



**December 2006 Gold Wing Road Riders Association**

<p>Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge- <a href="http://www.gwrro-northeastregion.org">http://www.gwrro-northeastregion.org</a></p>		
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M A K E - A - D I F F E R E N C E

**From The Region Director**

The holiday season is in full swing and no doubt, everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving! There will be many Chapter holiday get-togethers, so be safe and enjoy the festivities.

It is also time to start planning and making some reservations for all of the wonderful District Rallies that are planned for 2007.

Next up is Maryland's Winterthing in Ocean City, Maryland from January 12-14. Many of us go out Friday Night for the traditional "all you can eat seafood buffet". The Saturday Night Banquet is always a blast and the Western Theme will feature Sheriff Gallagher and his Deputies trying to maintain law & order. Ocean City is also having an excellent Craft Show, so if you have time on your way home Sunday, it is worth stopping for a few hours.

Don't forget the first week of July as we wish America Happy Birthday by heading out West for Wing Ding in Billings, Montana. The scenery is spectacular and Wing Ding 2007 will explode with excitement. Do not put off your plans to attend what will be an outstanding rally this July; why read about it when you can live it! Many of your GWRRA family will be there, so do not miss out on this Wing Ding. The Northeast Region will once again be supporting both the Grand & Light Parades, so please let me know if you will be able to help/

You will find a great deal of valuable information provided by the Region Staff within the Region Newsletter. Please take the time to read their articles each and every month. The more you know, the better prepared you are to have fun!

Thinking back, you may remember that the "whole" is equal to the sum of its parts. There are many parts that make up GWRRA and each is important and contributes to the "whole". Rider Education, Leadership Training, Membership Enhancement, Couple of the Year, Motorist Awareness, Public Relations, CPR/FA, Operations, Regions, Districts, Chapters, and our family of members. Your involvement with the parts, contributes significantly to the greatness of the "whole". Stay involved, because our success as an organization is in the hands of all of us.

Following my article, is a wonderful story submitted by Jim Hodge on the great Alabama Football Coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. You do not have to be a college football fan or have heard of the "Bear", to enjoy the lessons from this story.

Linda and I would like to wish you and your family a Joyous Holiday and a Healthy and Happy New Year! 2007 will be a banner year for GWRRA, so ride safe, be well, and have lots of fun!

Ride safe and be well!!!

Sincerely,

*Jere & Linda Goodman  
Northeast Region  
Directors  
**BEEP! BEEP!***



## **From Jim Hodge-International Director of Operations**

**Subject:** Bear Bryant Story

"Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant - Be Nice to People"

At a TD Club meeting many years before his death, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant told the following story, which was typical of the way he operated.

"I had just been named the new head coach at Alabama and was off in my old car down in South Alabama recruiting a prospect who was supposed to have been a pretty good player and I was 'havin' trouble finding the place. Getting hungry I spied an old cinder block building with a small sign out front that simply said "Restaurant."

I pull up, go in and every head in the place turns to stare at me. Seems I'm the only white 'fella' in the place. But the food smelled good so I skip a table and go up to a cement bar and sit. A big ole man in a tee shirt and cap comes over and says, "What do you need?" I told him I needed lunch and what did they have today? He says, "You probably won't like it here, today we're having chitlins, collared greens and black eyed peas with cornbread. I'll bet you don't even know what chitlins are, do you?"

I looked him square in the eye and said, "I'm from Arkansas, I've probably eaten a mile of them. Sounds like I'm in the right place." They all smiled as he left to serve me up a big plate. When he comes back he says, "You ain't from around here then?" And I explain I'm the new football coach up in Tuscaloosa at the University and I'm here to find whatever that boy's name was and he says, yeah I've heard of him, he's supposed to be pretty good. And he gives me directions to the school so I can meet him and his coach.

As I'm paying up to leave, I remember my manners and leave a tip, not too big to be flashy, but a good one and he told me lunch was on him, but I told him for a lunch that good, I felt I should pay. The big man asked me if I had a photograph or something he could hang up to show I'd been there. I was so new that I didn't have any yet. It really wasn't that big a thing back then to be asked for, but I took a napkin and wrote his name and address on it and told him I'd get him one. I met the kid I was 'lookin' for later that afternoon and I don't remember his name, but do remember I didn't think much of him when I met him. I had wasted a day, or so I thought.

When I got back to Tuscaloosa late that night, I took that napkin from my shirt pocket and put it under my keys so I wouldn't forget it. Heck, back then I was excited that anybody would want a picture of me. And the next day we found a picture and I wrote on it, Thanks for the best lunch I've ever had, Paul Bear Bryant.

Now let's go a whole 'buncha' years down the road. Now we have black players at Alabama and I'm back down in that part of the country scouting an offensive lineman we sure needed. Y'all remember, (and I forget the name, but it's not important to the story), well anyway, he's got two friends going to Auburn and he tells me he's got his heart set on Auburn too, so I leave empty handed and go on see some others while I'm down there.

Two days later, I'm in my office in Tuscaloosa and the phone rings and it's this kid who just turned me down, and he says, "Coach, do you still want me at Alabama?" And I said, "Yes I sure do." And he says, o.k.. he'll come. And I say, "Well son, what changed your mind?" And he said, "When my grandpa found out that I had a chance to play for you and said no, he pitched a fit and told me I wasn't going nowhere but Alabama, and wasn't playing for nobody but you. He thinks a lot of you and has ever since y'all met."

Well, I didn't know his granddad from Adam's housecat so I asked him who his granddaddy was and he said, "You probly don't remember him, but you ate in his restaurant your first year at Alabama and you sent him a picture that he's had hung in that place ever since. That picture's his pride and joy and he still tells everybody about the day that Bear Bryant came in and had chitlins with him. My grandpa said that when you left there, he never expected you to remember him or to send him that picture, but you kept your word to him and to Grandpa, that's everything.

He said you could teach me more than football and I had to play for a man like you, so I guess I'm going to." I was floored.

But I learned that the lessons my mama taught me were always right. It don't cost nuthin' to be nice. It don't cost 'nuthin' to do the right thing most of the time, and it costs a lot to lose your good name by breakin' your word to someone.

When I went back to sign that boy, I looked up his Grandpa and he's still running that place, but it looks a lot better now; and he didn't have chitlins that day, but he had some ribs that 'woulda' made Dreamland proud and I made sure I posed for a lot of pictures; and don't think I didn't leave some new ones for him, too, along with a signed football. I made it clear to all my assistants to keep this story and these lessons in mind when they're out on the road. And if you remember anything else from me, remember this - It really doesn't cost anything to be nice, and the rewards can be unimaginable."

Coach Bryant was in the presence of these few gentlemen for only minutes, and he defined himself for life, to these gentlemen, as a nice man. Regardless of our profession, we do define ourselves by how we treat others, and how we behave in the presence of others, and most of the time, we have only minutes or seconds to leave a lasting impression - we can be rude, crude, arrogant, cantankerous, or we can be nice. Nice is always a better choice.

I like what Stephen Grellet, French/American religious leader (1773-1855) said, "I expect to pass through the world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it, for I shall not pass this way again."

## **From The Region Assistants**

Well here we are closing in on the month of December and the finale of one action packed, fun filled year. This is traditionally "down time" for us, but we realize those two words used together, will no longer be part of our lives again for a long time. The bike may experience "down time". Our bodies may experience "down time", but our minds no longer seem to be experiencing "down time". We no sooner close out one experience, and then we ponder and project toward the next. But it's all in the name of FUN.

F.U.N. What is fun? If you were one of the 75 people who attended the New England Fun Shop last month, you will know the GWRRA definition and the 3 "elements" of fun. Suffice it to say, there was an added twist to the weekend that placed a major emphasis on the "FUN" side of the Fun Shop. Everyone left in great spirits, did some things they would not "normally" do, made some new friends, but primarily went home with much more knowledge about GWRRA, rider education, and themselves. The seminars and presentations, really stole the show. Dottie and Ed Bahrenburg did another outstanding job in selecting a well balanced mixture of seminar topics as well as a strong host of presenters which made the weekend a real success. We would like to thank everyone who went. Regardless of your role, be it a director, presenter, organizer, ticket seller, attendee, you all contributed to the major fun and success of the event. We were fortunate to have Jim & Brenda Pennington, the International Couple of the Year as two of our attendees for the Fun Shop. We showed them some real New England Hospitality, New Jersey style...with the help of Mike Mandell and F Troop.

We don't want to give away the details of the Fun segment of the weekend, as we look forward to sharing the experience with the other districts throughout the region during the upcoming 2007 season. But keep these points in mind. Knowledge is good, Safety is most important but, Fun is where it starts, followed with knowledge and safety. Because, after all.....Remember....the bottom line...It's all about riding your motorcycle...Safely while having FUN.

Speaking of FUN...We New Englander's were blessed with some outstanding and unbelievable "fallish" daytime and evening temperatures in the high 50's, low 60's, something almost unheard of this time of year. So, when Excalibur Powersports of Plainfield, CT, through the great salesmanship of Fred Rau, requested support for a motorcycle division, at the annual Putnum, CT. Winter Wonderland Light Parade, riders were just "itching" for an excuse to get out for just one more ride. GWRRA responded with 36 bikes and 58 riders & co-riders representing three New England Districts, CT., MA. & RI. We were excitedly welcomed by the 3,000+ spectators along the parade route. We thought we were just out for a FUN Ride, but the thrill of seeing the big eyes and bright smiles, and hearing the amazing oooo's & aaaaa's from the little tikes, wrapped in blankets and ski hats, was the best gift of all. We all headed home with a warm fuzzy feeling inside, knowing, we shared our fun and excitement with others, while representing our Association, supporting one of our loyal dealerships and spreading some Holiday cheer all by doing what we love to do....riding our motorcycles in the name of FUN.

Well, our Fun time with our "other" family and friends is at hand. During the next few weeks, our focus will be on traditional holiday festivities such as: baking pies, eating, baking cookies, eating, visiting friends and family, eating, celebrating the holidays, eating and reflecting on how lucky we are to have a wonderful family and friends. But, while doing all of that, GWRRA will be in the back of our minds and we will inadvertently be planning our strategy and goals for 2007.

We would like to express "Greetings of the Season" to our Northeast Region friends. As we wrap up another year, we'd like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season filled with lots of warm wishes and wonderful surprises. Thanks so much for your friendship and support during our first year as your new Region Assistant Directors. We look forward to spending the next year, meeting more of you and getting to know all of you, just a little bit better.

We hope to see many of you in Ocean City, Maryland, at Winter Thing. What a great way to start off 2007.

We wish you all Happy Holidays and much Joy, Peace and Prosperity in the coming New Year.

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



## **Leadership Training**

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a Happy New Year! What a G\_R\_E\_A\_T Year 2006 has been!

The Fall FunShop is now a fond memory. I am sure that everyone who attended Our Lady of the Wings (OLW) School has many memories of Sister Lickity Lick, Sister Merry Mint, Mother B and Sister PP. Sixteen seminars provided the 80 members attending a wide selection of training opportunities. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Fall FunShop NE a success! Each FunShop gets bigger and better!



*Dottie Bahrenburg,  
Northeast Region Trainer*



## Membership

### Reflection Toward Retention

Take a sentimental journey along the back roads of your mind. The end of another year is upon us and as the year ends, we all look back at the great times we had with our GWRRA family. That beautifully scenic ride to Nashville's enormous Wing Ding, the ERC course in the pouring rain, the great District rallies and Chapter visits.

In our personal lives, thinking about the coming year, we naturally reflect on the good times we had, the opportunities we missed and the not so pleasant experiences we would rather not repeat. We resolve to change for the better and to maximize the good and minimize the not so good. Some may even take to paper and pen as they make their fleeting "mental" lists into concrete ones.

As Membership Enhancement Coordinators, we are constantly thinking of better ways to serve our membership. Naturally, Chapter life, as the first point of contact for the membership, is normally our focus for improving recruitment and retention. At this special time of the year, we would like to encourage each Chapter's leadership to get together with your chapter participants and reflect on all the great events that have taken place not only this year but in past years. What were those special Chapter moments that were so memorable they bring a smile to your face and a long story to your lips? Take notes about these events as you take a sentimental journey along the back roads of your mind. Don't forget to include those folks who have been around for awhile as well as the newer ones. Talk about what really worked, how much fun it was and how we might be able to improve it. It might be that time to take that ride or plan that event again. We want to do all we can to retain our Chapter participants and make our Chapters fun, exciting and inviting. Our reflections can be a valuable planning tool in shaping our future.

We would like to wish all our GWRRA family a very enjoyable Holiday Season and we anxiously look forward to sharing our Fun and Knowledge with our Friends.

*Roy & Chris Bill  
Northeast Region Membership Coordinators*



## Rider Education

Hi there and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

The Region Fun Shop in Vernon Ct. was a huge success. Ed & Dottie do a great job putting these things together. This time they had help from some "sisters".

Rider Education had 4 seminars and a MFA course. Many thanks to **Howard Fingerhut** for presenting his **Reducing Your Risk** seminar to 9 members. To **Bob Corriveau** for doing the **Road Captain Seminar** to 12 folks. To **Mike & Nancy Mandell** who did the Co-Rider Seminar to 9 people. To **Larry & Rhonda Stiles** for 12 people at his **MCSR Seminar** and his invaluable assistance at the **MFA** course where 18 folks learned FA & CPR. Again thank you all.

I hope you are well on your way to finishing up the Christmas shopping. I hope you are because I'm not. If you're stumped for ideas as I am, Gary Mandak from NY.W has some.

It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas.....

Ok, so you really think you have been good boys and girls and think Santa owes you something, right?! Well I was asked by one of Santa's helpers to put together a Christmas goodie list for all of you good boys and girls on motorcycles. You may even want to pass this on to your significant other so you won't end up with another batch of coal in your stocking!

- GPS - Global Positioning System have come down in price and can be great if you are on the road and do the manly thing and not ask for directions. This device can get you where you want to go and maintain your 'I know where we are' status.
- Battery Minder - A great idea for keeping your bike charged up and ready to go when you are charged up and ready to go in the spring. Most have hookups that can be attached to the battery and plugged in all winter long. They will automatically maintain your battery without the danger of overcharging it.
- Digital Camera - We all love our trips and want to remember them, but we tend to forget the film, right? Get a digital camera and fire away. Most have enough memory to take many memorable photos and can be downloaded to your computer for viewing after you are home. The best part is you can take your photos and determine right then if they are keepers or delete them instantly.
- Horn - Yes we all have horns but they are not loud enough for most motorists to really hear us. Some have used air type horns or aftermarket horns with more of an attitude. Loud pipes don't save lives, but loud horns may help save yours.
- Crush Resistant Hat - Most of us take baseball hats with us to cover helmet hair or the lack of hair. Another option is a crush resistant brimmed hats that work much better to keep the sun off our necks and protect us better from the rain (liquid sun).
- Bandanna - Finally the most overlooked and handiest item may just be the lowly bandanna. This can be tied around your neck to prevent sunburn, cover your neck from the wind and cold, used as a handkerchief, clean your windshield or wash your bike. Use it with your helmet or your spiffy crush resistant hat. It can also be used to have the cowboy look that is all the rage, somewhere.
- Ear Plugs - A pair of disposable ear plugs will help you from hearing loss over a period of time. It will also help you from wind noise that will also tire you out. It may also help drown out that extra talkative passenger as a bonus!
- Stuff Sacks - Inexpensive stuff sacks that are also waterproof can be very handy. It helps to keep your clean clothes and dirty ones separate. Store your camera or other items that may get wet in the sack for safe keeping as well. There are also inexpensive plastic tubs for other items as well.
- Throttle Rocker - A curved device that slips onto the throttle to rest your hand on. This can be used when you don't want to use your cruise control. This will also reduce cramping in your hand as you don't grip the throttle as hard.

- Tank bag - All right, so Goldwingers tend to over pack, so what. Get a tank bag and store the items you may need most often. It is easy access and this just may be your bag. Camera, money for tolls, sunglasses or things you want quick access to. Keep in mind when you park, it is also easy access for the less than desirable types to access as well.
- Rain gear - The most over looked item for keeping warm and dry. Not only handy when it rains, it can be worn over your outer gear for an extra layer of warmth. Get a high quality one that won't self-destruct at highway speeds. Carry it and use it so you don't look like a drip.

I know this is a short list but Santa is trying to save money this year! Hopefully this list will give you some ideas for stocking stuffers for all good boys and girls in the chapter. For the others, don't bring your coal to the next meeting as a raffle gift, ok?!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and may all your wishes come true.

Practice Safe Riding. Gary Mandak. Chapter "W" Educator

Who does not know Bill & Adrienne Lacey? Well they have stepped down as the DD's for Ma. But before you start celebrating you should know that Bill isn't going away quietly. He isn't even going away. He's become the new DE for Mass. He's replacing Jack & Elaine Gilroy who have been the DE's for quite awhile. Thank you both for everything you have done for Rider Education in Ma. I'm sure they will remain active in GWRRA and continue to "lead by example". I hope to see Jack again this June.

Here is Bill & Adrienne story in their own words

Bill & Adrienne have served GWRRA as Chapter Couple, MA District Couple, Asst. Chapter Director, Chapter Director, MA Asst. District Director and MA District Director. Both serve on the Ride for Kids Task Force in New England. Adrienne is currently serving as the District Web Mistress while Bill has moved into the Rider Education Division.

Adrienne is employed at Shriners' Children's Hospital in Springfield, MA as a Graphic Designer and Medical Photographer. Bill is a disabled Vietnam Veteran and in his own words "It is a tough life having to play all day but someone has to do it. I guess I will volunteer to be the one." They are both currently enrolled as Level IV riders in the Rider Education Levels Program. Bill is certified as a Rider Education Seminar Presenter. Adrienne says that Bill is just certified. Their goals for the coming year is to make the MA Rider Education Division the best it can be and have already started the ball rolling with the certification of 5 Rider Education Seminar Presenters in the State of Massachusetts. If you are ever up this way give Bill a call as he is listed as a Tour Guide in the Gold Book.

Welcome Bill & Adrienne as Massachusetts new DE

For most of us the Riding season is over, but just because we are in our cars etc doesn't mean we should stop planning ahead when we are out and about. Here's something to think about. Do you have a First aid kit in your car? How about a bag of kitty litter or ice melter and a shovel incase you get stuck? Do you carry an extra coat or blanket? How about some boots, mittens, and a hat? Think a flashlight or even highway flares would come in handy? We still need to plan ahead, you just never know.

What can we do since the weather is against our riding? Well, besides the Christmas Party and the Super Bowl how about setting up a CPR/FA course for your Chapter. Maybe even your neighbor chapters will participate.

The Region has a few more Seminar Instructors now so how about a Road Captain, or Co-Rider seminar.

Tis the season for seminars!

Next month look for part one of the Hurt Report by Frank Germo.

A hug is a great gift. One size fits all. It can be given at any occasion and it is easier to exchange.

*Northeast Region Educator  
Dick Norton*



### **MAD-Motorist Awareness Division**

November has been a beautiful month. At least around us it's been warmer in November than it ever was in October. We've been lucky enough to continue to get some riding in. Although there aren't as many bikes on the road this time of year as there is during the summer, it seems that motorists need to be even more aware of us. With the shadows in the evenings, it getting dark so early, and the fog and icy conditions in the mornings it seems other drivers need to pay even more attention to us. For this reason, don't give up on the Motorist Awareness Division messages now just because it's fall.

We've been trying to get our MAD materials more organized and ready to pass out. If anyone has suggestions on locations to place flyers during the winter months, we'd love to hear them so we could pass the suggestions on to our coordinators.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we've been reminded of all the things we have to be thankful for this year. It's been a safe riding season. We're blessed to be living in a country where we're able to ride and enjoy our freedoms on a daily basis. Plus, we're blessed to have a GW family that supports us – one that we've been able to adopt as our extended family. Have a great holiday.

*Keith & Kathleen Eddy  
Northeast Motorist Awareness Division Coordinators*



### **Public Relations**

Regardless of our impressions, Public Relations is not just for corporations, it is for all of us. The art of relating to your particular public- whether it's a small one or large one-is a social skill we all must develop to some degree.

Public Relations is a great tool. Public Relations, commonly called PR, can help increase the exposure of your Chapter events as well as the International, Region and District.

Public Relations campaigns have the potential to turn possibilities into favorable actions. Most all of today's technologies rely on public awareness and support, getting the word out about GWRRA and your Chapter activities is a great way to turn potential possibilities into success for your Chapters and GWRRA as well.

It is important that all Districts and Chapters have Public Relations Coordinators in place. These are the people that will bring your events and activities into the public view . Public Relations is a wonderful tool. USE IT.

*Mort & Ruth Smith  
Northeast Region, PA. District PR Coordinators*



## **Region Couple of the Year 2005-2006**

Can you believe that it is the holiday season already? Next week is Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner. Carol and I want to wish each and everyone of you a Happy Holidays.

We are starting to receive "couple of the year" information from some of the chapters. We are very happy with the response so far. With this kind of enthusiasm it should be a very fun year. We have now received chapter couple pins and bars from international and have them on hand. The best way to receive them is when you send in your chapter couple picture and resume. Send a check made out to GWRRA-Pa District in the amount of fourteen dollars and a return address. We will get the pins and bars in the mail to you right away. I started this article early with the idea of getting one up on the deadline. Now it is after Thanksgiving and the deadline is tomorrow. Where did the time go?

The weather lately has been exceptional. Carol and I have been out on the bike the last three days in a row (that's where the time went). Every time we get on it we think that it will be the last. I took a short ride myself then convinced Carol to put on some heavy clothes and join in. We both agreed that it had been too long since our last ride. There is not much happening up in this end of the State right now so we will close until next month. If you are up this way in January, you might want to attend Pa-G's winter picnic. They hold it out on the peninsula at Presque Isle and is a great time. Again, to everyone, have a happy holiday.

*Steve & Carl; Daley  
Region 2006-2007 Couple of the Year*



**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..... <http://www.gwrradedist.org>
- New Hampshire at..... <http://www.orgsites.com/nh/gwrra>
- 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>