



GWRRRA
New York District
December 2009
Northeast Region



<p><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</u> Melissa Eason</p> <p><u>Region Directors</u> Lorraine & Earl Knight</p> <p><u>Region Educator</u> Keith & Elaine Price</p> <p><u>Region Trainer</u> Patricia & Don Hoffman</p> <p><u>Region MAD</u> Keith & Kathy Eddy</p> <p><u>Region PR</u> Mort & Ruth Smith</p> <p><u>Region Membership</u> Donna Wheeler</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapter Directors</p> <p><i>Chapter C Nick & Gayle Habel</i> <i>Chapter D Rick Reardon</i> <i>Chapter F Rich & Lois Brown</i> <i>Chapter G Pete & Marielle St. Amour</i> <i>Chapter H Garry & Shirley Sauls</i> <i>Chapter K Lawrence Showman</i> <i>Chapter L Doug & Linda Eighmey</i> <i>Chapter N Gary & Donna Cork</i> <i>Chapter R Mike Hernandez</i> <i>Chapter T Al & Linda Yerdon</i> <i>Chapter U Joe & Marsha Gaworecki</i> <i>Chapter W Mike & Ginny Schelkun</i> <i>Chapter Y Roland & Katrina Teribury</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW YORK DISTRICT STAFF</u></p> <p><u>District Director</u> Paul & Suzette wood</p> <p><u>Asst. District Directors</u> Bob & Cathy Turner Rocco & Karen Cole</p> <p><u>District Educators</u> Al & Emily Stahl</p> <p><u>Asst Educator</u> TBA</p> <p><u>District Leadership Trainer</u> Jack and Donna Seeley</p>
<p><u>Region COY Coordinators</u> Dan & Ruthann Camire</p> <p><u>Region COY</u> Mike & Nancy Mandell</p> <p><u>Region CPR/FA Coordinators</u> Tim & Anna Grimes</p> <p><u>Region Webmaster</u> Tom Evans</p> <p><u>Region ChOY Coordinator</u> Claudette Cyr</p> <p>GWRRRA homepage: http://www.gwrra.org</p> <p>Region Website: http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Breaking News from National...</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter Contest</p> <p>What can we do to increase excitement and, at the same time create, friendly competition among Chapters during our off-season? A Chapter Recruiting Contest! There are three ways to win. Please see the rules below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Former Member Recruitment</u></p> <p>The Chapter that brings back the most FORMER MEMBERS of GWRRRA by December 15, 2009, will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their Chapter Charter fee will be paid for 2010. • Each Member of the winning Chapter will receive a \$10 discount on their Wing Ding registration. If your Chapter is the winning Chapter and you have already registered for Wing Ding, you will be issued either a \$10 refund or a \$10 credit on Official Products or the Purchase of tickets at Wing Ding. <p>A Former Member is considered a Member who is expired for 30 days or more. Both types of memberships, the Family memberships or Individual memberships, count as one recruitment credit.</p>	<p><u>District MAD Coordinators</u> TBA</p> <p><u>District Coy Coordinators</u> TBA</p> <p><u>Couple of the Year</u> Bob & Sandy Kelley</p> <p><u>District Membership Coordinator</u> Pete & Marielle St. Amour</p> <p><u>District Public Relations</u> Linda Waterman</p> <p><u>District Treasurer</u> Nancy Schaal</p> <p><u>Newsletter Editor</u> Phil coons</p> <p><u>District Web Mistress</u> Suzette Wood</p> <p>NY District Website: http://www.gwrra-ny.org/</p>

Breaking News from National... Chapter Contest...Continued

New Member Recruitment

The Chapter that brings in the most **NEW MEMBERS** by **December 15, 2009**, will receive:

- Their Chapter Charter fee will be paid for 2010.
- Each Member of the winning Chapter will receive \$10 off Wing Ding registration.

New Member Year-long Recruitment

The Chapter that has recruited the most **NEW MEMBERS** by **November 1, 2010**, will receive:

- Their Chapter Charter fee will be paid for 2011.
- Each Chapter Member will receive 50% off their Wing Ding registration for Wing Ding 2011.
- The winning Chapter will receive the traveling trophy cup with engraved Chapter name plate for one year.

News from the Northeast Region

GWRRRA SPONSORED Booth



28th Annual Cycle World International Motorcycle Show:

Where

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
655 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
www.javitscenter.com

When

Friday, January 22, 2010 Noon - 9:00pm
Saturday, January 23, 2010 - 9:00am - 9:00pm
Sunday, January 24, 2010 - 9:00am - 5:00pm

The New York International Motorcycle Show exhibits the latest motorcycles models and accessories including apparel, ATV accessories, fairing and parts, goggles and eyewear, helmets, leather, novelties, off road products, parts and performance products. Buy online tickets and save! Online Ticketing: 1-800-331-5706

This is a great opportunity to have fun meeting new motorcycle enthusiast and promoting GWRRRA at the same time. Please consider volunteering TODAY!

Contact: Bob & Cathy Turner, NY ADD's (631)-368-8982 : ghostriderse@verizon.net

From the Region Assistant Directors



Dave & Crystal Godin

As you can see from the “growth” chart on the front pages of the Region newsletter, we as a Region have finally made it into the **RED or on the + side**. We have slowly and steadily increased membership numbers. But we have to keep up the good work and **STAY in the RED from now on!** This also includes membership retention. With the year’s end right around the corner, we are asking every District Director and Chapter Director to consider the best possible candidate for the Membership Enhancement Coordinator at both District and Chapter levels. The MEC is a very important and necessary position. On a Chapter level duties would include follow up phone calls to visitors from monthly gatherings, calling members whose GWRRA memberships have expired or are soon-to-expire, inviting new members from the area run list to your next function, and when they do attend, make them feel welcomed and part of the Chapter family. On a District level the MEC works in conjunction with the Chapter MEC and review unassigned zip codes and designate them to Chapters, identify areas for new Chapters within the District and mentor the chapter MEC. The person or couple you appoint for this position must be well organized, detail oriented, work independently with others. And be a team player. Because without members, where will GWRRA go? The Membership Enhancement Division’s slogan for the past several years has been “We are Listening, What’s your Solution?”

Focusing on that Membership Enhancement Division slogan, we are asking every District Director and Chapter Director to provide us a plan of action for the coming year. How do you intend to maintain the members you currently have? What strategy do you have for attracting new members into GWRRA? We are working with Donna Wheeler, our Region Membership Enhancement Coordinator, to promote Region wide involvement. Our plan is to follow up with District Directors after the first of the year for their game plans for 2010. Talk to your Membership Enhancement Coordinator and let’s get moving in the right direction.

New from National... **New Web Master Patch**



Now available for Web Masters. This new patch is 4" in diameter with a black-twill base and metallic, gold text with marrow border. The back is plain for sew-on application. This patch is available to order from GW Pin & Patch for \$5.95 each. NY Region will order a limited supply of this new patch to keep on hand. Chapter directors, please request this patch by emailing Paul and Suzette Wood at gwranydd@gmail.com .

Year-end Financial Reports:

District & Chapter reports are due by February 1st. **If a district or chapter does NOT have a copy of their December 31st bank statement balance by February 1st, please email us at lknight33@cox.net and CC the district director with a request for an extension.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Financial Report Item Breakdown & Unrelated Business Income
A MUST READ for ALL District and Chapter Directors and Treasurers

Financial Report Item Breakdown:

Many directors and treasurers are confused about what form of income should go under what income column heading and what form of expenses should go under what expense column as many of the fixed column headings do not seem to pertain to their entry. Because of that, they are resorting to entering most everything in the "other" column of the report. This is causing a major conflict and confusion when reporting income and expenses. Because of legal issues, National does NOT want us to rename the columns to suit our needs. Therefore they have created a guideline of what types of income and expenses should be placed within what specific columns available within the current report. Effective with January, 2009 reporting, keep the income and expenses within the columns described in the guideline below.

ABOUT UBI:

The question about Unrelated Business Income (UBI) vs. Related Business Income ALWAYS comes up this time of year. What is the difference between the two? Does your District or Chapter have any UBI? In order to best answer these confusing questions, a review of the Finances / IRS section of the GWRRA Guidebook, is once again in order. Below is the answer to what is considered Unrelated Business Income. After reading this information, it becomes clear as to why National has provided the income and expense column guide.

FINANCIAL REPORT ITEMS BREAKDOWN as of 1/1/2009																		
Column Header	- Deposits From -								- Checks For -									
Column Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sources of Income and Expense	Rallies	Poker Runs	50/50 Drawings	Goodie Sales	Advertising	Non-Logo Items	Exhibitor Fees	Other Income	Printing	Telephone	Postage	Office Supplies	Goodies	Fund-Raising Events	Travel	Rallies	Bank Charges	Other Expenses
Charter Fees								X										X
Rallies	X								X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Event Rebates	X															X		
Vendors	X															X		
Events	X	X							X		X	X		X				
Fun Days	X	X							X		X	X		X				
Poker Runs	X	X							X		X	X		X				
Charity Events	X	X							X		X	X		X				
Dinner Rides	X	X												X				
Bingo Cards	X	X												X		X		
50/50 Tickets			X									X		X		X		
Games	X	X												X		X		
Special Dinners	X	X							X		X			X		X		
Cook-Offs	X	X							X		X			X				
Yard Sales	X	X												X				
Bake Sales	X	X												X				
Craft Sales	X	X												X				
Plaques/Awards									X		X	X				X		
Flowers												X						
Cards											X	X						
Ops Meetings															X			
Newsletters					X				X		X	X						
Refunds/Returns		X																
Pins				X									X					
Patches				X									X					
Decals				X									X					
Vests				X									X					
Shirts				X									X					
Jackets				X									X					
Hats				X									X					
REP Pins				X									X					
REP Patches				X									X					
REP Supplies*				X							X	X				X		
REP Course Fees*	X	X														X		
REP Level Fees*	X	X														X		

GWRRA / FINANCES / IRS

GWRRA is recognized as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)4 of the Internal Revenue Code. GWRRA is not a 501(c)3 organization. A 501(c)3 is a charity and donations to these organizations are tax deductible. Donations to GWRRA or other 501(c)4 organizations may be a legitimate business expense, but they are not tax deductible contributions.

Regions, districts, and chapters have no exempt status of their own. They are recognized by the IRS as subordinates of GWRRA. As a subordinate, they are required to follow certain guidelines. Being exempt does not mean they do not have to file a return nor does it necessarily mean they will not be required to pay taxes. It does mean they must follow the guidelines put forth by the Federal Code for 501(c)4 non-profit organizations.

Subordinates with annual gross receipts more than **\$25,000** are required to **file Form 990** "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax". If Form 990 is mailed to YOU by the IRS, you must fill it out and return it regardless of the amount of your gross receipts. If gross receipts are less than \$25,000, the label supplied should be attached to the form, the box indicating annual gross receipts are \$25,000 or less should be checked, and the form should be signed and returned. Form 990 is an informational form and, as such, does not require payment of taxes. The IRS uses the information on the form and information submitted with it, to determine if taxes must be paid.

Subordinates must also file an IRS Return if their annual Unrelated Business Income (UBI) is greater than **\$1,000.00**. UBI is Gross Unrelated Business Receipts minus only expenses directly related to the UBI. Information on UBI can be obtained from IRS Publication 598, "**Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations**". **Two points to keep in mind; 1)** GWRRA is unique in that not only are all officers and staff volunteers (unpaid) but also most all functions are put on entirely by members who volunteer to do so (unpaid).

The income posted in the first four columns of the GWRRA Annual Financial Report are all GWRRA Business Related Income. They are not UBI.

- Rallies
- Poker Runs (includes Dice Runs, Hobo Stew Runs, etc.)
50/50 Drawings, Raffles, White Elephant Auctions (small games of chance held at organizational gatherings mainly for the membership)
- Goodie Sales (GWRRA-related items: includes chapter jackets, hats, shirts, all items with the logo on them, etc.)

The income posted on the remainder of the Financial Report may or may not be Unrelated Business Income.

First of all...

The activity in which the funds were raised must be Regularly Carried On for the income to be UBI. Activities are considered Regularly Carried On if they show a frequency and continuity and are pursued in a manner similar to a comparable commercial activity of nonexempt organizations.

Second and very important...

Activities in which substantially, all of the work is performed for the organization without compensation, is exempt from the UBI definition. These two points exempt most region, district and chapter income from the UBI category.

There are so many different ways that we raise funds that it would be impossible to go over them all here. Many times, reading Publication 598 will answer any question about whether income is UBI. Sound judgment should be used in any interpretations. If income is UBI and there is more than \$1,000 in UBI, taxes should be paid. This should be done by filing Form 990T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. It is very important that we all keep good clear records and **RETAIN ALL RECEIPTS**.

Two areas which seem to concern many of us are advertisements and vendor fees. Advertisements in newsletters or rally books are not UBI if they are sold in a casual manner by Members who are not compensated in any way.

Rental fees for display space is not UBI if it is at a qualified convention, trade show, or annual meeting. It is qualified if it is put on by a 501(c)4 organization on a region or state level. It is in the best interest of the organization to conduct seminars or meetings related to the primary exempt purpose of the organization.

GWRRRA's primary exempt purpose is social and educational.

One final point to remember... Anytime there is a change of officers, IRS Form 8822, Change of Address, should be filed. This will assure that all communications are directed to the correct person.



Wing Ding News...Below is the details on the raffle for those who register for Wing Ding.



WING DING 32 Raffle

You could go to Wing Ding 32 for FREE!

GWRRRA Northeast Region B

is sponsoring a

FREE WING DING 32 RAFFLE

Grand Prize: 4- Night Stay in DesMoines, Iowa

2nd Prize: 2 FREE Wing Ding Registrations

3rd Prize: 1 FREE Wing Ding Registration

How to win:

- Register for Wing Ding 32
- Submit a copy of your confirmation NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2010
- Receive one raffle entry for each registrant

How to enter:

Email or mail a copy of your registration confirmation by April 15, 2010 to:

Dave & Crystal Godin, Asst. Region Directors

P O Box 289, New Ipswich, NH 03071

cdgodin@yahoo.com

NOTE: If you register via email, you will receive an email confirmation. If you don't have an email address or mail in your registration, please contact Member Services 800-843-9460 to ask for a mailed confirmation. Home Office no longer mails a confirmation unless it is requested.

Drawing will be held on April 25, 2010 at the GWRRRA Rhode Island Chapter B Kick-off Breakfast

From the 2009-2010 Region Couple of the Year

Mike & Nancy Mandell

**Endorse the Couple of the Year Program
“Let Your Chapter Know You Want One”**

Couple of the Year Program What’s in it for us?

That is probably a question that almost never enters the minds of perspective couples of the year. The reason it doesn’t is because for the most part the wonderful people that step up as Chapter Couples have already given of themselves to their chapters without ever asking “what’s in it for me”?

Nancy and I have had the honor of holding many positions within the GWRRA organization, and while we have enjoyed every one of them none have been as rewarding to us personally as the Couple of The Year Program. Please do not get us wrong, ALL of GWRRA is FUN and the people in our extended family are wonderful. However, the couples program holds a certain glitter that no other program offers. Nancy and I have actually questioned one another looking for the answer of what it is, and have in fact decided the one thing that separates the Couple of The Year Program from all the others is the fact that YOUR chapter and friends have decided to bestow a great honor on you, they have asked you to represent them to the rest of the GWRRA family. They have trusted you to be the ambassador for something they hold very near and dear to themselves, their chapter. We have always said being asked to represent NJ Chapter F as their couple was the greatest honor our friends could have given us. We have always worn our title with pride.

We continued to wear our title as District and now Region Couple of The year with just as much pride and will continue to do so. But like it is said, you never forget your roots, and we are very proud to say our growth began in our home chapter, NJ F-Troop.

So while you may never have thought what is in it for us, the truth is a whole lot is in it for you. As you take on the prestigious title of Chapter Couple and go out within your home district and meet with other couples you will develop a kind of bond with one another. You will attend other gatherings and will become more involved with the FUN that is generated from more people being in the room. You will find no strangers, only friends that you have not yet met. You will suddenly want to attend other District events, and while everyone is welcome you will in fact be treated “special” as you visit. Your energy level within GWRRA will rise, your desire to become even more involved will come naturally. The couple program brings with it many hidden benefits that you will only discover once you hold that most prestigious title of Chapter Couple of The Year. This is really a wonderful program, it is not a job, it is a GREAT RIDE! Make sure you enjoy it to the fullest and tell all of your friends about the Couple of The Year Program.

“The start of a busy season”
Enjoy it!

Once again the fall season brings with it changes in our weather, cooler temperatures and less hours of daylight. Along with these obvious changes come our own scheduling differences due to work, family and holiday obligations. Many times this relates to less time spent in the saddle riding our bikes. That does not mean our chapter life comes to a screeching halt, it simply

changes. Our ride committees are well aware of the changes and plans rides accordingly, shorter distances, perhaps a ride to lunch and call it a day. It is also the time of year when we aggressively get out on more, chapter visits.

We will attend more dinner runs in the evening by car so we can come straight from work and do not have to contend with the colder weather. It is a great time of year to take a ride to some of the local places that are just too busy in the summer months to enjoy. A ride along the ocean or to a resort area and lunch is a nice change of pace. We have also found a number of places that have changed their menus and attitudes which has created a welcome sign for Gold Wingers to stop in, have an inexpensive bite to eat, a cup of coffee or desert and “hang out” for awhile before heading home. A few places that come into mind are McDonald’s, they have very good coffee and lattes, salads, and of course a value menu. Panera Bread is yet another place where you are welcome and no one looks to see what you bought. Also places like this do not require you to spend an additional 15-20% for a tip. Drink refills are usually free and the seating comfortable. Remember it is not about the ride or about the food; it is about enjoying your friends and extended family. It is always FUN to get out with fellow Wingers.

In addition the late Fall is good time to offer training sessions for the Rider Education Program, Leadership Training Division and Medic First Aid CPR.

The fall riding season is extremely picturesque in the NE area, the changing colors, falling leaves and brisk temperatures make for some great riding. Keep safety first on your mind when riding, the leaves can hide potholes, when wet become slippery, and when piled up can start a fire if you park a bike with a hot exhaust on them. Make certain you layer your clothing so as the day heats up you can shed by layer, and if it should turn cool on the way home you can add them back as needed.

There will be many holiday parties within the chapters, try to get out and support your chapter event and if possible join in the FUN with other chapters. Perhaps this year with the tighter economy some chapters will choose to team up and consolidate their parties. Participation from one chapter to another promotes more FUN, if possible attend another chapters event.

All in all it is a very busy time of year, we hope you all get out and enjoy the weather, the roads and one another to the fullest extent.

Ride Safe! Have FUN!

Mike & Nancy Mandell
N.E. Region B Couple of the Year 2009-10
N.J. Assistant District Directors

Is your IPS service contract up for renewal?

Is your district/chapter looking for a reliable
and reasonably priced ISP for your website?

Why not consider supporting your Region

by making the

NORTHEAST REGION

your solution and

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

www.gwrro-northeastregion.org

For as little as \$5.00 PER MONTH

you can purchase space on our provider

It's an EASY PROCESS!

Tom Evans is our webmaster and the only contact you need to get everything done.

He can be reached at: evans@att.net (732) 291-2355 (H).

**From Keith & Elaine Price – Region Educators
Tim & Anna Grimes – Assist. Region Educators**

ARE YOU MAD!

Nobody can dispute that the Rider Education program in GWRRA has led to vastly increased safety of our members over the years. Our seminars and courses have placed GWRRA in the front rank of motorcycle safety organizations. Other “clubs” look to us for advice on safety related issues. The problem with our Rider Education Program is that it addresses only the lesser part of the safety problem, the rider. It's well known that the motorist (the 4 – wheeled vehicle) causes the majority of motorcycle accidents but our educational program trains only the motorcyclist! It is for this very reason that the Motorist Awareness Division (MAD) was formed.

MAD seeks to give some instruction to the motorist in the general public. If all we do is to make the motorist simply aware of the existence of motorcycles on the road and to watch out for them, we will have done a tremendous job in making the roads safer for us all. But how can we instruct the motoring public? We cannot invite them over for a pot- luck dinner and a seminar. We cannot give them a colorful patch for taking a course. My home chapter (NY-H) has done a lot in the MAD area. Here are some of the things that they did.

First we had a mall show. This was not your typical mall show with a dozen Wings on display. We only had two Wings behind a table. With only two bikes the Wings act only to attract people to the table. They are not the center of attention, what was on the table was. We had MAD handouts, R/E hand- outs, and lawn signs on display. There was a large screen TV showing a MAD presentation on continuous play. Finally friendly, knowledgeable members to answer questions staffed the table.

Next we had MAD lawn signs made up and distributed them at our cost, \$7 each. One of our signs was on the cover of Wing World a few months back. The 100 signs that we ordered quickly sold out and we are ordering more.

Finally we went on a public service spot on a local TV station. When we told them that we would bring the Wings on TV, they were happy to oblige. We did a half hour public service show on a local radio station where we fielded questions phoned in be the listeners. All these efforts were directed toward one thing; getting the motoring public aware of motorcycles on the highway and thus increasing our safety!

But in order to get the message out you must have a structure, a network, in place to do that. At the present time **only** two districts in the Northeast Region, NY and Maryland, even have MAD Coordinators in place! Of the 77 chapters in the region, I'd be surprised if 15 have MAD

Coordinators. If we can't get the volunteers to put on a MAD program, we will only ever be ½ safe! I, for one, do not like the idea of only being ½ safe on the highway.

Please, we need people to step forward and staff a MAD program throughout the region. We need people on both the district and chapter level. Visit the MAD page on the national website. They have a lot of aids and presentations to offer. Contact your District Educator or me. We'll be happy to help you set up a program.

Above all else,
Ride Smart – Ride Safe
Keith & Elaine

From Our CPR/FA Coordinators/Assistant Region Educators

Tim & Anna Grimes

Fall has arrived and, eventually the weather will start to turn cooler. It is time to start thinking about getting your cold weather gear out or making plans to put the bike away for the winter season. For some of us, the only thing that keeps us off of our bikes is ice or snow. Make sure that you dress for the weather to prevent hypothermia. If you plan to put the bike in hibernation, ensure that you have properly prepared it for the long winter's sleep.

It is also time to start thinking about our District Rally, Winter Thing. Winter Thing will be held from January 7th through the 9th at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City. This promises to be a fun-filled weekend with plenty of activities to please everyone.

The theme, for this year, is Hallo-wing. There will be prizes for the best costume so come decked out in your most ghoulish finery. We will also have a "table decorating contest" where each chapter will compete for the best-dressed table at the banquet.

Winter Thing gives us the chance to catch up on our training also. We will be offering a re-certification class for CPR/First Aid. Please sign up early (sign up is on the Winter Thing registration form) as space is limited. Seminars will also be in abundance. We will have a "Team Riding" seminar, a "Co-Rider" seminar (not the video), a "Mature Rider" seminar and a variety of Leadership Seminars.

People Games will be returning this year with a vengeance. Come out and test your skills against the best-of-the-best within the District and Region B. Wii® Bowling will return bigger and better than before. There will be numerous other games to pique the interest of even the most committed wall-flower.

There will be **prizes, prizes, prizes galore!!!** This is your chance to come with little and leave with a lot. The prizes and categories are too numerous to mention but, you cannot win if you do not attend.

Winter Thing attendance is normally low due to the fact that the weather is cooler (it could be snowing), it's a non-riding event or people feel that there is nothing going on that may hold their attention. This Winter Thing will have something for everyone.

Now for the **piece de resistance**; this Winter Thing you **WILL** be able to ride. You will also be able to receive a comprehensive evaluation of your riding technique. You will have this opportunity without having to leave the confines of the hotel interior. You may ask, “How can this be”? The **Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration** has graciously agreed to bring the newest addition to their motorcycle training arsenal to share with us at Winter Thing. This new addition will allow you to navigate a variety of roads, under varying conditions and test your competence as a motorcycle operator. We also plan to hold a competition and award prizes for the best riders in a number of categories. Visit the Maryland District Website and look under the Winter Thing link to get more information. http://www.gwrri-mddistrict.org/index_files/WinterThing.htm

The MVA will also offer a free clinic on “Street Smarts Perception”. This is a very good clinic that will certainly open your eyes to the importance of “seeing” what you are seeing. Does this sound confusing? Come to Winter Thing, participate in the clinic and you will walk away with a different perspective.

We hope to see an increase in the number of attendees at this year’s Winter Thing. If you have never attended, please make this the year that you decide to give us a try. If you have been a regular attendee, you will be pleasantly surprised at the changes and additions that we are making this year. And, as a bonus, this year **THE PRICES HAVE DROPPED**. Yes, you heard correctly. The cost of a hotel room has decreased this year. Come on out. Give us a try. Meet new friends. Re-establish old friendships. Most of all; ya’ll **HAVE FUN**.

Tim & Anna Grimes

From the District Director

Hello GWRRA NY,

We rode to Gasport last Sunday (November 8) afternoon to visit with Chapter H. They held their 2010 planning meeting at the home of Bob & Sandy Kelley, our NY Couple of the Year. I had to avoid piles of road salt in most of the intersections. Many roads in our state have already been salted, which effectively ends the riding season for most of us. Why does this arrive so soon?

Your District Staff has been working on a NEW CHAPTER!!!! It will be centered in the lower Hudson River area, just north of New York City. We have a prospective Chapter Director, and a healthy amount of interest from GWRRA members in the area. Hopefully we will have a “Kick Off Party” to attend next spring.

We have a personnel change in the Leadership Training Division. Jack and Donna Seeley have stepped up to become our NY District Trainers, taking the place of Ed and Dottie Bahrenburg. Ed and Dottie have stepped up to become Region B Trainers, since Patty and Don Hoffman have stepped down due to health concerns. We wish the Seeley’s and Bahrenburg’s the very best on their new appointments.

Our NY District Staff Meeting will be on Saturday, January 16, 2010. It will be held at the North Syracuse Fire Hall. NY District Staff, Chapter officers and their Treasurers are expected to

attend. I will send out a flyer containing the details in the next few weeks. A list of hotels in the area can be found later in this newsletter.

Please work with your Treasurers to get the Equipment List, Financial Report Cover Sheet, Financial Report, and end-of- year bank statement ready to submit to National. We plan to perform a final review and sign-off on this paperwork at our District Meeting. Find the forms you need at <http://www.gwrroa.org/oconnect/officerresources.html>

District Webmaster Suzette has a plan for the interactive NY calendar. The intention of this is to have all the NY Chapters list their rides, picnics, and other activities on the District website calendar. This will make planning for Chapter visitations and Dash for Cash trips much easier.

Assistant District Director Bob Turner and Chapter K Director Larry Showman are getting ready to represent GWRRA at the International Motorcycle Show at the Javits Center. Bob, Larry and Chapter K worked the booth there last year and really enjoyed it. The dates are January 22-24, 2010. Go to NYC for the Show and stop at the booth to say "hello" or even volunteer to help.

The signature cards for your Chapter's bank account need to be updated. Ed Bahrenburg's name needs to be deleted, and mine needs to be added. Please send the forms to me at 16 Buell Street, Batavia, NY, 14020.

The registration form for the 2010 Bi-State is now on the District website (<http://gwrroa-nj.org/rally2010.htm>). There is a tremendous amount of interest in this Rally through out the Region, so you are encouraged to register soon.

Your Friends In Fun, Safety, and Knowledge,

Paul & Suzette Wood
District Director

From the Assistant Directors Karen and Rocco

Welcome to December everyone. Here comes the Christmas Holy Season whether you are ready for it or not. Before we get into that Karen and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We had a quiet (by design that is) Thanksgiving day and we were both fortunate enough to have 5 days off together at the same time and no one ended up hurt, maimed or on the wrong side of the grass with all that together time. Seriously we all have so much to be thankful for and we give thanks each and every day that we have together and fortunate enough to wake up on top of the grass and begin another beautiful day here on Mother Earth.

As I started to say welcome to the rapidly approaching winter season and the Christmas Holidays as well as the end of our first decade in the new millennium and the beginning of our second decade. With what most certainly is the end of the riding season for just about everyone, sometimes we tend to loose track of each other at this time of year. We all have family obligations which are always our first concern, gathers with old friends that we may only see during the holiday season or maybe we just don't have enough gumption or ambition to haul our holiday treat stuffed butt out of the house but we need to keep in touch with our GWRRA

family. This time of year can be challenging for many reasons ranging from very fond memories of the year or years past to some not so fond remembrances for one reason or the other. Keep this in mind at your chapter gatherings in the next few months. Make sure that you stay in touch with each and every member of the chapter and don't lose track of just because they hibernate. The non-riding winter months are a great time for the chapter educator to do some simple tabletop education courses, renew your basic first aid, & CPR have a short tech talk on how to this or do that on your bike. Now is the perfect time to invade your buddy's heated garage and show the proper way to go through the T-CLOCK before you ride. (Remember it will be a lot more educational and easier to get attendance with the heated garage.)

For the members not fortunate enough to be labeled a Sno-Bird the wintertime poses any number of challenges the least of which is the lack of mercury in the thermometer. (Yes I still use a 24" outside thermometer nailed to a tree, and don't have a digital one yet.) Use this time to divide up the member list from the district within the chapter to contact lost or wayward members, evaluate next year's activities and make sure that the fun is the first ingredient in any activity and the last one also.

In closing Karen and I both wish you all a very Blessed Merry Christmas, plenty of time off to spend with family and friends near and far, and the ability to eat without guilt the next month. We give thanks for all your friendships and will keep each and everyone of you in our prayers and thoughts this Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.
Rocco and Karen Cole
Assistant District Directors

From the District Educator



The Holiday Season

Monday, a small group of us, four to be exact, took I believe was our last lunch ride to Vermont. But today is also November 12th, so let's start concentrating on the upcoming holidays. And why do I put this damper on our festive season?



Well from a driver's perspective, it's also a very dangerous season to be on the highway. It's some of our first bad weather and we need to refresh our skills. And then there's the peer pressure to go places and family in poor conditions, etc. Please remember, it's better to arrive late or the next day, than never.

Also it's even more important to remember our defensive driver education. During this season the other drivers are even more distracted and in addition there is a greater potential for alcohol and other drugs to impair their abilities. There's also the impairment from impatient and excited passengers in their and our vehicles. I'm talking about the happy merry children or grandchildren.

Please keep your best driving ability and attention this holiday season. Lastly, I'm going to be politically incorrect and wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Oh and please everyone, remember to **DRESS FOR THE CONDITIONS.**

Your Rider Educator, Al Stahl

astahl@nycap.rr.com

518-587-2420 (H) 518-598-8981 (C)

From the District Leadership Trainer



By Jack Seeley – NY District Leadership Trainer

Hello everyone; a lot of you knew me as NY District Treasurer for the last 6 years or maybe as NY-Y's Chapter Director for 3 years or you have met Donna and I at one of the many GWRRA functions we have attended starting in June, 1997.

September 1st, Donna and I decided we needed to be JAM's (Just a Member) for a while; less then 2 months! Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg your Region Leadership Trainers asked me to move up from just an instructor to become the NY District Trainer. As I really, really enjoy teaching, I said yes and then told Donna. Donna doesn't like to get up in front of people but, as many of you know, is always by my side when I teach whether it be Riders Education or Leadership classes. We make a great team.

Our Leadership Training goals for New York!

1. Bring on board more instructors!
2. Make available to all chapters, an instructor whenever needed,
3. To make GWRRA NY Chapter Directors, staff and their members the most educated, knowledgeable, fun loving people in GWRRA.

How are we going to accomplish this task? By getting a few volunteers to come join Donna and I as Leadership or Ride Education instructors. Join us by taking the Instructor Development & Certification course with other GWRRA members. The results will be incredible. We will be on our way of accomplishing our goals for Leadership Training within New York.

So; if you enjoy teaching or presenting and would like to help our GWRRA members, please contact me and join our Leadership Training team. The reward is meeting lots and lots of great people and fostering Friends for FUN, Safety and Knowledge.

Enjoy your day,

Jack Seeley; GWRRA – NY District Trainer

E-Mail: pedlesjack@aol.com

From Your District Membership Coordinators

Do you want to start a new Chapter but don't know which way to turn?

Of course there are lots of questions and uncertainty that comes to mind if you and your friends like to form a new Chapter here in NY, some of them are:

- What do I know about Chapter Director, I never been a Director in my life in anything, who would teach me the ropes? Answer: Our NY Leadership, the only limit are the one you impose on yourself, have more confidence.
- Who do I contact here in NY for information? Answer: Paul Wood
- Does it involve a large investment to get a Chapter running? Answer : No and NY would like to help you out the first year
- How many folks would help me out? You'll never find unless you don't step forward first.
- How many members do I have to have in order to be allowed to start a Chapter? Answer: 10
- Would NY consider a new Chapter formation in our remote corner of the State? Answer: Yes most anywhere
- I'm afraid to get my feet wet, should I call our NY District Director this week or should I wait until later? Answer: put your raft in the water right here now and enjoys the ride.



And the list of questions goes on and on. The above questions are a bit unsettling for a GWRRA member who likes to see a Chapter in their area they could call a home Chapter. The most important answer here is **GWRRA needs you** to call your NY District Directors **Paul and Suzette Wood** and ask these questions, the answers you'll get maybe more favorable than you think.

Healthy, active chapters are GWRRA's best tools to retain and help the membership grow. As Members and Officers, we are all motivated to helping the Organization grow. It seems obvious that fostering chapters in new and needed areas will benefit the membership and the Organization. Everyone wins!!!!

A method that has been tried and proven to work is the Proactive Approach. With the Proactive approach, we do not wait for a person to contact us; we offer them an opportunity to form a chapter. This approach reminds me of the movie, where it was said "**If you build it and they will Come.**" We are not building the chapter, but are giving all our GWRRA members the opportunity to build their own chapter.

This approach takes a lot of work on the part of the Membership Enhancement Coordinators (or designated staff member) and the District Directors. They must work together to target areas for new chapters. Following, you will find a step-by-step version of what it takes to foster a new chapter using the Proactive Approach.

Pete and Marielle ST-Amour
NY District Membership Coordinators

From District Public Relations

Wow! The days have certainly shortened in a hurry, and unfortunately we have over a month of shorter and shorter hours of daylight. Stores are decorating for Christmas, Holiday music can be heard, and soon we'll be greeted at the store entrances by bundled people ringing the little bells by the red kettle. Where has the year gone? And why has it gone so quickly. Could it be true that the older we get, the faster the time flies?

Now is a great time to scour those chrome-packed Gold Wing and motorcycle catalogs! Be sure you put your 'hints' out in plain sight--just in case you want that special someone to know what to shop for!

Take time to remember the good times and blessings we've all enjoyed throughout the year. We live in a wonderful country and we can be proud of what it stands for.

May God bless you all as we enter this Holiday Season!

I borrowed the above from Lois Brown's introduction to Chapter F's newsletter. I could not have said it any better than Lois has.

As we near the end or have ended the riding season for 2009, I have been amazed at the amount of activities that our New York chapters were involved in. I was able to participate in some of them thanks to a couple of riders who provided me with back seat time. So, a big heartfelt thanks goes to Paul Wood and David Secor for providing the opportunities.

As of this writing, Ray Woodworth, Chapter C, came through his surgery with flying colors. He is now home resting and healing. Do you know how frustrating it is to go to a hospital to visit a friend, and have to circle the hospital 3 times in order to find a place to park and then when you do, the ticket dispense does not dispense tickets so you can get into the parking area. Well, that is what happened to yours truly when I went to Highland Hospital to see Ray. I finally gave up and left a message on his voice mail. So, I tried Ray, I really did.

David Secor, Chapter T ACD, had knee replacement surgery on 16 November and is now home recuperating. We, from the District, wish him a speedy recovery and see him out on the road coming next riding season.

Larry Helber, Chapter W, is also in need of our prayers as he continues his treatments for a rare form of prostate cancer. Also, Larry lost his younger brother, Andrew, who was involved in a motorcycle/car accident. Andrew was out riding his motorcycle and was hit and run over by a drunken driver whose alcohol level was .37. Andrew left behind a wife and a 25 year old daughter.

I attended Chapter C monthly meeting on 8 November. Nick and Gail were unable to be there; however, Gordon lead the meeting. It was great to meet with friends and hear what has been happening in the "C". Their holiday party is scheduled for 12 December at Tony and Shelly Van Schaick's home. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as I have another commitment-hmmm-maybe that's why they picked that date. ☺.

Chapter W's after holiday's party is scheduled for 30 January. Further details will be forthcoming.

The yearly District Staff meeting is going to be 16 January 2010 in Syracuse, NY. Paul will be providing further information on that as the time draws clear.

During the few months that we will not be out riding our Wings, this is might be a good time to get together for pot-luck dinners at each other's home; for a game night (I hear these can be a lot of fun). Just because we can't ride, doesn't mean we still cannot get together.

As a co-rider, I have ridden with a number of different riders and each rider rides there own ride. Being aware of this, I trust my gut instinct on whether to ride or not ride with certain riders. You think of anything that can be done to a co-rider and I have probably experienced it. Some of these experiences have left wonderful memories and others actually had created some serious situations and that have increased my awareness of being on the back seat. In light of this, I would like to add the following article that some of you may have already read. It is important for riders to realize the responsibility they have not only to themselves, but to their co-riders as well.

Why Co-riders feel safety should be their driver's number one priority. as presented by Roberta Vandal, GWRRA #42842-01, West Chester, Ohio

As Roberta addresses her audience...I titled this

"The Elephant in the Room"

"Because it's something we all know is there, but decide just to ignore it. I know that Chapter meetings are supposed to be fun, and I couldn't agree more, but sometimes I think it doesn't hurt to do a little soul searching. First, let me say that, other than my husband George, no one knows what I wanted to talk about tonight. So if I say something that doesn't sit well with someone, I take full accountability. Have been riding a motorcycle for more than 24 years and been a Member of GWRRA for almost 21years. I have also acquired some 200,000 miles as a Co Rider, so I think I've more than paid my dues to be able to talk a little about safety. I always wonder if the GWRRA logo should have been knowledge, safety, and fun instead of vice versa since, without the knowledge and the safety, there would be little fun. It probably doesn't surprise you men in the audience to know that when you're not around, we women have gabfests which some-times include motorcycling. As different as we women are, we almost have that many differences of why we ride, or don't ride, a motorcycle.

Over the years I have met women who say they will never get on a motorcycle, those who will ride only occasionally, some who have taken up riding because their driver loves to ride and those who hate to ride but do it anyway. There are those women who are frightened to ride but do it because they want to see their driver once in awhile, and then there are women, like myself, who just love to ride and have it in their blood—something we can't explain to our non-riding friends. Now

what has all this got to do with safety? Well even though we may have different reasons for riding, we women all agree that safety should be our drivers' number one priority.

When I get on the bike, I know that there are certain risks I'm taking. And because I love to ride, I'm willing to take those risks. I know we're the smallest thing on the road and that, at any moment, I could be facing my Maker. I've accepted that fact, but what I shouldn't have to accept is an inferior bike or a driver who is not at the top of his game. And George has never had to be a passenger on a motorcycle, so unless I tell him, he has no idea the amount of trust it takes for me to be his Co-Rider.

I'm counting on him to get me home safely. If that feels like unfair pressure to put on him, I'm sorry, but he's the one driving so most of this is his responsibility. I also realize that many of the motorcycle accidents that happen are completely unavoidable. I want to talk about the risks we Co-Riders should not have to take. "

Now for some funny stuff:

One afternoon, a lady rushed out of the house, forgetting her keys and found herself locked out. There was nothing she could do but wait for her husband to come home. She went over to a neighbor who was outside raking leaves.

"You locked yourself out?" he asked.

"Yeah, this is the second time since we moved in. After the first time we took an extra key and put it in a jar, then stuck it in a potted plant on the deck."

"So, what's the problem?"

"I took the plants in for the winter."

Well, I can relate to this as I have locked my keys in my car three times. You wonder where my spare is. The spare is in my purse which is sitting in my car. Why not find a place for an extra key on my car. I did find a great place that was recommended. Problem? I found it 2 months later sitting on my bumper where it had left go from the hiding place. So, the spare is back my purse. Enough said!

In closing, I would like to leave you with this thought: *When we forgive, we don't change the past, but we change our futures.*

Merry Christmas to all.

*Linda L. Waterman
Public Relations*

From the District COY

. Greetings from your NY District Couple of the Year

We are honored to have been selected as the Couple of the Year at the NY/NJ Bi-State rally in August. Since our selection we have attended the NY District Ride-Out hosted by NY-U and chapter meetings of NY-C, NY-D, NY-H and NY-W. We want to thank all of these chapters for their kind welcoming and generous hospitality. In October we had the privilege of representing NY District at the MS District Rally in Tupelo, MS. It was a super rally with many activities and 53 vendors. While there we attended the MS District Couple of the Year Selection and also the Membership Enhancement seminar. We definitely enjoyed the wonderful southern hospitality that we received. On our ride home, we had the opportunity to meet the former NY District directors, Ed and Dottie Bahrenburg, in Bluff City, TN. We spent two days riding through the beautiful countryside of Northeast TN and Northwest NC. It was an added treat to attend the TN-C meeting in Kingsport, TN while there.

In January we will be heading to Florida to begin our annual "Winter Adventure". This year we will be traveling as far west as Los Angeles, CA. As in the past we are looking forward to attending many GWRRA chapter meetings and activities in the states we will be visiting. We have plans to attend the LA District Rally in April and hope to be able to attend other District Rallies while we are away. We are happy to be representing NY District as your 2009/2010 Couple of the year.

As the 2009 year comes to a close we would like to encourage all NY chapters to select a Couple of the Year for 2010. One couple in each chapter deserves to have this recognition bestowed upon them for their good works! A worthy couple should not be denied that honor. It is a privilege to be selected. Couples need to be assured that it really is a special recognition. Help alleviate their fears by assuring your couple that they have already been outstanding chapter members and they will continue to be so. Couples have the special opportunity to promote GWRRA within their chapters as well as at other events. **Participating** in the **selection** process is merely an **option**. It is a wonderful experience that many couples enjoy. However, the final decision is up to your Couple of the Year. We enjoyed our selection process and are looking forward to the Region B Couple of the Year selection August, 26, 2010. This will be held at the PA rally in Johnstown.

Please feel free to contact us at rlkelley@localnet.com or 716-830-9569 with questions or if we may be of any help to your chapter. Remember our GWRRA motto, Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge. We are certainly meeting many new friends, having loads of fun and riding safely while doing it. Updates of our travels and GWRRA activities will be forthcoming.

We want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob and Sandy Kelley