



October 2006 Gold Wing Road Riders Association

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

National News

Paul Hildebrand, Chairman of the Board & CEO of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association regrettably announced today the resignation of Don Brock as Executive Director, effective September 28, 2006.

Jim Hodge has been named as the International Operations Director following the Executive Director's resignation.

From The Region Director

Linda & I would like to thank Don & Cindy Brock for their service to our organization and the guidance that they have provided to us. We have enjoyed serving as Region Directors under their Directorship and wish them the very best in the future.

At the same time, we welcome Jim & Margie Hodge as our new International Operations Directors and look forward to working with them. Linda & I have known Jim & Margie for about four years and know that they will be successful in this new endeavor.

As you know, change is constant. Jim & Lilli Davison will complete their term as the Delaware District Directors at the end of September. On behalf of the entire Northeast Region, thank you Jim & Lilli for all of your hard work and effort. Linda & I have enjoyed working with you and appreciate all that you have done for Delaware. We wish the very best in the future and look forward to seeing you throughout the year(s) to come.

Welcome to Brian & Missy Gillard as Delaware's newest District Directors effective October 1. Brian & Missy have been serving as the Delaware Chapter "A" Directors and have done an outstanding job. We look forward to working with them and wish them much success in their new position.

You will read all about the NJ Rally from our Region Couple, Steve & Carol Daley. I do not want to steal any of their thunder, so let me just say to Mike & Julie Walters, the NJ District Staff, and all the Chapters, you put on an outstanding show!!! I want to personally thank my good friends from the South, Mike & Angie Mitchell (Region N Directors), for attending and bringing Ms. Maggie. Can't tell you about it, you had to be there to see it with your own eyes. Special thanks to my wife Linda, and all those who contributed to that little surprise at the Saturday night banquet.

Many of you will be attending Rally in the Valley. They always have an excellent rally, so enjoy!

You will continue to hear all about our upcoming Fun Shop in Vernon, CT scheduled for the evening of November 10-12. Our International Couple, Jim and Brenda Pennington are planning to attend, so come on out and welcome them to the Great Northeast Region. The Fun Shop is a wonderful experience as you learn and make new friends. If you need additional information, please send an e-mail to Dottie Bahrenburg at: wingin-it@stny.rr.com.

Since this is an October Newsletter, we would be remiss if we did not say Boo! Happy Halloween and watch out for all those little "trick-or-treaters"!

Ride safe and be well!!!

Sincerely,

Jere & Linda Goodman
Northeast Region Directors
BEEP! BEEP!



From The Region Assistants

As the sun rises in the morning, on these early fall days, we can certainly feel a change in the air this past week. Not only are we noticing a shift in weather patterns, it seems that this week brought about a significant “change and shift” within GWRRA as well with the announcement of Don Brock’s resignation.

As mentioned in the press release, Don cited an “inconsistent and declining membership” as the key reason for his resignation. We can only interpret that as a message to all that membership recruitment and retention is the most significant issue with GWRRA today. Of course, the release does not point out the natural factors responsible for the decline in membership it does imply that, despite those factors, GWRRA has not been able turn the tide, and show a significant movement toward strengthening our association with new blood, new energy and new member development.

As new assistant region directors the obvious question for us would be, where does the Northeast Region fit into the membership increase and retention element? We were not mentioned within the list of Regions with increases, so that seems to be a dead giveaway. So, just how badly has our region contributed to Don Brock’s “inconsistent and declining membership”?

We reviewed the latest membership growth report that was available and found that, as of July 31st, the Northeast Region was in the negative by ONLY 0.002%...or otherwise interpreted as...just about dead even...no loss , no gain , so that put us as an insignificant factor in the overall scheme of the issue. So is the glass half empty or half full. We can look at it as a “so-so” job, or a not so “so-so” job. It just doesn’t ring acceptable for the caliber of our outstanding Region reputation. The report needed a second look.

The growth report is divided into 2 elements, the membership growth by means of recruitment, or new Gold Wing owner’s self-memberships, and then we have the net growth...those who leave our region either as retirees, snowbirds, relocations to another region, or by natural causes. The Region had a significant gain of 10.04% through their recruitment efforts, but it was the larger uncontrollable region member losses that held us back from meeting positive net growth. Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Jersey are leading the region with positive Net growth; however, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York are leading the pack with negative growth results. However, we did a comparison by exact member count to analyze what it takes to move the bar. Consider this: the membership difference for Massachusetts net out to +9 new members for an increase of 13.66%, while Rhode Island has a membership difference of -9 members for a loss of 6.59%. What stands out to us is that, regardless of what district you belong to, small or large, each member plays a significant roll in moving the needle. That means each one of us is a valuable asset to GWRRA and if anyone of us leaves for any reason, it has a major impact on the outcome of our success.

In our operations position within GWRRA, our duty is to promote member growth because we want to make the Northeast Region stand out above the growth line. So, we continuously work towards that goal and ask our region members to keep on the alert for potential new members wherever they go...But, the primary reason to seek out new members should be because we all want them to experience the adventure of being part of the fun experience that we have enjoyed, the knowledge we have received and the friends we have made within the GWRRA family we have become a part of...the positive growth is the reward for our efforts.

Speaking of fun...be sure to consider attending the upcoming New England FunShop scheduled for the weekend of November 10th 11th 12th at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Vernon, CT. We promise to put the F.U.N. in the weekend...come see how it's done.

Meanwhile, we look forward to ***“Getting to know you!”...at the FunShop or somewhere on the road.***

Lorraine & Earl Knight
Northeast Region Assistants
RI District Directors



Leadership Training

T-E-A-M-W-O-R-K

A man was lost while driving through the country. As he tried to read a map, he accidentally drove off the road into a ditch. Though he wasn't injured, his car was stuck deep in the mud. So the man walked to a nearby farm to ask for help. "Warwick can get you out of that ditch," said the farmer, pointing to an old mule standing in a field. The man looked at the haggardly mule and looked at the farmer who just stood there repeating, "Yep, old Warwick can do the job." The man figured he had nothing to lose. The two men and Warwick made their way back to the ditch. The farmer hitched the mule to the car. With a snap of the reins he shouted, "Pull, Fred! Pull, Jack! Pull, Ted! Pull, Warwick!" And the mule pulled the car from the ditch with very little effort. The man was amazed. He thanked the farmer, patted the mule and asked, "Why did you call out all of those other names before you called Warwick?" The farmer grinned and said, "Old Warwick is just about blind. ***As long as he believes he's part of a team, he doesn't mind pulling.***" (Source unknown)

GWRRA believes in the benefits of teamwork. Teamwork is so important that it is included in the Core Values of our organization. *“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward our common vision. It is our ability to direct individual accomplishment toward associational objectives. It is the fuel that allows all of us to achieve exceptional results.”*

Come Greet the International Couple of the Year at the FunShop Northeast Fall 2006

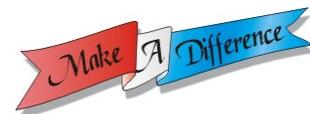
Come meet Jim and Brenda Pennington, our GWRRA International Couple of the Year! Jim and Brenda will be attending the Fall FunShop and can't wait to meet you. It will be great fun to meet Jim and Brenda. Let's give them a warm Northeastern welcome! The FunShop will be held in Vernon, CT, on November 10-12, 2006. This is an event you shouldn't miss! It will be a great learning opportunity, networking experience and, also, a lot of fun. The theme this year is *The Joy is in the Journey*. So come share the joy. The event will be kicked off on Friday evening with an ice cream social and some light entertainment.

Saturday will be a very busy day as you will be able to pick from 16 different seminars that are being presented. Also, you will be able to hear the keynote presenter, Fred Rau. Fred has served as a *Member National Council, Assistant National Director Rider Education, former Editor of Wing World Magazine, former Editor of Road Rider Magazine, Co-founder &, Sr. Editor Motorcycle Consumer News. He currently is a free lance writer for 8 Motorcycle Magazines, runs Excalibur Adventure Tours in Plainfield Ct. and has racked up over one Million Documented miles on more than 350 different motorcycles in 12 countries.* Saturday evening offers a dessert and social hour.

On Sunday the opportunities continue as you may participate in training in CPR/FA. Or you can opt to attend seminars to prepare to become a Rider Education Seminar Presenter or a Leadership Training Instructor.

Remember to mail your registration by November 1. For a registration form and a list of seminars to be presented, go to the Region web site and look under events: <http://www.gwrri-northeastregion.org/events/index.htm>

*Dottie Bahrenburg,
Northeast Region Trainer*



Membership

By now you have all read about the resignation of Don Brock. We wish him and his wife Cindy, a long and happy retirement. Shortly after Don took over as Operations Director, he began re-evaluating the various programs with the growth and future of GWRRA clear in his sights. We have seen many programs modified from their existing state as well as other new programs developed and initiated looking forward to the vision at hand.

Over the past year, GWRRA has instituted a number of initiatives in the area of Recruitment and Retention of members. Much focus has been given to establishing a thorough network of Membership Coordinators from the region to the chapter levels. We have encouraged our region's district coordinators to express the importance of Chapter Membership Coordinators. We have always had the belief that member recruitment is directly related to member retention in that each and every member is a salesman for the organization and most of our new members are introduced to GWRRA by existing members. Membership Coordination is a vital means of communication to each of our members. Our members are the most important part of our organization and they need to be often reminded of that. Personal communication at the chapter level is the most efficient means of conveying that message and the Membership Enhancement Division does that through the organized efforts of our Membership Coordinators.

Don Brock's foresight and efforts have begun a new focus that will carry GWRRA into a prosperous future. Our new Operations Director, Jim Hodge, has been handed a work in progress. He will bring new ideas and excitement and build on what Don has put in place. It won't happen by itself, we all have to get on board and stoke the flames. We are told that only about 10% of Gold Wing owners belong to GWRRA.

We know what a wonderful organization we have and the enormous value of membership. Our challenge is to let the other 90% know what they are missing. So.....tell somebody!

*Roy & Chris Bill
Northeast Region Membership Coordinators*



Rider Education

Hi there!

Where did the summer go? Cold and rainy, to 90 degrees, to falling leaves. I had so much I wanted to accomplish this summer but, it seems like all I did was go to work.

Even though Autumn begins the 22nd there is still plenty of riding left to do. Actually some of the very best riding is in the fall, with the changing colors and cooled temperatures. I said “some of the very best riding” not some of the safest riding.

We are so used to “cruzin” around on clean dry roads that we sometimes forget that now there are leaves messing up our roads. We need to be extra careful now because these pretty leaves can be slippery, especially when wet. Watch for these traction attackers around curves and in areas where the trees are mostly deciduous.

From Gordon Murphy via the International Newsletter

Safe Riding Tips-by *Gordon Murphy – National Director –Rider Education – Canada*

As indicated in the previous Newsletter, in future Newsletters I will be presenting a couple of safe riding tips, based on riding principles we teach in our Advanced Rider Course and other GWRRA riding courses. I hope these tips will be of some help. To get more information regarding these tips and to practice them under controlled conditions, enroll in an ARC or ERC course at your next available opportunity.

Cornering. Cornering or turning the motorcycle is something in which many riders have some difficulty. There are four main principles involved in cornering:

Slow – reduce speed appropriately for the upcoming turn and, if necessary, downshift before entering the turn;

Look – turn your head and eyes in the direction of the turn and to its endpoint. This endpoint keeps moving as you move around the turn;

Lean (or push) – Use push or counter steering to develop a lean angle appropriate to the turn. Remember: the motorcycle has to lean to turn effectively;

Roll – Gently roll on the throttle as you pass the apex (midpoint) of the turn and accelerate smoothly out and on your way.

Posture. Riders often don't realize how important proper posture is to safer riding. For a safer and more enjoyable ride, the following should apply: Riders should be seated comfortably, with arms slightly bent but not locked; Both feet should be on the foot pegs (except when stopped, of course); The rider should have his/her head up, looking ahead; Knees should be tucked against the tank (or faux tank); All actions and input should be smooth and deliberate; Relax! Nervousness is transmitted to the motorcycle, leading to abrupt and jerky handling and a much less safe ride.

Connecting both articles together from Frank Germo

Cross-Winds + Motorcycles

- Another Practice in the Use of Countersteering.

Ah, September....the time for the leaves to begin their change.....and the winds to pick up and blow them off.

Cross winds -- man they used to really scare me, especially riding across Kansas, or....west Texas! I would be riding along and it would get gusty -- I'd slow down and ride it out -- weaving in my lane (mostly) and slowing down if it got too windy. That was no good -- with traffic coming up behind me, and the bike not all that stable -- it just wasn't safe all around. I'm sure a number of you have felt the same thing once or twice. So, what do you do? Wait until the wind stops? If you're going cross-country, this isn't always the best option. If you wait for the wind to die down or for it to stop raining, you'd never make it out of New York, let alone across the US!

Then I remembered, riding in cross winds is simply another exercise in counter-steering. Slowing down never helped; it made a difference psychologically, but the wind still blows you all over the road. What I needed to do was find a way to counter the wind effects on the line the bike tracks down the road so as to maintain a straight line regardless of speed and wind direction. You can't 'lean' quick enough to make up for a gusting 20 mph wind, but you can push on the handlebars that quickly. Counter-steering was the answer. So, here I go tooling across west Texas... again (ya know 'where the winds blow') heading to Phoenix but with a minimal amount of hesitation; though I think I spent more time in that state leaning than I did straight up. It was quite exciting at times; pulling a trailer, passing an 18-wheeler at highway speeds with a stiff and gusting right to left cross wind....and coming out the other side....WOW.

When the wind blows from the side, counter steer into it. In the same way that you push left to go left. For example, if you have a cross wind from the left, you want to push on the left bar and counter-steer into the wind to maintain a straight line. This is not a sudden extreme 'push-push' as counter-steering to avoid an obstacle, but a continuous pressure on the handlebar that the wind is blowing from. This will lean you into the wind to counter the wind's push and maintain your straight line down the road. When the wind blows harder, it takes a little more pressure on the bar on the side that the wind is coming from. One key point is to worry about the path you're taking down the road, not the angle that the bike is at. Just let the bike lean and only worry about the path you're taking down the road and the amount of pressure on the handlebars to maintain that path. If the wind is gusty or you come under an underpass or pass an 18-wheeler on the lee side, that pressure will have to change with the wind conditions, so stay alert. With a little practice, you'll be sailing that bike down the road like the best of them.

Its not easy riding in a gusty cross wind, but it is not impossibly difficult either. It is simply a matter of knowledge, education, and experience. But then, what part of motorcycling is not?! ;-)

So, go out and enjoy the leaves in change, watch out for the winds, and as always, Ride With Care ~ Ride Aware.

Frank Germo

Asst. Region Educator

On Sept 2nd Burt & Lisa Weed Me. Chapter F Educators and Frank Germo NE. Region A/RE put together a trailering course in Lincoln, ME. I believe this may be the first course of this kind in Me. I want to thank Burt & Lisa for the time & effort it took to get all the where's & how's ironed out. They did an outstanding job. Thanks to Frank for setting aside some very special time to instruct the class, and for assisting Burt & Lisa with the logistics. Also thank you to the members that took the course. I haven't heard who they were yet but thanks.

From Frank

The class in Lincoln, Maine was sponsored by Chapter F and conducted on September 2, it went very well. Their Chapter Educator, Burton Weed, did a superb job of coordination and getting everything needed to do a good class.

The classroom was located at the local hospital and included coffee and donuts....compliments of the Maine District Director, also one of the students. After lunch we went to the range which was held in the parking lot of the local high school. I don't think Burt could have made a better choice. There was plenty of space to do any kind of class I teach, including the MSF ERC Suite (which, by the way, I am going to try to provide them next year). We had 5 bikes/trailers with most of their wife's providing support from the sidelines. In fact the ladies were especially helpful in setting up the cones. So to them I would like to again say a BIG Thank You. Without their help it would have made for a much longer day.

Bob Corriveau A/RE has also been busy

I have had two Seminar instructor courses. One on the Cape for MA and one in Southern RI for Chap A. Practical application to come this month for both of them. We should have 12 seminar instructors qualified after that!

Will be checking in with ME, NH, & VT to see if we can interest some folks to come to the November Fun Shop.

Bob C

The Fun Shop on November 10 thru 12 will be in Vernon Ct. Flier is on the Region Web Site. There are so many things to do there that I'm not going to go into all of them now. (check the web) Fred Rau is the Key Note speaker, that in its self is reason to go. Lots of Rider Ed seminars and a Medic FA course also. Bring this up at your Chapter gathering and get a bunch to go. SEE YA THERE

*Northeast Region Educator
Dick Norton*



Public Relations

To most of us, a press release is something of a "one size fits all" proposition. You want to get media coverage, you knock out a press release, send it to some journalists and sit back and wait. Insiders already know that's a prescription for failure. You know that your press release has to have a "hook," be well written and sent to appropriate journalists in an active, not passive, manner. But there's another part of the puzzle that even savvy publicity-seekers sometimes miss - you can't just write "a press release," you have to write the right kind of press release.

There's no such thing as a "one size fits all" release. Smart publicists have variations of the press release model ready to go, depending on the occasion. Let's look at some releases suitable for "harder" and more timely news. ...

The News Release

To some folks, "news release" and "press release" are interchangeable. Not to me. I use the phrase "news release" to refer to a release that, well, carries actual news. Let's face it; most of what a business has to say to a journalist isn't exactly "stop the presses" kind of stuff. But, on occasion, something of real significance occurs. Announcing Billing Montana as the new location for Wing Ding 29, a major Association event, winning National award...something that's truly timely and important. For these sorts of events, don't mess around. Craft a solid, hard-hitting News Release that's written in pure journalistic style (lead includes "who, what, when, why and how," language is in 3rd person and completely free of hyperbole).

Use journalism's "inverted pyramid" -- most important information at the top, next most important info in the second paragraph and so on down.

Tell the entire story in the headline and subhead. Again, don't get cute -- get straight to the point. In the subhead, fill in some details: Over 14000 will make the journey for Fun and rekindle their friendship. There is no other event like this on earth! You've just given the journalist the meat of the story before he even read your lead.

Add a "dateline" (Billing Montana) at the beginning of your lead (first) paragraph. In the dateline, use your Association hometown (or the location where some news has broken. You can be a bit creative here, if it helps maximize your impact. For the above example, you can dateline it and say that "The Association today announced that Billing was selected due to it's friendly atmosphere and popular demand from the membership.

In distributing the release, use e-mail, fax, or even snail-mail. The goal is to get it into journalists' hands on the same day you distribute.

This was a part of the tool box. Ride safe & God bless.

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



Region Couple of the Year 2005-2006

Hello to all,

Carol and I have just returned from the New Jersey District Rally. Boy, what a time we had. It all started with a close call.

The weather was overcast and threatening. As we were driving down the road at 60 mph I commented that it looked much clearer ahead. I took my eyes off the road for just a split second for another look at the clearing sky and when I looked back down a brown streak was passing in front of my windshield. I never saw the deer but it was close enough that we both heard its hoof sounds on the pavement as it passed. I told Carol that it was the LORD's way of letting us know that He is with us on this trip.

We have never been to a New Jersey rally before. The first item on our agenda was the District Couple of the Year Program on Friday morning. We met the two couples participating in the process and found them to both be exceptional. It would be another hard decision for the judges. The actual judging took place Friday morning and the results announced at the ice cream social on Friday evening. The 2007 New Jersey District Couple of the Year is Dan and RuthAnn Camire from NJ Chapter I. We had previously met this couple and are not surprised to find them stepping up to the District level. They are very enthusiastic and eager to make a difference in the Gold Wing organization.

Speaking of enthusiastic, I have to ask; "is everyone in New Jersey on speed?" I know what Chapter F is like, but now I find out that every chapter in the state is much the same way. Their life style must have something to do with it. They are always fighting traffic, rushing hither and fro, always on the move. Maybe it is just something in the water. Whatever it is (we will just call it New Jersey Enthusiasm) I wish we could bottle it!

Friday night's ice cream social was really nice. In addition to the announcement of the District Couple, We played games.

The two games played were the "Couple's Game (a version of the newlywed Game) and the "Chapter Feud" (Family Feud). Carol and I participated in the Couples game but were outclassed. It was great fun and everyone had a good time.

One incident did occur that I should relate to you. The Pennsylvania district dressed up like Indians and captured several members from New Jersey's chapter F (F-Troop). These members were tied together and actually scalped. The Indians retreated and everything finally returned to normal. We found out later that their chief was none other than Bob "Sitting Bull" Gabriele. Apparently, the Indians had to wait outside in the bushes for quite a spell before the signal to attack was given. Bob felt a "nature" call coming on and had to acknowledge it. Just after he left, the signal was given to attack. After planning and organizing the attack, Bob missed it entirely. We did recover his feathers and weapon from the floor outside the restroom. Chuck Stone, the incoming District Director, has decreed that from this day forward Bob shall be known as "Chief Porcelain Butt".

Saturday was another fine day and everyone had a good time visiting the vendors, the bike show, peoples games etc. On Saturday evening the Banquet was held and my table actually got to eat first. That is when I knew it would be a great night! Carol and I, as 2006-07 Region Couple of the Year were raffling tickets on an afghan to be given when all the raffle tickets were sold. I had 150 tickets left at the start of the banquet and, with the help of Kathy Hekierski (NJ Chapter C Assistant Chapter Director), was able to sell them all. We were able to hold the drawing and the winner was none other than " Chief Porcelain Butt" Gabriele from the Pennsylvania district!

Sunday morning we headed for home and although the sky was overcast the whole way, we managed to remain dry. If you didn't make this rally, you really missed something special. The planning was great and everything was well organized. You can tell that Mike and Julie Walters and their staff put forth a great effort and they were not disappointed. Congratulations are due to everyone involved. Carol and I can't wait for the rally next year.

Until next time, Ride safe

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



Couple of the Year Coordinators

Just got back from Wing Ding and if you know me, you know what my favorite part was? Yes, that is right anything relating to "The Couple of the Year Program". This one just happens to be the International Couple of the Year Selection Process for 2006-2007.

There were 11 out of 13 Region Couples vying for the title of International Couple (very impressive)! Including our very own Northeast Region "B" Couple of the Year Rosie & Sandie Rosenthal. They did an outstanding job representing our Region. They have accomplished so much and have a lot of pride in the Couples Program. It showed through during their presentation.

Rosie & Sandie did us the Region PROUD!!! They may not have brought home “International Couple” but will not be soon forgotten as one of the best Northeast Region “B” Couples ever!!!!

Thank you again Rosie & Sandie

Julie & Mike Walters
Northeast Region Couple of the Year 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..... <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.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

DISTRICT EVENTS:

OCTOBER - 2006

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