



# April 2025 Newsletter



## Chapter P Officers

### Directors

John and Cindy Wood

### Assistant Directors

Bob & Donna Baum

### Treasurer

Jean Kitco

### Ride & Safety Coordinator

Rich Kitko

## Support Team

### Sunshine Team

Linda & Rick Ventresco

### Webmaster

Bob Baum

### Newsletter Editor

Kay Rickey

## Chapter P Gathering Information

**April 12, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**Lizard's Thicket**

**4616 Augusta Rd. (US-1)**

**Lexington, SC**



## Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Chapter Directors.....                     | 2-5 |
| Assistant Directors.....                   | 6   |
| Ride and Safety Coordinator.....           | 7   |
| Dates to Remember .....                    | 8   |
| Dinner Rides/Birthdays, Anniversaries..... | 8   |
| EWMA / District Staff and Links .....      | 9   |
| Upcoming EMWA Rallies.....                 | 9   |
| Sponsor Ads.....                           | 9   |



**The Chapter that Rides...**

## CHAPTER DIRECTORS JOHN & CINDY WOOD



Well, it appears we've turned the corner heading toward nicer weather. This allows folks to get out and enjoy themselves whether it's just hanging out or taking a ride to enjoy some wind therapy. It is time to take a look at your motorcycle, regardless of make to ensure you can hit the road safely. I'd like to increase the number of rides to include putting out addition info on rides in the local area, i.e. the Tuesday Ride Group. I believe a good way to get new members is for us to participate in their rides. An example of this was the Blessing of the Bikes in Greenwood where I handed out 10 hangers and talked to folks about EWMA. If you have any ideas of thoughts about rides please get with me or Rich Kitko our Safety/Ride Coordinator. Just a few rides & events in March included joining the group heading to Deals Gap for breakfast in Greenville, ride and camping in Daytona for Bike Week, retiree ride to McCormick for lunch, a visit to Chapter S at their Gathering, ride to Greenwood for the Blessing of the Bikes, and to end March, the District Around the State Ride to close out the month. If you didn't get to participate in any ride, look ahead for the dates for the Tour of Honor Ride coming in May. As we look ahead to April let's see what the Chapter has planned. Take a look at the "Dates to Remember" or the District Calendar to plan to participate in events. First let me recognize April is Autism Awareness Month for those who have family members with Autism & the 28th Anniversary of Chapter P. April 1st will have some of us anxiously awaiting the sites for the Tour of Honor. No fooling! We've planned a our Annual Chili Cook-Off on April 5th (see flyer). Our Monthly Chapter Gathering will be April 12th, along with our Chapter Dinner and Retiree Ride. We'll probably add other events too! We'll celebrate the Easter celebration as a family event. With the Florida Rally behind us let's look forward to the Tennessee Spring Fling, April 24-26 in Johnson City, TN. Looking forward to the SC Rally, May 15-17 in Newberry. If you haven't pre-registered, please do as soon as you can, even if it's only for one day. There are things each Chapter is expected to do as their part to make the Rally a success. Each is expected to supply door prizes and refreshments for the Hospitality Room, and participating in providing a Chapter Basket. The Chapter usually gets door prizes from Sponsors or Members, purchases snacks from Chapter funds, but we rely on donations from our Members to complete the Chapter Basket. If you have a donation, bring items for the basket to any Chapter event. The theme is "Salute to the Troops". Again, we need donations, gift cards, etc. Let's come together and shine as a Chapter with top numbers and participation in the Rally events so visitors from around the Region leave with a positive impression of South Carolina District & Chapters.

\*\*\*\* Looking for someone to serve as Chapter Director, or Assistant Director. Get with me. \*\*\*\*

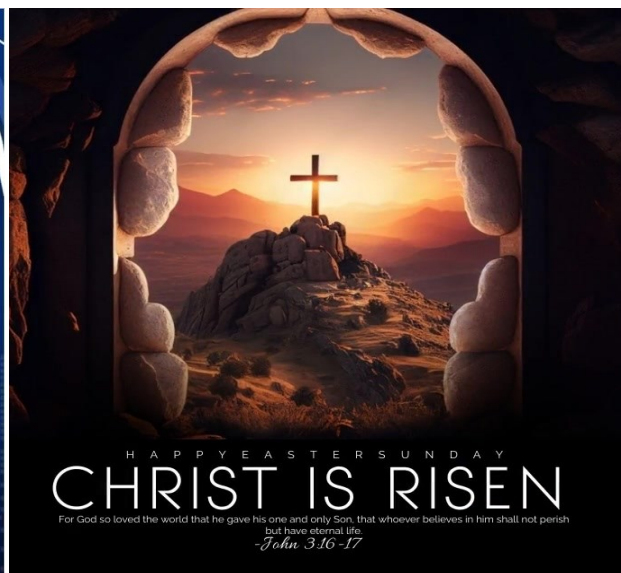
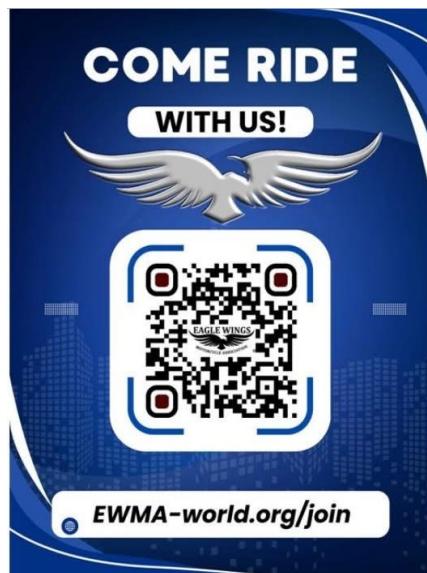
We have a vacant Staff Position - **Assistant Safety/Ride Coordinator**.

If interested get with Rich Kitko or me. If you have a special ride you'd like to take, let us know.

Until Next Time.....



John & Cindy





**CHAPTER P RIDE  
BREAKFAST WITH FOLKS HEADING TO DEALS GAP**



**CHAPTER GATHERING  
LIZARD'S THICKET**



April 19th

**HUSBAND**  
*Appreciation Day*



APRIL IS NATIONAL  
**AUTISM**  
AWARENESS  
MONTH





**CHAPTER DINNER-BELLIES**



**2025 DAYTONA BIKE WEEK**



**CHAPTER S VISIT**



**RETIREE RIDE**





# CHAPTER P

## 16TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH - 5:00 TO 7:30 PM**

**Chapter P**

**Birthday**

**Month**

**28 years!**



WHERE: DANNY HOOVERS - 510 ST. PAULS CHURCH RD. GILBERT, SC

Everyone is invited to show off your chili cooking talent for a chance to be the 2025 Chili Master and win the Chapter trophy.

Please bring a covered dish or desert to share.



Hot Dogs & fixins will be provided by the Chapter.

**COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN!**

**NO PETS PLEASE**





## Assistant Directors & Webmaster Bob and Donna Baum



This year's Ride Around the State saw 9 Chapter P members meet at the Shell station on #1 and Charter Oak Dr. with KSU at 11:45. We made our way to BJ's Buffet in Aiken to meet up with the group that left the upstate. That's where we found out that we had 21 bikes going on the ride! After lunch we split into 2 groups and headed towards Hilton Head. Taking all backroads, traffic was pretty much on our side until we hit the usual mess trying to get on to the island. Our group arrived at the hotel around 6:00. The other's ran into some road and de-tour issues and didn't make it unit around 7:00. Dinner seemed to be split between the Hilton Head Diner and The Drydock Seafood and Spirits. I couldn't help it. When I'm near the coast I feel obligated to have seafood. After dinner everyone settled into their rooms for a good night's sleep. After some of the issues on Friday, we split into 3 groups for Saturday's ride. I led our group of mostly Chapter P members on what I called "the road less traveled". I put the coordinates in the GPS and told it to take us backroads. It was a mystery to all of us which way it was going to take us. Somehow, we arrived at our designated lunch location before the group that left 15 minutes ahead of us. The New China Buffet in Monks Corners had a great selection and reserved a room just for us. After everyone had their fill (thanks Bill for taking one for the team) we were on our way to Dillon. Again, our group traveled all backroads and managed to get to the hotel before the others. Which was probably a good thing. The hotel seemed to be a little overwhelmed when we walked in. If you've been associated with this group for any time, you know it travels on its stomach. We arrived around 4:00 and some were already concerned about dinner. A mere 3 hours after stuffing ourselves at the Chinese Buffet! Say what you will about being hungry in an hour after Chinese food, but a good number of us were still stuffed. While other went to dinner, adult libations were provided and so started the evening of storytelling. By the time our pizza arrived two hours late, we had most of the group hanging around outside of our hotel rooms. Those moments are some of my favorites when travelling with a group. The forecast Sunday was for rain in the afternoon so 6 of us decided to leave early and head for home. We took the interstate home, and it was a smooth ride the whole way. Most everyone else followed the group on backroads and hopefully made it home before the rain.

Our April Tuesday dinner will be at Ocen View Seafood on the 15th .



Until next time, Fins Up! ...../.).....Bob & Donna

## District – Ride Around the State

Thanks to those who set up this event, and to all those folks who participated to make this a super event.



## Assistant Safety/Ride Coordinator Rich Kitko



### ***Riding Smart: Avoiding the Blind Spot***

As motorcyclists, we are acutely aware of the challenges that come with being on two wheels in a world designed for four. One of the most dangerous situations we can encounter on the road is when we're caught in a vehicle's blind spot. The consequences can be severe if we're not vigilant about positioning ourselves for visibility and safety. In this month's newsletter, we're focusing on how to avoid riding in blind spots and why it's essential for your safety.

### ***What is a Blind Spot?***

A vehicle's blind spot is the area around the vehicle that the driver cannot see through mirrors or peripheral vision. Blind spots vary in size depending on the vehicle—larger vehicles like trucks and SUVs often have more expansive blind spots compared to smaller cars. As riders, it's critical to understand that these blind spots are a serious risk to us. When drivers can't see us, they may make maneuvers that can lead to accidents.

### ***How to Stay Out of Blind Spots***

1. **Position Yourself Wisely** Always try to position yourself where the driver can see you. If you're in the lane next to a car, make sure you're slightly ahead or behind the vehicle, never directly beside it for extended periods. This will ensure the driver has a better chance of noticing you in their mirrors.
2. **Use Your Headlight** While daytime running lights are standard on many motorcycles, make sure your headlight is on at all times, even in daylight. A well-lit motorcycle is easier to spot, especially when drivers are scanning their mirrors.
3. **Avoid Tailgating** If you're riding directly behind a vehicle, make sure you maintain a safe distance. Not only does this give you a buffer in case of sudden braking, but it also ensures you are visible in the driver's side and rearview mirrors. Staying too close to a vehicle puts you in a vulnerable position if they change lanes unexpectedly.
4. **Use Lane Positioning to Your Advantage** Within your lane, position yourself where you're visible to drivers, but avoid being in a position where you're riding directly in a blind spot. For example, riding in the left part of your lane when you're behind a car can help ensure you're seen by the driver.
5. **Signal Early and Clearly** Whether you're changing lanes or preparing to turn, always signal your intentions well in advance. This gives drivers ample time to notice you and adjust their driving accordingly.
6. **Be Aware of Larger Vehicles** Trucks and buses have particularly large blind spots. Never linger in these areas and be extra cautious when passing them. If you find yourself next to one, accelerate or decelerate to move out of the blind spot as quickly as possible.
7. **Make Eye Contact When Possible** Making eye contact with drivers at intersections or while waiting at lights can help establish awareness. If the driver acknowledges you, they are more likely to be conscious of your presence when they begin moving.

### ***What to Do If You Find Yourself in a Blind Spot***

Despite your best efforts, you might still find yourself in a blind spot from time to time. If this happens:

- **Don't Panic:** Stay calm and avoid doing anything sudden.
- **Change Positions:** Safely move ahead, behind, or to the other side of the vehicle, ensuring you are no longer in the blind spot.
- **Be Ready to React:** Stay aware of the vehicle's movements and be prepared to act if they change lanes or make a turn unexpectedly.

### ***Final Thoughts***

Being proactive about your positioning on the road is the best way to stay safe and avoid dangerous blind spot situations. While we can't always predict what other drivers will do, we can always control how we position ourselves on the road and

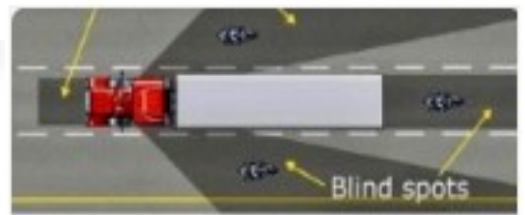
how visible we are to others. Ride smart, stay aware, and remember: safety is always in your hands.

Safe riding,

Rich



**200,000 Miles  
Congrats Rich Kitko**





## Dates to Remember.....

April 1– Tour of Honor Sites released/ April Fool's Day  
April 5– Chapter P Chili Cookoff (5 pm-7):30 pm)  
April 12– Chapter Gathering  
April 13– Palm Sunday  
April 15- Tax Day  
April 15– Chapter Dinner/Ocean View Seafood  
April 18– Good Friday  
April 19– Husband Appreciation Day  
April 20– Easter Sunday  
April 22– Earth Day  
April 24– Retiree Ride—TBD  
April 24-26 Tennessee Spring Fling Rally,  
Johnson City, TN  
May 10– Chapter Gathering  
May 15-17 –SC District Rally/Newberry SC  
May-Tour of Honor Ride TBA



## Dinner Ride

**TUESDAY April 15th– Ocean View Seafood Restaurant– 1000 Knox Abbott Dr.  
Cayce, SC 503-791-5700– Eat at 6 pm**



Ted Hoover 2  
Rich Kitko 18  
Mary Coral 25  
Rudy Bouknight 26  
Tracy Currie 29



Rudy & Joyce Bouknight 11  
John & Sheila Wilkes 21



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### EWMA National Team

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### South Carolina District Officers

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For entire list go to: ewmasc.org

### Upcoming Rallies

March 12 - 14, 2026 - Florida District Rally - Gainesville, FL

April 24-26, 2025 - Tennessee Spring Fling Rally - Johnson City, TN

May 15-17,2025 -South Carolina District Rally, Newberry , SC

June 5-7, 2025 - Georgia/Region A Ride-In, Helen, GA

June 26-28, 2025- Alabama District Rally -Sheffield, Ala.

August 28– 30 Eagle Wings Rendezvous, Ft Smith, AR

October 16-18 Mississippi District Rally, Biloxi MS

Website for all EWMA Rallies: [Events - Eagle Wings Motorcycle Association](#)



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