidents that, thankfully, involved no accidents - but could have. One was funny; the other was an invitation to a disaster.

In the first instance I saw a motorcycle pull up to a red light and stop. There was a police car immediately behind him. The motorcyclist decided after about ten seconds that the light was stuck (I guess) and casually took off and crossed the street. I was right next to the police car and both occupants looked at each other and shook their heads. They took off after the motorcycle, lights flashing. The rider was not trying to get away - he saw the flashing lights and pulled over to get his ticket. He obviously had not noticed the police car behind him. I suspect most people would argue that he was not paying attention.

In the second instance I was walking my dog and as we got near the end of the block there

is a stop sign because there is a busy side-street crossing there. A motorcycle rode up to the stop sign and stopped. He apparently looked both ways and saw that the only traffic was a city bus approaching from the left. But that bus had its blinkers on and was slowing to a stop at the bus stop on my left. Seeing that the bus was actually stopping the motorcyclist decided it was clear to enter the intersection and took off. ONE HALF SECOND later he grabbed a handful of brake and panic stopped as the car that had been to the left of the bus (and had, thus, been invisible to him) screeched its tires and did a panic stop trying to avoid hitting the motorcycle. They were both successful in stopping in time but the motorcyclist could reach out with his left hand and touch the car's hood at that time. Close! Some would argue that the motorcyclist was not paying attention.

In both cases I would argue that the motorcyclist WAS paying attention - too much of it - and was not alert or aware of his surroundings. It is simply not true that paying attention means alert or aware. It means, because we have a limited amount of attention to 'spend', that you are focused on something, not scanning and not particularly sensitive to other potential problems.

The first rider paid attention to the red light. He completely missed the fact that a police car was behind him. He also failed the patience test as ten seconds seemed like a long time to him, again I'm guessing. That lapse of awareness cost him a ticket but it could just as easily have cost him his life. Entering an intersection on a red light is a bet your life decision.

The second rider was paying attention - to the bus. He obviously failed to do anything like a 'What if there's a car hidden by that bus?' kind of self-preservation inner dialog. Instead, with all his attention on the bus, and seeing that it was not a threat to him, he concluded that there were no other vehicles and took off from the stop sign - right into the path of that hidden car.

Paying attention is usually the wrong thing to do when you are riding. Being alert and aware of your surroundings ('situational awareness' is what pilots call it) is lifesaving accident avoidance mental activity.

You pay attention AFTER you recognize a threat in order to assess what you should do about it. You do NOT pay attention before that so that you can detect threats.

*John and Toni Nixon*  
*Chapter "O" Rider Educator*

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## NATIONAL NEWS

Greetings!

From Rose and me, we wish you a very Happy New Year! 2012 is here and our GWRRA family is celebrating a very special year...**our 35th Anniversary year!** GWRRA started in June of 1977, when Paul and Shirley met at the Denny's restaurant in north Phoenix, with 5 other Gold Wing enthusiasts, to start what later became known as the Gold Wing Road Riders Association. Who would have ever guessed that 35 years later, there would be a nonprofit motorcycle organization with 72,000 Members in 53 countries?

As you can see by the new look of this *Wingin' It*, we have decided to make some changes...and with every New Year, it is the best time. For me, the New Year signifies a time for reevaluation, change (if necessary), new energy, and renewal. One only has to visit the Home Office to get the sense that there is a new energy brewing around here. One change for the Members betterment, FUN, and a renewed excitement about bringing the focus back to motorcycling in GWRRA! Stay tuned!

During the next year, you will see new programs, new websites, new endeavors, like a focus on social media, more FREE benefits for our Members and more FUN! You will also see more marketing toward recruiting new Members, especially marketing to younger riders-GWRRA's future! More focus on riding, like our National Ride, the 40-to-Phoenix Ride, in March, 2012. We will also have some special promotions throughout the year to show our Members how much we appreciate them joining and renewing with GWRRA by means of special FREE Coupon Book! And don't forget about ways you can save on your own Membership fees by recruiting only 5 new memberships and receive a gift certificate for \$55...enough to pay for your renewal or

anything you want to do with the certificate. See [website](#) for details.\*

And don't forget all the events we will have in 2012...the 35th Anniversary Cruise to the Caribbean, Wing Ding in Fort Wayne, and all the Regional, District and Chapter events that you can find on our new website at [www.gwrra.org](http://www.gwrra.org)

This is going to be a great year in GWRRA, so get involved. You can never have enough Friends and by being involved with GWRRA, through a local Chapter, you can't help but meet like-minded folks who love the same things in life that you do...JOIN US! Check out the new website to find the Chapter closest to you!  
Have a great year and FIND-A-FRIEND!

**FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY & KNOWLEDGE!**

**Ed Price**

**35th Anniversary ...**

**An article from Shirley Stephens-Garcia**

"History" can be boring to many; however, the "facts" about the growth of GWRRA always bring back great memories or me. Because not everyone can relate to those memories as I do, I decided to highlight some of the questions I have been asked over the years, some during "seminars" and some during one-on-one conversations with members.

However, some history is necessary. The first meeting of our Association was held in a Denny's restaurant in Phoenix on Saturday, June 4, 1977. We were **not** GWRRA then... we were the Arizona Chapter of GWOA (Gold Wing Owners Association). We started with 7 people (*the "Magnificent Seven": Paul Hildebrand and me, Beggs and Lil Nelson, Fred Rugg, Tex Wilson, and Dave Nicolai*). Within about three months we had grown to over 70; then there were some issues with GWOA and we were "forced" to do something for members we had. Thus, GWRRA was born.

Why wasn't Phoenix the first Chapter of GWRRA? Because we had no idea the Association would "catch on" as it did. Our local riding "club" became a statewide association in just months. When people in Tucson asked if they could become part of the organization, the concept of "chapterization" was formed.

Did we ever think the Association would become what it is today? My usual response is, "No", and then I say that Paul (Hildebrand, former husband and other "Founder") will tell people that "*of course*" he knew it would! Really, who could have imagined in 1977 this "club" that began in our home would, thirty-five years later, be the "family" so many of us have grown to love and depend on?

Why an Association rather than a Club? We felt a "club", with elections and "politics", could become more of a popularity contest and would be less effective than finding the right person to appoint to a position of leadership. Thirty-five years of success have helped show that decision to be one of the better ones made over the years!

What is your "fondest" memory about the Association? There have been so many great things happening over the years, however, I will always have a soft spot about the first Wing Ding (1979), held over Labor Day weekend at the Pointe Resort in Phoenix. There were 647 attendees, and nothing will ever replace how exciting it was to look at the parking lot filled with those machines and meeting the people who rode in on them! To be able to gather at a beautiful, few resort for our first "party" was outstanding! It was the perfect kick-off for what was to become the best annual family reunion ever. (BTW, I take credit/blame for the name Wing Ding...what better moniker for a party for Gold Wingers?)

How did *Wing World* begin? It started as a typewritten "newsletter"; Xeroxed copies that included a ride calendar and tech tips. It was hand-addressed and sent to members (first class @ \$.13!). By 1979 "Wing News" was 40 pages and was printed and mailed (to almost

3000 members) professionally, which was a far cry from the electronic transfers, printing and mailing of today's *Wing World*.

Member fees/subscriptions started at \$3.00, went to \$17.00, then \$20.00, then \$30.00, then reduced to \$25.00, then back up to \$35.00, then to the current rate of \$45.00 for full membership, where it has held for several years. Not a bad deal for thirty-five years of great "friends, fun, and knowledge" (*motto which "surfaced" in 1979*), is it?

To address one last question: What do you ride? I don't...not since Wing Ding 2010. Over the years I have owned and ridden eight motorcycles, all but one were Gold Wings, the first was a Honda 360 on which I "learned" to ride; the last was a beautiful 2006 silver 1800. (I am very proud to say that for thirty-two years I rode to Wing Ding on a Gold Wing...either mine or a borrowed machine!) My choice to not ride any more is many-fold, and mostly personal. The reason with the most bearing is that I decided if I wasn't going to spend the time and effort to keep my skill level as honed as possible, then I had no business riding. And, not being in "control" has taken me off the back seat. So, now my riding time is limited to riding with Benny in parades. I have had many years of beautiful rides, seen many wonderful places, ridden with great people...I have also had some scary experiences, not the least of what could have been a very serious accident in Mexico on my pretty "orange crush" (pun intended!).

Benny and I plan to continue our friendships and, hopefully, cultivate new ones. We love this Association; and, even though we are retired, we are very interested in helping it stay the most successful organization of its kind. We wouldn't trade anything for our wonderful experiences. Thanks to you who have enriched our lives and given us so many beautiful memories.

## REGION NEWS.....

### New Region E Director and Team



Happy New Year to you all and welcome to a new year for Region E and all of our Districts, Chapters & Members. We are looking forward in serving you as your new Region E Directors and we have put together

what I feel is an awesome team dedicated to serve you so we all have FUN. If there is anything any of us do to help your Districts, please let us know, I can't promise that we can fix it, but we sure will try.

I would also like to thank Clayton & Lynda, Dan & Cindy and Joe & Judy for the great jobs they did for Region E and for their continued support of GW. Please when you see them give them a big hug and a pat on the back for what they have done. Here is a list of the Region E Team:

#### **Region**

Bruce & Barb Beeman, MN Directors  
Bob & Nicki Fowkes, IL Asst. Directors  
Lance & Diane Brozek, NE Asst. Directors  
Bob & Diane Phelps, MO Asst. Directors  
Kevin & Cindy Heap, MN REP  
Mike & Jan Buzick, IL MFA  
Lynn & Dan Rasmussen, IL MEP  
Bill & Nancy James, NE LTP  
Ann Hanna, MN Treasurer  
Brian & Tammy Anderson, MN MAD  
Bruce Watkins, MO Web Master  
Sherry Watkins, MO Newsletter Editor  
Jan & Wally Wallace, AR Patch Shop  
Bruce & Sherry Watkins, MO COY  
Lori Lester, IA IOY

#### **Districts**

Dan & Martha Ribbing IL  
Chuck & Linda Steffen NE/SD  
Bruce & Sherry Watkins MO  
Lonnie & Diane Borseth IA  
Mike & Jane Hultine WI  
Paul Metcalf ND  
Scott & Joy Mattson MN

Thank each of you for stepping up to the plate. We have a lot of work in front of us, but if we all work together as a team it's not that big.

We all know what your job is, so like a friend of mine would say, " Let's getter done".

*Thank You & Ride Safe  
Bruce & Barb Beeman,  
GWRRA Region E Directors*

## **DISTRICT NEWS.....**

### **The Missouri District Team has some great players... all of you!**

It isn't just the District Team, it's the members at the Chapter level that make a great District. It's the Chapter members that are at the top of the flowchart and the District Team is here to serve you, the members. You are the only reason there is a District Team. Because of the great Chapters in Missouri, we are able to draw from them some of the best qualified people to help guide the Missouri District. GWRRA in Missouri has seen good growth and advancement during the past couple of years, so most of the existing District Team will remain the same for 2012.

**Jerry Blatt** is the "new kid on the block" when it comes to the District Team, but not when it comes to your Medic First Aid instruction. Jerry has all the training necessary to provide us with the skills to possibly save a life.

**Marty Hall**, your Rider Educator, has all of the skills necessary to help guide us to be as safe as possible on our motorcycles. Rider Education is the basic core of our organization, and Marty will be there to help.

**John and Nancy Hofmann**, your Leadership Trainers, have been at the forefront when it comes to Leadership Education, and they are ready to provide these opportunities to all of us.

**Brad and Sher Hudson**, your Webmaster, will bring all the Team articles and information to a "big screen near you" or at least your computer screen.

**Diane Phelps** has been asked to return as your Newsletter Editor. She will do her best to

furnish us with articles that will keep everyone informed of all the great GWRRA events.

**Jerry Rothermich**, your Treasurer, brings much more to the District Team than the ability to write a check. Jerry has skills he has learned from years of involvement in various Chapter and District positions. Jerry is one of those "go to guys" and is always willing to help.

No, we did not forget the following couple, we just saved them till last! **Glenn and Carol White**, your Membership Enhancement Coordinators, have a wealth of knowledge about GWRRA. This couple has done it all... there are just way too many honors and accomplishments to list. The old saying "been there, done that" can apply to Glenn and Carol. They can always be counted upon "to be there and do whatever" when help is needed!

Sherry and I are honored to serve as the current MO District Couple of the Year until Spring Fling 2012. There are many couples in Missouri deserving of this title, and we look forward to handing over this honor to one of them on March 3.

When Sherry and I accepted the Directors position, we wanted to model ourselves after the great leadership that has preceded us over the years. For the past 2 years our immediate predecessors, Bob and Diane Phelps, set an excellent example for us to follow. We know we can't be exactly like any of the previous Directors, and we aren't going to try. But we do want to imitate their success and their desire to make the Missouri District great. That goes for you new Chapter Directors too. You won't be exactly like the Chapter Director that preceded you, so don't worry about "filling" those shoes. Just be yourself, get as much LTD education that you can, and lead your Chapter with the members in mind.

Remember Spring Fling is quickly approaching! After a fun filled day, put on your best Mexican attire, bring your "passport" and be prepare to "cross the border" for a great evening with Amigos! For more information, see the Spring Fling flyer in this newsletter. As we said at the beginning of this article, Missouri District has a great Team... all of you! We invite you to join us for a FUN packed year of motorcycling. *"It's the Journey...not the Destination!"*

*Bruce & Sherry Watkins*  
*MO District Directors*

## IN MY SADDLEBAGS

At the end of each year, or the first of the new year, many of the training community (MSF instructors, seminar presenters, rider educators, etc.), try to put together our schedules for the new year, of not only what we will be trying to offer the members of our association, but also what we ourselves are needing in the way of refresher courses and class needs for our certifications. I combine this exercise with the refreshing of my First Aid kit supplies, and making sure my contact info and medication lists are up-to date in my motorcycle.

Doing a self-evaluation of my current skill set, along with realizing what skills I haven't used in a while, gives me a good indicator of what training I need, and what training I need to offer to others. The questions I ask myself are based both on my desire to maintain my Rider Education Level IV status, along with handling each situation the best I can.

Is my training up-to-date? Is any certification going to expire before these courses are offered again? Will I be able to handle situations that occur? While none of us can train for every situation, have I fallen into the rut of thinking that I cannot learn anything else? Some think they are un-trainable... where do you place yourself? Remember, we are talking about on-bike and off-bike skills!

Is my information up-to-date? Heaven forbid something should happen, and since we don't always ride with the people that know our every ache and pain, is my medical and contact information up-to-date? Remember, it probably won't be you trying to utilize it; it will be a paramedic or a friend trying to understand and relay the information to a doctor or 911 dispatcher.

Is my pertinent information on the bike where it should be? How you store the information should follow : KISS (Keep It Simple...). Where should it be stored on the bike? The common thought has always been the left

fairing pocket, but maybe multiple places is better, including your wallet!

Is my insurance coverage up-to-date? Is all that safety chrome and accessories I keep putting on, affecting my coverage? How will my mechanical baby be taken care of? If was discovered by many, that Tow Busters as well as the Rescue Plus coverage does not cover an accident situation, but only mechanical breakdown. How will your baby be hauled to a repair shop, or to your house or friends garage?

Take a mental inventory of all your stuff (training, supplies and coverage). Remember, it is Safety by Commitment, Safety by Education, Safety by Preparedness and finally Safety by Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness!

*Looking forward to learning new stuff!*  
*Take care and God bless you all.*  
*Marty Hall*  
*MO Rider Educator*

## Chapter "O" ON THE GO!!

### Polar Bear Ride January 1st

Chapter O celebrated the first day of the New Year together at Culpepper's Restaurant in O'Fallon during our annual Polar Bear Ride event. We had a great turnout with 35 members and friends enjoying the good company. When I told one of my (non-motorcycle) friends about our good turnout she suggested that "after spending so much time over the holidays with family, getting together with friends was probably a relief!" LOL!

We had 11 riders and 4 co-riders who braved the chilly weather to earn bragging rights for the next year. Those riders were **Keith Wooden, Paul Scholl, Jim Ryan, Bill Bell, James McCormick, Gene Kaufmann, Joe Biondo, Joe Long, Terry Moore, Jim Bromley** and guest, **Vic**. Our co-riders were **Jackie Schocklee, Pam Biondo** and guests **Grayson Moore** and **Norma**. Congratulations

to each of you on braving the elements. We will probably remember the day for the chill AND high, gusty winds. Those friends on hand to celebrate the New Year arriving in warmer vehicles were **Joe and Vera, Karen K, Peg, Roger, Candy and Archie, Joyce B., Brian and Christi, Kevin and Penny, Cheryl and Dan, John and Toni, Hank and Roni, Carol Moore and Bryce.**

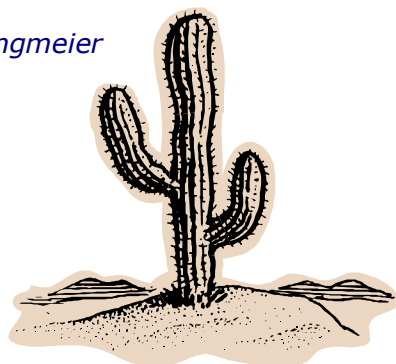
### Wintering in Phoenix



Well, this is first Newsletter from the state of Arizona. We left Missouri the day before Christmas, traveled through a snow storm in Amarillo, and arrived in Phoenix the day after Christmas. It was a cold ride down, getting down to 4 degrees the night we spent in Gallup New Mexico. But it has made up for it here in Buckeye where we are staying.

We met up with Arizona Chapter R for an Ice Cream ride the second day we were here. They have a good group and we hope to make their meeting later this month. Our neighbors here at the Park ride Harleys and on the 1<sup>st</sup> we rode down to Gila Bend...temps in the low 80's. Yesterday we rode up to Payson which is about a 100 miles northwest of Phoenix. The ride took us up through the mountains with lots of cactus along the way, and the temperatures dropped from the 70's to the 50's. We have already put about 500 miles on the trike, and we are having a great time. Remember you can still reach us via email and cell phones.

*Allen & Debby Biddlingmeier  
Newsletter Editor*



## JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

### No one believes seniors

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighborhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Andy had carved I love you, Sally ...

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand dollars!  
Andy said, We've got to give it back. Sally said, Finders keepers. She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighborhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday? Sally said, No. Andy said, She's lying. She hid it up in the attic. Sally said, Don't believe him, he's getting senile. The agents turned to Andy and began to question him. One said: Tell us the story from the beginning.  
Andy said, Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday .....

The first police officer turned to his partner and said, We're outta here!

\*\*\*\*\*

And Then:  
Earl and Bubba are quietly sitting in a boat fishing, chewing tobacco and drinking beer when suddenly Bubba says, "Think I'm gonna divorce the wife - she ain't spoke to me in over 2 months."  
Earl spits overboard, takes a long, slow sip of beer and says, "Better think it over....women like that are hard to find!"

\*\*\*\*\*

# 2012 Calendar of Events



## February

04 ~ **Chapter P Fish Fry**, Jari Dawson 573-259-0370

18 ~ **Chapter W2 First Aid/CPR Class**, Jerry Blatt 314-952-4666

## March

3 ~ **Spring Fling**, Bruce & Sherry Watkins 573-450-8050

## April

7–8 ~ **Chapter X Neosho Yard Sale**, Jim Brown 417-389-2346

14 ~ **Chapter Z Crazy Bowl**, Lou Bartoloni, 314-638-7459

## May

5 ~ **Chapter B2 Magic Dragon Ride**, Glenn White 573-378-7100

12 ~ **Chapter B Windshield Wash**, Bobby Kennedy 417-860-4526

26 – 28 ~ **Chapter I Windshield Wash**, George White 573-768-6133

26 – 28 ~ **Chapter W2 3-DayRides**, Jerry Rothermich 636-332-6051

## June

1- 2 ~ **Wing the Ozarks**, Bruce & Sherry Watkins 573-450-8050

## July

4 - 7 ~ **Wing Ding 34, Ft. Wayne, Indiana**, [www.gwrra.org](http://www.gwrra.org)

29 ~ **Chapter K Ride for Kids**, Jeff Humphries 913-481-7051

## August

11 ~ **Chapter I Fun Run**, George White 573-768-6133

25 ~ **Missouri District Appreciation Picnic**,

Bruce & Sherry Watkins 573-450-8050

TBA ~ **Chapter B Garage Sale**, Bobby Kennedy 417-860-4526

## September

8-15 ~ **Chapter O Southern Dozen Ride**, Gene Kaufmann 314-402-8271

2~ **Chapter B Poker Run**, Bobby Kennedy 417-860-4526

## October

5 – 7 ~ **Chapter P Switchback to Arkansas**, Jari Dawson 573-259-0370

6 ~ **Chapter B2 Versailles Old Tyme Apple Festival**, Glenn White 573-378-7100

20 ~ **Chapter K Harvest Moon Ride**, Jeff Humphries 913-481-7051

## November

3 ~ **Missouri District Operations Meeting**, Bruce & Sherry Watkins 573-450-8050

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