



June 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

From The Region Director

Linda & I had a great time at the Region N Rally in Maggie Valley, NC. For those who have visited the Great Smokey Mountain Region, you already know about the beauty of the area. Our sincere thanks go out to Mike & Angie Mitchell (Region N Directors), their Staff, and the great States of Region N (Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, & West Virginia) for their hospitality and showing us a terrific time. Put this rally on your calendar for next year and ride the Blue Ridge!

Nashville is just a little over a month away, so it is not too late to make your plans. Head south and get ready for a little country music and a grand old time.

Linda & I will attend the final New England Rally Meeting on May 28th as we gear up for Vernon, CT. The six States of New England are ready to welcome you, so get ready to join us July 20-22 in the Constitution State.

Our newly appointed Region Assistant, Lorraine Knight, is recovering from foot surgery. I haven't told her yet, that "sick pay" begins after serving 3 months in the position. Let's keep that to ourselves for now! In the meantime, we wish her a speedy recovery and I am sure that Earl will enjoy his newly found freedom!

Linda & I were unable to attend the Delaware District Rally, but understand that a grand time was had by all. Congratulations to Jim & Lilli Davison and their team and all who helped to make for another successful Delaware Rally.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, New York has announced that the New York District Rally scheduled for August 10-12, 2006, in Plattsburg, NY, has been cancelled. The decision to cancel the rally was based on issues with the host hotel. The cancellation was not an easy decision, but they are looking forward to a great rally in 2007 (date and location still to be determined).

Happy Memorial Day weekend to all and we hope everyone enjoyed the spectacular weather. Ride safe and be well!

Sincerely,

*Jere & Linda Goodman
Northeast Region
Directors*

BEEP! BEEP!



From The Region Assistants

There we were one quiet Sunday evening, minding our own business, watching Tony Soprano and company. Suddenly the phone rang and, as innocent as can be, Mr. Jere Goodman is on the end of the line and wishes us a good evening. Mmmm. Then, without further ado, he gets down to the business at hand. Namely, would we accept the appointment as Northeast Region Assistants? And, in his true "Oh, by the way" Jere" style, he adds the fact that he has already contacted Don Brock and submitted his request for appointment and the paperwork is on it's way to Phoenix.

So, based on a previous announcement, you can surmise that, "the deed is done!" Pending the paper work, approval from National, the probationary period and not too many negative emails to Jere or Don, you can consider us your New Northeast Region Assistants, as well as Rhode Island District Directors.

What does that mean to the Rhode Island District ? Basically, not much will change, and it should be business as usual. We, on the other hand, may find it a bit hard to get to sleep at night. We may run out of calendar before we run out of events. We may have to resort to plan B, trying to be at 2 places at one time.

But, seriously, the long and the short of it looks somewhat like this.

Per Jere's directive, we will remain as Rhode Island District Directors and take on the responsibility of Northeast Region Assistants. We will be directly involved in supporting the six New England States and will also be involved in operational and administrative issues throughout the Region.

Why a Northeast Region Assistant? In Jere's own words, "This will allow the Region Staff to provide greater support throughout all 11 districts without all the responsibility on the shoulders of one person. The title of Northeast Region Assistant will demonstrate to the membership the commitment for Regional support, especially in New England".

Our rookie year theme for 2006 will be "*Getting to know you...*" While we know many people from the New England Districts from having worked on all five of the All New England Districts Rallies, our goal is to get to know more of our GWRRA family throughout the entire region. That is our goal throughout this riding season. We will be attending Wing Ding in Nashville. And we plan to try to attend as many other district rallies as our time, health and energy will allow.

So, help us reach our goal!!!

Please, if you see us before we see you, come over to us, introduce yourselves and give us the pleasure of *getting to know YOU*.

Meanwhile, merely consider us another stepping stone between yourselves, Region and National. We are here to be another source of support and another sounding board whenever you need assistance.

Looking forward to "*Getting to know you!*"

*Lorraine & Earl Knight
Northeast Region Assistants
RI District Directors*



Rider Education

Hi there! Finally, good riding weather. Mid 70's today near 90 on Memorial Day.

Americade is just two weeks away, and I'm sure quite a few of you will be attending. For those of you who have never been to the rally in Lake George NY before, please be extra careful. Lake George is a small town, about 2,000 in the winter, with some of the most beautiful scenery in upstate NY. The rally draws almost 50,000 people and over 30,000 motorcycles. It gets crowded. We all know that our sport has its risks, but with that many beautiful bikes in a small town, it gets riskier. So if you do attend, please take that into consideration and ride safely, because somebody else might not.

If you go, and take one of the tours, look me up and say HI. I'll be working the Whiteface Mountain tour each day.

It's great to see that Hamp and ShaRon are back doing their seminar MOTORCYCLING FOR THE MATURE RIDER. If you haven't seen their presentation you should check the schedule below and pick a location.

DATE	EVENT	ATTENDANCE
14JAN06	MD WINTERTHING 2006	26
30-31MAR06	ALABAMA DISTRICT RALLY	28
06-08APR06	LA DISTRICT RALLY 2006	34
18-21MAY06	DELAWARE DISTRICT RALLY 2006	20
3-6JUL06	GWRRA WING DING NASHVILLE 2006	
20-22JUL06	NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT RALLY 2006 CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	
24-27AUG06	PA DISTRICT RALLY 2006	
07-09 SEP06	NJ DISTRICT RALLY 2006	
07OCT06	VA DISTRICT RALLY 2005	
12OCT06	MS DISTRICT RALLY 2006	

Maybe it's me but it seems that there are more motorcycle accidents so far this season than normal. Just a couple of days ago about 35 miles south of me a young rider was killed when he pulled onto a busy highway from an entrance ramp, pulled a wheelie, lost control, and crashed.

Please people, use common sense and practice what GWRRA and the MSF have taught you.
DRIVE CAREFULLY.

*Northeast Region Educator
Dick Norton*



MAD-Motorist Awareness Division

May has been a busy month for us and the MAD program. Keith and I had a presentation at the local PennDot Summer Safety Day where we got to talk to riders and non-riders. It was a win-win situation as we were able to promote GW to the community, but also stress the importance of "Look Twice, Save a Life." It's a great opportunity to get out in the community. Check with your local road maintenance department to see if they offer something similar. We do know all the barracks in PA do one.

We're in the process of having Motorcycle Awareness signs created. We're still figuring out some of the logistics such as shipping, cost, etc. If you'd be interested in getting one, contact us please so we have an idea of how many we should order.

If anyone is looking for new suggestions of places to put the MAD flyers, one that was mentioned to us this week was a church bulletin. If your church or if you know of someone's church that would allow it, it's a great way to easily pass out the flyers.

Hope everyone is enjoying the riding season.

*Keith & Kathleen Eddy
Northeast Motorist Awareness Division Coordinators*



Public Relations

MALL SHOWS; THE "UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL" FORM OF COMMUNICATION-Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions

What Is a Mall Show?

A Mall Show is an opportunity to show our motorcycles and our GWKRA life-style to the public. This is a chance for us to visit with a wide range of people, creating a positive public relations image and is a fantastic way to recruit new members. The bikes are a means of attracting attention, which slows the people down during their busy outing at the mall. Then it is up to us to talk to those folks. This interaction gives the public a chance to meet us and find out we are regular (well, sort of regular) people. They may even view motorcycles just a little differently the next time they see one of us on the road. A Mall Show usually is a weekend event. You bring the motorcycles in on a Friday evening and set up your displays (after the mall closes). During the hours the mall is open during the weekend, the bikes are on exhibit. Hopefully the GWRRRA Members and owners are wearing their colors and are standing with the machines. At the end of the weekend, the displays are taken down and the motorcycles are removed (after the mall closes).

What About Another Name for Mall Shows?

Sometimes it seems that we should come up with a different name for our Mall Shows. Some people think they need to have a "show bike" to be involved in a mall show. But, the most important ingredients at this event are the people. The bikes are just there to attract attention. We really want them to meet us (the Members of GWRRRA).

What Sort of Things Can You Do for Your Display?

A map of the United States showing all the places you have been on your bike can be a good way to start up a conversation with someone. They may see that you have been to the "Black Hills" or the "Grand Canyon" and may want to relate their experiences.

You might have a list of some of the options on your bike: electronic cruise control, stereo system, voice-actuated intercom, adjustable suspension with on-board compressor, fresh-air and warm-air vents, etc. Do we want to do this to brag? No, most people would be amazed at the conveniences we have, and that can be a good way to start a conversation.

What Should You Wear?

If at all possible, wear your GWRRRA colors and logo. This will identify you as part of the Association that is putting on the Mall Show. It looks sharp and professional. It provides another chance to show the GWRRRA logo.

This information was taken from Public Relations Guide Book at web site-
<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/med/PR.html> click Public Relations Guide at bottom of page.

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



Region Couple of the Year Coordinators

“You are invited”

To the Northeast Regional Couple of the Year Selection Process.

We have 3 great District Couples vying for the honored position of Region B Couple of the Year 2006-2007:

- **Maryland ~ Stan & Shelley Greene
- **New Jersey ~ Dan & Mary Costello
- **Pennsylvania ~ Steve & Carol Daly

The Selection Process is important to the Couples. Having the support of their Chapter and District, along with family and friends will mean a lot. So please be there for them!!!

Come out and show your support on Saturday, July 22nd at the New England Rally in Vernon Connecticut. The time slot for this great event is 11:00am.

See you there!!!!

*Mike & Julie Walters
Region B Couple of the Year Coordinators*



Region Couple of the Year 2005-2006

Medical Situation is Fixed ~ It's Fun to Ride Again!

This is not a motorcycle article as most people would expect. It is written by Rosy and edited by Sandie RN.

As some of you have heard, I had prostate surgery on April 5, 2006. This was a rather difficult choice as any surgery must be. However, as difficult as it was, I had the surgery and all went well. My doctor used the newest means available to him, green light laser prostate surgery (webMD has an article on it.) I did not keep my surgery a secret from anyone.

The decision to have the surgery was done jointly by Sandie and me in consultation with my doctor. I had been taking prostate medicine for 7 years and for 6 ½ years, they worked well. About 6 months before the surgery, it became obvious that my body was no longer tolerating the medication. Using the bathroom

became an ordeal and using a public bathroom embarrassing. There were many times that I just could not urinate or when I did, it took a long time to start. Men, even “wingers” have some sense of vanity and having these problems can make them feel less than the man they once were. As a result, we just don’t talk about our personal problems or seek help, hoping that it will just “go away.” Unfortunately, these problems don’t go away, but they do get worse.

Soon after my return to work and attending some of our GWRRA events, word of my surgery spread around. Much to my surprise, I was approached by several of our friends and fellow members about how I made the decision to have the surgery. It seems that many of our friends have some of the same symptoms and problems that I had prior to the surgery (we all must be around the same age.) Most had hidden their problems or refused to seek treatment out of fear or embarrassment. With my talking about my problems, others felt it was ok to ask about what I had gone through.

Remember that all of us ride a motorcycle, sometimes for hours and hours at a time. Also remember where your prostate is located in your body (ok, for those who don’t know, it is where you sit on the bike.) When your prostate causes you problems, riding, especially long distance riding can become miserable. The discomfort grows with every mile. Soon you may find yourself looking forward to stopping more often and for longer periods of time. Is this why we ride? If riding is miserable, why are we doing it? If we don’t take care of ourselves, who will?

With that being said, I will give you a brief overview of what I went through, with Sandie helping me along the way. I went to my Doctor and was referred to an Urologist. Meeting with him, I described what had changed over the last several months and why I felt the medicine was no longer effective. Remember that for 6 ½ years, the medicine had prevented me from having this discussion in the first place. After an exam and testing over a period of time, my doctor suggested the surgery as a viable alternative. This is really something that you and your doctor must discuss very carefully. He took the time to explain the surgery, the process, the complications that may or may not occur, recovery and what the after surgery restrictions on our life (“our” includes Sandie and me.) The two major restrictions were no lifting of any over the weight of a phone book for a short period of time and no motorcycling for 3 or 4 weeks. As the surgery was not until April, the beginning of ridding season, I was very apprehensive about not being able to ride. But not being able to use the bathroom was more of a problem than not ridding for a few weeks.

So surgery it was. In the hospital at 12 noon and home by 9. I felt no pain as I was still full of “joy juice” as I call it. I did have an in-dwelling catheter upon arrival home to help with any bleeding that may be left over. The laser does help cauterize the area opened up by the doctor. I felt great the next day and wanted the catheter out. **Wrong move**, should have listened to my doctor and waited for an additional few days. But my vanity and stubbornness stepped in. The catheter was removed and I thought that I was back to normal. Again, wrong move, my prostate had swollen after the surgery as described by my doctor as a possibility. I could not urinate at all and the pain grew and grew (again, if I just listen to the doctor, I would not have the problem) until I could not walk. The doctor was contacted and I went to his office to have the catheter replaced. So instead of just a few days with a catheter, I was with one with another week.

At the end of the week, I went back to the doctor and had the catheter removed by the doctor. WOW, I could use the bathroom again without waiting for it to start. The flow was not perfect, but it was much better than before the surgery. The healing process had started.

The next day, I went back to work. Exactly 1 week from the day of my surgery. While there were restrictions, lifting and walking, I was back to work. Each day was better and better. Three weeks after the surgery, I was back at the doctor’s for a post surgery check up. I was cleared to ride short distances.

Now it is 5 weeks post surgery. I ride without discomfort, feel great and grateful for my new ability. My doctor told me that I would be “peeing like I was 20” and I think he is right.

One last thought, if you are miserable, just think how miserable your wife, partner, children and friends are knowing that "something" is wrong, but you don't talk about it. If you have problems, seek help from a doctor. Not everyone goes through surgery.

Riding is fun again.

*Jim (Rosy) & Sandie Rosenthal
Region 2005-2006 Couple of the Year*



Leadership Training

Have You Asked "*The Question*" Lately?

As a leader within GWRRA, you know that communication is extremely important. After all, poor communication is behind most problems in any volunteer organization. But, did you ever realize how important it is to ask questions? It is especially important to ask "the question."

What is "the question"? According to Peter Drucker; a renowned business leader, writer, and recipient of the Presidential Freedom Award; the question every leader should be willing to ask first and often is: "*What needs to be done?*"

As a leader within your Chapter or District, asking "What needs to be done" is asking for input from your Chapter participants. GWRRA members are at the heart of the organization. It is the members who should be determining the path of the leader. By asking what needs to be done, we are checking to see what direction the members would like us to take.

Leaders may be very good at establishing rapport with their Chapter participants. Good rapport may be motivating to members, but if you don't ask the important questions, it will be difficult to maintain a responsive leadership.

Ask the question; "*What needs to be done?*" Listen to the responses of your members. Learn as much as you can. Incorporate the ideas that are mentioned most frequently and which make the most sense. Follow-up to make sure that what you do is really what they would like to see done. If not, ask "the question" again.

Asking the question makes common sense. When people ask us for our input, listen to us, try to learn from us and follow-up to see if things are getting better, our relationship with them will improve.

Seeking feedback and practicing active listening will make you a stronger leader.

Human Relations

The six most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words: "You did a good job."

The four most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The three most important words: "If you please."

The two most important words: "Thank you,"

The one most important word: "We"

The least most important word: "I"

- Author unknown -

*Dottie & Ed Bahrenburg,
Northeast Region Trainers*



Membership

Spring is here and riders are flocking into their local Honda dealerships to purchase their new Gold Wings. Now is the time to make sure that every new owner is aware of the benefits of GWRRA membership. Post a notice in your local dealership bulletin board inviting all to your monthly meeting and chapter events. Put up the WANTED poster in all your local establishments (If you don't have a WANTED poster, let us know and we will email it to you). Attend dealers' Open House days and set up a GWRRA information table. You will be seeing many more Wings in store and municipal parking lots now. Keep a supply of antenna tags with you and use them.

The new wingers we have introduced to our GWRRA family this spring have been thrilled to join us and thank us profusely. They discovered us through our WANTED posters, by visiting our website, and by the packets we put into every new Gold Wing on the dealers' floor. It is such a pleasure to answer our phone or email and tell somebody that our main goal is FUN! They can't wait for the next get-together.

You know how irresistible spring fever is. You NEED to be on you bike at every opportunity. The temperature is perfect, the roads are cleaned by the spring rain, and there are no bugs splatting on you windshield. It's not spring fever, its spring adrenalin. This is the best time of the year to maximize your recruitment efforts. Also, give a call to you buddies you haven't seen since last fall. Help them dust off their Wings and get back on the road. After all, spring is when the ice cream stands open up for the season!!!

*Roy & Chris Bill
Northeast Region Membership Coordinators*



NE Region & District Web Pages

Northeast Region B at <http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org>
Connecticut at <http://www.gwrra-ct.org>
Maine at <http://www.geocities.com/gwrramaine/index.html>
Maryland at <http://www.gwrra-md-district.org>
Massachusetts at <http://www.gwrrama.org>
Delaware at www.gwrrade.homestead.com/index.html
New Jersey at <http://www.gwrranj.org>
Pennsylvania at <http://www.gwrrapadist.org>
New York at <http://www.tier.net/~gwrra/district/nydistrict/htm>
Rhode Island at <http://www.gwrra-ri.org>
Vermont at <http://users.adelphia.net/~trikeinvt/index.html>

Events listed from Motorcycle Sounds

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

JULY - 2006

July 3-6, Wing Ding 28, Nashville, TN

(More pre- and post-events, July 1-2 and July 7-8, to come - CHECK BACK SOON FOR MORE UPDATES!)

Wing Ding 28 Checklist of optional tours:

- Steppin' Out at the Wildhorse Saloon (lunch included), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8
- The Grand Ole Opry (seating limited), July 1 & 4
- A Country Evening at Smiley's Hollow (a night of dinner, dancing and entertainment under the stars), July 3
- Music Country (tour past the hottest stars' homes - like Alan Jackson), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8
- Grand Ole Nashville, (tour past legendary stars' homes - like Ronnie Milsap - and see other legendary points of interest in Nashville), July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8
- Country Music Hall of Fame and Ryman Auditorium (see Elvis's gold Cadillac!), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8

REGIONAL EVENTS:

MAY - 2006

- May 11-13, Region N Rally, "Appalachian Adventure", Maggie Valley, NC
- May 25-27, Region F/Nevada District Rally, "Not Your Typical Rally," Elko, NV

AUGUST - 2006

- Aug. 4-6, Region L Rally, Prince Edward Island
- Aug. 4-7, Region K Rally, Limoges, Ontario
- Aug. 5-7, Region J Rally, Ainsworth, British Columbia
- Aug. 17-19, Region I Rally, Powell, WY
- Aug. 31-Sep. 2, Region E Rally, "Motorcycle Memories," Des Moines, IA

DISTRICT EVENTS:

MAY - 2006

- May 4-6, SC District, South Carolina District Rally, Spartanburg, SC
- May 4-6, MO District, Missouri District Rally, Branson, MO

- May 11-13, TX District, Texas District Rally, "Fifth Annual Wingfest - Hill Country Reunion 'Denim & Diamonds' ", Kerrville, TX
- May 12-13, IN District, Indiana District Rally, "Spring Wing Warm Up", Bloomington, IN
- May 18-20, AR District, Arkansas District Rally - "Animal House (Adventure at the Velda Rose Resort Hotel & Spa)", Hot Springs, AR
- May 18-21, DE District, Delaware District Rally, "The First Riding Rally from 'The First State' ", Harrington, DE
- May 20, NY District, Ride-In, Rochester, NY
- May 25-27, NV District, Nevada District Rally, Elko, NV

JUNE - 2006

- June 3, ID District, Idaho District Picnic, Challis Hot Springs, ID

June 8-11, OR District, Oregon District Rally, "Wings Along the Umpqua", Roseburg, OR
June 9-11, UT District, Utah District Rally, Cedar City, UT
June 15-17, GA District, Georgia District Rally, Rome, GA
June 16-17, WI District, Wisconsin District Rally, Cable, WI
June 16-17, OK District, Oklahoma District Rally, Stillwater, OK
June 15-18, OH District, Ohio District Rally, Ashland, OH
June 22-24, NE District, Nebraska District Rally, Grand Island, NE
June 29-30 & July 1, WY District, Wyoming District Rally, Buffalo, WY

JULY -2006

July 14-15, MT District, Montana District Rally, Great Falls, MT
July 14-15, MN District, Minnesota District Rally, Alexandria, MN
July 20-22, New England Districts, All New England Districts Rally V, Vernon, CT
July 20-22, WA District, Washington District Rally, Longview, WA
July 27-29, IA District, Iowa District Rally, Amana, IA

AUGUST - 2006

Aug. 3-5, MI District, Michigan District Rally, Midland, MI
Aug. TBA, NY District, New York District Rally, TBA
Aug. 24-25, PA District, Pennsylvania District Rally, Lancaster, PA

SEPTEMBER - 2006

Sep. 1-3, ID District, Idaho District Rally, (Labor Day Weekend), Pocatello, ID
Sep. 1-4, CA District, California District Rally, Santa Clara, CA
Sep. 7-9, CO District, Colorado District Rally, Cortez, CO
Sep. 7-10, NJ District, New Jersey District Rally, Mt.Olive, NJ
Sep. 21-23, NC District, North Carolina District Rally, "Wings over the Smokies", Fletcher, NC
Sep. 23-25, KS District, Kansas District Rally, TBA
Sep. 29-October 1, NM District, New Mexico District Rally, Alamogordo, NM

OCTOBER - 2006

Oct. 5-8, VA District, Virginia District Rally, "Rally in the Valley", Salem V