



GWRRA
New York District
March 2011
Northeast Region



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<p><u>News from National</u></p> <p><u>News from the Northeast Region</u></p> <p><u>From the District Director</u></p> <p><u>From the District COY Coordinators</u></p> <p><u>Convention News</u></p> <p><u>From the District Educator</u></p> <p><u>From the District Trainer</u></p> <p><u>From Your District Membership Coordinators</u></p> <p><u>State Convention Fact Sheet</u></p>		

News from National

In the February issue of the "Insight" Newsletter we featured a diagram showing the suggested placement of patches and rockers on GWRRA vest. This was done as the result of requests that had been received wanting to know where patches should be placed. It was not intended to require anyone to purchase or have a new vest made, require that patches and rockers be placed on a vest in any required position, or require anyone to change the patches and rockers currently on their vest.

The only GWRRA requirement is that the official 10" backpatch be worn by GWRRA Officers.

The diagram suggest that the 4" Officers patch be placed on the front left side of the vest. This was a suggestion, not a requirement. It is not a requirement that patches on any current vest must be changed if the Officers patch is not on the front left side.

We regret any misunderstanding this has caused.

Ed and Linda Johnson
International Directors
GWRRA Membership Enhancement Program

News from the Northeast Region

From the Region Directors,

Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg

Paperwork...paperwork...paperwork! January seems to be the month to do paperwork especially with all the Treasurers and Membership Enhancement Coordinators becoming Officers within the organization. The National Team listened to our concerns regarding paperwork and has now provided a simpler method of getting the paperwork processed this year. As I was going through all of the paperwork on my desk, I was glad that we are still home in the Northeast instead of down south. It was 4 below this AM and lightly snowing, a perfect day to get caught up. It was 70 and sunny at our Southern home. I am sure if we were there that I would have skipped the paperwork and gone for a ride.

By the time you read this we will have attended the Maryland Convention, Winter Thing. Dottie and I have our costumes ready and are looking forward to interacting with the many members who are going. We have been attending this event ever since we joined the organization in 1999. We missed last year due to the Leadership Summit in held in Phoenix that same weekend. Director Stiger has requested a conference call with the Northeast District Directors and we hope to accomplish that at Winter Thing. The main topic of conversation is the new Passport program that will be unveiled in the March in Wing World. You will see more information regarding the Passport programs under National News. And I am sure that your Director will soon be filling you in on the details.

This spring would be a great time to focus on recruiting efforts. Are you planning a mall show? Distributing flyers about GWRRA membership? Are you planning a recruiting event at your local Honda dealers? In March and April, riders are looking forward to the riding season with a great deal of anticipation. They may be interested in riding with a safety conscious, friendly group. Now is the time to promote GWRRA membership.

Everyone is starting to talk about rides they are planning for the 2011 riding season. A lot of talk is about riding to Wing Ding. As I am sure you all know Wing Ding is in Knoxville this year. And there should be some great riding in that area and some great events happening at Wing Ding. The Region B assignments are the Grand Parade and Light Parade as well as assisting with registration and Poker Runs. We have always had a large turnout of helpers for these parades. The Light Parade is scheduled for Wednesday night and the Grand Parade for Friday late afternoon. Please contact your District Director if you are willing to help. We know that most of the Directors plan to attend and be bringing helpers to those events. A few hours of time by many people will make it a pleasant experience for us all.

The Region Core Team is now looking at using the Region website: <http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org/> to help Chapters and Districts better promote their significant activities. If you would like to have your District Convention flyer downloadable from the Region website, drop Dottie or I an email. If you are holding a significant Chapter event that you would like to promote around the region, send us a flyer in PDF format and Clark Clemens (our wonderful webmaster) will post it on the website. We probably will not be able to post all of your Chapter events, but if you have a specific one you would like to promote. Let us know.

In closing, a big thank you to all of the people involved with completing the paperwork for year end. I am hoping that next year it will go a bit smoother as there will be many fewer changes to process.

Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg
Region Directors



From the Region Trainers

Dottie Bahrenburg

Leadership Training: What is it?

Almost everyone knows the motto of GWRRA is Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge! Not everyone realizes that the motto actually lines up with the different Programs within GWRRA. We often refer to these programs as the “Big Three” programs within GWRRA.

FUN = Membership Enhancement
SAFETY = Rider Education
KNOWLEDGE = Leadership Training

Mike and Nancy Mandell are the Membership Enhancement Coordinators for the Northeast Region. Mike and Nancy are working hard to make sure that our members have a positive experience within GWRRA. Membership Enhancement encompasses many programs including Recruitment and Retention, Chapter of the Year, Couple of the Year, and much, much more. The Membership Enhancement Program offers several tools for Chapters to use to help promote fun (The Fun Guide available on the MEC webpage) and help with membership recruitment and retention (the ARL).

Tim and Anna Grimes are the Rider Educators for the Northeast Region. Tim and Anna have been active in the Rider Education Program for several years. Rider Education offers many seminars and on the bike training to improve the motorcycling skills of GWRRA members and to create a safer motorcycling community. The Medic First Aid Program and the Motorist Awareness Program also fall under the Rider Education umbrella.

The Leadership Training Program and the Rider Education Program are often confusing to members. Terms such as Trainer and Educator add to the confusion. And yes, Rider Education offers the knowledge necessary to ride your motorcycle safely. So why do we say that the Leadership Training Program aligns with Knowledge in the GWRRA motto?

The focus of the Leadership Training Program within GWRRA is to develop strong Chapters by providing training for the Chapter, District and Region leaders. Leadership Training also provides knowledge to the members regarding the organization, structure and operation of GWRRA.

Leadership Training provides seminars and training in People Skills, Leadership Skills, Life Skills and Practical Skills. There are eight curriculum areas within Leadership Training.

Programs recommended for those members interested in becoming a leader within GWRRA fall into the following curriculum areas:

1. Chapter Leadership Skills
2. Intermediate Leadership Skills
3. Advanced Leadership Skills

Programs developed for the general membership of GWRRA include:

1. Member Orientation
2. Life Skills
3. Chapter Life

Horizon Program

The Horizon Program is a fast track overview of the core LTP curriculum with “hands on” training and practical applications, and an excellent class for potential Chapter Directors and staff. Horizons is also a great class for the general membership to learn more about teamwork, self- - awareness, communication and building better Chapters.

Instructor Development and Certification Program

The Instructor Development and Certification Program focuses on training instructors to deliver the seminars found in the curriculum areas listed above. As the Region Trainer, I am always looking for additional instructors to provide seminars throughout our Region. Please feel free to contact me if you might be interested in working in the Leadership Training Program.

Leadership Training does not have Chapter level officers. However, Leadership Training Instructors are available to provide seminars of interest at the Chapter level. Currently we are working to develop a pool of Leadership Training Instructors who might be willing to visit Chapters to provide seminars upon request. Seminars should be requested through the District Trainer and if your District does not have a Trainer, contact your Region Trainer.

The Leadership Training Program also administers the Officer Certification Program. The Officer Certification Program is not “leadership” training as one might think. It is training designed specifically for the GWRRA Officer. The intention of the OCP is to give our Officers comprehensive knowledge of the policies and procedures of GWRRA.

Dottie Bahrenburg
Region Trainer



N.C. Chapter Members



This month we would like to talk about the N.C. Members, you know our members who appeared on the first Column of our last January Full membership list, they appear on the left side of your screen where you look for your Chapter designation but from time to time you see NC as Chapter designation with an “X” as Manual override. Where do they come from and how do we deal with them?

Well let’s reach in our trusty toolbox to see if we could come up with a tool to keep them informed of our Chapter activities.



First let’s ask ourselves, since most of us have a Chapter affiliation, how did they get the label N.C. meaning no Chapter affiliation. I can assure you that most would like to hear about how much fun it is to participate in Chapter activities, rides or events. Unfortunately Chapters come and goes; a Chapter gathering location is never static but as a whole is constantly evolving. Periodically members have to relocate due to employment or a host of other reasons. As they filled out their GWRRA original application sometime ago they were not aware of a nearby Chapter, so they

wrote N.C. under Chapter affiliation and National gave them an "X" in the next column for manual override, as result now only the member themselves may have that categories change to some other designation.

We now have sixty nine members under N.C designation in our Region B. Next time you search to see how many members were allocated to your Chapter, you have no problem finding your Chapter folks on our list don't overlook the N.C. Keep them on your Chapter and District Newsletter recipients. As we reach in our Membership Coordinator toolbox, we can use the same strategy we normally use with New Members or Prospective Members.

To empower yourself with the full ability your Membership list has to offer, simply add these folks to your list of Newsletter recipients, send them a snail Mail invitation, phone call and most of all do include a list of your upcoming rides. A generic invitation letter in WORD is floating around to make it easier for you to help communication; we have them available for you just for the asking. So next time you open up your District Membership list, make it a point to reach out to friend who would like to hear from you. Let's work as a TEAM and keep our Members on board. As good as one of us may be, none of us is as good as all of us put together.

Pete and Marielle ST-Amour
Region B ARL Coordinator



Chapter Couple of The Year Supplies
You need them, we have them!
Order yours today!

To all District Directors
Assistant District Directors
Membership Enhancement Coordinators
Chapter Directors

In an effort to better serve our membership your Region "B" Couple Coordinators have a full inventory of supplies to support The Couple of The Year Program at all levels. We wanted to make it easier for you to get what you need, just one phone call and get it all. **(Editors note: NY District should go thru NY COY Coordinators Bob & Sandy Kelley to get any of the items mentioned in this article. their e-mail is: rkelly@localnet.com)** In addition there will be no shipping charges for initial orders. This will be both a savings for you, and a way for the Region to create some revenue to support the Region Selection Process. We would appreciate it very much if you would support the Region and place all orders thru us.

If you have any questions about what you need to buy or need any guidance feel free to give us a call 732-887-0374 or e-mail;

Here is a list of what we have available;

C.O.Y. Head Pin \$ 3.00 each

Chapter Couple of Year Bar \$ 2.00 each

Chapter/District/Region Couple of The Year Medallions

As always we are offering District Medallions for your couples. The cost will be \$ 15.00 each.

This year in addition we are trying something new, a **Chapter C.O.Y. Medallion**, we felt it would be a nice way to show your special couple just how much you appreciate them and want everyone to know just how “special” they are when attending gatherings and events.

All Medallions include neck ribbons and “free” engraving. At the chapter level if you give us the information we will have the medallions engraved with your Chapter letter, C.O.Y. , year and couples name on the back.

In addition if your couple buys one name tag they will receive a second for no charge.

The name tags cost \$ 9.50 each for the ones with the pin mountings and \$ 11.50 each for the magnetic mountings.

The cost of the medallions is exactly what it would cost if you purchase them direct from The Engraver. We will be happy to order them for you or if you order them yourselves PLEASE let them know you are part of Region “B” so we can get the credit towards the Region C.O.Y. Program.

All medallions and name tags are plus shipping.

We would like to say a special “Thanks” to Joanne and Gregg fellow G.W.R.R.A. members and owners of “The Engraver” for their continuing support of our organization and especially the Couple of The Year Program.

Please call Joanne @ 561-483-9139 to order direct, and make sure you tell them you are from Region “B” and Thank You!

If you order a medallion without engraving, if your couple sends it to them or visits them at a show they will add the personalized engraving “free”.

So don't delay order today!

Call Mike & Nancy 732-887-0374 or The Engraver 561-483-9139

Any questions; 732-887-0374 or e-mail Michael@mandellplumbing.com

Thank You, Ride Safe!

“The more involved you get, the more Fun you will have”

Mike & Nancy Mandell

Region “B” Couple of The Year Coordinators



2010 - 2011 NE Region Couple of the Year

Rich and Doreen Lampe

The winter of 2010- - 2011 sure has brought on a lot of snow already, and its still only JANUARY. As of today, in our area we are expecting 3- - 6 inches of the white stuff this Friday, with another storm looming for next Tuesday. We have heard it said that the kids haven't been back to school for a full week yet! What does all this mean? We get all this precipitation stuff over with and in a few months, we get to enjoy BLUE skies.

February is on the horizon, one step closer to Spring. Take the time to be thankful for your blessings, for the friends you have in your life and most of all take care of your special someone. Remember them on Valentine's day, and February is American Heart Month, so take care of yourself.

We have been browsing around on the national website, found these great Couple of the Year Program Presentations that we would like to share one with you.

Top Reasons Why Your Chapter Needs a Couple of the Year

- Reason #1: Selecting a Chapter Couple of the Year is a way a Chapter can "give back" to a Couple that has worked hard for the Chapter
- Reason #2: Visitation with other Chapters by the Couple of the Year can increase inter-Chapter activities
- Reason #3: Chapter spirit can increase when a Chapter shows support for their Couple of the Year
- Reason #4: Selection as Chapter Couple of the Year leads to personal growth for the Couple. They usually tend to take on more responsibility in leadership positions
- Reason #5: The Chapter Couple of the Year can bring awareness within the community about our association by wearing shirts or vests with Couple of the Year designation
- Reason #6: Participation in the District Selection Process brings recognition for your Chapter within the District
- Reason #7: As your Chapter Couple of the Year visits other Chapters, Couples of the Year from those Chapters will in turn visit your Chapter
- Reason #8: Your Chapter Couple of the Year can promote your Chapter's upcoming events as they visit other Chapters
- Reason #9: Chapter Couples of the Year are often found serving as Cheerleaders for the Chapter Team
- Reason #10: Chapter Couple of the Year is the easiest position to hold in GWRRA, just be yourself.

Stay warm and have "FUN"

Doreen & Rich Lampe
Northeast Region B Couple of the Year 2010 - 2011

From the District Director

Hello GWRRA NY District,

Despite the snow and cold of this harsh winter, your NY District Team has been hard at work on motorcycle related activities.

Progress continues on the 2011 Bi-State Convention. The host hotel is the excellent Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool, at exit 37 off of I-90. We can now book Holiday Inn rooms at the discount rate of \$90 per night with complimentary full breakfast buffet. There is a similar deal at the Staybridge Suites, which is adjacent to the Holiday Inn. Please see the Convention information in this newsletter, which includes the on-line booking link. We hope to have the registration form out by early March.

District MEC Pete & Marielle ST-Amour and I have been working on starting a new Chapter in the upper NY/St. Lawrence River area. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the members in that area. District Public Relations person Linda Waterman and I plan to hold the first informational meeting at the library in Canton, NY at noon on Saturday, Feb 26.

Plattsburg and Buffalo are also on the list of locations for possible new Chapters.

Nearly all of our NY Chapters have submitted the MOU's for their Treasurers. Thank you very much for taking care of this important detail.

Half of our Chapters have submitted MOU's for Membership Enhancement Coordinators. This is a great thing. The Chapter MEC's will help build up their Chapters and, in turn, the District. If your Chapter doesn't have a MEC yet, please start talking to the members about how important this position is. Remember, if a Chapter doesn't have an MEC its up to the CD or ACD to contact the members on the Area Report List.

The new blue patches and rockers for the Officers are on backorder. Please be patient.

Several Chapters' have selected a Couple Of the Year for 2011. The District encourages this with 2 Dash For Cash points for the Chapter AND free head pins and hanger bars for the Couple.

We are looking for a Chapter to host the Ride – In this year. Chapter N is hosting the Ride Out on September 24 in the Lake George area.

Remember to list your Chapter events on the Interactive District Calendar. With the

Dash For Cash and the new GWRRA Passport program, you will want to use this calendar more than ever.

We are looking for volunteers from Region B to help with the parades at Wing Ding. The Light Parade is Wednesday night and the Grand Parade is late Friday afternoon. Let me know if you would like to help.

Your Friends in Fun, Safety, and Knowledge,

Paul & Suzette Wood
GWRRA NY District Directors

From the District COY Coordinators

Happy St. Patrick's Day
from the
NY District Couple of the Year Coordinators

We send greetings to the NY District from Florida. Since our last news article we have ridden with and/or attended gatherings of FL1-F2,(Ocala) FL1-S, (Zephyrhills), FL1-F2 (Wesley Chapel), FL2-W (Winter Haven), FL2-B2 (Sarasota), FL2-L (Lakeland), and FL2-F (Punta Gorda) GWRRA Chapters. We have enjoyed the warm reception and friendship that we have received. The third weekend of March we will be attending the FL District Convention in Kissimmee and look forward to the FL District Couple of the Year Selection. We know some of the participants from visiting chapters in prior years.

Congratulations to the following **NY Chapter Couples of the Year**: Charlie and Barb Fedeli, NY-W; Jim and Sharon Learned, NY-T; and Rick Reardon & Pam Pearson, NY-D. They join Garry and Shirley Sauls, NY-H and Tim and Eileen Guile, NY-N. These couples are well deserving of such an honor and are wonderful ambassadors for GWRRA! We hope they will participate in the District Couple of the Year Selection in August.

It is not too late for the rest of our NY chapters to select a **Couple of the Year**. We are sure there is at least one deserving couple that is worthy of this honor. Also, this year, NY Chapters that have a Couple of the Year get points Dash for Cash. This should be a good incentive!!

We have received word from Mike and Nancy Mandell, Region B Couple of the Year Coordinators, that **medallions** are now available for **Chapter Couples**. Purchasing medallions for your Couple is a way of showing them how much they are appreciated and how special they are. Chapter Directors, if you are interested in doing this, please contact Mike Mandell at Michael@Mandellplumbing.com

If any NY Chapter has a Couple of the Year that we are unaware of, please email us their names, address and e-mail address. Thanks for your cooperation.

As your NY District Couple of the Year Coordinators we are here to help your chapter and your **Chapter Couple** in any way we can. Be it by answering your questions or providing you with more information on the Couple of the Year Program. Please feel free to contact us at rikelley@localnet.com or call at 716-772-7807 (home), 716-830-9569 (cell).

Be Safe and Enjoy the Ride!
Bob & Sandy Kelley
NY District Couple of the Year Coordinators

Convention News

Another important announcement is that the host hotel for the Bi-State Convention now has a web page on which people can make reservations. To make your reservations, [Click here](#). They advise us to make reservations as soon as possible. The rate will be valid as long as they have rooms available, up to and including 14-Aug-2011.

If anyone wishes to extend their stay outside of these dates, they will need to book a separate reservation on the Web site or contact the hotel directly at Holiday Inn Syracuse Liverpool [\(+1\) \(315\) 399-5903](tel:+13153995903).

Donna & Gary Cork
Assistant District Directors
New York District

From the District Educator



Oh it's the dead of winter and **we hope our bikes and trikes aren't dead**

So we have all the snow we could use, and I'm a skier, we've had plenty of cold and the furthest thing from our minds are our trusty summer riding machines.



But do you know who has been looking and exploring our machines? Those little creatures that have a very hard time navigating in three feet of snow. So why not take 15 minutes out from removing snow, etc. and at least do the following:

1. Check that your battery tender is still working, properly attached and the light is a nice steady green.
2. Look under the cover for any evidence of those little creatures. Catch them before they do real harm.
3. Double check your lift and or blocking.
4. Check that your cover is still secure and safe. We've had a lot of snow. When we get some rain, the weight will double or triple.

Now the don'ts:

1. Do not start your bike and warm it up. Let the sleeping machine lie.
2. Do not move any of the hydraulic components such as adjust the jack or the brake and clutch components. Those hydraulic seals are very hard and stiff, let it get well above freezing before moving.

Lastly, please drive safely, just since you've been driving on this stuff for three months, don't become complacent. I've seen way too many accidents from very experienced drivers this winter. Oh and please remember to dress for the evacuation.

Your District Educators,
Al and Emily Stahl

From the District Trainer



Do you know that there over fifty presentations (seminars) that the trainers or instructors have in their arsenal? And more are being added. We will not list all of them but let me give you an overview.

First there are three sets of Leadership Skills courses – Chapter, Intermediate and Advanced. Chapter Leadership Skills presentations deal with finance, organization and structure, basic leadership, staffing and newsletters. Intermediate Skills address building teams, writing, communications, problem solving, self-esteem and motivation. Advanced Skills leadership teaches coaching & mentoring, conflict management, knowing your true colors, leadership survival skills and people based leadership skills.

There are also Life Skills seminars which teach courses such as remembering names, public speaking, self-esteem, listening & communicating, stress management and time

management. Member Orientation presentations include helpful information for new members, how can I participate in GWRRA, member benefits overview, the structure of GWRRA, how to have fun at a rally and GWRRA history. And then there is the series on Chapter Life: what is a Chapter Director lesson plan, structure & organization, what is the Rider Ed program, how to have fun at a rally, training the members and planning a chapter event. Also included under Chapter Life is the bike show hosting information which includes it's a lighted bike show and how to show or judge a bike. I always wondered where one learned these skills (I guess it's from us.....).

Additional longer presentations are the Instructor Development/Certification Program if you desire to become an instructor and the Horizon Program which includes team building, effective meetings & events and communications. And lastly, there is the Officer Certification Program.

These are just the trainer courses; the Rider Educators have additional seminars.

Also, if you need the OCP, please keep April 9th and 10th set aside. We are working out the details and we will send out the information to all chapters as soon as we have the place firmed up.

Together WE accomplish more,

Eileen & Tim Guile

From Your District Membership Coordinators



Chapter MEC Last Call

During our January district meeting, I would venture to say that Paul and Suzette, our district DD, did a really terrific job at convincing our district staff that every

chapter now needs a Chapter Membership Coordinator. We have since received a positive response from 50% of our chapters in favor of the proposal. On board and ready to leave the station full steam ahead are the MEC from chapter N, X, G, D, T, W, and K. A few other chapters are said to be actively searching for a volunteer who would, with their special dedication, relieve a burden from their Director's shoulder by filling this role. Up until last December, it was the Chapter Director's responsibility to see that all new and potential members were contacted and if at all possible, have them join our rides and fun events. Now this very important task is being transferred to the Chapter Members Coordinator (Chapter MEC). For all of the remaining chapters currently without a MEC, please feel free to send me



All Aboard !

an e-mail or call to let me know who is up to this challenge.

The role of the MEC will be new to some folks and there will be a learning curve at first. You may have some questions regarding the proper understanding of our 'area list' and other technical aspects, including how to quickly retrieve personal or chapter information from the list. But rest assure, we will be here to help you through the process.



Last year we experienced an increase in membership here in NY. This wasn't due purely to luck as many of you passed along those 'handle bar hangers tags' available free from National. Others of you talked up your association every time you had an opportunity. Many new members signed up during Americade, which thanks is due in large part to all of you who volunteered for us that week. Several members joined through the new Chapter X area. A new chapter meant many new members and new members led to more friends.

Our district staff is now looking at starting a new chapter in our NY Northern Region. As you read this article, your director should have already received a communication regarding the first informational meeting that took place on February 26th in Canton NY. If at least ten members are interested and a new chapter is created, that would mean that we could have a total of 15 chapters in NY.

As you can see, there is a lot of activity going on and we hope that you are all on board as we start another exciting year with our GWRRA chapters and friends.

Pete and Marielle ST-Amour
NY District MEC @ Region B ARL Coordinator

From District Public Relations

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY 

By the time you read this newsletter we will be into March. On 13 March, we get to set the clocks ahead-YEAH!!!!.

On 12 Feb, Paul Wood and I made a trip to Oswego to attend Chapter C's meeting. It was great to see some of the old gang. I was so happy to see Ray Woodworth and was able to catch up on the latest news on his medical situation. I do ask everyone to please keep Ray in their prayers. Chapter C is struggling with getting new members and with the present Chapter and Assistant Directors going to step down at the end of this year, there is a definite need for an increase in membership. **I am ASKING** each and everyone of you within the New York District to reach out to Chapter C and assist them in any way you and/or your chapter can. They did ask if chapters would ride with

them in the Memorial Day Parade in Fulton, NY on Saturday, 28 May. **PLEASE** let Gordon Munger, Asst CD, how many will be attending from your Chapter. I know that Chapter X will not need to be asked twice to do this-they will ride no matter where.

This is the time of the year when we will begin to get a little antsy waiting for riding season to begin. We check our motorcycles to make sure the batteries are working, tires are looking good, some chapters are getting ready for TECH day; well, while you are at it, might be a good time to check your motorcycle insurance policies. I am sure some of you will be or have already added those additional pieces of chrome or extra things on your Wing-will your present policy cover them. Here is some information I came across entitled **MOTORCYCLE 101**.

“Whether you’ve been riding a motorcycle for years, or just recently purchased one for the first time, there has never been a better time to make sure the insurance policy you are carrying is suitable.

The best way to find the answer is to ask some good questions. Ready for the motorcycle insurance 101? Here we go!

- **If your bike breaks down or you’re in an accident, will the cost of towing and the related labor be covered? Yes, but probably only if you buy towing and rental reimbursement coverage.**
- **If you get into an accident, will your passengers be covered? As long as you have a valid insurance policy, the answer is most likely yes.**
- **Are you covered if your bike is lost or stolen? Most likely yes, as long as you have comprehensive coverage, which typically can help pay for covered damaged resulting from a loss other than a collision, within policy limits. These often include flood, wind, theft and vandalism.**
- **If you own several bikes are you entitled to a discount if you insure them all with the same company? Yes, in fact, at Allstate you may be able to save up to 35 percent if you insurance all your bikes under the same policy.**
- **Will the aftermarket parts you’ve added to your bike be covered in the event of a loss or accident? Under the policy’s comprehensive and collision coverage, many companies only cover up to \$1,000 on aftermarket parts. If you’ve invested more than that, you may be able to buy extra coverage that raises the limit up to \$30,000.**

Interested in finding a policy that will match your needs? Get your free motorcycle insurance quote any time of the day or night by logging online.

You’re sure to find motorcycle insurance coverage options that fit your needs and your budget. You just need to know which questions to ask.”

As a side note: I do know that with Allstate motorcycle insurance-your co-riders is automatically covered. Also, make sure you mention that you belong to GWRRA, or if you have taken a MSF course-these will, in most cases, give you a discount.

The following article was sent to me by MaryAnn of Chapter N and is greatly appreciated.

Motorcyclists Across the Country Anxiously Await Court Decision on Constitutionality of New York's Motorcycle Checkpoint Program

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Motorcyclists across the nation are awaiting a decision from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York which they hope will declare New York's "motorcycle only" roadway checkpoints to be unconstitutional. The case Wagner et al. v. The County of Schenectady, et al. could end up in the United States Supreme Court. The checkpoints, which target well-known motorcycle events, force motorcyclists traveling to and from those events to leave the roadway, regardless of any wrongdoing, and have their vehicles and equipment inspected for safety and non-safety equipment violations and stolen VIN numbers. Motorcyclists have been detained as long as 45 minutes in makeshift stockades while undergoing the inspections. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recently began Federal funding for motorcycle checkpoints nationwide in order to assess their effectiveness despite objections raised by members of Congress. The New York lawsuit is the first to challenge the constitutionality of motorcycle checkpoints. The plaintiffs are being represented by Proner & Proner, a plaintiffs personal injury law firm with a long history of doing "pro bono" legal work on behalf of motorcyclists. The Proner firm commenced the lawsuit on behalf of four motorcyclists who were detained at two separate checkpoints.

The checkpoints are funded by a grant from the New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and the troopers who work them are paid overtime. Although the stated purpose of the checkpoints is to promote safety, the majority of the more than a thousand tickets which were issued during the first year of the checkpoints had nothing to do with safety and instead focused on non-safety violations such as loud pipes. The written guidelines for the checkpoints specifically state that one of the purposes of the checkpoints is to look for stolen and forged VINs and the police readily admit that they often have undercover members of their gang and auto theft units working the checkpoints looking for signs of criminal activity.

The Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly made it clear that any roadway checkpoint whose primary purpose is general crime control constitutes an unreasonable search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment and is presumptively unconstitutional. Notwithstanding that fact, the progress reports which the police prepared on the checkpoints specifically state that the grant funds are used "for overtime for intelligence gathering and the subsequent criminal and traffic enforcement." The police admit that the checkpoints, which focus only on equipment violations and forged and stolen VINs, do not address any of the major causes of motorcycle accidents such as reckless driving, driver inattentiveness and alcohol impairment.

Lawyers for the Plaintiff Riders and Defendant State Police are both seeking summary judgment on the Fourth Amendment claims. The future of motorcyclists' rights hangs in

the balance.

For more information contact: Mitchell Proner 212 986-3030 or MProner@Prolaw1.com
SOURCE Proner & Proner.

Our prayers and speedy recovery are extended to Charlie Portis and Leigh Yerdon after their recent surgeries.

I read every Chapter newsletter that comes to my mailbox. I would like to see articles from members of the Chapters-does not have to be on anything in particular. For example, a member's story on how they came to join GWRRA and what they find that keeps them renewing their membership every year. Come on and let's help out our Chapter and Assistant Directors, Rider Educators, by adding a little more something to **YOUR** chapter newsletter. I can tell you from experience it is not easy coming up with an article every month-let's give it a shot and see where it goes.

Now for some humor:

A woman was waiting in the check-out line at a shopping center. Her arms were laden with a mop and broom and other cleaning supplies. By her actions and deep sighs, it was obvious she was in a hurry and not happy about the slowness of the line.

When the cashier called for a price check on a box of soap, the woman remarked indignantly, "Well, I'll be lucky to get out of here and home before Christmas!"

"Don't worry, ma'am," replied the clerk. "With a good tail wind and that brand new broom you have there, you'll be home in no time."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Try as often as possible to smile—it is the key that fits the lock of everybody's heart.

*Linda L. Waterman
Public Relations Coordinator*

From the District COY

Greetings from the sunny South! Yes, Ed and I have left the snow and cold and are now enjoying the warm weather of Florida.

We are having fun getting back on our bikes and of course, visiting with several other New York GWRRA snowbirds! We arrived to 80 degree weather just a little over a week ago and have already visited the Lakeland (FL) Fireballs for an "Eat and Greet". Snowbirds, Bob and Sandy Kelley and Roy and Barb Seamons (NY-H) attended with us. Bob and Sandy already have well over 2000 miles on their bike in 2011. We hope to catch up with them, but they have a great head start.

Saturday we visited the Fort Meyers Chapter for their chili cook-off. In Fort Meyers, we re-connected with former New Yorker, Dan Thomas (former CD NY-U) and current ACD of the North Fort Meyers Yellow Jackets.



Before we left the great state of New York, we attended Winter Thing, the Maryland District Convention, in Ocean City, MD. We had a lot of fun with our condo



mates, Dave & Michelle Perry, and Jack and Donna Seeley. It was fun to visit with friends from throughout the Region. Winter Thing is well known for its costume competitions. This year the theme was the middle ages. Pete and Marielle St. Amour attended Winter Thing. The costumes were fantastic, there were a number of knights, Shreks, Fionas and other well-dressed ladies. Ed went as a musketeer. Jack Seeley went as "Jack."



And Dave Perry was a gruesome pirate. Before we know it, we will be back in New York and hopefully the spring season will be warm and dry.

Dottie & Ed Bahrenburg
New York District Couple of the Year



AUGUST 11-13, 2011

**HOLIDAY INN & STAYBRIDGE SUITES
441 ELECTRONICS PARKWAY
LIVERPOOL, NY 13088
315-457-1122**

Convention Highlights

- Wednesday Evening Pre-registered Packet Pick-up & Optional Welcome Buffet
- Events beginning on Thursday morning
- On-site vendors
- Rider Ed., Leadership Training, and MFA/CPR classes
- Guided and Un-guided Rides to the Finger Lakes, Adirondack Mtns., and other interesting places
- Thursday evening Ice Cream Social, Bike Show, and Games
- Optional Friday evening live entertainment & buffet event
- NY, NJ, and Region B Couple of the Year Selection
- Saturday Evening Banquet
- Sunday morning Level IV Breakfast

Accommodations

❖ **Holiday Inn:**

- 100% smoke-free.
- Newly renovated guestrooms offer; private bath facilities, a king bed, two double beds, handicap accessible rooms, air conditioning, heat, flat screen TV with Time Warner/On Demand cable, direct dial telephones with free access to toll free calls, iron and ironing boards, coffee maker, and hairdryers.
- Room Rate: \$90/night (includes full breakfast buffet for 2 people)

❖ **Staybridge Suites (adjoining the Holiday Inn) 315-457-1900:**

- Spacious Suites with Full Kitchens • Complimentary Breakfast Buffet • Evening Sundowner Reception (Tues. – Thurs.) • Fitness Center • Free High-Speed Internet Access • 8 Studio Smoking Suites • 2 Two Bedroom Smoking Suites • Pet Friendly* (*Up to a \$75 fee.)

❖ Room Type	❖ Single Rate	❖ Double Rate
❖ Studio Suite	❖ \$105	❖ \$105
❖ 1 Bedroom Suite	❖ \$149	❖ \$149
❖ 2 Bedroom Suite	❖ \$179	❖ \$179

❖ **Campgrounds:**

- **Pleasant Lake RV Park** - 11 miles from hotel <http://www.pleasantlakervpark.com/>
 - 65 Wigwam Drive, Pennellville, NY 13132 (315) 668-2074
- **Oneida Shores Park** – 14 miles <http://onondagacountyparks.com/oneida>
 - 9400 Bartel Road, Brewerton, NY 13029 (315) 676-7366
- **Sunset Park Campground Inc.** – 18 miles <http://sunsetparkcampgroundinc.com/default.aspx>
 - 455 Sprague Road, Memphis, NY 13112 (315) 635-6450
- **Crosslake Park Campground** – 20 miles <http://www.jordanny.com/crosslakecampgrounds.htm>
 - 12946 Dugar Road, Cato, NY 13033 (315) 678-2143
- **Adams Eden Camp** – 20 miles <http://www.adamsedencamp.com/>
 - **4812 South Cook Road, LaFayette, NY 13084 (315) 677-5121**