

A NEW BEGINNING

A good while ago GWRRA announced a restructuring which in part endorsed that our gatherings should be less focused on mundane business matters and more focused on fun while incorporating more riding into/after our gatherings.

The time for this new beginning may have now been thrust upon us. We are going to have to adapt how we gather to this yet undefined “new normal” that we are going to be faced with. The days of putting 40 to 60 people in restaurant-based meeting rooms may now be a long way down the road.

The Governor has announced that parks and trails will now be reopened in his Phase I reopening plan that begins May 9th and goes through May 22nd (at least). Until May 22nd, the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people continues. Perhaps Phase II will ease that 10-person limitation, but will almost certainly continue the requirement for social distancing, etc.

As the reopening evolves, we may find that open-air gatherings are both appropriate and acceptable, for the summertime at least (hopefully by winter we may be able to be back in restaurants). This may look like meeting in a parking lot, riding to a designated shelter with plenty of space for an open-air gathering. Attendees will provide their own picnic of food/snacks (or how about pizza delivery?) for the greet time followed by an abbreviated meeting. We may have to be creative in how we handle 50/50 and other raffles as well as door prizes, etc.

We may choose to (should) condense our gathering time in favor of incorporating a post-gathering ride. Inviting other Chapters to attend, of course.

Dave Smith of NC-I has already laid out such an outdoor plan for his May 23rd gathering of the Asheville Chapter. I encourage you all to look at Dave’s article in his May Newsletter to show what Dave was thinking in this regard. http://www.gwrranci.org/newsletter/NCI_News_2020-05.pdf

We need for the Governor to first increase his 10-person limitation on gathering size, which could possibly happen after May 22nd.

Let’s be creative in how we proceed; but let’s do proceed. I look forward to feedback from you all.

for our GWRRA FAMILY

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