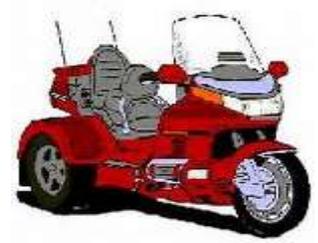


CHAPTER K NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2016



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Well, the month of August has now come and gone, and hopefully the extreme heat we have endured for the last 3 months with it.

I am not much of one to drink water, but I have sure learned a lesson this year. I can make a trip to Daytona and back, and not have to take one drink. Brenda always fills my Butler cup with water to take with me. I can ride down and back and not take one swallow because I am not thirsty. I always pour it out to pacify Brenda so I won't receive a scolding. I have learned lately that I must drink water, whether I want to or not because my body needs it to function properly. On our last Saturday Dinner Ride, on four wheels due to rain we had a long wait to get our food. When my food finally came out, I started to grab my fork and knife to cut my food up. The next thing I know, my fingers began to curl and go in multiple directions which was very painful. I couldn't straighten them out. Bonnie cut up my food but I couldn't even hold the fork in my hand. Needless to say, I had to get my food to go. We left the restaurant and when I got in the back of Jesse's van, my legs began to cramp. They eventually quit, but that was a dinner ride I won't forget. I knew that when Brenda got back from Alabama and she heard the story, she wasn't going to be happy. I have promised her, I will drink water, not only on rides, but when I am working in the outdoors. Remember to drink lots of water while riding too. Imagine what would have happened if I had been on the trike.

At our monthly Chapter meeting we had 12 show up and 1 visitor from Jacksonville. His Jacksonville chapter is being disbanded. He lives in Yulee and hopes to ride with us. We had good food, fellowship, stories, safety, and several more sign up for Level I. Danny and Allyson did not ride their bike. Instead they brought their new Class A motorhome. It has an outdoor kitchen so we will be expecting Danny to do a lot of cooking for us on our camping trips. Congratulations to them.

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At our monthly tire kicker at Willie Jewells in Kingsland, we had 8 show up. We shared our future planned rides and events. We closed the place down and headed home.

Lightning is the MOST UNDERRATED weather hazard. On average, only floods kill more people. Lightning is most often seen in thunderstorms. In fact, lightning is what makes thunderstorms. Lightning makes every single thunderstorm a potential killer. Forecasting when and where lightning will strike is not yet possible and most likely never will be.

In the United States, lightning routinely kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes. Only lightning can strike outside the storm itself, and is the first thunderstorm hazard to arrive and the last to leave and knows no boundaries.

Since lightning is so unpredictable no one can guarantee an individual or group absolute protection from lightning. However, knowing and following proven lightning safety guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of injury or death.

While no place is 100% safe from lightning, some places are much safer than others. Buildings that are NOT SAFE (even if they are "grounded") have exposed openings. Convertible vehicles offer no safety from lightning, even if the top is "up". Other vehicles, which are NOT SAFE during lightning storms, are those which have open cabs, such as golf carts, tractors, and construction equipment.

The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure with plumbing and electrical wiring. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity better than a human body. If you are using any electrical appliances or plumbing fixtures (INCLUDING telephones and computers), and a storm is overhead, you are putting yourself at risk! If no buildings are available, then an enclosed metal vehicle such as an automobile, van, or school bus makes a decent alternative. If you are inside a vehicle, put the windows up, and avoid contact with any conducting paths leading to the outside of the vehicle.

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from the area where it is raining and many people are unaware of how far lightning can strike from its parent thunderstorm. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately. Remember this lightning safety rule stay there until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. DON'T wait for the rain to start before seeking shelter, and don't leave shelter just because the rain has ended.

There is **NO SAFE PLACE outdoors** during a lightning storm. If stuck outdoors on a highway, YOU *could* find a highway overpass and park the bike and get as high as possible from the road, high enough to be out of any water, on the embankment between the highway and the bottom of the bridge. At the same time, do not touch the metal of the bridge. You are trying to get away from metal and water conductors.

Lightning can be as hot as **54,000°F** (30,000°C), a temperature that is five times the surface of the sun! Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances. The average lightning bolt carries about **30,000 amps** of charge, has **100 million volts** of electric potential. These amounts can burn through ANY insulator (even the ceramic insulators on power lines!) Besides, the lightning bolt may just have traveled many miles through the atmosphere, which itself is a good insulator.

Don Francisco
IL-A



SEPTEMBER
2 SEP - BILL CLARDY
14 SEP – CHARMIN MCCRACKEN
22 SEP – CORAL LEFEBVRE



SEPTEMBER
8 SEP – JOHN & BONNIE ROGERS
27 SEP- JESSE & BRENDA TUTEN

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 SEP– Dinner Ride **CANCELLED**
8 SEP– Monthly Meeting
27 SEP - TIRE KICKER
31 AUG – 3 SEP [WING DING BILLINGS MT](#)
3 SEP – LABOR DAY
22-24 SEP – [WINGS OVER THE SMOKIES](#)
21-30 OCT – ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP, REED
BINGHAM STATE PARK

CLASSIFIEDS