



Chapter KY-Y Mayfield, KY

April 2026

Volume 26 Issue 4

Where We Meet: Majestic Family Restaurant
700 South 6th Street
Mayfield, KY 42066

Eat at 6:00 - Meet 7:00

First Thursday of the Month

Chapter Directors:
Dan & Rita Bondurant
danbondurant@bellsouth.net

Pins & Patches:
Open

Rides beginning at the "Blue" Building:
901 N. 15th Street, Mayfield
(hint: the building isn't blue!)

Asst. Chapter Directors:
Richard Thomasson
rlthomasson@wk.net

Dinner Rides:
Open



Motorist Awareness:
Dan Bondurant
danbondurant@bellsouth.net

Membership Enhancement Coord.
Open

Treasurer:
Sherry Myers
sherrymyers21@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:
Steve Knode
stevenjennie@hotmail.com

Birthday and Anniversary Coord.
Johnny Myers
jmyers2400@gmail.com

Ride Coordinator:
Dan Bondurant
danbondurant@bellsouth.net

2026 Couple of the Year
Steve and Jennie Knode
stevenjennie@hotmail.com

2026 Individual of the Year
Dan Bondurant
danbondurant@bellsouth.net



From the Chapter Director



Hey there folks, hope all are doing well as Spring rolls in. Of course, this IS KENTUCKY with 70's today and tomorrow 30's! But hopefully the cold temps will stop soon and have nice spring weather.

Rita and I are going to see her Mother and that means we will be STOPPING AT DOUGH DADDY'S FOR DONUTS!!!!!! It's about half way and so we just HAVE to stop and stretch. Plus if you get \$10.00 worth of gas you get a FREE DONUT! Of course, you can't be inhospitable and refuse the donut.

Some of us have done a few rides already but are planning to do a lot more and we can't wait. That means great back roads and great FOOD!! You know I think I can smell maybe some fried chicken from Giant City in the near future or several other places lol. If you come up with an idea of somewhere to go give me a yell.

Hope to see you at the April get-together next Thursday.

Dan and Rita
Chapter Y C/D's
KY Assistant State Director

View From The Saddle



It's that time of the year, again, when we get the motorcycles out more often and take advantage of those first spring days of warm riding weather. We've been waiting a long time for these days but, unfortunately, motorists have kind of forgotten about bikes being on the road and tend not to see us. There are all kinds of reasons for this phenomenon but our job, in self-defense, is to make us harder to ignore.

I've always been a proponent of hi-vis jackets and helmets, as a starter. I really like the hi-vis green/yellow jackets and while they tend to fade more quickly than other colors, they are impossible to miss. I have an off-white jacket that's heavier and I wear it more in cooler weather but when it warms up I switch to the mesh hi-vis jacket. My brother thinks he's cooler in the summer with no jacket. I disagree. I think the mesh jacket lets lots of air through and it blocks much of the sun. Not to mention the protective padding

in the back, elbows and shoulders. He often rides without a helmet, too, so "nuff said".

Next is the helmet, which is another item that can increase your visibility if in the right color. Again, hi-vis green/yellow would be ideal but most helmet manufacturers have quit making them because they fade extremely fast. Next best option is probably white. That's what I switched to recently. I liked my silver helmet but helmet makers are trending away from bright and shiny and offering more subdued colors. When it comes to visibility I don't want "subdued".

Another visibility increaser is the lights on the bike. I added the fog lights up front to increase my visibility. I had a motor officer tell me once that he believed the triangulation of the two fog lights and the headlight helps motorist determine your speed better. I haven't read that any where but it may make sense. There are a multitude of lighting additions you can add to the bike to increase visibility and I don't think you can have too many from a visibility standpoint but taste might be a limiting factor. I also added a spoiler with a brake light on my trunk. That raises the level of where my brake lights can be seen. And I have the "back off" modulator so they flash before going to steady red. You might consider modulating headlights, too. Cruiseman has that function on his bike but only turns it on when he wants to get someone's attention before they pull out in front of him. But having them on constantly makes you hard to miss.

I also strongly believe that the Brake Free light I have attached to the back of my helmet helps motorists behind me see that I'm braking, especially in a hard stop. Gradual stops don't seem to trigger the brake light but if you're stopping quickly and you need that car behind you to know it, having that brake light at their eye level makes your actions easier to recognize.

All of these things help but the most important thing you can do as a motorcycle rider is to have a riding strategy that helps keep you out of trouble. Looking ahead, expecting the unexpected, lane positioning, appropriate speed, etc all play a major role in preventing close calls and near misses. Being seen is extremely important but expert riding skills are the real key to a safe, relaxing ride.

Steve Knode
Newsletter Editor

Rider Education Report



Many new things start in the month of April. In our part of the country, flora and fauna both begin to appear for this year's growing season. The world of motorcycling is no different. And this year we find news that may interest us all.

Honda is filing a patent request for an adaptive cruise control. You know, the kind like in many new cars that can sense the speed of the vehicle ahead and adjust to keep a set following distance without driver input. They have been experimenting with electrically assisted steering. They currently have the most advanced automatic transmission in motorcycling. And there are also rumors that they have a joint project with the Segway company, the self-balancing scooter that tourists and police officers use in urban environments.

What could all this mean for the Gold Wing? With their target market being the long-distance touring crowd, I propose that Honda will introduce the first self-driving motorcycle. Can you imagine our next group ride? We all get out on the interstate, set the cruise control, lean back, and start texting with family and friends, watching movies, or catching up on business emails. Think of the efficiency!

The Kentucky Road Riders is also organizing an on-bike training course for two and three wheeled bikes in May this year. Details to follow.

Rick Artmayer

KY State Educator

Contact List for KY Road Riders State Positions

director@kyroadriders.org
assistant_director@kyroadriders.org
coy@kyroadriders.org
COY_Coordinator@kyroadriders.org
mepc@kyroadriders.org
newsletter_editor@kyroadriders.org
Pins_Patches@kyroadriders.org
ride_coordinator@kyroadriders.org
trainer@kyroadriders.org
treasurer@kyroadriders.org
webmaster@kyroadriders.org

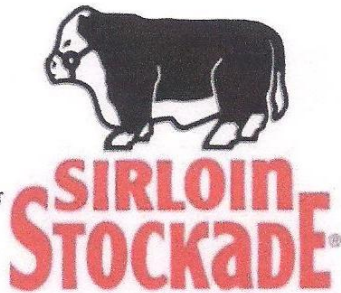
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Paducah, KY 42003
andy@powersportsfamerica.com

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powersportsfamerica.com
lakelifeky.com

April

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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Chapter Gathering
Majestic Restaurant

Good Friday

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EASTER

Mama D's
Calvert City

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August Moon
Murray

Tax Day

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Burger Barn
KenLake Marina

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Habaneros
Draffenville

2026