



October 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**

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Chapter Director



Martin Tengowski
Chapter Director

From the Director

It's October and tales from "Rally In The Valley" should fill our meeting place this month. It's always good to hear the stories and tales shared by all, even though we had a light showing from the Chapter.

Fall is getting to the area, leaves are turning, and soon there will be spooks and goblins roaming the streets. There is still plenty of great riding out there, especially on the Blue Ridge Parkway this time of year. Plan ahead, watch the forecast, and pack accordingly. In this area you can have rather cool evenings, but still get up into the warmer temperatures during the day, and then cool off very quickly once the sun goes down.

We had our quarterly cleanup last Saturday, with a moderate turn out. We finished after about an hour and then off to Angie's for breakfast. Rick made it out for the cleanup, and riding his garage bound Harley. The only thing on Rick's mind was to get cleanup done, breakfast and then head out on a ride! After spending the most of the summer in the house due to surgery, he was ready to get out and ride some. Rick, John, and I took off for the Knots Island Ferry. The ride down there was pretty good, and noticed the wind had picked a little as the day went on. I didn't want to let Rick down without making a U-turn, so I happened to miss the turn to go up and stage for the ferry. John was riding drag and had enough time to make that turn, and was sitting first in line when Rick and I got back there.

I had mentioned that the wind had been picking up as the day had went on, well John spoke to the guy there at the landing, and told him we could go across on the ferry, but recommended that we stay with the bikes on the ferry to make sure they didn't fall over. With that information, looking out across the water and see those white caps, the 3 of us decided we should wait until we had a little better day, to take the ferry. So, we mounted up and headed for Turner Honda, in Elizabeth City. A good ride, but you just had to be aware of the wind as you rode past those flat wide open fields along the way. A cup of coffee, some good conversation, and John even talked Rick into spending some money in a Honda dealership before we headed back. John and Rick headed up to Chesapeake, as I broke off for the ride along the southern edge of the Dismal Swamp and home. A very good day!

The Holiday season is fast approaching. Ready or not, it will be here before we know it.

Riding is Risk Management

Marty

Maybe another day ...



Rider Education & Safety



Braking is NOT a Zero-sum Game! Weight Transfer Always Occurs

By: James R. Davis

Submitted by Marty Tengowski

The efficiency of your brakes is misunderstood by almost everybody. You have heard, I'm sure, that the front brake provides about 70% of your stopping ability while the rear brake provides about 30%.

NUTS!

If you simply use the rear brake, and you stomp on the pedal to do so, you will get about 33% (or less) of the total stopping potential of your brakes. That, because you will immediately cause a weight transfer that unloads the rear and, thus, reduces traction which causes a skid and which further reduces your stopping efficiency.

If you don't stomp on the rear brake but, rather, apply it aggressively up to the point of a skid the stopping power of your rear brake rises to about 40% of your total potential braking power.

That does NOT mean that your front brake, therefore, can provide from 60% to 67% of the total braking power of your bike!!!

If you use the front brake by itself (and do not let it lock the front wheel) that brake can provide **up to 100%** of the total potential braking power of the bike as witness the fact that you can cause the rear wheel to leave the ground.

If you use both brakes at the same time then for the earliest part of the effort the rear brake is providing perhaps 20% of the total stopping power and fades to zero (or close to it) with weight transfer as you increase the use of the front brake.

If you are keeping track, the total braking power applied to slowing you down or stopping you is **NEVER GREATER THAN 40%** from the rear brake and **NEVER LESS THAN 80%** from the front brake. Clearly this is not a zero-sum game.

How can that be? Because weight transfer is always greater when you use the front brake and that robs traction from the rear tire and, thus, renders the rear brake less and less effective.

Riders who rely only on their rear brakes ALWAYS leave more than half their stopping power on the table.

Picking Safety Articles

Since I've been selecting Safety Articles for the newsletter, I look back at the last few weeks of riding and I can always seem to think of a safety topic.

Selecting braking this month has to do with a few issues this past month riding. I riding almost every day back and forth to work, rush hour traffic, which means speed up as quick as you can, then slow to a stop as fast as you can!

I've experienced going from 55 to a dead stop on top the high rise bridge, which wasn't the most enjoyable braking experience. For the most part, I feel like I keep a pretty good following distance for my ability to bring my bike to a stop.

The other night heading south on 13 out of Suffolk, traffic was pretty light, I was running about 60 mph, and I had a semi that was pretty much keeping pace. As I came up to a curve in the road, I noticed nothing but stopped traffic and the flashing red lights of a school bus. My concern wasn't so much the stopped traffic ahead of me, but that semi running at least 60 mph behind me. I don't know if he was high enough to see what was around the curve, but I immediately started giving the hand signal to slow down. "Palm down, moving your hand up and down" I could tell by watching that he was slowing down as he approached. Was it my hand signal, was it my brake lights, or could he see up ahead?

Riding home on 64/664 prior to the 264 interchange, I was following a truck at approximately 60 mph. As your coming up the interchange area, you have a downgrade with a left hand curve prior to the crazy dash of lane changes. In the middle of the downgrade, it was all stop up ahead! I started my braking, but at the same time looking in my mirrors. I had this Cadillac coming up on me fast, and I immediately gave the "stop hand signal" arm out and palm back, and adjusted my braking. I didn't want to come to a complete stop the way that car was approaching. When all was said and done, there was a one headlight in each mirror, and I didn't see much of the grill. In front of me I had about a bike, bike and half before the truck. Close enough for me!

Riding is constant Risk Management, and your following distance is one part that you can control. The following distance of the vehicle behind you, you don't have that much control. During hard braking in traffic, I always glance in my mirrors.

- Can you stop?
- Will the vehicle behind you stop?
- Do you have an escape option?

Just a few things to think about during those few seconds of riding.

Marty

National/Regional/District News



Dennis & Kristen Weston
District Couple of the Year 2011

Virginia District Couple of the Year

For our first article, we won't be talking about the places we've ridden, the meetings attended or even Rally in the Valley. Instead we'd like to remind everyone of the reasons for the Couple of the Year program.

GWRRA's Couple of the Year Program was instituted in 1988 as a successor to the nine-year tradition of selecting a Wing Ding Queen to serve as ambassador for our association. The program which began as a way to honor couples at the local level, and to select enthusiastic duos to serve as ambassadors and spokespersons for GWRRA, has evolved into a useful tool for identifying and helping prepare couples for leadership positions within the organization.

First and foremost, this program provides an opportunity for local chapters to recognize and honor a couple each year for their dedication, accomplishments and participation within the chapter

Being selected as Chapter Couple of the Year is an honor bestowed on a deserving couple who has shown dedication and commitment to their Chapter. Being selected as Chapter Couple of the Year is just like being presented an award.

Loosely interpreted, being named Chapter Couple of the Year is an *honor* - an award for a job well-done - and as such, nothing else is expected in return.

The decision to participate beyond that or assume more responsibility is left to the couple who should examine their time, talents and resources to determine what level of responsibility is right for them.

Why are we bringing all this up? We believe a communication breakdown has occurred and somewhere along the line everyone seems to have forgotten the basic reason for this award

This year we'd like to ask, rather challenge, all Chapter Directors NOT to utter the dreaded phrase "who wants to be the Couple of the Year?" but rather *award* a deserving couple with this *honor*. After you have gone through your selection process, announce your new Chapter Couple. Present them with this new *award*, thank them for their accomplishments and participation.

Remember, the Couple you're selecting is already participating, helping the Chapter achieve it's goals, spreading

good cheer. Why not reward them with this *honor*?

We look forward to working with all the Chapters and Congratulations to all the Couples of the Year. We look forward to meeting all of you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. If we don't know the answer we will find the answer.



Editor's Note: The Superman motif is apt for such a "super" couple! Congratulations on being selected Couple of the Year!!

2010 Chapter of the Year Nominations Date Change!!!!

By Virginia Chapter of the Year Coordinators, Rick and Elsie Baker

In a recent change this year, the Virginia District Director will now call for Chapter nominations on or about 1 December, with those packages due by 5 January to the Virginia Chapter of the Year Coordinators, us. We will validate the packages with your Virginia Assistant District Director and ask for any clarifications from the Chapter Directors and the District Staff as needed. Afterward, we will give the District Director the completed nominations for District Director selection of the Virginia Chapter of the Year for 2010.

Doesn't every one of us owe it to our GWRRA members to recognize them for their participation and accomplishments? Is your Chapter Treasury going to leave award money on the banquet table, again this year?

Check out the info on the [Virginia District Website](#).

National/Regional/District News

Here We Come Again.....Look out Virginia

We're baaack! And, boy are we ready to have fun with Virginia!

We do want to take a moment to thank Pat and Kathy Hasiak for their commitment to Virginia over the past four years. We are fortunate to have these two to call "our own", and we look forward to their continued com-

mitment to the Virginia members, only this time from the porch as they take a well deserved nap (haha). We do know that we will be calling on them for their knowledge and wisdom as we move forward with Virginia this next year.

And speaking of next year – are you all saddled up and ready to go? We are. We are putting together a team of talented,

knowledgeable and creative individuals who will be serving the membership along side of us, and we can't wait for them to meet you, but alas, we will save them for later, so look for more on that. And, when you do know who these folks are, put them to work! We are here to serve the members of Virginia and are here to make sure you, the member is deriving the maximum benefit from your membership in GWRRA.

News regarding the dates and theme for Wingless Weekend will be out soon as well as our annual convention in Salem, Virginia which we call "Rally in the Valley". In fact, there may be lots of news to tell you, so keep checking your e-mails and the website for updates, and of course, if you have any questions at all, please e-mail me at gwtgger@aol.com.

Motorist Awareness

We have had a great time in the position of Motorist Awareness Coordinators for the District of Virginia. Thanks Jim for asking us...

If anyone does not have signs for their yards, please let District know and Mike & Angie

Mitchell will make sure we get some. You would be amazed at how people will notice them. We noticed on our way to the Rally this year there were even businesses that had them in front of their buildings.

Motorist Awareness should be one of the parts of GWRRA everyone is concerned about...we need to let people know we are out there and educate them about our bikes and how dangerous vehicles can be to them.

All members of GWRRA need to push Motorist Awareness and definitely all chapters. We are hoping District, Region and National will put more emphasis on Motorist Awareness and have it become a bigger part of the Safety and Knowledge of the GWRRA Motto. While riding safe is very important and is a member's responsibility and they can take courses and seminars to learn more about trailer-riding, group riding and other things – and there is a seminar for Motorist Awareness at most rallies (if not all) – let's try to get more emphasis and show appreciation to the chapters who push out Motorist Awareness.

Again we have had a great time and feel we have accomplished getting chapters more involved and aware of Motorist Awareness...we do still have a lot of chapters who do not push it...let's get Virginia ON THE MAP with how much we do to make others in our communities aware of us on the road.

You can bet that as Chapter Directors for Virginia U – we will be pushing Motorist Awareness and hope other chapters will join us. If there are chapters out there who do not have any ideas as to how to do this ...Dave and I will be more than glad to give you some ideas.

We want to thank Pat & Kathy Hasiak for a great job in their role as District Directors and welcome Mike & Angie Mitchell.

Dave & Norma Miller



**Mike and Angie Mitchell
ADD-East**

Rides

To the Rally in the Valley & Back Again (aka. Lessons I learned)

By *Kathy Skinner*

For those who couldn't make it to RITV, you missed a very good time!

As most of you know, John & I headed out to the Rally in the Valley on our own as we needed that one lone stamp for our Virginia Grand Tour Motorcycle Passport all the way out in Staunton. We headed straight out I64, and then down I81 thinking it would be easier than taking the "scenic route" which added a few hours to the trip. We thought wrong. We now know that John would rather take the longer, but more interesting route and stay focused than suffer from 'highway-hypnosis'. He was more tired from those 5 hours on the highway on the way to the rally, than the 11 hour trip back to home. Okay, lesson learned.

But, we made it safe and sound to Salem and went to check in to the hotel ... where the reservation had somehow 'magically' changed to a double bed room. But a-ha! I bought the reservation confirmation! Oops, packed away in our luggage .. crammed into the Goldwing trunk (rather tightly as we didn't bring the trailer). Another lesson learned—don't just bring the papers, make sure they are accessible even if you haven't unpacked yet. Fortunately the room was fixed without any other problems. Whew.

Off to the Rally to check in and get our lovely shirts—with my logo!! Because I designed it! I don't usually 'collect' event shirts, but I made sure to get two this time. :)

We missed having the large group of Chapter L members who made the trek last year, but in a way, it was very relaxing too. Our First Aid class was cancelled, so that just meant John had more time to spend with the vendors. Which taught us yet another lesson. Even if you think you won't be buying anything you can't carry home, you will—and you have to be ready to find 'alternate transpor-

ation' for your new purchases. Fortunately, Keith and Carol had their motorhome and were happy to haul back pretty much anything we bought. Like a new helmet and jacket for John.

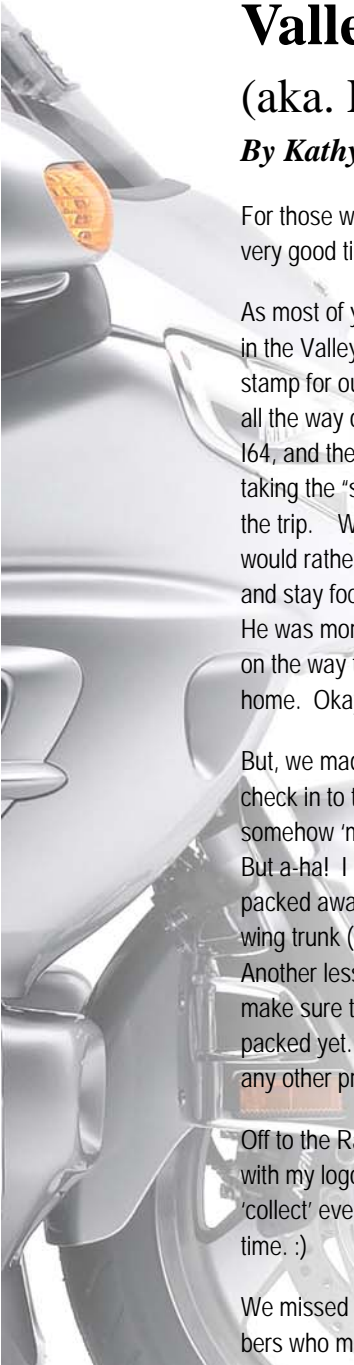
All this talk of packing segues into yet another lesson—no matter how much stuff you bring, you WILL forget something. In our case, it was our chapter vests. I thought John packed them, he thought I was taking care of them. Now, normally, I wouldn't have worried about them, we had our chapter shirts at least. But the during the banquet dinner, I knew I was going to present with my check for winning the RITV logo contest, and would most likely be called up on stage. That definitely called for a chapter vest! Fortunately, a few members of our Chapter, Dan & Trish Adams, along with Jeff & Carm Stobie, were coming up just for Saturday, and I was able to reach Carm before they left town and she was super nice and picked the vests up from our house and brought them out to Salem.

The banquet was great fun, and our neighboring Chapter B's Couple, Dennis and Kristen Westin, won Couple of the Year! And I did get called up on stage for recognition of my 'talents', and yep, I had the biggest grin ever!!



But all good things come to an end, and it was time to head home. This time we took the scenic route, along with Jeff, Carm, Dan & Trish. We took the Blue Ridge Parkway up to I64, came down the highway a little ways, then took 10 to home. Beautiful scenery, no rush to the pace, nice lunch, and we even got 3 more stamps for our passports. However, that turned a 5-hour trip into 11 hours.

And that's the final lesson we learned—when traveling for fun, expect the time to be twice whatever your GPS calls for, and then you can kick back and not worry about schedules. :) So, who's going to Wing Ding with us???



Upcoming Events & Rides

Month	Day	Type	Event	Chapter/Sponsor
October	29-31	V	Officer Certification (OCP) - Central / Western Virginia	VA District
	30	S	Foliage Run	VA-Y
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
December	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??

Sharing



IronClad Wings will be coming to a Facebook page near you (soon). The page is being slowly created, but you will NOT need a Facebook account to view it or any of the photos and videos. If you are a Facebook member, you'll be able to add photos for everyone to see ... and I do mean EVERY-ONE, so this is a great way to share what you've got with the whole GWRRA community and beyond without exposing your more personal Facebook info. By the next newsletter, I should have the link for everyone to use. It will most likely be facebook.com/ironcladwings ... but don't bother trying that link out yet as it won't be functional until at least 25 facebook members "like" the page. (hint, hint!). I'll keep everyone posted.— Kathy Skinner, Newsletter Editor

Featured Businesses

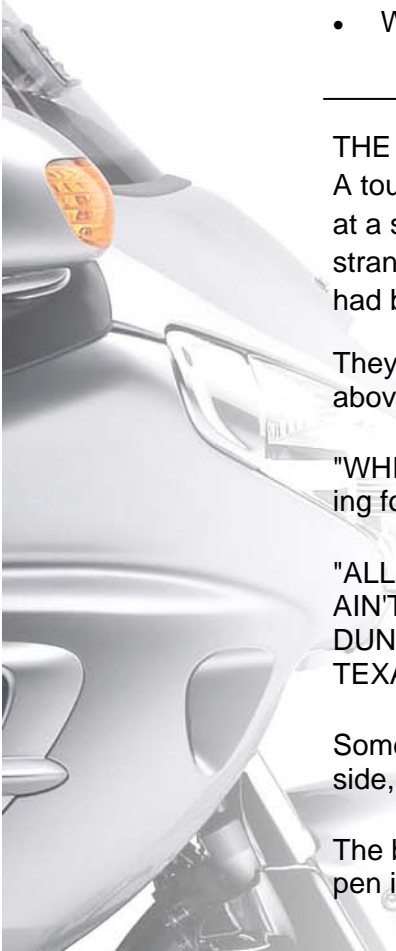
Know of a business that went above and beyond? Let us know! We'll feature them in the next newsletter.

**TURNERS
HONDA**
ELIZABETH CITY, NC

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

Biker Bits

- Why do motorcycles have kickstands? Because they are two-tired.
- What is the hardest part of learning to ride a motorcycle? The Road.



THE TEXAS WAY

A tough-looking couple from Texas rode into town on their motorcycle and stopped at a saloon for a cold drink. Unfortunately, the locals always had a habit of picking on strangers, which they were. When they finished their drinks, they found their bike had been stolen.

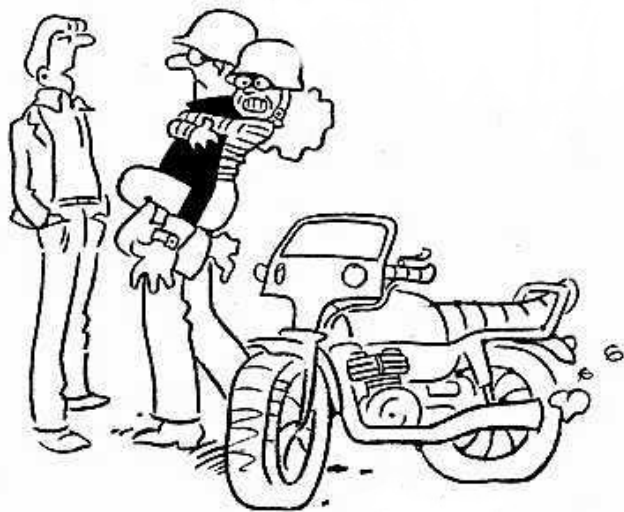
They go back into the bar, the husband handily flips a gun into the air, catches it above his head without even looking and fires a shot into the ceiling.

"WHICH ONE OF YOU SIDEWINDERS STOLE OUR BIKE?" he yelled with surprising forcefulness. No one answered.

"ALL RIGHT WE'RE GONNA HAVE ANOTHA COLD DRINK, AND IF OUR BIKE AIN'T BACK OUTSIDE BY THE TIME WE FINISH, WE'RE GONNA DO WHAT WE DUN IN TEXAS! AND WE DON'T LIKE TO HAVE TO DO WHAT WE DUN IN TEXAS!"

Some of the locals shifted restlessly. The couple had another cold drink, walked outside, and the bike is back! They gear up and get on the bike.

The bartender wanders out of the bar and asks, "Say, before you go... what did happen in Texas?" The woman turned back and said, "We had to walk home."



"How did Mary-Lou like her first motorcycle ride?"



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

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