



**January 2007 Gold Wing Road Riders Association**

Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge- <http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org>

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M A K E - A - D I F F E R E N C E

**From The Region Director**

On behalf of the Northeast Region, Happy New Year! Linda & I hope that everyone had a Joyous Holiday and Santa brought lots of chrome for the bike. Another busy holiday season is about to come to an end as we usher in 2007.

There are many things to look forward to this upcoming year in GWRRA. Traditional Officer changes bring news ideas and adventures. We are also kicking off the Chapter of the Year Competition. We have many outstanding Chapters, but only one will hold the title of "Chapter of the Year"!

The rally season is about to get underway with Maryland's Winterthing January 11-13 in Ocean City. Linda & I are looking forward to seeing many of you who will be in attendance.

Your Region Staff is ready to support your efforts in the New Year and the Districts and Chapters have many exciting events already planned. I trust that your calendars are starting to fill up with bookings including the desirable return to Billings, Montana for Wing Ding, 2007.

This will be a short article as the holiday season has kept us plenty busy! Have a wonderful New Year, and we will see you at Winterthing!

Ride safe and be well!!!

Sincerely,

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

## **From The Region Assistants**

**Yes, GWRRA Family & Friends, there is a Santa Claus....  
He exists certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist...**

Twas the Monday before Christmas, and all through my house,  
The scent of warm cookies permeated the house.  
I was working so quietly, like a wee little mouse,  
When a shiny bright mini-van pulled up to my house.

Then, out stepped a man, a right jolly old gent.  
I thought, to myself, why it's my dear friend Kent.

But he had a soft white beard, and longish white hair.  
And his rosy red cheeks, made his skin look so fair.  
He was dressed in a jogging suit of navy & blue  
And the sneakers he wore were navy blue too.

Then, what to my wondering eyes did appear?  
But a "man on a mission" running up my front stairs.

Who could this be, that wants to see me?  
I opened the door slowly and looked out to see.  
Why it's Tony Almeida, who's here to see me.  
We met on a cruise with my friends and with me.

We talked about GWRRA, and people like you,  
The rides that we take and the things that we do,  
We mentioned Ride for Kids and other charities too,  
He said, "That's a nice thing that all you all do.

My Knights of Columbus does things like that too,  
I'll keep it in mind, next time I see you.

We departed the ship, and all went astray,  
'Till this white haired man stopped over today.  
"We sold our old building, and now have much money,  
To give to your Kids; to make their days sunny.

Here's a check to present at your Ride for Kids rally  
To add to the total of your event day tally."

"I love playing Santa; it just feels so right,  
And with that being said, I bid you, Good Night!"

And so that's what happened that Monday morning, Tony explained that his group sold some property, dissolved their Chapter of the Knights of Columbus and formed "Helping Hands Associates", a group of 4 men who chose to share the benefits of a good real estate market. They were spending the entire week before Christmas, delivering checks to many people who touched their lives during the past few years.

Many GWRRA members went on a cruise to Hawaii a few years back, and Tony & Mary Almeida were friends of some other people in our group. Luck would have it, that they ended up sitting at a table of all GWRRA members and....well....you know....talk, talk, talk...the rest is history. Poof, a new friendship was formed.

So, GWRRA friends and family, if you don't believe in Santa Claus, think again. He is alive in all of us, all year long as we spread the GWRRA message of FRIENDS for FUN SAFETY and KNOWLEDGE! You may never realize you are making a connection, a difference or an impact on others at the time you first meet them, but the GWRRA influence, style and persona is with you wherever you go. So, remember, you never get a second chance to make a first impression, and you may never get a second chance to promote GWRRA to another rider, so do it the first time you meet a friendly rider and expound on the many benefits of our fantastic association. Make that one of your 2007 New Year's Resolutions.

So, once we had a few minutes to ourselves on Christmas Day, we looked over our bounty of the wonderful, thoughtful, and practical gifts we received. Then we went right to our favorite one. No, not the gift certificates to our favorite cycle shop. No, not the new pieces of safety chrome. No, not even the new GWRRA 3 in 1 jacket we received (from each other). It was the custom made 2007 Calendar with the cutesy monthly photo collage of our Granddaughters. Yes, the pictures were adorable. But once we looked at them, we got right down to business; entering all our dates for the 2007 GWRRA events we plan to attend. Once the dust settled and we looked back on all our entries, we couldn't believe that, we only have 2 "free" weekends without plans, between January and March. How do such things happen? So needless to say, we don't have to worry about cabin fever here. We will get through our New Years weekend and then forge right into our GWRRA lifestyle, even though most of it will be on two wheels. The bike will be sidelined for a few months anyway, while all the new "goodies" are being installed.

Meanwhile, don't forget. The deadline for all financial reports is only a few weeks away. Let's try to get 100% support from Region B districts and have our paperwork completed in record time.

We hope to see many of you at Winter Thing in MD in a few weeks.

We would like to wish all our GWRRA friends a Very, Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

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

# Leadership Training



## My New Year's Resolution

*Happy New Year everyone!*

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? I have. I think we all have a tendency at the end of the "old" year or the beginning of the New Year to take a minute to look at the past and decide how we can be a more effective leader or person in the future.

My resolution has to do with listening. As Ed and I travel around the region presenting seminars and Horizons Programs, we often talk about "active listening." We emphasize how important it is to practice "active listening" and also how much energy it takes to be an effective listener. At the FunShop in November we received many questions regarding "active listening" from members who wanted to know if there is a process to active listening and how they can become better listeners.

"Listening – it certainly seems simple. Yet, according to Richard K. Bommelje, president of the International Leadership Listening Institute, "It's estimated that the average person ignores, forgets, or misunderstands at least 75% of what he or she hears." Is it any wonder that mistakes occur, opportunities are missed, or that the "I'll take care of it!" never happens? GWRRA members are no different than other people in that we are much better at hearing ourselves talk than we are at listening to what others say.

Good speakers not only provide information, they also listen to their audience. By listening, the person speaking knows if the audience understands the information being presented and if the information is important to them.

*Active listening* is NOT the same as hearing! Hearing is the first part and consists of the perception of sound. Listening, the second part, involves an attachment of a perceived meaning to the sounds.

Active listening is listening with the purpose of gaining information, determining how another person feels, and understanding others.

Some good traits of effective listeners are:

- ❖ Spending more time listening than talking.
- ❖ Not finishing the sentences of others.
- ❖ Not answering questions with questions.
- ❖ Being aware of biases. We all have them. We need to control them.
- ❖ Never daydreaming or becoming preoccupied with your own thoughts when others are talking.
- ❖ Letting the other speaker talk. Not dominating the conversation.
- ❖ Planning responses after others have finished speaking...NOT while they are speaking. Concentrating on what others are saying, not on how you are going to respond.
- ❖ Providing feedback but do not interrupting incessantly.
- ❖ Analyzing by looking at all the relevant factors and asking open-ended questions. Walking the person through analysis (summarizing).
- ❖ Keeping the conversation on what the speaker says...NOT on what interests you.

Active listening is one of our most **powerful** communication tools! Part of the active listening process is getting feedback by changing and altering the message so the intention of the message is understood. This is done by paraphrasing the words of the speaker and restating the message, feelings or ideas in your own words, rather than repeating their words. Your words should be saying, "This is what I understand you to be saying, am I correct?" By paraphrasing the speaker's words, the listener is attempts to understand and clarify all facets of the message (feelings, ideas, message). Basically you seek to understand before you reply.

1. Look at the person, and suspend other things you are doing.
2. Listen not merely to the words, but the feeling (nonverbal) content.
3. Restate or paraphrase what the person said.
4. Ask clarification questions.
5. Be aware of your own feelings and strong opinions.
6. If you have to state your views, state them only after you have listened.
- 7.

(Active Listening by Melissa Kelly,

[http://712educators.about.com/cs/activelisting/a/activelisting\\_2.htm](http://712educators.about.com/cs/activelisting/a/activelisting_2.htm) )

Why not join me and make practicing active listening one of your New Year's resolutions.

.....  
 The Northeast Region will be sponsoring the Horizons Program in Syracuse, New York,

March 10-11, 2007

If you are interested, or would like additional information, email [wingin-it@stny.rr.com](mailto:wingin-it@stny.rr.com) or phone 607-648-4351

*Dottie Bahrenburg,  
 Northeast Region Trainer*



## **Rider Education**

Hi all.

I hope your Christmas was a wonderful one filled with friends, family, and food. Most of all I hope it was a safe one. Now we have New Years Eve to get through. A lot of us are volunteers, we volunteer to help our Chapters, Districts, and Regions. Some of us volunteer to help keep GWRRA running as smoothly and efficiently as possible at the International Level. I'd like to ask you to volunteer for one more thing. If you are going out this New Years Eve how about volunteering to be the designated driver?

Show your friends that you care enough about their safety to do this for them. *Thanks Rhonda & Larry Stiles* have a real good article in the National newsletter this month. In case you haven't seen it here it is again.

### **We Ride-We Assume Risk**

We all assume a certain level of risk when we ride our motorcycles. Our main concern is usually the 4000 pound SUV crossing in front of us at an intersection and the driver being oblivious to our existence as they chat on their cell phone.

That being said, another risk motorcyclists encounter is the Road Hazard. Road hazards are obstacles such as speed bumps, potholes, debris and road kill. Having given you all the obstacle hazards you WILL encounter on your ride, how can you effectively prepare and react to such hazards. Think back to school for a second and refresh yourself on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's SEE method. What is SEE again? Search, Evaluate, Execute. If you use the searching and evaluating effectively this can help you avoid the obstacles mentioned above

Practice your quick-reaction counter steering. You can go to a vacant parking lot and place some coke cans out and as you get close, practice your quick obstacle avoidance counter steer to swerve around the object without braking. The idea being that the bike is agile and can avoid an object.

Do not tail gate the vehicle in front of you. If there was a 2 by 4 in the road and you were too close to the guy in front of you, you would not effectively see the board in time and hit it. If it were something larger or road kill, it might have resulted in an accident. If you don't have to run over it don't. Don't forget to watch for the obstacles.

Now if you have time to react and you are unable to avoid the object, be sure to slow as much as time and traffic will permit. Approach the obstacle at a 90 degree angle. Most commonly, when you encounter railroad tracks that are offset or uneven pavement. Rise slightly off the seat and shift your weight rearward, ease off of the throttle. Why? You do not want power applied to the rear wheel when it encounters the object. Once you have the bike stable and free of the obstacle, resume seated. If it was a hard impact you should pull over and check for damage.

For handling live critter avoidance. If you see the critter and have time to slow down, do so. Be mindful of traffic behind you. With dogs, it is best to slow, then if the dog is making a b-line for you, increase throttle. For deer, this is the worse case, it is best to slow as much as possible until you are past.

Here is a somewhat related obstacle avoidance tip. When it rains, all of the dropped oil from the cars makes for a real slick surface. So be mindful of where you put your foot down and place your tires. In conclusion, I hoped to have provided some useful tips on basic obstacle avoidance. I strongly believe it is not the number of years that you have ridden a motorcycle; it is your experience and skillful use of the machine that really matter.

#### Rhonda Stiles

Sometimes listening to a new rider that has taken the MSF course has helped me in many ways to teach my students things we take for granted. As a MSF instructor we sometimes overlook things and Rhonda has asked many good questions in order for her to become a better rider.

#### Larry Stiles

Sometimes it's hard to find things to talk about in your newsletter articles and at your Chapter gatherings (boy, do I know that). Well Howard & Jean Fingerhut NJ. DE's. Have some good ideas.

#### Rider Education: An Alternative Perspective

The Rider Education Program is an integral part of GWRRA and is available to members in the form of seminars, newsletter articles, and chapter presentations.

It is a program that members can choose to participate in or not. However, safety and knowledge are key GWRRA principles and are reflected in all of our activities and actions.

As members of GWRRA we have a common interest in riding, be it as riders or co-riders. We are members of GWRRA because we ride. As such, we are all "Riders", and riding a motorcycle is probably the single most dangerous activity that we all take part in. As a rule GWRRA members are not thrill seekers and as a family centric organization our members tend to be well-grounded and responsible individuals.

So where am I going with all of this? Well, here it is: GWRRA members know how to ride - so why all the emphasis on Rider Education? In my view, rider education is not about teaching riders how to ride; it is about "Educating Riders" (our members). Discussions, presentations, articles and guest speakers about any and all subjects that pertain to minimizing risk and promoting safety in any and all of our daily activities are "rider education". As Rider Educators we should be providing members what they want, so look for topics and presenters that address

the needs and interests of Chapter participants. They need not be motorcycle specific; they could be home safety tips such as the need for CO and fire alarms in your house, general household maintenance safety tips, automotive driving tips.

For many members the riding season is coming to an end but we can still fill the winter months with fun rider education presentations or guest speakers from local law enforcement, fire departments, first aid squads, or motorcycle dealerships. Use some creativity to build interest and support of the Rider Education program. Remember it is about the members and it is up to all of us to ensure that the programs and activities are what we want. If you want additional ideas or need assistance in obtaining speakers or materials remember that the District Staff is here to serve the members, pick up the phone or e-mail any one of us we will be more than happy help in any way that we can. Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Howard & Jean Fingerhut  
NJ District Rider Educators

*Northeast Region Educator*  
Dick Norton



## **Public Relations**

Here it is a start of another year and the changing of officers and other staff members. At this time we would like to thank all that gave of their time and effort to make our Public Relations program the great success that it is.

We have seen many changes over the years and all I might add, for the improvement of our program as well as GWRRA. We look forward to working with the new Public Relations Coordinators in the Region as well as the Chapters. We are hoping that the CD's will replace the PR coordinators as soon as possible. There is still a lot to be done and the sooner the better.

We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

We hope you all had a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and have a very "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Please Ride Safe and God Bless.

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



## Region Couple of the Year 2006-2007

This has certainly been unusual fall and early winter so far. We had one storm of 4 inches of snow and another of 14 inches. Other than that, it has been in the 40's and 50's. Hurrah for global warming.

As the new Pennsylvania Couple of the Year coordinators, we are starting to get busy. The resumes for the chapter couples are starting to come in and to date it looks like another good year. After looking over the applications that we have received so far, I am glad that I am not one of the judges. There are some pretty lucky chapters in Pennsylvania to have such enthusiastic couples among them. I know they will have a very rewarding experience in their year as the chapter couple. Carol and I look back on it with fond memories. It was truly one of our best experiences. Actually, the whole Couple of the Year experience has been, for us, one incredible time. Like most of these new couples, we had no idea of what awaited us. We thought we would be selling 50/50 tickets. We probably would have too except for one of our chapter members, Duane Linhart. When we were the chapter directors, I recognized Duane's potential and asked him to take over the 50/50 sales. It turns out that I had found the goose that laid the golden egg. God Bless you Duane.

Getting back to the chapter couples, we recommend to you chapter directors that you use these talented people to your best advantage. This is best accomplished by involving them in your PR program. Let them greet new members, promote chapter functions and get around to different chapters. By achieving the last (getting around to different chapters) they are keeping your chapter in the forefront of peoples minds. While visiting, they will promote your chapter functions and upcoming activities. This will increase visitations to your chapter by other chapters thereby making new friends and renewing acquaintances with old friends. It will also increase your 50/50 sales. Most of all, remember these people are to be held in honor for their past achievements. Treat them like royalty. Make it the best year of their lives. They deserve it. Look what they have done for your chapter.

*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.gwrradist.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.gwrra-ny.org>
- Vermont at ..... <http://users.adelphia.net/~trikeinvt/index.html>