



GWRRA
New York District
December 2007
Northeast Region



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REGION COY COORDINATORS
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CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
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GWRRA homepage:
<http://www.gwrra.org>

Region Website:
<http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org/>

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Chapter D Brian & Laurie O'Brien'
Chapter F Rich & Lois Brown
Chapter G Bill Dean
Chapter H Bob & Sandy Kelley
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COUPLE OF THE YEAR
 RON & PATRICIA SCHROTH

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP
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 WILL O'BRIEN

DISTRICT WEB MISTRESS
 DOTTIE BAHRENBURG

NY District Website:
<http://www.gwrra-ny.org/>

News from National...

- National has given us a bit of an early Christmas present in that we no longer need to provide 12 monthly checking account statements to national. All we need to have each chapter send in is the December statement
- National also simplified the M.O.U. for the CD's and ACD's but unfortunately, that means all of the operations people for 2008 need to sign this new form, even if you had previously signed a M.O.U. We will be collecting the new paperwork at our District Meeting on January 26th.
- In addition the tenure program has been eliminated and you are eligible to remain as an operations officer indefinitely. I personally do not believe that is healthy for you or your chapter. Annually as DD, I need to "renew" your appointment. This does not require any additional paperwork on your behalf only on mine.

News from National...

- **Some Reminders from the Home Office:**
 - **Office Hours:** The Phoenix office hours have changed. They are now open from 6:30 A.M – 5:30 P.M. MST, Monday – Thursday. Remember, they are closed on Fridays.
 - **District and Chapter Newsletters:** Please remember when you send out your newsletter that everybody that the e-mail is going out to should be in the BCC field. People are getting e-mail addresses of the Members, and they're getting solicitations that way.

News from the Northeast Region

- Pete and Marielle St Amour, Linda Waterman, Dottie and I attended the Region meeting in Berwick, PA, this month where we were brought up to date on the numerous staff changes and some of the new policy changes instituted by National. We had a good time and had a chance to renew acquaintances with fellow operations officers from around the Region. We also got a preview of the Rallies within our Region and our Wing Ding duties. If you are planning on attending Wing Ding please consider giving some time to help out the Region with the Grand Parade and Light Parade. More details about this will be coming as the event draws closer.
- You can go down in history (just like Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer.) You can help set a record in The FAMOUS Guinness Book of Records for the Worlds Largest Gold Wing Motorcycle Parade ever to be established. **When and where?** Wing Ding 30, on July 3-6, 2008, in Greensboro, South Carolina we will be the first to establish this new record category. The Event Management Staff of Wing Ding 30 has made contact with Guinness, filed all the proper applications and have received back their confirmations. They have been working directly with the City of Greenville CVB, as well as media coverage for the record attempt. To make the event worthy of consideration, we must provide 4 independent counts as well as a video or DVD of the attempt and the proper paperwork, which the Event Staff will provide. **Why? Because we can, after all...We are Gold Wing Road Riders! The headline could read, "Northeast Region of GWRRA plays major roll in Guinness Book!"** Yes, we could even see an * next to our names. Once again our region has the dubious honor of organizing and hosting the Grand Parade at Wing Ding again this year. Considering the fact that the region staff is made up mostly of new officers, this makes it doubly interesting and challenging. But, fortunately for everyone, we are all up to the task and with everyone's help and cooperation; we **WILL CREATE** a memorable event. Please pass the word that **EVERYONE's** assistance will be needed in working together to organize the Grand Parade and helping us spread the word to get as many Gold Wings in the parade as possible. Our goal is to get at least 1100-1200 Gold Wings in the parade.

From the District Director

'Tis the Season for Change! We are getting prepared for the year end paperwork and the numerous Chapter Director and Assistant Chapter Director changes that will happen at year end. At this time, I believe there will be six new Chapter Directors. A sincere Thank You goes out to those officers who have "directed" their chapters over their term of office and Thank you to those new officers who have agreed to step up and "direct" their chapters in the new year.

On a sad note it appears that we will be closing 3 chapters in the coming months due to a lack of interest. Two of the chapters have been basically nonfunctioning for the last 2 or more years and the third chapter has no one willing to step up so it must be closed. While closing a Chapter certainly seems like sad news, we are greatly enthused by the strength of many of the remaining Chapters in the District and prefer to see this as only a small bump in the road to building a strong

New York District. It is also a “red flag” that we need to increase our recruiting efforts to bring new blood and ideas into the organization. And, we need to work very hard to keep those new members after they are recruited.

In closing, Dottie and I would like to wish you all a THANK YOU for your assistance during this last year and wish you a joyful Happy Holidays.



Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg
District Director

RALLY NEWS

- **Logo contest:** We have only received a few entries to the Rally Logo Contest. So we are extending the deadline to January 1, 2008. Remember, the Rally theme is: ***The Race is on to the New York District Rally!***
- **Rally dates:** August 7-9, 2008, Newark, NY.
- There will be a Women’s Only Event again this year. And, to go along with the NASCAR theme, our event will be “Red Neck Women”. Anyone interested in helping to organize this event, contact Dottie Bahrenburg at wingin-it@stny.rr.com Don’t worry about meetings, we can share ideas and plan this event online and over the phone. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out.



From the District Educator



Dan's Dribble
Rider Education

New York District
November, 2007



New Year's Resolutions

I understand that it probably seems kind of early, but by the time you get the next newsletter, it will probably be after the New Years. With that in mind, are there some New Years resolutions that we as Educators as well as students set out to do?

If you are an educator (we all really are educators after all), how about making it a point to spend a little extra time with a rider that might be struggling with some aspect of Rider Education. How about setting a goal of teaching at least three classes next year? Each and every time that we hold a class, we could realistically be saving someone's life. How is that you say, well if you teach a First aid or CPR class that kind of goes without saying, but what about something less obvious? If you hold a parking lot practice, perhaps one of those skills that you helped someone to get a grip on will cause them to avoid an accident. If you hold a Co-Rider course, what happens if the rider gets ill and the Co-Rider was forced to take over? Will they be prepared? If you as an educator do your part, then it should not be a problem! Obviously, we can do our part and bad things can still happen, but we can sure go a long way towards making certain that we minimize the risk? Have you ever taught a course or class and had someone come back to you at a later date and tell you of a success story? I can tell you that there is no greater joy as an instructor to have that happen!!

What about those who are not educators (although rule #1 above still applies!)? Well, there are many things that we can do as well. First, when was the last time that you took an MSF course? The content is always changing and even if it didn't, I am sure we can always use some hands on practice. On top of that, don't forget that in New York most insurance companies will use that as credit towards insurance reductions. I can say that each and every time I take the Advanced Rider Course I come out feeling energized and invigorated. I also come away with something new every time. I definitely feel that I am a better (safer) rider each time I take the class. Let's not forget about all of the classes that your local seminar presenter's can provide. There are courses for Co-Riders, Medic First Aid, Crash Scene Response, and also for Mature Riders. There are also courses for Team Riding as well. Don't waste all of that precious time inside bottled up for the winter, contact your chapter educator for more information.

There are many other things that you can do while suffering from PMS (**P**arked **M**otorcycle **S**yndrome). How about checking out your first aid kit? Are the materials inside still in good condition? If they are not, have you spent all of your Flexible Spending account for your health care? If not, then what better time to get a new kit? It is allowable deduction and you can use some of that left over money!! Don't let it go to waste!!

On a last note, hopefully by the time I send out the next newsletter article, we will know all about the exciting changes coming to Rider Ed, until then;

Have Fun, Get Educated, Ride Safely!!
Dan Corby

From the District Trainer

HOW BAD IS IT?

By Pam & Denny Milford, Northwest PA Assistant District Directors

Every day we hear about how bad it is for someone, and don't get me wrong, some people really do have it bad, but compared to what? I was starting to suck my thumb and feel kinda sorry for myself, as the last 30 days, I have been laid up and not working, not able to ride till just the other day and, in general, kinda depressed, as all of this beautiful fall weather was simply passing me by.

About a month ago, I developed a bad infection in my left leg, which basically, spread to the entire leg and even beyond. The remedy was 5 days in the hospital and rest and keeping it elevated, along with all kinds of medication. I was feeling so bad about it and, of course, it hurt too, that it was a major pity party; when all of a sudden it happened. In the middle of my situation, I was asked to do, not one, but two funerals, for people I had come to know over the years and then I realized I had it pretty good. I was still alive, able to enjoy fine foods, a loving family, great weather with sunsets from out of a dream book, fantastic friends and best of all, a God that allowed me to realize that I had it pretty good, to say the least.

Isn't it amazing how, if we just open our eyes, we see how we have been blessed. To the best of my knowledge, none of us went to bed last night hungry or afraid for our safety from bad people, possibly in the community. Sure you locked your doors, and that sort of thing, but did you sleep with a gun for protection, or armed guards protecting your safety? How about your jobs? Come on folks; don't tell me how bad you have it. We ride Gold Wings, don't we? We can't be that poor! There isn't a one of you that, if asked, wouldn't and, more importantly, couldn't lend me a \$20 bill, if I asked (and I am NOT asking). We have surpluses; just look at my waistline and some of yours too.

Yes, we complain about \$3.00 a gallon for gas and pay more than that for bottled water. We eat \$5.00 hamburgers. Instead of grumbling, we should be happy we can afford to pay the prices for these and other items in life. What does all of this have to do with GWRRA and the wonderful sport of motorcycling? It probably has almost nothing, and then again, almost everything. Be thankful for the company we enjoy and the wonderful memories we share. I have yet to get around a group of Wingers, but what it hasn't given me a smile to walk away with. I am thankful I can afford to go with this great group of people, but even more so, that they never ask what size my back account is, or put me down if all I order is a burger instead of a t-bone to be washed down with my ice cream.

Even though they haven't made a 1500 Gold Wing for a few years, nobody puts down my, soon to be 10 year old steed, with just short of 100,000 miles. No, not even the new guy that just started riding with the local chapter and his trusty 1100 gets put down!

In closing, I just want to encourage all of you to ride safely, smile always, and hug often and say, "Thanks for giving and making this year, one we will never forget." Believe me, when I say "The best is yet to come!"

(This article originally appeared in the PA District Newsletter).

Dottie Bahrenburg
District Trainer

From District Public Relations

Where has the time gone? I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Congratulations to Bobbi Hardman, who has moved to Albany, NY for a new job with the State University. I know she will be missed by her home Chapter Y. However, Chapter Y's loss is Chapter G's gain.

Congratulations to Pete and Marielle St. Amour for taking on the position of Chapter Director for Chapter G.

Had a wonderful time and learned a lot from the Region Meeting in Berwick, PA. It was great to see familiar faces and to meet new ones. A lot of information was provided.

I want to talk about CHANGE. As previously stated, two individuals have already experienced change. I looked up CHANGE on the online dictionary and I was amazed at the numerous definitions. Some are provided below:

1.
 - a. To cause to be different: *change the spelling of a word.*
 - b. To give a completely different form or appearance to; transform: *changed the yard into a garden.*
2. To give and receive reciprocally; interchange: *change places.*
3. To exchange for or replace with another, usually of the same kind or category: *change one's name; a light that changes colors.*
4.
 - a. To lay aside, abandon, or leave for another; switch: *change methods; change sides.*
 - b. To transfer from (one conveyance) to another: *change planes.*
5. To give or receive the equivalent of (money) in lower denominations or in foreign currency.
6. To put a fresh covering on: *change a bed; change the baby.*

v.intr.

1. To become different or undergo alteration: *He changed as he matured.*
2. To undergo transformation or transition: *The music changed to a slow waltz.*
3. To go from one phase to another, as the moon or the seasons.
4. To make an exchange: *If you prefer this seat, I'll change with you.*
5. To transfer from one conveyance to another: *She changed in Chicago on her way to the coast.*
6. To put on other clothing: *We changed for dinner.*
7. To become deeper in tone: *His voice began to change at age 13.*

n.

1. The act, process, or result of altering or modifying: *a change in facial expression.*
2. The replacing of one thing for another; substitution: *a change of atmosphere; a change of ownership.*

3. A transformation or transition from one state, condition, or phase to another: *the change of seasons*.
4. Something different; variety: *ate early for a change*.

There is one constant in life and that is all things change. Every season flows into another without concern for the ending that is taking place, and we the “viewers” of nature see the good results of that change. The newness of spring moves into the warm and carefree days of summer, which melds into the glorious riot of color in autumn, which turns to the quiet dormancy of winter, where preparation for renewal begins once again. We do not view these changes with trepidation or sorrow because we know that they are all good.

However, we do not always initially view other changes or transitions in our lives with such optimism and hope. If we could only remember what we know about the seasons-that one ending is another beautiful beginning-perhaps we wouldn’t experience such fear or doubt about the turning points in our lives. Viewing life this simply is not an easy exercise.

On a personal level, I have faced many changes in the past 6 years I am amazed at the transitions I have made, willingly or not so willingly. I use to have a stubborn streak and when I dug in my heels, there wasn’t anything on this earth that could get me to budge. I have learned that some changes cannot be controlled no matter how stubborn one is; i.e., death, divorce, new job, lost job, unexpected move, etc. The list goes on and on. Some things just need to be accepted as they are.

You are probably wondering where this is leading. Well, this is the time when we have old Chapter Directors stepping down, new ones stepping up to the plate; new Assistance Chapter Directors; new Public Relations Coordinators, and the list goes on and on. Without new Chapter Directors stepping up to the plate and taking on the position, the chapter members lose and the chapter winds up being closed.

So, with Christmas and the New Year fast approaching, look at the change as a breath of fresh air; new ideas, new suggestions and the chance to make your chapter ride above the transition.

Welcome aboard to all the new officers and a heartfelt thank you to all the officers that have served their chapters well and hope you will remain as an advisor as I am sure the new directors will have a lot of questions.

Now for some humor:

On her way home from a long trip, a blonde drove past a sign that said “CLEAN RESTROOMS 8 MILES.”

By the time she drove eight miles, she had cleaned 43 restrooms. ☺
“Love is the only service that power cannot command and money cannot buy.”

I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and an Abundant New Year.

Linda Waterman
District Public Relations Coordinator

From the District COY Coordinators

The New York District is still looking for a Couple of the Year Coordinator. If you are interested please contact either Dottie or myself. At the region meeting we were introduced to the new Couple of the Year Manual. It is available on the web at <http://med.gwrra.org/guides/guides.htm>

The major item that I want to make sure all Chapters know is that there is NO further commitment from a Chapter COY than to continue to do what they have been doing. If you have a couple that you wish to honor because of their efforts in your chapter, please do so .Maybe you can give them a chapter shirt with Couple of the Year embroidered on it or some other symbol of your respect for them. That is all there is to it! This is no different than the message that the District has put forth for at least the last 2 years.

If they wish to continue on to be a District or Region COY, there are "duties" and some responsibilities involved. I would be glad to talk to anyone who has questions about the program.

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The Phantom Members - Sometimes Called "Hitch-hikers"

(taken from the Office Guidebook)

By: June & Derrell Agee

MED Division Directors

The following article pertaining to the "PHANTOM" Member was referring to the first 21 years of the GWRRA Organization or 9 years ago. Now after 30 years we still have the same peculiar phenomena. What can we do to entice these Phantom Members to join the organization? Please read on.

After 21 years of successful growth, GWRRA has caused peculiar phenomena. We caused it by being TOO friendly! An explanation is in order. We have always understood that GWRRA's organization and its benefits are exclusively for its Members. However, our meetings, and many times our events, have always been for Members AND their guests. Obviously, we do this to give Potential Members a chance to look us over and, hopefully, they will join our family. Our friendliness also extends to FORMER members; much to our credit... again hoping they will re-join our family.

However, and this may be hard to believe, there seems to be some folks who see no reason to re-join us. Not because they don't like us, but because they have seen that our meetings, rides, events, 50/50 drawings, and especially the FUN we have, is an "open door" and they don't feel that "membership" is necessary to take advantage of these important benefits. We all know that two of our most important benefits are namely, the chapter, and the wealth of activities that constantly go on within all of GWRRA.

Some of these Phantom "members" have friends who give them old copies of *Wing World* magazines and sometimes an old Gold Book for when they travel. Many dues-paying Members ask, "Aren't we being too kind?" Many wonder how some of these folks can see no reason to REALLY belong to GWRRA. They also wonder why a Phantom member takes for free what others are paying for.

Understand, we're not talking about our Guests here; we're talking about those who once were part of us and now (for whatever reason) are not. Yet they continue to participate in the fellowship and friendship of something that was created for "Members only." We know that many of our officers do not believe they have this problem. If so, that is good for you, your participants, and GWRRA. However, if you're like some, there could be as much as 33 percent of your chapter that are phantoms. Be aware, that if this trend continues, your chapter will eventually cease to be, and a Club will be born.

Herein is our dilemma. We don't want to be "snobbish" or rude, but we need to help these folks understand the reasons and advantages of true Membership in our family. They need to understand the difference between Membership, Friend or GUEST. Several Chapter Directors have dealt with their problem through the Phantom's wallet. I.E. Most chapter events use "sign-in" sheets (page 0-2 of the Officers Guidebook). All participants show their GWRRA Membership Card. The expiration date can usually be verified. No card? That's OK, BUT coffee, pie, 50/50 tickets, etc., could have a "surcharge" for all "non-members". Perhaps you could have a supply of paper nametags saying, "Hi - I'm XXXX, a visitor". This would serve two purposes: One, identify the guest (or the former member) for special get-acquainted-type actions or friend-making, and two, help them understand how special Membership in GWRRA really is.

All of our events already charge a different price for nonmembers, if for no other reason, to identify the benefits of GWRRA Membership and because GWRRA activities are primarily for GWRRA Members. We're not suggesting that money is the answer or even the proper tactic. Some have used these methods with a certain degree of effectiveness. Obviously, there are other things that can be done to help us regain our family Members. Maybe you will have to delve more deeply into why they have chosen to alienate themselves from us and see if there is something we can do to make them feel better about GWRRA. Many times you will find that miscommunication is the prime difficulty.

As already stated, if this is not a concern for you, and then continue your path of success. If there is starting to be a problem, then be alert for these phantoms - be diplomatic – be kind. If necessary, you may have to limit their "activities" with us, but don't let these folks "steal" (so to speak) that which is only for our GWRRA family. If you need more ideas or have other concerns, talk it over with your appointing officer or your staff. In any case, ALWAYS try and find the Win-Win answer.

PETE & MARIELLE ST. AMOUR

Dates to Keep in Mind

2008

January	10-12	Maryland District Rally; WinterThing 2008, Ocean City, MD
January	26	NY District Meeting, Chenango Fire Station, Binghamton, NY
June	21	Delaware District Ride In
July	3 – 6	Wing Ding XXX, Greenville, SC
July	17-19	New England Rally, Rutland, VT
July	31-Aug 2	New Jersey Rolling Hills Rally, Mt. Olive, NJ
August	7-9	The Race is On to the New York District Rally, Newark, NY
August	21-23	Pennsylvania District Rally, Johnstown, PA

New York District Meeting

When: January 26, 2008, 9 AM – 4 PM
Where: Chenango Fire Station, Binghamton, NY
Lunch: \$10 pp (details will follow in flyer)

Coming in early? Rooms are blocked at the Comfort Inn (1000 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905) cost \$89 +tax per night (includes Breakfast buffet). Call 1-800-469-7009 mention "GWRRA"

For those coming early, there will be a "get-together" at the Comfort Inn on Friday night.



WE WANT YOU.

To Enjoy a **FREE RALLY for TWO** this SUMMER!!

Select the District Rally of your choice
from within the Northeast Region and receive
TWO FREE Rally Registrations + **TWO RALLY T-SHIRTS**
Enter to win the
NORTHEAST REGION LOGO CONTEST

We are looking for a new logo to identify our region. Who better to help us in our search but YOU the members?

All you have to do is create a design that best represents our region and submit it for consideration. Designs may be submitted electronically, or by mail. If you have an idea but can't draw a straight line, submit your idea and we will have it created for your final approval.

Each design must include the GWRRA logo; and the words Northeast Region. The winning design will be made into patches and pins. The patch will be no larger than 4". The pin will be no larger than 2".

Designs or ideas must be submitted no later than January 31, 2008. Please submit to: Lorraine Knight at lknight33@cox.net or Mail to: 71 Harris Street, Pawtucket, RI 02861