



GWRRA
New York District
September 2008
Northeast Region



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<i>Chapter D</i>	<i>Rick Reardon</i>
<i>Chapter F</i>	<i>Rich & Lois Brown</i>
<i>Chapter G</i>	<i>Pete & Marielle St. Amour</i>
<i>Chapter H</i>	<i>Garry & Shirley Sauls</i>
<i>Chapter K</i>	<i>Lawrence Showman</i>
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<i>Chapter N</i>	<i>Gary & Donna Cork</i>
<i>Chapter R</i>	<i>Mike Hernandez</i>
<i>Chapter T</i>	<i>Bo Shapley</i>
<i>Chapter U</i>	<i>Joe & Marsha Gaworecki</i>
<i>Chapter W</i>	<i>Mike & Ginny Schelkun</i>
<i>Chapter Y</i>	<i>Jack & Donna Seeley</i>

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 TBA

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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DISTRICT WEB MISTRESS
 SUZETTE WOOD

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

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DIVISION "TEAM"...

The Membership Enhancement Division TEAM has been busy updating the Guides and References that are posted on the National Membership Enhancement Division website.

The first to be completed is the New Member Guide. This is a great tool to include in the packets you hand out to new Members at Chapter gatherings.

The Membership Enhancement Division TEAM has revised and updated the Fun Activities Guide. The updated guide is filled with lots of new ideas and games for all levels.

The Membership Enhancement Division TEAM has completed a new Job Description and Qualifications for Membership Enhancement Coordinators at the National, Region, District, and Chapter levels. The primary duty at each level is Member retention. When we think of Member retention we usually think of contacting new, prospective, and expiring Members to remind them their membership is about to expire or to invite a new Member to our gatherings. These contacts should be handled by the Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinator. If the Chapter doesn't have a Membership Enhancement Coordinator, then the duty falls to the Chapter Director. Information on new, prospective, and expiring Members is sent to each Region monthly for distribution to the Districts and Chapters. The new Job Description and Qualifications provides information on how to handle and report the contacts that have been made.

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 CLAUDETTE CYR

GWRRA homepage:
<http://www.gwrra.org>

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

News from National...(continued)

With Wing Ding 30 just ending for us, it's time to kick the planning for Wing Ding 31 into high gear.

I know many of us start making our plans a year in advance and I want to share with you the details of Wing Ding 31 so you can be sure to join us. I am very excited to tell you we are going back to Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 2-5, 2009. We will be centrally located in the country, and I hope that will make it easier for many of you to attend. We were there last in 1991 with a Route 66 theme. This time, we are getting in touch with the Native American Culture of the area with the theme "Cruising to the Pow Wow." The people we met with were so excited we are coming and cannot wait to get the planning started. This is going to be a fantastic Wing Ding!

I was there for a site visit a couple of months back, and the city was absolutely beautiful. I enjoyed driving around the city just to see the architecture. With the Arkansas River running along the city, Tulsa has built many parks with playgrounds and picnic areas along the river's banks. They also have a 20-mile-long path that many people use for biking, walking, running and even skating—all right along the river. In addition, the city has many local attractions that I know will provide a great time outside of the Wing Ding activities. And you know we always have so many things happening during Wing Ding, you may want to even extend your trip—either prior to or after Wing Ding—to really be able to enjoy all that Tulsa has to offer.

The facility we'll be at is huge and has more than enough room for everything we need. We are working on setting things up so everything will be all in the same location. Won't that be nice and so much easier for everybody? Another really great plus is that they have RV camping spots right on-site for those of you who will be traveling in your RVs. And right next to the facility, Expo Square, is a water park for those of you who would like to bring your kids or grandkids. I know my kids will love it! And Tulsa not only has a great mix of family activities, but fun activities for adults as well. For example, it has the Aquarium and zoos, but it also has casinos. Plus, Tulsa has a fantastic Fourth of July party and fireworks display that they have invited us to attend. And they are going to be giving us special parking so our bikes will be well protected.

Tulsa has just recently renovated Expo Square, and they have made it bigger and better than ever before. Since the facility is now so big, we are working on new ideas and activities for Wing Ding, and I would like your help coming up with new things you would like to do. Please email or send me a letter with your ideas and with things you would like to see and do at Wing Ding. This is *your* party, and I can't plan things you like unless I know what those things are. If you have a computer, or somebody who can help you, take a few moments to visit the website for Tulsa and see how much it has to offer. Visit



I hope you will join me at Wing Ding next year in Tulsa for "Cruising to the Pow Wow."

Enjoy the Ride,
Melissa Eason
National Director
GWRRA

www.cityoftulsa.org/isitTulsa.asp to see more about the city. With many of the specific details of Wing Ding yet to come, keep an eye out in *Wing World* for all the new and updated information about Wing Ding in Tulsa.

We will also have the Wing Ding 31 website up soon!

News from the Northeast Region Special Announcement—

We would like to announce that, effective on August 1, 2008 the region will have two new District Directors, in New Hampshire and Connecticut. Patricia & Richard Thibaudeau, former Chapter Directors of NH-E have accepted the position of New Hampshire District Directors. Their leadership abilities, dedication, experience and hard work as Chapter Directors will benefit everyone in New Hampshire as

they carry these skills over into their roll as District Directors. We are proud and excited to have them on board.

We wish to thank Wayne & Kim Ferland for serving as District Directors for the past few years. They have shared their many ideas and talents with all of us. Wayne offered and shared his expertise in GPS devices by creating many GPS seminars, some of which you may have attended in the past. Both Wayne & Kim have worked along side the other New England District Directors and were an integral part of the success of the rallies of which they were involved. We will all miss their great smiles and warm greetings. We wish them well in their new home and their new endeavors in Pennsylvania. We look forward to hearing more from them as they remain within our region and we hope to see them from time-to-time at other region events.

Linda & Bill Hahn, the Assistant District Directors of Connecticut have accepted the directorship of Connecticut. Linda & Bill have worked diligently and enthusiastically along side Carol and Bruce MacCallum the last few years. We are pleased and honored to have them serve as Connecticut District Directors.

We wish to thank Carol and Bruce MacCallum for all their hard work, time and dedication to the Connecticut District. Through their guidance and leadership CT opened a couple of new chapters, and revitalized and strengthened a couple more. We will always be grateful to them for their contribution and their steadfastness in bringing the fun, safely and knowledge back to Connecticut. We wish them both good health (accident free) and all the best. We look forward to seeing them at numerous GWRRA events as they plan to remain active as members of CT Chapter E and will help keep Connecticut a thriving District. Thanks again, Carol & Bruce for a job VERY well done.

From the District Director

The 2008 Rally is over and it was a lot of FUN except for the rain. This was the third rally within the Region that I have been to this year and at every one of them it rained. I hope the rain is finished now because fall is rapidly approaching. Fall is my favorite time to ride; less bugs, the full coverage motorcycling gear is more comfortable and the scenery is pretty.

The good news about the rally is that we made a decent profit that will continue to allow us to give back to the chapters. Something over \$1000 was distributed to the chapters after the rally for the chapter baskets. We were somewhat worried that the baskets would not be a "good" as last year but a couple of them were spectacular. The rally generated enough that I think we can fund the "Dash for Cash" in 2009. That program seems to be a real hit and I have been told a couple of chapters have reached the magic 10 points and a couple more will be there soon. Remember – you still have the Ride In on Sept. 21 plus numerous chapter rides. Look around on the chapter web sites for rides that you can join in order to gain some points.

As summer ends and fall starts, we need to think about the changing of the officers for the chapters. If you intend to step down at the end of the year, please let me know ASAP so we can provide the proper paperwork for your incoming replacements and the new ACD's. If anyone has any questions about this please give us a call.

For those who do advance planning, the District meeting will be either the third or fourth weekend in January with a meeting place to be determined. The 2009 Rally will be in Norwich, NY and on the weekend of Aug 6- 8th. As a special, extra cost event we will have a private showing on Friday night at the Antique Car Museum in Norwich and the world famous Brooks BBQ. Due to the caterer's requirements, for this event only, it will be pre-registration only with no on site tickets available. The rally itself will have our standard registration and day pass availability.

I am looking forward to getting some riding in this fall but unfortunately, Dottie will be having some surgery soon on her shoulder that will limit her ability to get on her trike or co-ride with me. If you see me out on her trike—I am just exercising it LOL!

Ride Safe

Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg
District Director

RALLY NEWS

Rally 2008 is now just a memory, but planning for Rally 2009 is well underway. Let us know what you would like to see at the Rally next August and we will try to include your ideas.

Next year's rally will be held in Norwich, New York, on August 6-8, 2009 at the Howard Johnson's Hotel. Please take note of the date. We had originally announced that the rally would be held one week later, but there was a conflict with the hotel regarding that date.

The theme for the Rally will be ***Come to the Country!*** So all of you artists out there, get ready...we need a logo for the Rally to go with the theme.

- The logo should be submitted to Ed Bahrenburg by January 1, 2009.
- No more than 4 colors may be used.
- Colors should be carefully indicated
- The name of the rally, Come to the Country! New York District Rally 2009 should be included in the design
- A Gold Wing Motorcycle must be part of the design
- If your logo is selected, you will win one free basic registration to the Rally. The options for Friday night are excluded.

From the District Educator

Are you Prepared?

The other day as I was riding down the Route 90 at a fairly leisurely clip, I happened to notice something in the road. As I was looking to determine what it was, I was also scanning the road to see what type of position I was in. Here was my situation. I was on the right side of two tractor trailers. They were in the middle lane not moving too fast, and I was in the right lane which was moving along quite a bit quicker. I was moving with traffic. This was a three lane section of road. As I realized that the object in the center lane was a 2 x 4, I decided that my best course of action was to brake fairly hard and get out of harms way. Here is what happened. As I braked, the first tractor trailer passed over the object missing it completely (to my relief). As the second tractor trailer passed over it I was not so lucky. It struck the 2 x 4 and not only hurled it out from under the tractor trailer, it turned it into a hundred smaller pieces. I watched as one piece flew by barely a few yards from me. Boy was I relieved!

What was so important about the near miss you ask? Most important was that I did not get hurt, and secondly, my trusted steed suffered only a small nick in the

windshield. The important lesson here is that I was paying attention! You need to pay attention not only to where you are going, but also to everything going on around you! How many times have you gone down the road and said to yourself, boy I missed the last few miles! What was there, and more importantly, what close calls were there.

Remember, pay attention, as the cage drivers certainly don't!! Ride safely, and watch out for the four legged creatures, as this is the time of year they start coming out earlier each day!!

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

From the District Trainer

The following is an issue that seems to rear its head every few years and is a regular question from new members.

One of the most prevalent issues we seem to be hearing from the membership is questions about why GWRRA does things the way we do. The officer appointment process seems to be one of the most asked questions we get from the membership. In our democratic society and other motorcycle groups, officers are elected by the membership. When new members join, they ask why we appoint officers and an explanation is needed. Hopefully this will help make this issue more understandable.

The goal for GWRRA is to have the best and most qualified person in an officer position. While this can certainly happen with elections, the possibilities for this to become a popularity contest are high. The most vocal and charming person can persuade others they are the best candidate for the position and make themselves electable. However in most cases there are others also interested in the position. When you have a vote, and there is a large percentage of the vote that lost, then you have a divided group. In a lot of instances this often results in a number of people leaving their group and forming another group. This dilutes the strength of both groups and often results in both failing. It also lends itself for the person "running" for office to make promises to members to secure their vote and makes for personality cults in which the person elected feels they have the "right" to do anything they wish with the chapter and its property. Imagine our current presidential election played out in our chapters and how that would affect the association.

When an officer is appointed in GWRRA the appointing officer is expected to put the best person in the position. The appointing officer is held accountable to the membership that they appoint the best individual to the officer position to help the members. When issues and disagreements develop between members and officers, the membership has what is called the Grievance Process by which they can bring their disagreements to the appointing officer and even higher in the association to address this. This means the appointing officer needs to make sure the best individual is put in the position of leadership. The checks and balances in this process lend itself to good choices. The appointed officer is also accountable to the appointing officer for their performance. This removes any favors and debts owed by the officer to those that elected them. If we elected officers, then the membership would expect every issue in the chapter be voted on. With every vote there would be those that disagree and then you could have even those which disagree to vote to remove their leaders. The problems with that would be predictable. Just look at our society today. Can you imagine our local chapters then? In other volunteer groups members have "sued" the leaders over disagreements, and the results are catastrophic.

Appointed officers are also expected to assist the membership and, if they do not, they can be replaced. In elections that would not be the case, and if the officer was irresponsible or even criminal, then who would have recourse in the event of theft or any other illegal activity by

the elected officer? In the appointment process this becomes the association's responsibility, and the membership is relieved of having to deal with this. Those officers who are not responsible or do not do what is expected of them can be replaced by the appointing officer, which makes the key word "accountability" work well. This has a positive effect for everyone involved, especially the membership, which deserves the best leaders we can provide. After all, this is the association's responsibility, not the members.

This is a short explanation but it shows where the election of officers can lead to many issues which are prevalent among other volunteer groups. The appointment process, while not perfect, does keep GWRRA consistent and focused on our main goal, which is "Friends for FUN, Safety and Knowledge."

By David & Kathy Orr, Leadership Training Division Directors

Submitted by

Dottie Bahrenburg

District Trainer

From Your District Membership Coordinators

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association includes 2 membership categories. Refer to the *Wing World* magazine under "GWRRA Application" for annual membership fees for each category.

Individual or Family (Full) Membership

An Individual or Family who owns a Gold Wing or Valkyrie motorcycle and pays the annual membership fee. The Family Membership applies to all persons living within the same household, who desire membership within the Association.

Individual or Family Associate Membership

Any individual or family that does not own a Gold Wing or Valkyrie but is interested in GWRRA Membership and pays the appropriate membership fees. The Family Associate Membership applies to all persons living within the same household who desire membership within the Association. Associate Members are welcomed and encouraged to hold staff positions, but are not eligible to hold Officer (operations division) positions or compete in the Couple of the Year Program. An Associate Member may also serve as a Rider Educator if properly qualified and with the approval of appropriate leaders.

Life Membership

Effective January 1, 2008, this program is available to all Members who have been a part of our Family for 20 or more consecutive years. (Those who took part in the original Life Membership Program will continue to do so without any changes). Full and Associate Members will receive discounts on Membership rates, GWRRA Official Products and Rescue Plus (Emergency Roadside Assistance). When you join the New

Life Membership Program you will receive a Life Member Pin, Special 4" Patch and a special 10" Rocker.

Note: Family Life Members who move from the primary Member's household will be required to obtain their own membership to maintain membership status in the Association. The Member's join date will remain intact provided any lapse in membership is less than six months.

Pete & Marielle St. Amour
District Membership Coordinators

Around the District



Chapter D visits
Chapter T.

Can you believe that the sun shining???

Here is Chapter G catching a picture at the New York Rally for the Dash for Cash.

Paul & Suzette Wood are representing the District as hosts.





Chapter D attended a sunny rally!
Here they are, with Chuck Stone,
PA DD, at the PA Rally.