

# CHAPTER "N" CHRONICLES



Volume 2 Issue 5

May 2004



## A message from the Directors

May is here and the weather will continue to warm up, putting the riding season in high gear. Your club has many wonderful things planned and we are all looking forward to many great rides, good camaraderie, and new friendships along the way. We have all been richly blessed to be able to do something we enjoy, with people we enjoy being with.

Our club welcomes two new members. Daryl Plummer and Nelson and Kathie Hopper have joined GWTA and Chapter N. We welcome you and thank you for choosing Chapter N as your new group of friends and riding family. We look forward to seeing you often.

These new members are with us because someone took time to talk with, and invite them to join us, and we thank you. The Metro North Bike Show also contributed to these folks joining us. Remember the challenge from Ken & Patty, and Kay & Gerry at the March meeting for every member to have one new person(s) join us in 2004. We can do it!!

Kay is looking for pictures from events and rides for our chapter scrapbook. She has not received any from the Wamego tulip festival ride to date.

If you have extra copies, please allow us to use them, or if digital, email them to us and we will print them and add them to our pictorial history. Kay and Suzy are doing scrap booking and the layouts look great.

Kay and I are looking forward to leading the ride into the Flint Hills on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and hope everyone can join the fun. It will be a full day of spectacular riding, good friends, and of course, food. Updates to follow.

Thanks for the support you all have given us and trust we have been worthy of it. Please call or email us with any concerns, or rides and events you would like to see on the calendar. I know Ken & Patty are looking for members to lead dinner rides. Please contact them with a restaurant you would like to visit and volunteer to lead a dinner ride. Bob & Linda Clarkson, and Jim and Nancy Graham also need our assistance with 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday ride ideas and people to step up with ideas and ride leaders. Please contact them with ideas and assistance.

Looking forward to a great riding season.

In Friendship, Kay & Gerry

## Of Special Note

On April 20th Phillip Rittermeyer was ordained as an Assembly of God Minister. Our congratulations to Phillip on reaching a goal he set for himself. I talked to Phillip and he said, it wasn't a big deal to him because it isn't where he wanted to be, just a stepping stone in his ultimate goal. It is still a great achievement, and we know Phillip will have many more. Also, congratulations to Hollie, for behind every married man's successes is the support of his wife.

## Member Profile Phillip & Hollie Rittermeyer



This article is a long time coming and no one waited longer than Dave King, the editor of this newsletter. My apologies for not getting this submitted sooner. Some of you may have noticed my absence in January and February. I was not, as some would suspect, in a mountainous region skiing my legs off. Instead, I traveled to a warmer climate where the precipitation came in the form of rain, nearly every day - Fort Benning, Georgia to be exact, home of the United States Army Airborne School.

The short story is this - in week one, they separate the men from the boys. In week two, they separate the fools from the men. And in week three, the fools jump!

The long version in this - Week one is called "ground week," the towers are only 34 feet tall and proper exit of the aircraft is the primary training focus. Atop the tower is a simulated portion of the tall end of a high performance aircraft, including a troop door. Wearing a harness very similar to that which holds me in my parachute, I was connected to a cable that runs at an angle to the ground some 150 yards from the base of the tower. With a secondary focus on Parachute Landing Falls ("PLFs" for short), gravity teams up with the hard packed Georgia clay to beat on the soldiers who have volunteered to attend this course. Practice exercise for PLFs includes jumping off of two, four, and six-foot platforms and performing the proper PLF, (i.e. left side, right side, left front, right front, left rear, or right rear). All six must be mastered because the T10D parachute now has directional slip controls and only the wind decides which way the soldier will be facing on the way to the ground.

In week two, "tower week," the towers are 250 feet tall and the training focus is on controlling the parachute in the air. The 250's look similar to television or radio towers with four arms coming off at the top. In a fully open T10D parachute, the soldier is lifted to the top by a cable and then released for a controlled descent while being told to perform commands such as "slip left" or "slip to the rear." The secondary focus is on exiting the aircraft with combat gear, and properly releasing this equipment while preparing to land. As I mentioned, the 34-foot towers were used for this exercise and by this time, it was starting to become fun!

Week three is "jump week" and is by far the best week of all. After two weeks of intense training, I was more than ready to leave that aircraft - not that I wanted to, I just felt I was ready. Riding in the back of a C-130 from the California Air National Guard, I received my first in-flight command of "ten minutes." This meant we were ten minutes from the drop zone. Next came the command of "Get ready," followed shortly by "Stand up." After standing is the command of "Hook up." At this point I secured my static line to the static line cable of the aircraft. My heart began to pound as the adrenaline kicked in. After a few other commands, the command "thirty seconds" came. As with all verbal commands in the aircraft, as a "stick" (the group of jumpers leaving the aircraft during a pass over the drop zone, I was the leader of my stick of thirty soldiers) we repeated them back in unison. However, this time I said one more prayer for my men. "Thirty seconds" from leaping out of that plane 1,250 feet above the earth and traveling approximately 135 knots ... one more prayer seemed appropriate. The inside of a C-130 is loud, even louder when the troop doors are opened, it is also filled up with sixty combat-equipped jumpers, so by the time the command of "Stand by" came, I was ready to get out of there. When the pilot flips the switch, the light at the back door turns from red to green, the Jumpmaster gives the only command not repeated by the stick, "Go!" As the stick leader, I was the last member out the door - following the man in front of me as we shuffle to the door, in a hurry yet trying to be careful not to rush. Getting to the door I turn to see the horizon and with a strong sense of pride in the tradition I am about to be a part of, I jump out.

## Member Profile cont.

Eyes open, chin on my chest, elbows tight against my body, hands on both ends of my reserve secured at my stomach, with feet and knees together – just as I was trained. After only counting to two on my four count, I feel the opening shock of my main parachute. With an overwhelming sense of relief, I “check canopy and gain canopy control.” But what is that sound? The extreme noise inside the aircraft is replaced by something just as extreme - silence. As I drifted quietly to the earth at approximately twenty feet per second, I prepared to land. After a mediocre PLF, I gather my chute and head for the assembly area where I account for my stick. All present and all ready to jump again. This was repeated four more times over the next two days, with one of the trips being on a C-17 – which was like upgrading to first class. Accommodating over 100 combat-equipped jumpers, this luxury liner had plenty of room and four jet engines, making an exit from the rear of the wing a lot smoother.

At our graduation ceremony, I was honored to have my parents with me, as Hollie was there to pin on my “wings.” I stood tall and felt very proud because I had just become part of a very elite group of men and women in the U.S. Military. Only .01 percent are Airborne qualified.

I would like to thank those who passed along both thoughts and prayers not only for me but also for Hollie. And a special thank to Mr. Hardy Hunt for giving me the peace of mind that only comes when you know you have friends you can depend on.

We need to say thanks to Chapter N member Mark Rittermeyer for his work in "**Run for the Wall**". Mark is National Coordinator for this years ride which will be going through Kansas City on May 26th. They will be stopping at the Eastbound rest area on I-70 between 12:45 & 1:30 pm and from there to Oak Grove for fuel. Anyone wishing to meet the ride at either location and ride with them for a distance or on to Washington DC for the memorial Day festivities is welcome and encouraged. Phillip Rittermeyer is Road Captain for the ride and a heart-felt thank you also goes to him.

## Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark..

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** Build your future on high ground.

**Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while.

**Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**Eleven:** No matter the storm, with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

## The Cook' Corner

### Easiest Chicken Casserole

1 can (10 ½ oz) Cream of Chicken Soup  
1 can (10 ½ oz) Cream of Celery Soup  
1 can (10 ½ oz) Creame of Mushroom Soup  
¼ lb Melted Butter or Margarine  
1¼ cup Minute Rice  
1 or 2 chickens, cut up  
Salt, Pepper, Paprika

In a large casserole dish blend the soups, melted butter and rice. Lay the cut up chicken pieces over the top of the soup/rice mixture and brush with additional melted butter. Season with salt, pepper and paprika.

Bake for 2½ to 3 hrs at 275°.

If you leave out the rice you will have a wonderful gravy for your mashed potatoes.

### Humor : Funny signs

Plumber:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On an electricians truck:

"Let us remove your shorts"

In a veterinarians waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes, Sit ! Stay!"

# Up-Coming Events

## Dinner Rides

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 6  | Wabash BBQ<br>646 S. Kansas Ave.<br>Excelsior Springs, MO         |
| May 13 | Whiskey Creek<br>Wood Fire Grill<br>Fredrick Blvd.<br>St. Joe, MO |
| May 20 | E.H. Young Riverfront Park<br>Argosy Parkway<br>Riverside, MO     |
| May 27 | Monthly Business Meeting<br>KCPL Service Center                   |

## May Birthdays

Bob Anderson	3rd
Jolene Hott	3rd
Sabrina Hunt	13th
Mardee King	15th
Patty Babcock	20th
Tom Lenz	20th
Linda Clarkson	31st

**Happy Birthday!**

## May Anniversaries

Greg & Carolina Hillman	5th
Bob & Linda Clarkson	16th

## Flint Hills Ride May 22

Make plans to go on this ride. The historical Flint Hills are especially pretty this time of the year with the tall grass and the wild flowers. Who Knows? You might even see a herd of buffalo. Get your bike ready and meet at Hunt's Car Care, North Oak & 152 Hwy.

Leaving at 8:00 am sharp.

Gerry Said we will take a break during the morning and plan on arriving in Council Grove around mid-day. The plans are for lunch at the Hays House. It is the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. The food is very good and the pies are exceptional. During the afternoon we may tour down Hwy 177 to the Strong City area and if you like, take a tour of the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch. We will make a dinner stop and plan to return home by around 8:00 pm. If you enjoyed Wamego, you will enjoy this ride too!!



When Stephen F. Jones built his home in the 1880's, it was a crowning achievement in his career as a cattleman. Built with hand-cut native limestone, the 11-room house is characteristic of the Second Empire style of 19th Century architecture. The massive three-story barn is impressive in its own right. Visitors also enjoy touring the Lower Fox Creek School, a one-room schoolhouse located on a nearby hilltop. A spring on the hillside provided water to the house. Thus the name, the Spring Hill Ranch. The ranch was designated a **National Historic Landmark** in February of 1997.

# For Sale !!

## Camper

1994 Kwik Kamp  
Excellent condition, Swivel Hitch  
Pinstriped, Blue Cover, Cooler Mounted on  
Tongue  
New Tires, New Spare Tire  
Extra Cover (Brown), Extra Axle  
\$2,000.00 Firm  
Will Consider Trade for Cargo Trailer  
Call Vern Mackey 816-454-6220

## St. Joe Honda Chapter N Special Dunlop Tires

GL-1800	D-250	Front	\$135.08
		Rear	\$177.08
GL-1500	491	Front	\$124.82
		Rear	\$157385

Call Rob 1877-671-0671

## Men's Chaps

Size 3X New Condition  
\$60.00 Call Dave King  
( these belong to Mark Sitterson)

## 1989 GOLDWING

Excellent Condition  
39k miles  
Over \$6000.00 in chrome and accessories.  
Cyclemate trailer,  
Arai helmets,  
Full face helmet,  
Bike covers  
Progressive suspension,  
Lot of Lights  
Ring of fire  
Super Brace  
Upper & Lower Spoilers  
Air Horns  
Floor Boards complete manual,  
Butler Passenger Drink Holder  
Pass. Arm Rests  
Custom Head Covers  
Chrome Heads  
Complete Chrome on side covers  
ISO Grips,

**\$8,000. Firm**

**Contact : Bruce Carter**

**HM 816-373-4514 Cell 816-699-8377**

## Parting Thoughts

The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application.

The only thing wrong with good advice is that it usually interferes with your plans.

If all the cars in the country were placed end to end it would probably be Labor Day Weekend.

Stress—what happens when your gut says no and your mouth says “yes, of course, I’ll be glad to”.

Life is not a game of chance.  
Life is a game of choice.

Trying to un-say a bad remark is like trying to unscramble an egg.

# HAVE A GREAT MAY & RIDE SAFE