



# CHAPTER COC NEWSLETTER



March 2, 2019  
**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Carey's Cafe, Cherokee, IA**

Chapter Directors & Newsletter Editors	Assistant Director	Treasurer
Bob & Carol Blodgett	VACANT	Don Banwart
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Bob Stout	Randy Reed	Don Hansen
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BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
29 March	Tom Bacan	19 March	Robert & Faith Ericsson
01 April	Jane Banwart	20 March	Allen & Rhonda Lorimor
07 April	Betty Nielsen	11 May	Dennis & Betty Nielsen
14 April	Tom Bishop		
26 April	Dennis Nielsen		
08 May	Don Hansen		
11 May	Bob Stout		

### From the Directors

That last snow storm was a doozy. I actually enjoy shovelling snow but this last storm deposited more than I wanted to tackle with a hand shovel. It didn't help that the wind packed it tightly in formidable drifts. So, I got out the snowblower. After the town plow made a couple swoops and filled our driveways, the neighbor was struggling to clear the entrance to his driveway so I clear his, then did the side-walks in both directions. The elderly lady up the street could use some help so I did her driveway. Finally, I got back to my own. By then the blower was running low on gas so I filled the tank then restarted the blower. After a few moments a loud noise sounded and I watched with some disbelief as the a piece of the connecting rod dropped through the bottom of the crank case. I'm no

mechanic, but I could tell this was not good. The blower was 12 years old and designed by some engineer who never used one. A joy stick was the only way to turn and angle the shute. Invariably, after putting the blower away, melted snow settled around and froze the detents preventing shute movement. Next time I used it, I'd have to use a hairdryer to thaw the detent. Although I didn't look forward to buying a new blower, the demise of the old one was bittersweet. The new one has simple manual shute controls and that makes me happy.

We haven't heard a peep from Karl at Main Street Bikes and Trikes about the status of our trailer. We don't want to inquire about it so he doesn't get the idea that we're pushing him to get it done. But we are awfully curious about how much better it will look. Also curious to see what he figured out for adding a strip brake/directional light to the back. The closer spring comes, the more curious we become.

I don't know the condition of pavement in your area but if it is anything like Storm Lake, riding this spring is going to be hazardous. The areas near traffic lights and stop signs are particularly broken up. My wife's cousin's husband, Art, who worked as an engineer for the Vermont highway department shed some light on this phenomenon. One part of his explanation is the pushing force exerted on pavement by the acceleration of vehicles, especially heavy ones, like the big long ones that bend in the middle and go ch-h-h, ch-h-h when they stop. The pavement is actually pushed backward by tire rotation and over time that force weakens the surface of the pavement eventually leading to ruptures. Once the ruptures become small holes, tires pound the edges of the holes crumbling them more. When rain fills the holes, the compression forces of tires squeeze into developing cracks causing more ruptures. Stopping vehicles also exert forces on pavement in the other direction, except those forces are distributed over longer sections of pavement which is less destructive. It might be a good idea to take alternate routes to circumvent the potholes until they are repaired – temporarily.

Be careful out there!

### March 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

Eleven members attended our meeting at Carey's. It does a body good to watch the social time before the start of our meeting. Seeing people enjoy each other's company is one of the things that I am thankful for and is one more thing that makes the directorship rewarding. There's a practice at the beginning of Kiwanis meetings that I wonder if chapter members would like to start. After a couple of ceremonial activities, a "Thankful Dollars" basket is passed around into which people can deposit a dollar after stating something they are thankful for. At the end of the year, the accumulated funds are donated to a charitable cause. If we adopted a similar practice, the funds could be added to the end-of-year party donation, or we could use the funds to purchase materials for motorist awareness yard signs, brochures, etc.

"Speaking" of charitable donations, Donna, Carol B., and I brought a check for \$200 to Mid-Sioux Opportunities on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

A while ago I purchased a compact, portable projector that fits on a tripod and connects easily to my laptop. That together with a decades old portable screen made its debut at the meeting. It was simply exploratory to see if it would work in Carey's back room. Availability of electrical outlets posed a bit of difficulty after a fair bit of finagling we set it up and folks said visibility was adequate. Internet connectivity is problem but somehow there's a way to turn a cell phone into a "hot spot." If anyone has inside knowledge about doing



that, please “throw me a bone.” The ability to project web pages and maps would be helpful in planning ride schedules, routes, motorist awareness activities, etc. I hope to make it part of meetings in the future.

### **Motorist Awareness Program (MAP)**

As we look forward to the 2019 riding season, let’s put on our thinking caps to find awareness activities we’d like to do this year. Last year we did five parades. Carol and I really enjoy parades and I know some other members do as well. But, parades limit or preclude other ride options. We can’t, however, neglect motorist awareness. Motorist distraction is high and drawing motorists’ attention to motorcycles becomes just that much more important. At the risk of boring you with repetition, here are suggestions; MAP activities can include, but are not limited to, events, presentations, exhibits at:

- Public or private schools or universities
- Community/civic/religious organizations
- Driving/student driving courses
- AAA or AARP driver classes
- Company safety day
- Community safety day
- National Night Out/Neighborhood Watch
- Community festivals or fairs
- Motorcycle Awareness Month (May)
- Distribution of literature/flyers/pins
- MAP table at any event
- Local mall shows
- Community/company bike night
- Bike & car shows
- Highway rest stops
- Boy’s/Girl’s Club/Scout events
- Yard signs
- Swap meet or flea market
- Personal conversations about ride safety
- Signs/social media/bumper stickers
- Local parades
- Bike shows in department store lots

Let’s make 2019 a year we go all out to increase the public’s awareness of motorcycles!

### **Don Hansen’s Suggestion from the February Meeting**

I came to the March meeting with materials prepared to draw names for after-meeting ride leaders but attendance was down, so it’ll be delayed to the April meeting. I hope “fear” that wasn’t the reason attendance was down. It really isn’t so scary but I have to admit that I was scared the first time I tried to organize a ride. But you know what, with this group it really doesn’t matter how well the ride goes because everyone else has done their share of wrong turns, U-turns, and confronting obstacles. For the first few U-turns I expected people to be upset or angry, but that never happened. Time for a group hug?

### **Group Riding Skills**

Let’s not forget about devoting time on some rides to practicing group riding skills. As the spring and summer draw near, keeping safety practices in mind is an awfully good way to kick off the season. I’m going to try to line up a talk from one of the district educators to familiarize us with those practices before we hit the road.

### **Ride Schedule**

One important concern for the Ride Schedule is the number of parades to include and which parades to choose. It wasn’t clear from conversations at the March meeting where member’s stand on that issue. Currently there are three on the schedule. It is likely that there will be at least three long rides this summer.

**Colorado** – Scheduled for August 10-18 organized by Bob Stout. Interstate travel on the way out and back with secondary highway travel while there. Routes will be through mountains in the vicinity around Denver. Details are still pending.

**Branson** – Scheduled for May 30-June 1, several members typically travel to the Missouri District Rally with rides through the Ozarks.

**Black Hills** – I assume that Jim and Roxie will make their annual trip to the Hills sometime this summer or early fall. They have welcomed companion riders in the past.

**Northern Wisconsin** – If I can talk Carol into it, we will take a long weekend ride to the upper reaches of Wisconsin.

**New Chapter Shirts with Name Patches??**

What follows is merely a suggestion!

After the district folks came to our January meeting sporting polo shirts with their names on them, I got thinking about our chapter shirts. It would be nice if we had names on ours, particularly when we are out and about interacting with others or when we have visitors at our meetings.

Tangential to that line of thinking was awareness of my personal feelings about the color of our shirts.

At this meeting I floated the question of whether there was enthusiasm for getting shirts of a different color. Folks expressed interest in getting both short and long sleeve shirts as well as shirts with or without pockets. Unfortunately, Carol H. was not present, her input would have been valuable. Subsequently, in an email exchange about changing shirts, Carol raised some defenses of our current color – they do stand out which has implications for safety; it is convenient for keeping track of and finding chapter members in a crowd or across a parking lot that less noticeable colors would no afford.

Bear in mind that this is just a proposal that requires input from all our members and will be taken up again in subsequent meetings. As a primer for those conversations, please take a look at the information below. Finding the same color in five different shirt styles severely limits selections; below are eleven colors, none of which are gold.

The price estimates are from a local business, Creative Services, 221 W. Main St., Cherokee, IA (712) 225-2175 (W), (712) 261-3823 (C), email [biz883@mchsi.com](mailto:biz883@mchsi.com). Name badges can be either heat set vinyl letters @ \$0.70/letter; cost of a 6-letter name @ \$0.70 = \$4.20; embroidered letters @ \$0.87/letter; cost of a 6-letter name = \$5.20. Note: colors are only approximations of available shirt colors.

**New Chapter Polo/T-shirts**

Prices do not include Name or Patch		Shirt Style	Sizes Available
Order of 25-49	Order of 50-96		
S-XL \$9.11	S-XL \$8.70	<b>Polo Short Sleeve No Pocket</b> (#12535) ribbed cuff	S-XL
2XL \$11.11	2XL \$10.70		2XL
3-5XL \$11.61	3-5XL \$11.20		3XL-5XL
S-XL \$11.92	S-XL \$11.37	<b>Polo Short Sleeve w/ Pocket</b> (#12035) hemmed cuff	S-XL
2XL \$13.92	2XL \$13.37		2XL
3-5XL \$14.42	3-5XL \$13.87		3XL-5XL
S-XL \$14.43	S-XL \$13.77	<b>Polo Long Sleeve No Pocket</b> (#13735) ribbed cuff	S-XL
2XL \$16.43	2XL \$15.77		2XL
S-XL \$8.49	S-XL \$8.11	<b>T-shirt Short Sleeve w/ Pocket</b> (#07235) hemmed cuff	S-XL
2XL \$10.49	2XL \$10.11		2XL
3XL \$11.99	3XL \$11.61		3XL
S-XL \$8.69	S-XL \$8.30	<b>T-shirt Long Sleeve No Pocket</b> (#07635) ribbed cuff	S-XL
2XL \$9.69	2XL \$9.30		2XL
3XL \$10.69	3XL \$10.30		3XL

	SHIRT STYLES					
	Polo SS NP	Polo SS P	Polo LS NP	T SS P	T LS NP	
White						White
Black						Black
Forest Green						Forest Green
J. Navy						J. Navy
Light Blue			N/A	N/A		Light Blue
Maroon			N/A			Maroon
Oxford						Oxford
Royal Blue						Royal Blue
Safety Green			N/A			Safety Green
Safety Orange			N/A			Safety Orange
True Red						True Red
	KEY TO SHIRT STYLES					
	Polo SS NP	Polo	Short-Sleeve	No-Pocket		
	Polo SS P	Polo	Short-Sleeve	Pocket		
	Polo LS NP	Polo	Long-Sleeve	No-Pocket		
	T SS P	T-Shirt	Short-Sleeve	Pocket		
T LS NP	T-Shirt	Long-Sleeve	No-Pocket			

**Upcoming District and National Events** – Information about these events can be found on the district web site, <http://www.gwrra-iowa.com/ralliesevents.html>

- **30 May to 1 June 2019** – Missouri District Rally, Wingin’ the Ozarks, Branson, MO
- **15 Jun 2019** – Chapter A Bike Show, Altoona, IA, details to follow
- **8-11 Aug 2019** – Region E Reunion Ride-In, La Crosse, WI
- **27-31 Aug 2019** – Wing Ding 41, Opryland Resort, East Nashville, TN <https://wing-ding.org/>
- **20-21 Sep 2019** – Iowa District Rally, Oelwein, IA, KofC Hall