



February 2006 Gold Wing Road Riders Association

<i>Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge</i>		
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M A K E - A - D I F F E R E N C E

Wing Ding Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUGE MOTORCYCLE CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE OVER FOURTH OF JULY

Phoenix, AZ–January 19, 2006–This Fourth of July–amidst the festive music in the air and the crackling fireworks overhead–be prepared to pick out a distinctly different sound: That of between 10 to 12,000 motorcycles taking to Nashville’s city streets.

Billed as, quite possibly, the city’s largest motorcycle convention in history, Wing Ding 28 is coming to town. Its organizers, have fun-filled events planned throughout the city, so be prepared to see motorcyclists wherever you drive that week.

Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA), the event’s organizer, and Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, the event’s host property, will welcome over 15,000 members of the world’s largest model-specific motorcycle organization.

The event officially runs Monday, July 3, through Thursday, July 6, with some motorcyclists arriving as early as Saturday, July 1.

Each summer GWRRA, comprised exclusively of Honda Gold Wing and Valkyrie owners and their family members, holds its annual convention in a different U.S. city. This year marks the association’s first year hosting its largest international membership gathering, called Wing Ding, in Nashville. Last year’s location was Fort Wayne, Indiana, and 2004’s event was held in Grapevine, Texas.

But this year’s event, says Ed Price, GWRRA’s event manager, is proving to be a record-setting year.

“Pre-registration is up by 76 percent for the same time period for any previous year,” Price says.

Price attributes the sharp rise in pre-registration, in part, to the destination itself.

“Nashville is a great city with many interesting things to see and do both within the city limits and the surrounding communities as well. Everything from historic Civil War sites to many musical venues like the Grand Ole Opry and The Country Music Hall of Fame,” Price says, “And let’s not forget the many beautiful roadways to ride both within Tennessee and traveling to the state.”

GWRRA, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Phoenix, was founded in 1977 by Paul Hildebrand and Shirley Stephens-Garcia. As owners of a Honda Gold Wing, they believed an organization based specifically on that model and geared toward family values would appeal to many motorcyclists. Apparently they were right.

Throughout its 29-year history, GWRRA has grown to over 82,000 members worldwide. This year, as in years past, many of its international members travel from as far away as Sydney, Australia, to attend the event. Sponsors of the convention include the American Honda Motor Corporation, J&M Corporation, California Sidecar, and Big Bike Parts, to name a few.

PRESS RELEASE – WING DING 28 MOTORCYCLE CONVENTION

Organizers plan citywide touring events for members such as “Fun Runs,” during which participants ride from one location to the next on their motorcycles. Organizers also promote sightseeing trips to such neighboring and city landmarks as Smiley Hollow, the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, and the Wildhorse Saloon. In addition, GWRRA has reserved space for its members to attend this year’s firework display at Riverfront Park.

In fact, the association’s motorcycle parade to the July 4th fireworks will be hard to miss as it winds its way through city streets from Opryland to the Coliseum downtown, beginning at 6 p.m.

And the public, for a small fee, is invited to attend Wing Ding’s daily trade shows in the Opryland Resort Convention Center July 3, 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and July 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Honda first introduced the Gold Wing motorcycle in 1975 to worldwide industry acclaim. With its powerful liquid-cooled engine and cross-country capabilities, it inspired an industry-wide shift toward long-distance motorcycling. Consequently, a legion of Gold Wing fans was born. And, unlike some non-brand-specific international events to which motorcyclists often trailer their bikes, Wingers, as they are often called, usually ride their motorcycles hundreds—or even thousands—of miles to attend their conventions.

Thank you for your time.

For additional information and photos, please contact Event Manager, Ed Price.

From The Region Director

A little warm weather and it is easy to forget that Winter is still with us. The rally season kicked off with Maryland’s Wintherthing, and while Linda and I had to depart Saturday morning, we had an excellent time and enjoyed seeing everyone. Fred & Judy Haynes along with their entire Maryland Staff put on another outstanding event in Ocean City. Fred & Judy announced that they will be moving to North Carolina and will step down as Maryland District Directors effective February 1. Region N is lucky to be getting them and while we hate to lose them, we certainly wish them the very best as they begin the next phase of their lives.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Fred & Judy for the outstanding job they did as Directors and I know that they will be missed by Maryland and the Region. Don’t be surprised if their name does not surface in the future as Directors in Region N. At the same time, please join Linda & me in welcoming Charles Gallagher & Jeanny Hall as Maryland’s District Directors effective February 1, 2006. Charles and Jeanny have been serving as Assistant District Directors and are ready to carry on the Maryland GWRRA tradition.

Wing Ding reservations continue to climb, so I encourage you to make your reservations and be part of the attendance record in Nashville. I can guarantee you if you do not attend, you will be saying afterwards, I should have attended.

Speaking of reservations, have you made one for the New England Rally in Vernon, CT? New England always puts on a very good rally and that tradition will be continued in Connecticut.

As a reminder, our Region Fun Shop will feature Bob & Sue Lorenz, so come on out and have a lot of fun while you make new friends and improve your knowledge.

Recruitment and retention is an ongoing process. The strength of our efforts is in the hands of our Chapters. Chapter Directors, encourage your staff and Chapter participants to make everyone feel welcome. No one wants to be a stranger. Without growth through new GWRRA members, Chapter existence is ominous.

If we have any certified bike judges that will be attending Wing Ding, your assistance in judging would be greatly appreciated.

Ride safe, be well, and Spring will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,

*Jere & Linda Goodman
Northeast Region
Directors*

BEEP! BEEP!



Rider Education

Hi everyone!

How many of you are going to the Fun Shop on March 25th in Binghamton? Let's see a show of hands. Hmmmm, a few but there's room for more. It's still not too late to register. Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg have been working very hard putting this Training Day together. There are sixteen seminars with a variety of subjects to choose four (4) from. As for the Rider Ed seminars, we have included:

Motorcycle Crash Scene Response (MCSR). This is a new seminar that was put together by Larry & Rhonda Stiles, who are Assistant International Directors Rider Education (AIDRE). The MCSR had its debut at Wing Ding last year in Fort Wayne. We are happy to say that Larry & Rhonda have agreed to come to our Fun Shop and present their seminar.

Mature Rider Seminar. This is also a comparatively new seminar. Since I recently had yet another birthday, I will be taking in this one. I saw Hamp & ShaRon give this at the last Wing Ding also. It's a very good and FUN seminar for Mature Riders of all ages, also a little surprising for us mature riders. Mike Mandell has agreed to present this one.

That takes care of the AM Rider Ed seminars, there are still 6 more seminars to choose from besides these two.

After the lunch break we will have our keynote speaker. This year Ed & Dottie hit another home run. Those who attended last years Fun Shop were treated to Bruce Malson as the keynote speaker. This year the keynote speaker will be the Senior International Director Rider Education, Bob Lorenz. You will want to hear what he has to say.

In the afternoon, the Rider Ed selection will be a Roundtable discussion with Bob Lorenz. Us Rider Ed types will want that one, but remember, if you don't, there are 3 other seminars to pick from at that time.

The last 4 seminars include Reducing Your Risk. This is a very informative discussion put together and presented by Howard & Jean Fingerhut, NJ's District Educators. A lot of people took in this seminar last year and I'll bet even more will this year.

Even though that's all for the seminars there is still more going on. All this is on Saturday, March 25th.

On Sunday March 26th my good friends Allen & Linda Dickens will be on hand to give a CPR/FA class. This class will fill up quickly so it's first come first served. This class will fulfill the requirements for Level III and Level IV (along with the riding course requirements).

Also on Sunday Wayne & Cathy Ketenheim will present an instructors class in CPR/FA. So if you'd like to be a CPR/FA instructor for GWRRA now is your chance. This class is filling up fast also.

If this article sounds like an infomercial for the Fun Shop, well it is.

*Northeast Region Educator
Dick Norton*



MAD-Motorist Awareness Division

Wow! Does Maryland know how to party or what? Thank you Maryland District Staff for hosting a wonderful Winter Thing. We had a great time and are now trying to recruit more of our northern GW pals to come along next year.

Even though January has had wonderful warm weather (hey 50 degrees is warm in PA!), it still seems like we're suffering from PMS. Spring will be here soon, though.

We recently asked our insurance agent if he would mind if we put the Motorist Awareness Division flyers in his lobby. Even if your chapter/district doesn't have a coordinator this is something that anyone can do to help make those who do not ride more aware of those of us who do. One of the things we have done is to print address labels and stick them on the back of the flyers so if someone has a question they have a local person to contact.

In case you haven't been reminded yet, the second annual North East Fun Shop will be held March 25 in Binghamton, NY.

There will be a lot of seminars and opportunities to learn more about GW that day. We will be presenting a seminar on the MAD program in case anyone would like to learn more about it. If you haven't already, make plans to attend. We had a great time last year and plan to this year also.

*Keith & Kathleen Eddy
Northeast Motorist Awareness Division Coordinators*



Public Relations

WINTERTIME RECRUITING

In the wintertime here in the northern part of the country the motorcycling sort of comes to a halt as far as riding is concerned. The motorcycles are serviced and stored for the winter. But that doesn't mean that GWRRA is put on the shelf. Our social affairs know no season. We continue to spend time with our friends even as the snow flies. That's one of the beauties of the GWRRA association, we don't call time-out. We GWRRA members are very fortunate to have each other with whom to spend the cold winter months. What about all those bikers out there, Gold wing as well as other bike riders, even some folks that don't ride bikes at all? What do they do, spend the winter alone with the television and acquire severe cases of cabin fever? Well here's an opportunity for you to be neighborly and recruit at the same time. Why not use these cold winter months to share our gatherings and social events with these people. I am sure that all of you know of someone that rides a bike (of any kind) but does not hold a membership with GWRRA. Or people that are fun loving and would perhaps be interested in sharing our social time. Yes I think winter is the perfect time to invite them in and allow them to see what GWRRA has to offer. We believe that after spending some time with our people they will recognize what a wonderful experience they can have in GWRRA. If we invite people in this way and they will surely find how much GWRRA has to offer them as members and that GWRRA can and will provide full year round fun and entertainment through its chapter participation. We believe that after witnessing what we enjoy they too will want to become members and partake in the enjoyment that we have come to enjoy. As in GWRRA where fun and friendship as well as safety, & education never stops. Neither does recruiting and retention. So be neighborly and rescue these people from the winter doldrums. Invite them to your chapter gatherings as well as your social affairs. Remember spending the long winter months with our friends, is a lot better than spending the time alone. Invite a friend to a GWRRA event. Please ride safe and check out all the "knowledge" on the MED web site.

<http://www.gwrro.org/regional/med>

*Mort & Ruth Smith
International PR Newsletter Editors; N.E., Northeast Region, PA. District PR Coordinators*



Leadership Training

Make a Difference!

Sign Up Soon for the Region B FunShop

Planning and preparation for the Fun Shop NE 2006 has been underway for nearly a year.

The theme for the FunShop this year is ***Make a Difference!*** The FunShop offers members an opportunity to learn more about GWRRA and how it works, a chance to polish up personal and leadership skills, and time to learn more about riding that beautiful motorcycle safely. We hope that the seminars and training offered at the FunShop will Make a Difference!

The schedule is in place providing a variety of seminars and presentations from Rider Education, Leadership Training, Motorist Awareness Division, Public Relations and the Couple of the Year Program. Presenters are coming from all over the Northeast Region; Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Friday evening from 6:00 – 9:00 PM there will be a hospitality room available in an upstairs suite. Come say hello and join us in celebrating the beginning of spring!

The program on Saturday will kick-off at 8:30 with registration and coffee. After a brief introductory program, the seminars will be offered in four seminar blocks. You will have a choice of attending one of four seminars offered during each of the seminar blocks.

Some key seminars being offered by the Leadership Training Division are:

- How to Judge a Bike Show (remember Region B will be coordinating the Bike Show at Wing Ding in Nashville) **
- The Colors of your Leadership Team **
- Delegation
- Financial Reporting
- Chapter Structure and Organization
- How to Organize an Event **
- Public Speaking

Some key seminars being offered by Rider Education are:

- Motorcycling for the Mature Rider
- Motorcycle Crash Scene Response **
- Reducing Your Risk
- Round Table with Bob Lorenz

(** indicate new seminars)

The keynote speaker will be Bob Lorenz, Senior National Director, Rider Education. Bob is a great speaker and will be the highlight of the day.

The FunShop has turned into a full two-day program. This year there are several different training events on Sunday.

- Training for Leadership Training Instructors and Rider Education Seminar Presenters will also be offered.
- FA/CPR certification and recertification are being offered by Allen Dickens, former NY District Educator. There is a cost of \$10 for this training.
- FA/CPR Instructor training will be offered by Wayne Ketenheim, Region B FA/CPR Coordinator. There is a cost of \$45.25 for this training. Several Districts are picking up the cost of this training.

If you are interested in any of the above, please register quickly as spaces available are filling up.

Dick Norton, Region B Rider Educator, has worked closely with us to hopefully develop a program that offers something for all. Come join us at the FunShop. Help us *Make a Difference!*

*Dottie & Ed Bahrenburg,
Northeast Region Trainers*



Membership

Retention

One of the most convenient tools we have is the monthly membership listings we get from GWRRA HQ. With our New Jersey District Membership Coordinator hats on, we first take all the new members listed and send them a welcoming letter. Attached to the letter is a listing of all the NJ chapters, their CD's and ACD's, and their monthly meeting time and location. As GWRRA members, they are free to, and encouraged to participate in one or all of the chapters. We then look at the "Hot List" of all the members whose membership will expire shortly. A letter is sent to them advising of their impending expiration date and encouragement to renew. Those, whose expiration dates have past, get another letter. Also, the assigned chapter is encouraged to reach out to these members as well for yet another contact. These letters we send at the district level are in conjunction with the notices the members receive from the main office in Phoenix. If a membership expires, it is certainly not because they were not aware of the situation. We have had many members tell us that they appreciated our contact and that the receipt of our letter prompted them to immediately renew their membership.

As we have stated before, our best resource for recruitment is our existing members. How many people have you told about your positive experiences with GWRRA? Share the Wealth, GET ONE MORE!

*Roy & Chris Bill
Northeast Region Membership Coordinators*



Webmaster

Great Computer Resource Langa List

Fred Langa: Many people ask me where they can learn more about computers. One of the resources that I have used for years is LangaList, published by Fred Langa, who is a Gold Winger from New Hampshire and an Iron Butt Rider. One of the reasons that I recommend LangaList is that he speaks in plain English, with little unexplained technical jargon.

Another reason is that he knows what he is talking about. Part of Fred's bio on line is "A freelance since 1997, Fred was previously VP/Editorial Director of WINDOWS Magazine and CMP's PC Group. Fred was hired by CMP in 1991 to relaunch WINDOWS Magazine as CMP's first large-circulation, newsstand, paid subscription magazine:

Eventually, as VP/Editorial Director, he oversaw the editorial operations of WINDOWS Magazine, Home PC Magazine, and NetGuide Magazine.

Prior to joining CMP, Fred was Editor-in-Chief of Byte Magazine for four years. He's also held a wide variety of other editorial positions in the computer publishing industry, with over 25 year's total experience." So you can see, he is no new comer to 'puters.

So what does it cost? The Standard Edition is published every two weeks, and is free. I feel very confident that Fred does not give his list to spammers nor does he send any advertisements on his own. He does have sponsors in his Standard Issues. I think it is worthwhile upgrading to the Plus Edition, which is a whopping \$13.50 per year for about 72 issues per year. The Plus Edition is available in a variety of formats and has extra content than the Standard Edition, so it's one of the best deals in reliable computer information.

If you'd like a reliable plain-speaking computer resource, stop by www.langa.com, and subscribe. Now we just have to get Fred out to some GWRRA events so he can have some fun.

*Northeast Region Webmaster
Tom & Lisa Evans*



NE Region & District Web Pages

- Northeast Region B at <http://www.gwrri-northeastregion.org>
- Connecticut at <http://www.gwrri-ct.org>
- Maine at <http://www.geocities.com/gwrriaine/index.html>
- Maryland at <http://www.gwrri-md-district.org>
- Massachusetts at <http://www.gwrriama.org>
- Delaware at www.gwrriade.homestead.com/index.html
- New Jersey at <http://www.gwrri-nj.org>
- Pennsylvania at <http://www.gwrri-padist.org>
- New York at <http://www.tier.net/~gwrri/district/nydistrict/htm>
- Rhode Island at <http://www.gwrri-ri.org>
- Vermont at <http://users.adelphia.net/~trikeinvt/index.html>

If yours isn't listed, drop a line to JereGood@aol.com and I will ensure it gets recognition!

Northeast Region and Neighboring Region/District Events

Remember the District Events in our Region count towards the Visit-A-District program for visitation bars.

2006 Events:

Jan. 12-14, Wintherthing 2006, Ocean City, MD
Mar. 25, Northeast Region "Fun Shop NE",
Binghamton, NY (LTD, Rider Ed, MAD)
May 18-21, DE District Rally, Harrington, DE
May 25-27, Nevada District Rally in Elko,
Nevada

July 3-6, Wing Ding, Nashville, TN
July 20-22, New England Districts Rally (ME,
VT, NH, MA, RI, CT), Vernon, CT
Aug. 24-27, PA District Rally, Lancaster, PA
Sept. 7-9, NJ District Rally, Mt. Olive, NJ

LET US KNOW WHERE YOUR EVENT FITS IN FOR 2006