



## Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge



Chapter F meets  
The third Saturday  
of the month  
(except December)  
at:  
Hy-Vee  
3235 Oakland Road NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Join us for breakfast at 8 am  
Gathering at 8:30am

Volume 9 Issue 2 February 2019

### **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE**



#### **Chapter F Team [www.iowa-f-troop.org](http://www.iowa-f-troop.org)**

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## Notes from your Chapter Directors

As a sequel to our Trip Planning article from last month, this month's article will cover the topic of International Travel. Tourism through Canada such as the Lake Superior tour involves crossing the border into Ontario Province near Grand Portage, Minnesota and again near Sault St. Marie, Michigan.



We didn't have to go far to find a trustworthy Gold Wing Road Rider with experience and expertise in this matter; Our own Chapter-F member, Sue Thompson! We posed several questions to Sue and here's what she said (through our editorial license).

**Ch-F Dir:** Sue, What kind of international trip did you take on your motorcycle?

**Sue:** I have been to Canada twice

**Ch-F Dir:** Did you find any unexpected differences on your trip?

**Sue:** One of the biggest things was the speed limits. They are listed in kilometers versus mph, and it took me a bit to realize my speedometer read MPH and KPH! On the larger roads, like the TransCanada highway, there are signs saying stay right unless to pass, and people really did stay in the right lane!

**Ch-F Dir:** Was navigation different than we do in the states?

**Sue:** Besides the speed thing, make sure your GPS has Canadian maps. Mine also did the speed conversion for me. You will find that 40 km to the next town really isn't that far vs miles, it's less than 25 miles!

**Ch-F Dir:** How did you find the people where you went?

**Sue:** The people were very friendly. Don't know if it was because I was alone, on a motorcycle or what, but everyone I spoke to was very nice.

**Ch-F Dir:** What about prices, dining, souvenirs, border crossing?

**Sue:** You will have to check current conversion rate for prices. First time there it was almost 1 for 1, second time it was closer to 75 cents US to 1 Canadian. Stay away from currency exchange places. Most places will take American, just ask. You will get change in Canadian. They don't have pennies, so totals are always a whole number unless you use a credit card.

They have all the normal places to eat. Be prepared to be offered gravy for French fries and poutine! As anywhere else, some of the smaller restaurants have really good, inexpensive food. **Souvenirs:** I never buy a lot but did get some at a tourist trap place to use up most of my leftover cash.

**Ch-F Dir:** Was it worth the trip? Would you like to go again? If so, what would you do different?

**Sue:** Was it worth it? Would I go again? You betcha! Planning on being on the west coast of US and Canada in August! Different? I would like to get to the eastern provinces! And in the West, there is nothing like the Canadian Rockies. It is beautiful there.

**Entry into Canada:** Canadian law requires that all persons entering Canada carry both proof of citizenship and proof of identity. A valid U.S. passport, passport card, or NEXUS card satisfies these requirements for U.S. citizens. A new or renewed passport book or card requires 4-6 weeks for delivery. For more information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Canada.html> The passport card is the size of a credit card and is much easier to carry and store. If you already have a passport you can add a card for only \$30.

**Travel Tips:** Make sure to let your credit card issuer know you will be out of the country. Always a good idea when traveling on vacation. Try not to bring cash back, you may have a problem getting rid of it unless you are right at the border. Again, ask if they take US currency. Border crossing has not been a problem for me. I have had the trailer both times but never been asked to look in it. Do not take liquor, firearms or illegal substances. Make sure to have your passport ready, and you need to take your helmet off during the process for identification and communication. Make sure to know your license plate number in case they can't see it on their camera. Be prepared to wait in line to cross. Keep prescription drugs in original containers, just in case they ask to go through your stuff.

Pete and Cheryl Sayers  
Directors, Chapter-F

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## Notes From Your Chapter MECs

Hello Fellow Troopers,

Well it's hard to believe the new year is off and running and we have so much cool stuff to do this year! The mention of another group ride gets the blood pumping and starts building excitement. This coming weekend (the 10th) will be the first chapter BBQ held at the Snyder house. We look forward to a good time with lots of good food. Hope many can come.



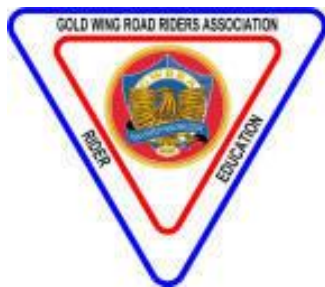
Sweetheart weekend is right around the corner and will be the first attended by Kim and me. We are really looking forward to seeing many of our riding friends again. This is a much talked about event and

we can't wait to see what all the talk is about. Just the weekend of relaxing with some friends has me all excited! Hopefully the weather will be somewhat favorable, and all will have safe travels to and from this event. For those of you not attending be sure to remember your sweetheart on Valentine's Day. It's a great loving gesture and it also helps when you want to buy chrome and bike goodies in the spring.

I just want to go out on a limb here and say that if there is something that you would like to see the chapter do or an idea for something fun that you have an idea for and want to run it by someone let me know. Don't feel like there is a bad idea anywhere. Even if maybe you don't want to say something in front of a crowd or just want to see if it's possible, let me know or feel free to call me. (563-920-5492) We are open to any and all ideas. Maybe you just have a neat little place to ride to as a destination that you have heard of. No idea too big or too small, we want them all! Boy, I feel pretty proud of that little rhyme. Came up with it all by myself, yep!

Back to the group ride. There was mention of the U.P. of Michigan. This I am sure will be further discussed in the near future. We are still on track for the Chapter campout in Lena IL. in August. I have placed a call to the KOA there and left a message with them to call me. I would like to get sites in the back loop if we can. I will keep everybody up to date as it unfolds. Till then stay warm. Hope to see you all soon!

Brad and Kim  
Chapter MEC's



## Educator's Corner

From your Iowa District Educator



Riding season is still way off and hopefully you took the time to winterize your motorcycle. I was a little late doing so this year, but I did get it out in early December to top the tank off, put in some fuel stabilizer, checked the air pressure in the tires, washed it off and plugged it in to the battery tender. My oil was not that old, so I did not change it again. My bike should be ready when I am this spring to start riding again.

So, what do we do in the winter months when we can't be riding, or not much if you are willing to get the bike or trike out on the few nice days that we might get in the winter months? I believe there is always a little taste of spring that comes around about the end of January that usually only lasts a few days. But then I have to remember to fill the tank back up and clean the bike again.

What we can do, and I am sure many of you are way ahead of me, is to start planning out the year. What trips are you planning on making this year? Going to Wing Ding? Are there some classes you wanted to make sure you attended? Those of you who want to stay current or to advance in the Levels program, do you need a First Aid/CPR class? Do you need a riding course? We do have at least one training event per quarter. We do different programs in each of those quarters. So, the First Aid, CPR and the riding

courses are not available in our District each quarter. However, if you are out traveling around you might check out to see if there is something that you need that is being offered in another District. The University website has a calendar for all GWRRA training events. You can also find that information on the GWRRA University Facebook page. Just go searching for “GWRRA University” on Facebook and it is easy to find. Once you are a member of their Facebook group you can get notifications of all the events.

The next thing you might plan out is what are some maintenance items that you will probably need to take care of this coming year. You can probably estimate close to when you will be needing new tires. Do you need to replenish some supplies, such as having a new oil filter and oil on hand if you like to change your own oil? Is there some new gear that you need? I know my jacket is needing to be replaced soon. Is there an accessory that you have been wanting? It might be good to pick it up now and have it installed before the riding season begins so to avoid down-time later when you could be out riding.

As you can tell, I like to think about motorcycling even when I cannot be out riding. Winter is a great season for planning, since “doing” is not likely happening.

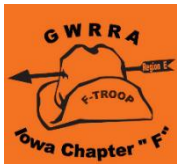
Until next month, have a safe winter!

Greg Hayes

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## CHAPTER EVENTS



**Coffee**—Wednesday, February 13. Caribou Coffee, 202 10<sup>th</sup> St SE, Suite 105, Cedar Rapids. Meet there at 9:00.

**Gathering**—Saturday, February 16. 8:30 am. HyVee 32nd St & Oakland Rd, Cedar Rapids. Join us at 8 am in the Club room for breakfast if you can, gathering at 8:30 am.

Hosts: JD and Theresa Smith

**Meet and Eat**—Thursday, February 21-Casa Las Glorias 2245 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE Cedar Rapids. Meet there, ready to order at 6:30. RSVP to Cheryl at [ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com](mailto:ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com)

**Meet and Eat**—Tuesday, March 5-Fong’s Pizza, 1006 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE, Cedar Rapids. Meet there, ready to order at 6:30. RSVP to Cheryl at [ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com](mailto:ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com)

**Brunch**—Sunday, March 10, Scott’s Family Restaurant, 1906 Blairs Ferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids.

**Coffee**—Wednesday, March 13. Einstein’s Bagels, 2870 Edgewood Rd SW, Cedar Rapids. Meet there at 9:00.

**Gathering**-- Saturday, March 16. 8:30 am. HyVee 32nd St & Oakland Rd, Cedar Rapids. Join us at 8 am in the Club room for breakfast if you can, gathering at 8:30 am. Hosts: Brad and Kim Snyder

**Meet and Eat**—Tuesday, March 20-Caucho, 1203 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE, Cedar Rapids. Meet there, ready to order at 6:30. RSVP to Cheryl at [ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com](mailto:ssportjugglingcompany@yahoo.com)



## EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

**February 16**—Chapter E's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Sweetheart Weekend. Visit their website for information and registration form.

**March 2**—Reinig Center, 1007 S Prospect Dr, Toledo IA. Officer's Conference, 10:00 am, Training modules at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm, Crazy Supper at 5:00. Come for one event or come for all. See the Iowa District website for registration forms. Only cost is \$10 for the Crazy Supper.

**April 13**—Chapter D Mall Show, Willowbrook Mall, Mason City

**May 18-19**—Safety Weekend. Full courses on Saturday, ARC, TRC and CPR/First Aid. Sunday will be refresher courses for ARC, TRC and a full CPR/First Aid course. More details to come.

**August 8-10**—Region E Reunion Ride, La Cross WI

**September 20-21**—Iowa District Rally, Knights of Columbus Hall, Oelwein IA. More information to come. Mark your calendar now!

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## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



**Wing Ding 41**

**Nashville TN**

**August 27-31, 2019**





## Ramblings from a Wandering Mind

Yep, rally season has begun! The Illinois Winter Warm Up was a great time, despite problems with the host hotel. Always a great time to get together. You will probably notice a smaller attendance for the February Get Together as several of us will be attending the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Sweetheart Weekend with Chapter E. As you read this there is still time to register, although accommodations may be scarce. Good to know that there will be plenty of people there this year. I know several couples who are coming over from Illinois for the festivities (ok, Nauvoo is in Illinois) but it's sure to be a great time!

Next up on the agenda is March 2 when we descend on Toledo for the Iowa District Officers Conference (but all are welcome to attend, you don't need to be an officer, just have a desire to learn more about what's going on in the District and other Chapters are doing.) That starts at 10:00, then after lunch we will have two training modules presented. If you haven't been to a training session lately, you are in for a great surprise. No more let's read from the power point and ask questions at the end. Today's modules are very interactive between the instructor and the group. Come and find out what the fun is all about!

At 5:00 that evening we will be holding the Crazy Supper. If you haven't ever been, come; you won't be disappointed. The only cost for the day is for your lunch and then \$10.00 for supper. There aren't many places where you can get dinner and entertainment for 10 bucks! See the District website or check with your Chapter Director or a District team member for a sign up form.

Spring Wing Warm Up is on the calendar for May 4. I will need people to help with this. I will get back to McGrath and find out what they will be doing this year for us. When I booked the date with them the gentleman I spoke with didn't know what they had done in the past but we will find out what they are planning. I think it went very well last year with the lunch first and then the ride so that's what I'm planning again this year. We will need to have people to run games, sell tickets and registration. We also need a route set up for the ride and we will need Ride Captains for leads and tails. Please start thinking about how you would like to participate this year. We will discuss this more in March at the get together.

Soon it will be time to ride again-please don't push it. With all the snow, salt and sand on the roads, please be careful and let the roads get clearer before you ride. I know, I'm getting an itch to start up the trike and take a ride, but I'll wait. Also, cagers aren't apt to be looking for two wheelers yet. Saw a great message on a semi tonight, Safety First – No Excuses. Thought that was good advice.

Be safe. Take care, until next time.

Sue T

*Chapter Birthdays*  
March 8 – Yvette Moravec

Don't forget to patronize and thank our major sponsors!



## ***Chapter F Happenings!***



The few, the hardy, the hungry who attended the Winter BBQ at Brad and Kim's house on Feb 10.

Looks good, sorry I wimped out!



- Vicki Johnson was good enough to share her wonderful chili recipe. If you enjoyed it at the soup lunch, here's the recipe. Although I bet what we make won't be as good as Vicki's!

VICKI'S CHILI

- 2# lean ground beef
- 2-15 oz cans of kidney beans
- 1-28 oz can of tomatoes
- 2 large onions chopped
- 1 green pepper chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic minced
- 3 T chili powder
- 2 T sugar
- 1 T crushed red pepper
- 3 T wine vinegar
- 1 t ground cumin
- 1 T salt
- 1 pkg French Onion Soup
- 1 can of beer
- 2 small cans of tomato paste (or 1 large)
- Enjoy!

Good looking group at Emil's for a Meet & Eat



Chapter F awards from Illinois Winter Warm Up

