



November 2010 Newsletter

Gold Wing Road Riders Association Region N, Virginia District, Chapter L Chesapeake, VA Old & New - Two Wheels & Three Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

- CHAPTER DIRECTOR**
MARTY TENGOWSKI
- ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**
DAVE & LINDA HARRIS
- COUPLE OF THE YEAR**
DAN & SANDY SLIMP
- RIDER EDUCATOR**
tba
- RIDER COORDINATOR**
DOUG GILLIAM
- TREASURER**
JOHN STEFFEL
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
KATHERINE SKINNER
- WEB MASTER**
DAN SLIMP
- MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT
COORDINATOR**
SHERRY MORGAN
- EVENT COORDINATOR**
TRISH ADAMS
- CHAPTER L WEBSITE**
WWW.GWRRRAVAL.COM

National



www.gwrra.org

Region-N



www.region-n.org

Virginia District



www.gwrrava.org

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Chapter Director



Martin Tengowski
Chapter Director

From the Director

Well, we've set the clocks back already, so the holidays are right around the corner. We can see the sun coming up while heading to work but at the end of the day, we get home in the dark. This year has really flown by. Our chapter has been a lot busier this year, but that's for next month to discuss.

We have some a more riding to do this yet this year, certainly for me cause I'll be riding to work as long as the weather holds out. I hope the Chapter gets in a Christmas Parade or two, so we get a little free PR and maybe get a few more members to enjoy the riding and friendship. We have been increasing and we've been growing and getting better all the time.

I attended the Officer's meeting a week ago out in Lynchburg. It was a cool morning heading out there, and when I heard it was 27 degrees, it explained why I could see my breath, and not feel parts. Not really, if you dress appropriately and have some heated hand grips you'll be ok. At the meeting I was able to meet up with the other CDs, say hi to folks I haven't seen in a while. The new District Director was there to discuss the future of the District. They are looking at changes, and ideas to make things better in the District, Rally, Wingless, and the Chapters. What changes can they make to get chapters out visiting more. Get more people at the Rally, Wingless. Overall, I think the day went pretty well.

Next up for the Chapter will be a Christmas Parade and our Christmas Party. I'm putting in an order for some Apple Dumplings again this year. I can't wait to see everyone and all the great food.

A great time will be had by all, and no one will walk out of there hungry.

As Director, my goal for next year, it won't be easy, to improve on this year. With our members, I'm sure we will.

Happy Holidays

Marty



Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Chapter Couple



Sandy and Dan Slimp
COY for 2009/2010

Sandy and I have had a lot of fun over the last couple of years as the Chapter Couple. It's time to select the next Chapter Couple for the outstanding efforts they have achieved.

Being selected as the Chapter Couple is for what all you have contributed for the past year not what is expected out of you once you are selected. One of our couples within Chapter L will be selected, and by the way, that will be a difficult decision. There are so many couples that have contributed so much and enjoyed what they done. Sandy and I have noticed how all couples were having so much fun and yet were so involved with Chapter L.

When asked who we thought should be the next C.O.Y., Sandy and I gave a lot of thought on this over several days. We submitted who we thought it should be along with other members of the staff.

If you are chosen just remember it's a great recognition for what all you have done. Have fun being the Chapter Couple as Sandy and I did. Everything we did was for our chapter. We could not ask for a better group of people to ride with that enjoys having fun, riding safe, and gaining knowledge along the way.

The weather is starting to cool down now and nightfall comes much quicker now. That means we are riding less and it's time to get out and start the bike up and let it run or put a battery tender on it. Guaranteed, if you don't let your bike out or place a battery tender on it, the battery will run down.

If you elect to ride be sure to dress for the weather. Wear plenty of

warm gear when you start your ride. You can always take off that extra clothing as the day warms up.

Ride Safe & Have Fun

Dan & Sandy
C.O.Y, 09/10



Membership Enhancement Coordinator



Sherry Morgan
Membership Enhancement
Coordinator

Hello to everyone, I haven't introduced myself but my name is Sherry Morgan and I am your MEC "Membership Enhancement Coordinator." I have been a part of Chapter L now for over a year and enjoy the friends I have made.

I never knew how much fun riding with groups could be, just getting a small group together and going out to explore some of the older roads around the area. My first ride with chapter L as a rider and not a co-rider was interesting to say the least. I was told we would be going to Franklin for lunch and coming back. Not realizing we were going to going back roads to Franklin so when I thought I had enough gas to get to there I was sadly mistaken. With my job I ride back roads and main roads so I had figured in my head about how far we had to ride.

But when you're with Bob Perkins you might not always know how long you're going to be on the road. He took us back roads alright and circled around and repeated some of those roads. So what should have taken us 30 minutes to get there took us like 3 hours. Needless to say I ran out of gas. Well, I pulled over, Dan Slimp was right behind me, and we found my reserve. We did make it Franklin and had a nice lunch and came back home. At this first ride I decided it was better to have a CB to talk with the group. This made me see how

much fun a group ride can be, even when some of them will never let me live it down for running out of gas.

This is just one of the reasons it's nice to find new members and show them how much fun group riding can be and helping out the community with some of the clean up and things we do as well.

I am hoping to be able to attend one of the leadership workshops soon so that I can learn more on how to help our group get more and more members to enjoy riding and having fun with safety on the top of the list.

As I am going through my months of recovery from my recent accident I know I have the many friends I have made with Chapter L to get me through and I'll be back on the road soon. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and thoughts during this hard time. The "Hope" bike will be back on the road soon, but until then, I'll miss riding in the parades and runs..

I hope everyone has a safe Thanksgiving and Ride Safe

Sherry Morgan

MEC



Rider Education & Safety



Submitted by Marty Tengowski

Riding Motorcycles in the Rain

By George Tranos

Nothing beats riding with the sun shining on your back. A nice warm fall day seems to bring out motorcycles and falling leaves in equal numbers. Unfortunately, there will be times when the skies open up and riding in the rain becomes unavoidable. Let's go over some strategies for riding in wet conditions.

First, Don't Panic!

If you're caught out unaware, consider slowing down or even stopping. Some showers and thunderstorms pass quickly and by stopping you might be able to avoid the rain entirely. Check the weather forecast, be prepared for the rain with the proper clothing and motorcycle gear, and plan your trip accordingly. If you don't stop, be aware of the additional risks.

Slick Roads

The first few minutes after the rain starts can be the most dangerous time to ride. The water mixes with the oil, dirt and road debris creating a slick surface. Motorcycle tires put down a very narrow footprint and once the pavement gets slippery, traction is limited. Try to avoid riding during this initial period. The water eventually wash away the road grime and the pavement will just be wet. While traction is still reduced, modern tire technology will still supply up to 80 percent of the grip of dry weather riding. Even so, a rider must exercise restraint and be smooth in the application of all controls. Throttle and clutch control must be smooth -- avoid sudden acceleration or braking especially in a curve where traction is already limited. Turns should also be taken more gradually with reduced lean angles and less aggressive cornering. Certain roadway features like railroad tracks, bridge gratings, painted lines and markings will be very slippery and should be crossed with the motorcycle as upright as possible. Above all, leave extra time & space so you don't have to take any sudden actions.

Hydroplaning

A vehicle will hydroplane when water builds up to the extent that there is a layer of water between the tires and the road. This is a complete loss of traction and will cause a skid or a fall and must be avoided at all costs. Normally, hydroplaning will occur when you try to drive through a deep puddle, but it could also occur during periods of heavy rain when the roadway does not have time to drain sufficiently. If you notice these circumstances, slow down and consider stopping if you continue to encounter these conditions.

Reduced Visibility Makes It Hard To See

Riding in the rain has other risks as well. Your ability to see ahead of you is reduced. Rain droplets will hit your shield or goggles and, depending on temperature, they may also fog up, impairing your vision. If you normally ride with a tinted visor, as I do, make sure you bring a clear shield that you can use when

the rain starts. You can also treat your shield with an anti-fog product. At the minimum, your shield or goggles should be clean and have a minimum of scratches that impair visibility. Wear gloves that have a rubber wiper on the left hand so you can clear your shield quickly if needed. Do not override your visibility, leave sufficient room and look as far ahead as possible to anticipate hazards.

Reduced Visibility Prevents Others From Seeing You

Just as you have difficulty seeing, other drivers will have a hard time seeing you. Now is the best time to use bright and reflective material as part of your riding gear. Consider purchasing a reflective vest. It can be carried with you in a tank bag or saddlebag and taken out when visibility is poor (or at night). Add reflective tape to your saddlebags, travel trunk, rear fender or other spots to help other drivers see you. If you normally drive in the rain or at night, you might also want to add additional lighting. These simple additions can make you visible from twice the distance in bad conditions.

Rider Comfort and Hypothermia

Nothing is worse than being cold. The body shuts down blood flow to the extremities first to protect the inner core functions. When body temperature is reduced even more, hypothermia can set in. When that happens your body functions slowly deteriorate.

Coordination, judgment and reflexes diminish. A person who has hypothermia can initially appear drunk. Their coordination is lost and their words may be slurred. You don't want to be driving a motorcycle under these conditions.

Being wet in addition to being cold will bring on hypothermia even faster. Proper riding gear is necessary to keep your body warm and dry, especially in early spring when the ambient outside temperature is already cold. Choose and use jackets, gloves and pants that either have waterproof, breathable liners such as Gore-Tex, or bring appropriate rain gear. Remember that riding with non-breathable gear might cause moisture buildup inside the garment which can be uncomfortable, but will still keep you dry and is preferable over being wet and cold. Good riding gear pays for itself in comfort.

While riding in the rain may never be as pleasurable as being out on a bright, warm, sunny day, it can be tolerable if you're prepared with the right gear and attitude. If you're aware of the weather, prepared for the rain and cold and outfit you and your motorcycle properly then riding in the rain doesn't have to be unpleasant. If you practice riding as smoothly as possible, avoid panic and leave yourself enough space and time to avoid any sudden actions then you will be able to ride in wet weather more safely.

George Tranos lives with his wife and fellow instructor Diane Ortiz in New York. They are certified instructors and MSF RiderCoaches. Together they run the Big Apple Motorcycle School.

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National, Regional, & District News

Virginia Happenings

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

When Angie & I started talking about the possibility of serving as District Directors again, the first thing we asked each other was why. Why would we want to take on the task of the DD position when we had been there and done that?



Hopefully most of you know how I feel about that statement. Each new day is a new adventure, even if you have been down that same road a thousand times. You see something you haven't seen, or meet someone along the way you didn't know, or just look at the scenery from a different angle. We look forward to a lot more "been there and done that's" in the coming year.

Mike and Angie Mitchell
ADD-East

Back to the question, why? First and foremost, we love GWRRA. The experiences we have enjoyed over the years, have only reinforced that feeling. Now any organization has things that everyone does not like, or it's problems from time to time, but GWRRA is for us, about the people we meet. What better way to give a little back to an organization that has given so much us, than to serve the members. It's all about helping to educate the volunteer leaders and helping to put a smile on the face of the participants. Let's face it, we are all here to have fun.

Our first task was to assemble an energetic and enthusiastic group of people to help us in our task of serving the members in Virginia. We feel we have been very lucky in doing just that.

The new District Team is composed of:
Wayne & Kathy Whitworth – ADD West
Rick & Elsie Baker – Trainer
Dennis & Kristen Weston – ADD East
CR & Diane Griffin – Member Enhancement
Ken Taylor – ADD North
Dennis & Kristen Weston – District Couple
John & Michele Howe – Educator
Hope & Bob Carneal – Treasurer
Med Miller – Assistant Educator
Joe Dixon & Karrin Frankie – Rally Vendor Coordinators
Greg & Karen Kestner – Assistant Educator
Keith & Carol Lindgren – Rally Camping Coordinators

We are still in the process of adding some positions, but know that the staff in place will do an outstanding job of serving the members.

We would like each of you to get to know each of the Staff. Hopefully you will see them at your gatherings and events. Remember, we are all here to serve you. Hopefully at the end of the year, you will feel that is the case. If you have any questions, comments are complaints, let one of the Team know about them, or if you would like drop us a line at gwtggr@aol.com.

Mike and Angie Mitchell
VA District Directors

ANGIE'S CORNER

Mike and I are excited about being back in the thick of things in Virginia GWRRA, and looking forward to meeting those we don't know already. One thing to remember about me and Mike; Mike is the one that is insane!

We are still busy putting our team together, but hope to have all positions announced within the next few weeks. One position filled is that of our District Membership Enhancement Coordinator. And it goes to Diane and C. R. Griffith of Chapter R in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Please congratulate them when you get a chance.

MEC is an enormous task, and we are grateful that this couple is taking it on. As you all know, MEC encompasses Recruiting and Retention, the Newsletter, Couple of the Year, and Public Relations, etc. Diane and C.R. will be putting together a task force to assist with this monumental task, and we look forward to the announcement of those folks.

What a weekend for Rally in the Valley! Thanks Pat and Kathy Hasiak for the great weather! I hope that those of you who rode their bikes to the Rally were able to get out and experience the sights and sounds in our beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Congratulations to all those who participated in the Table Decorations Contest. You can really tell how creative our members are and the time and work they put into this. It was extremely hard for the judges; they were all great, and I'm glad I wasn't one of them. Chapter K (Roanoke) was the lucky winner, and we congratulate them. Eight chapters participated in this contest, and we look forward to more entries next year.

The date for Wingless Weekend will be out soon to all the chapters, but we did want to announce the theme for this year, and it's a Pajama Party! Get out those comfy pjs and join us in Williamsburg. And, although you are welcome to bring snacks and drinks on Friday night, NO FOOD FIGHTS (Mike)! We know you chapters can come with hilarious ideas for your skits, and we will be looking forward to them. Surprises are in store so be looking for that flyer so that you can join us!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving,
Angie Mitchell
"The Better Half"

National/Regional/District News



Dennis & Kristen Weston
District Couple of the Year 2011

Virginia District Couple of the Year

Congratulations, you've been selected as Chapter Couple of the Year, now what?

You are probably asking "So, now what do we do? What is expected of us? The best advice anyone can give

you is to "HAVE FUN" and "BE YOURSELF!" Being Couple of the Year can sometimes be a little scary as you become aware of your new-found fame. But most of all, it's a fun time, a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will reward you with many wonderful memories. You will meet a lot of new people and make a lot of new friends. You will also form a special bond with your fellow Couples of the Year.

The paragraph above is right out of the Couple of the Year manual and is right on target. After being selected District Couple of the Year, we took a deep breath and asked ourselves "now what?" What do we do now? What is the answer?

The answer is for us to continue doing what we have been doing all along. Most importantly continue to have fun. We try to make each ride to a Chapter function or attendance at district events fun. Yes that's us you see at each Wingless Weekend in a silly costume, at Rally in the Valley leading a ride over that mountain pass or even throwing around the volleyball at the All Chapter Picnic. Just sitting down and talking to fellow GWRRA members can be fun. It's all what you make of it.

We pass on this piece of advice, the answer to the "now what" question that was given to us from so many members, have fun. That's right, that's all there is to it to being a successful Couple of the Year. You're probably already doing it! Ok, you're thinking, we're ready to have fun. You walk excitedly up to your Chapter Director, proudly exclaim "we are here and ready to spread some cheer!" only to be handed a roll of 50/50 tickets and sent off to work the room! This is our reward? If we can't spend more than two minutes talking to people, how do we spread cheer? We understand your thoughts. Why not think about discussing change within your chapter? Having been selected Couple of the Year means ideas you've shared and actions you have taken have proven you a valuable asset to

your Chapter and potentially the District. Why not suggest change? Dave & Norma Miller, Chapter Directors for VA-U, shared their thoughts on the subject with us. They don't ask – or rather allow – their Chapter Couple to sell 50/50. Dave states if he does that, who's going to greet their current and prospective members? They want their Couple out having fun. Ah, fun, where have we heard that before? If you have any questions about what will be expected of you during your reign, check with your Chapter Director, Membership Enhancement Coordinator or Couple of the Year Coordinator. As always, we are here for you also. We plan on having a lot of fun during our tenure and hope you will get on the train with us. It's going to be a great ride. To quote Ozzy, "All AAA BOAAARRRRD!"

**Dennis & Kristen
District Couple of the Year**

Farewells and Welcomes

Just as our own Pat & Kathy Hasiak stepped down as Virginias District Directors there have been several changes in the leadership within Region N.

North Carolina bid farewell to Dennis and Kathy Hull as District Directors, and Andrew & Vickie Butcher have been appointed as their replacements.

Frank & Kathy Albert also "retired" as Region Directors. Ed & Maryann Grazier have been appointed as their replacements.

Angie & I wanted to thank each and every one for their service to GWRRA and welcome the "newbies" to their positions. We hope they make as many fond memories as those who came before them. If you ever run across Kathy Hull, ask her what was the best time she ever had at a closing ceremonies!

Mike and Angie

Upcoming Events & Rides

Month	Day	Type	Event	Chapter/Sponsor
December	4	S	Suffolk Christmas Parade	VA-L/City of Suffolk
	11	S	Chapter VA-L Annual Christmas Party, Chesapeake FOP (At the water Tower)	VA-L
	11	V	Leadership Training (LTD) Instructor Development / Certification - Roanoke / Salem	VA District

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



Have YOU registered yet??

Featured Businesses

Know of a business that went above and beyond? Let us know! We'll feature them in the next newsletter.



Our featured speaker for November:

Matt Danielson
 Motorcycle Law Group
The Firm That Rides

For more information, Matt can be contacted at:

1-800-321-8968 or by email at matt@motorcyclegroup.com.



1111 W. Ehringhaus St. | Elizabeth City, NC 27909 | Phone: 252.335.5489 | Fax: 252.335.2453

Biker Bits

Day at the DMV

After spending all day putting up with long lines, rude clerks and insane regulations at the Department of Motor Vehicles, I stopped at a sporting goods store to pick up a birthday present for my son.

I brought my selection - a baseball bat - to the cash register. "Cash or charge?" the clerk asked.

"Cash," I snapped. Then apologizing for my attitude, I explained I just spent all day at the DMV.

"Shall I gift-wrap the bat?," the clerk asked sheepishly. "Or are you going back there?"



Monthly Gatherings

CHAPTER L

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 starts at 7:00.



Other Local Chapters

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

Contact Information

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Spelling and grammar errors are purposely added to this newsletter for those who enjoy finding and pointing them out.