



**Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Region N, Virginia District, Chapter L
Chesapeake, VA**

**Old & New - Two Wheels & Three - Gold Wings, Valkyries, Harleys
We are friends in pursuit of Fun, Safety and Knowledge**



March 2010 Newsletter

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Coming Soon

RIDER COORDINATOR
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Newsletter Contents

Director's Letter 2

COY Letter 2

Upcoming Rides & Events 3

Rider Education & Safety..... 4

Bikes vs. Trikes..... 5

Recent Events/Rides 6

National, Regional,
District News..... 7

Biker Bits (Humor) 9

Local Chapter Meetings..... 10

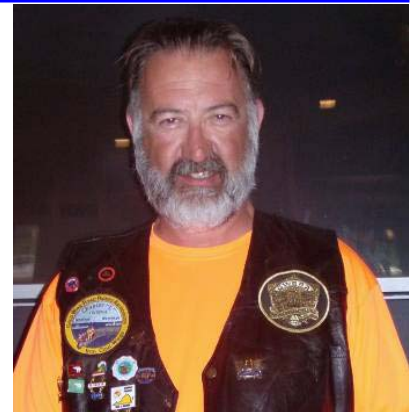
Chapter L Contact Info..... 10

Chapter Director

March Madness!

Are you ready for the crazy weather? Did March come in like a lion or lamb? Our big riding season is right around the corner, but this time of year dress in layers, and be ready for chilly to cold mornings, and sunny warm days. With layers you'll be able to stay comfortable all during the day.

We have plenty of opportunities to get out and do plenty of riding this summer. We're working up the detail for our trip to the NC Transportation Museum, some of us will be going to Rolling Thunder up at DC. The VA Grand Tour will get us around the state to see plenty of sites. This is the 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway. There will be other Chapter events around the state, Region and District Rallies to attend. Throw in some of the charity rides around the area, and it's just beginning of the year. I know later this summer it will be 3 years that I've had my old wing, and I've gone over 40,000 miles already.



I'm still looking for another volunteer or two to help out the Chapter. We could use a Membership Enhancement Coordinator, and would like to do some Motorist Awareness talks. I'll open it up for anyone that would like to contribute, or if you could ask around to schools and see if they are interested in having some of come out to speak. As for MEC, you help out with inviting new members of GWRRR to come out to meet the Chapter, and using your creativity to improve participation in our chapter functions.

Hope everyone is looking forward to our Poker Run next month. Let's do it up right, and put on a good time for our fellow riders. See everyone at our next meeting.

Ride Safe!

Marty

Couple of the Year



COY for 2009/2010: Sandy and Dan Slimp

Franklin Ride with Bob Perkins

Saturday March 6th, Sherry, Rick, Sandy and I rode with Bob Perkins for a lunch ride at 3 Guys Italian restaurant in Franklin.

Our lady in pink rode her new 750 Shadow for her 1st trip that exceeded 150 miles. It was a great ride even with the hiccups we had on our adventure. It would not be an enjoyable ride without a hiccup or two and even to make a U-turn on the way. Our first hiccup was a 750 shadow running out of gas but I won't mention any names. I must say that the drag bike stayed behind while all others continued on to find a safe spot to pull over. Great job done by Bob as he rode back to us to insure all was fine. A wise man

once stated that you insure your tank is full and your bladder is empty when starting a ride. JJJ

Second hiccup was the GPS had us turned down a road that was closed to through traffic. Sign must have meant for four wheelers not motorcycles. Even my trike made it through but just barely and that all that matters. On our trip we passed the same horse three times before getting to our destination. We made it to a gas station and our shadow rider was happy due to she was well into her reserve tank.

We made it to the 3 Guys Italian restaurant and had a great lunch. Afterwards we continued our ride back home. We went our separate ways at the Norfolk, Virginia Beach split on 64. At this time the lady in pink took the lead and done a super job getting us back to Chesapeake.

Thanks Bob for inviting us.

Dan and Sandy C.O.Y. 2009/2010





Upcoming Rides\Events

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Chapter/Sponsor</u>
April	9-11	V	Officer Certification (OCP) - Roanoke	VA District
	10	P	Spring Thaw - Newport News Park (shelter #19) Jefferson Ave, Newport News	VA-C
	11	P	Pre-Tax Day Poker Run - FOP Lodge 9, 110 Kempsville Rd., Chesapeake	VA-L
	17	P	Dining to Donate benefiting St. Francis Service Dog Fdn - Applebee's in Salem	VA-X
	17	P	Poker Run - Manassas	VA-I
	22-24	-	Spring Fling - Pigeon Forge, TN	TN District
May	1	P	Ride for Cash - Liberty Fueling Station at the Mauzy Va. Exit 257 off of I-81	VA-R
	21-23	V	Officer Certification (OCP) - No. Virginia	VA District
	22	P	TBD - Bedford	VA-V
	23	S	Chapter Picnic at Northwest River Park, Chesapeake	VA-L
June	5	P	TBD - Winchester	VA-F
	6	-	Richmond Ride for Kids® - Richmond Times Dispatch Bldg., Mechanicsville	PBTF
	12	P	Tour de Burg - Moose Lodge, Cherry Rd., Fredericksburg	VA-E
	12	P	TBD - Charlottesville	VA-P
	17-19	-	Down Home Rally - Summerville, WV	WV District
June/July	30-3	-	Wing Ding 32 - Des Moines, IA	GWRRA Nat'l
July	10	P	Poker Run - Chester	VA-W
	24	P	Poker - Hanover	VA-U
July/Aug	30-1	V	Officer Certification (OCP) - Central / Eastern Virginia	VA District
August	5-7	-	Bluegrass Blast - Somerset, KY	KY District
	14	V	Leadership Training (LTD) Instructor Development/Certification-Central Virginia	VA District
	21	P	Casino Picnic - Williamsburg	VA-O
	28	S	Poker Run - Manassas	VA-I
September	11	P	TBD - Burke	VA-A
	10-11	S	Fall Sprawl - Simmons Farm, Whitestone	VA-C
	23-25	-	Wings Over the Smokies - Fletcher, NC	NC District
October	2	P	Poker Run - Richmond	VA-D
	7-9	V	Rally in the Valley®, Salem Civic Ctr, Salem	VA District
	23	P	Fall Colors Ride - Leesburg	VA-Y
	29-31	V	Officer Certification (OCP) - Central / Western Virginia	VA District
November	6	P	Goldwing Celebration - World of Sports, South Boston	VA-J
	6	-	28th Annual Children's Hospital Teddy Bear Run, Colonial Harley-Davidson, Colonial Heights	Blue Knights VA-III

Event Types Designations -- (P) Chapter Primary Event, (R) Rally, (S) Chapter Secondary Event, (V) VA District Event

Rider Education & Safety

March Madness!!!

Submitted by Marty Tengowski

What's March Madness and Rider Ed? Have you been out on the roads lately? Notice any dark area without a bottom? After the winter we've had here in the area, we have plenty of potholes on all the roads. Potholes develop from the cycle of freezing and thawing during the winter, as well as all the wet weather that we've had lately.



In the Virginia Pilot: Gov. Bob McDonnell declared a "pothole blitz" for March, making pothole repair the Virginia Department of Transportation's top priority for the month. In the first two weeks, VDOT patched, repaired or filled more than 43,000 potholes throughout the state.

In South Hampton Roads, VDOT contractors worked around the clock to fill more than 1,770 potholes on interstates in the first 10 days of March.

"We've made complete sweeps of the entire interstate system on the south side," said local VDOT administrator Bill Collier, who oversees maintenance. "We're now going back and redoing potholes in a more permanent fashion."

In February, when the region experienced several snowfalls, VDOT fixed more than 20,000 potholes in the area; many of those were multiple patches to the same holes, Collier said. The volume was so great that extra crews and equipment were brought in from other parts of the state. Because of weather conditions, most of those were temporary fixes, which crews are now making permanent.

"It's definitely the worst winter for potholes that I've seen in the past six to 10 years," Collier said.

Jim Checkovich, Norfolk streets engineer, said, "It's probably the worst in about 10 years, maybe even longer than that."

So, while your out on the roads, be sure to watch the roadway ahead of you. When riding in a group make sure you signal the riders behind you so they are not caught off guard. Use the radio, and also use your hand signals. Some people will point to the area of concern, and some riders will hold their foot out to the side, to alert the rider behind them. It's important to alert those behind you when in a group.

Here's info to report potholes to VDOT:

To report potholes on city streets, contact the city's public works department.

Chesapeake: (757) 382-2489

Norfolk: (757) 823-4050; www.norfolk.gov/PublicWorks/pothole.asp

Portsmouth: (757) 393-8666

Suffolk: www.suffolk.va.us/pub_wks/pothole.html

Virginia Beach: (757) 385-1470; <http://tinyurl.com/yf3b3tb>

To report potholes on interstates and state-maintained primary and secondary roads, call VDOT's help line at (800) 367-ROAD (7623) or complete a form at www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp and provide detailed information.

Adapted by Kathy Skinner, from the "Pothole Poem," author unknown

Welcome to Tidewater, our roads really suck. I mutter and curse, as they rip up my truck.
 I know they won't pave them, but our roads need first aid; and VDOT's solution is a band-aid brigade.
 These guys do work hard and may try their best, but their asphalt repair skills have been put to the test.
 The HRBT to the Oceanfront and back through the downtown snarl; the ruts and the potholes can
 consume the Albemarle.
 And I have not even mentioned the side roads, as well; driving around here is like living in Hell!
 Ball joints and tie rods, bent rims and flat tires, the shape of these roads has really stirred up my ire.
 So let's do the right thing and bring the potholes to a halt, this summertime comin', PLEASE LAY DOWN
 ASPHALT!

Bikes vs. Trikes

FREEDOM OF THE OPEN ROAD

By Keith N. Lindgren

I love my GoldWing. In fact, I love any motorcycle. The freedom and peace when I am out there riding is beyond description. The age old adage of why do I ride –“if you RIDE no explanation is necessary...if you don't ride no explanation is feasible” or something to that effect is certainly appropriate. Although work interferes with my time in the saddle, I do ride as often as I can.

But what about when I'm no longer able to hold the big bike up? What if the GoldWing becomes too big for me to handle? Over 5 miles an hour, I'm not worried because the GoldWing is so well balanced it rides itself, but what about when I have to come to a stop or when I'm starting out?

I'll be 65 this year. Yeah, I know, I don't act like I'm almost 65. In fact Carol keeps telling me to “grow up and quit acting like a 2 year old” but I really am pushing that magical number. My knees are giving me fits. My hip bothers me sometimes. Just the “benefits???” of getting old. What happens when I do not feel safe riding on 2-wheels? What to do then? Give up riding?? I don't think so!! You might as well plant me 6 ft. under if I can't ride.

No, the answer is to go to 3-wheels. It's just like riding 2-wheels isn't it? – Well if you are talking about the freedom and peace of the open road then, yes it is. But if you are talking about the handling of a 3-wheeled vehicle then, no it is not.

Driving a 3-wheeled vehicle, whether it's a Trike or a Sidecar rig, is a lot different than riding a 2-wheeled vehicle. First and foremost a 3-wheeler doesn't lean into a curve like a 2-wheeler. You have to steer it like a car. When you power into a curve you need to shift your weight to the inside of the curve. On a motorcycle, you just lean into the curve. It's a whole different process. Anyone who tells you riding a 3-wheeler is a lot easier than riding a 2-wheeler because you don't have to balance and worry about falling over, has never spent a whole lot of time on 3-wheels. It's a lot of work riding a 3-wheeler. Ride too fast into a corner on 2-wheels and you can go down because you are leaned over too far. Ride too fast into a corner on 3-wheels and you can tip over.

I still have not made up my mind what I want when I am forced to go to 3 wheels. Sidecars have certain advantages over Trikes and Trikes have certain advantages over sidecars. That's an individual question each of us has to answer for ourselves. The main purpose of my ramblings in this article is to tell you, when and if YOU ever have to make that decision, don't do it without knowing all of the differences between 2-wheel riding and 3-wheel riding. How do you do that – Simple – take the 3-wheel course at Tidewater Community College (yep, this is a flagrant plug for my motorcycle safety program at TCC).

GWRRR encourages everyone to take the ERC every couple years to hone their skills and keep safe riding tips in the front of their thought process. Same goes for 3-wheelers. If you currently ride a 3-wheeler, take the Advanced Sidecar/Trike class every couple years. In fact we have one coming up on April 18th, the week after our Poker Run. It's a one day course and you ride your own rig. If you've never ridden a 3-wheeler but think you might like to, take our Basic Sidecar/Trike class. It's a one weekend (Friday night, Saturday and Sunday) class and we provide both sidecar rigs and trike rigs. We have one of those coming up May 21-23. Both the Advanced and Basic S/TEP classes still have openings.

3-wheeling can be a whole lot of fun. I enjoy my time on my Santa bike which is a sidecar rig and I enjoy my time on my Spyder which is a Trike (even if it does look like a snowmobile on wheels). But I have to think about what I'm riding and adjust my riding skills to fit the bike I'm riding. I couldn't do that as easily as I do without taking a safety course every couple years. Safety on 2-wheels. Safety on 3-wheels. It doesn't matter what you ride. Just get some training and keep your skills honed.



Recent Events/Rides

Quarterly Adopt-A-Road Cleanup and Breakfast Ride

Kathy Skinner

Photos by Dave Harris, Dan Slimp & Kathy Skinner

The weather couldn't have been much nicer this past Saturday, March 20th, as 17 members from Chapter L showed up for the cleaning of the Intersection of Hanbury Road & the Battlefield Bypass.

The recent rains made for slippery hills, but no one fell (even though Dave had his camera ready to record any humorous moments). It was decided that Linda won the "Most Garbage" challenge when she came back with not only her own garbage bag full, but another entire garbage can filled to the brim!

After the cleanup, we headed south across the North Carolina state line to Southland for a yummy breakfast. And with the weather so beautiful, it was time to top off the tanks and go for a ride.

Doing good for the environment, eating good food, and enjoying a wonderful ride with friends ... this is what the GWRRR is all about!



National/Regional/District News

Reminders from Member Services:

Golden Dealers

Have you received outstanding service on your motorcycle from a Honda repair shop or other motorcycle repair shop? If so, we'd like to recognize them in a future issue of *Wing World*. The "Golden Dealers" listing is Member-written letters saluting excellent service. Please send your letter to editor@gwrra.org and put "Golden Dealer" in the subject line. In addition, try to keep the word count to 500 words if possible.

Acts of Kindness

If you have a short story you'd like to share with Members containing an "Act of Kindness" a Member of GWRRR has shown you, we'd like to hear from you as well. Please send your entry to editor@gwrra.org and place "Acts of Kindness" in the subject line. Please try to keep the word count to 500 words if possible.

Wing Ding 32

NOW, for the first time, when you register for Wing Ding 32, you can also pick the day and specific Rider Ed class you wish to take. (Based on availability.) So register early for your preferences.

Motorist Awareness Division

The Motorist Awareness Division and Rider Education Program, through a Team effort, are committed to a goal of establishing the safest motorcycling environment possible. While Rider Education trains and educates motorcycle riders, the Motorist Awareness Division (MAD) will focus on educating the motorist community. Our primary goal in motorist awareness will be to reduce the number of motorcycle crashes with other highway users, a reduction in the loss of life, and a reduction in injuries.

A New Era in Motorist Awareness - A Simple Plan...

The Motorist Awareness Division of GWRRR, through a "Share the Road" campaign will pursue three aspects of motorist awareness. Each of these three are supportive of each other:

Awareness Education - Providing motorists with First Class, professional education through our certified seminar presentations. Our presentations will be developed for a multitude of audiences, educating them to a better understanding of motorcyclists, the risks involved, a heightened awareness of motorcycle presence and what they as motorists can do in the prevention of crashes.

"Drive Aware!"

Awareness Advertisement - Serves as a reminder to motorists that they share the road with motorcycles. Reinforced reminder to the education aspect.

Public Relations - Interaction with the motoring public has the ability to reflect highly on GWRRR and to mold public opinion on how they view motorcyclists.

Our goal in this area is to build a rapport with motorists and leave them with a feeling that motorcyclists are real people who could be their friend, neighbor, or even a relative.

The Motorist Awareness Division has already begun working with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and other organizations within the motorcycling community. Communications and the sharing of information between us and these organizations helps build our programs, sets the stage for success and benefits the entire motorcycling community.

M.A.D. - Saving Lives Through Awareness Education

THESE YARD SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE AGAIN FOR PURCHASE. THEY COST \$5.00 APIECE WHICH INCLUDES THE PRINTING ON BOTH SIDES AND A WIRE STAND. SHIPPING COSTS ARE EXTRA. THEY ARE 24" WIDE AND 18" TALL.

TO ORDER, CONTACT THE REGION "N" DIRECTOR:
FRANK AND KATHY ALBERT
fjalbert@comcast.net or ibkatbert@comcast.net
or call: 1-865-932-2994





National/Regional/District News

Don't Forget About The Chapter Contest!

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.

If you need more of the Chapter L business card 'flyers', please contact Kathy Skinner.



The 2010 Rally Schedule

SPRING FLING 2010
 THE TENNESSEE DISTRICT PRESENTS:
 "Old Time Rock and Roll" April 22 - 24, 2010
 THE GRAND MAJESTIC THEATRE
 PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE



DOWN HOME RALLY 2010
 THE WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT PRESENTS
 "Wingin' Over the 7 Seas" JUNE 17 - 19, 2010
 SUMMERSVILLE, CONFERENCE CENTER
 SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA



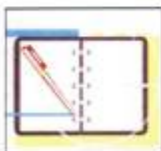
WING DING 32
 THE GWRRA NATIONAL OFFICE PRESENTS
 "Meet Me in the Middle", JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2010
 The Iowa Events Center
 Des Moines, Iowa



THE ELAST 2010
 THE KENTUCKY DISTRICT PRESENTS
 "Oldies but Goodies" AUGUST 5 - 7, 2010
 THE "CENTER" FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 SOMERSET, KENTUCKY



WINGS OVER THE SMOKIES 2010
 THE NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT PRESENTS
 "TBD", SEPTEMBER 23 - 25, 2010
 WESTERN AGRICULTURAL CENTER
 FLETCHER, NORTH CAROLINA



Rally in the Valley
 THE VIRGINIA DISTRICT PRESENTS
 "TBD" OCTOBER 7 - 9, 2010
 THE SALEM CIVIC CENTER
 SALEM, VIRGINIA





Biker Bits

My 1st Time on Top ... of a Motorcycle

By Hogwild/www.hogwild.net

So I had never been on a motorcycle. And when I see something that looks cool and potentially life-threatening... *I go for it!*

* Skydiving... *check.*

* Hang-gliding... *check.*

* Hooker with a hypodermic needle sticking out of her leg... *um, no.*

So I have this really cool friend with a motorcycle and she wanted to take me around on the back of her bike.

Yes. I said SHE. I know it's not super manly to be holding onto a girl (much less a tiny girl like this) but whatever... If I'm going to be riding on the back of a motorcycle, I think it's better to be holding onto a cute girl, than to be holding onto some big hairy dude.

So yeah, I went riding on the back of a motorcycle with a girl. And I wore a pink helmet. And my leather jacket had long frilly strings hanging off the sleeves. And across the back of the jacket was the name of my motorcycle gang: "*Ladybirds*"

Just kidding. But that's how I felt. So whenever we would step into a restaurant or something with our helmets in hand I would walk extra tall with my chest puffed out and I'd tell random people, "*I'm the driver...*" Then those people would look at me like I'm a weird-o or something. But like, whatever.

So like I said, I've done scary risk-taking stuff before... skydiving, hang gliding, eating Mexican in the airport food court right before a non-stop 7 hour international flight...

But usually, I feel prepared. Before they let you jump out of an airplane to skydive, they train you and teach you and show you videos. Before I jumped onto this motorcycle, my only instructions were:

1 - *hold on*

2 - *don't let go*

Um, okay. I thought riding a motorcycle would be no problem because hey, *I've seen the movies*. And according to Hollywood, even if you've never been on a motorcycle, it's super easy to hop on one, and steer with one hand while using your other hand to shoot at the enemy while simultaneously swerving out of the way of an oncoming 18-wheeler and then *jump a ramp* over a lake leaving behind an angry Chinese man shaking his fist because you knocked over his fruit stand.

So yeah. This will be simple. I get on the back. I hold onto the girl's torso. Got my pink helmet on. Ready! **She takes off!** The sudden jolt slams my head forward into her helmet. **CLANK!** Oops. Now we're speeding down the street. *Aaaaaah!*

Cars are speeding at us, making a wide turn. So *we* have to make a wide, rounding turn. And LEAN into the turn. So the motorcycle is slanted towards the street. My natural reaction is to lean the OPPOSITE way. You know, so I don't paint the concrete with the blood from inside my face. But no. You have to lean WITH the bike.

Now I feel like I'm **100%** going to die. What made me think I could do this?!!! My only experience riding a motorcycle was from an old arcade game... and I remember how in that game I would always crash!

So we stop at a red light and I tell her that I feel like I'm going to fall off of the motorcycle. So she says, "*Well, we're only going 30 MPH, so if you're going to fall off... this is a good time.*"

I was like, "*Okay, cool.*" But then 15 seconds later I realize, "*Whoa! What?! How is this a good time? It's still gonna hurt like hell and what about that bus behind us? Is this a good time to get crushed by a bus?*"

I'm holding on. My hands are stiff and sweating. My ass is getting numb from the vibrations of the motor. When I finally get off the motorcycle, I had to massage my butt to get the feeling back. I tell my friend that I'm scared. I know this is not helping me look courageous and manly to her but I'm fairly certain those qualities do not matter as much to a girl once you are deceased. Besides, if I survive, I'll do something else to reclaim my manhood in her eyes like build a shed.

NOTE TO SELF: Learn how to build a shed.

By the 3rd time we went riding, I began to feel comfortable. You could tell just by looking at my posture on the motorcycle. At first, I was sunk down low in the seat and leaning forward. And the engine had me shaking. Not because it was so powerful but because it made me cry.

Then my friend is like, "*Look to the left. You can see Mount Rainier!*" Look left?! **Hell no!** I'm *too scared* to turn my head! I know what will happen. I look left. You accelerate. I'm street meat. Later on she's like, "*So wasn't Mount Rainier beautiful?*" I was like, "*Um, I have no idea. I was too busy focusing on the back of your helmet while repeating curse words.*"

But as I got more comfortable, I sat up straighter on the back seat, and I stopped fogging up the inside of my helmet with tears. Which reminds me... how the hell do people scratch their face while riding a motorcycle? I realized that when I'm driving a car I do all sorts of things that you can't do while on a motorcycle. Like scratch my face. Blow my nose. Play with the radio stations. Drink a beverage. Talk on my cell phone. Catch a nap. Just for a second.

NOTE TO OTHER DRIVERS: Watch out!

So by the end of my trip I felt comfortable on the bike. Even though I was still riding on the back and holding onto a **girl**, I began feeling kinda **macho**. *I'm riding on a motorcycle!* I'm risking life and limb for the sake of transportation! Oh yeah! I'm a manly man!

Then I hopped off the bike and massaged my butt.



Meetings

CHAPTER L MEETINGS

4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Zino's Cafe

850 Old George Washington Highway
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 485-1468

www.zinoscafe.com

Please come and join us!

Social (meet, greet & eat) starts at 6 pm and meeting at 7:00.



Chapter B—Virginia Beach

2nd Wednesday each month, 7pm

New Location
Village Inn
Independence Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA
(Pembroke Mall area)

Chapter C—Hampton/Newport News

2nd Sunday each month, 7pm

Angelo's Steak & Pancake House
755 J. Clyde Morris Blvd
Newport News, VA

Chapter O—Williamsburg

4th Sunday each month, 5pm

Belgian Waffle & Steakhouse
14700 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA

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