

GWRRRA, REGION N, VIRGINIA DISTRICT CHAPTER VA-E BATTLEFIELD WINGS FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 2009

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HOME OF THE 2008

SPIRIT OF VIRGINIA AWARD WINNERS



BATTLEFIELD WINGS, VA-E



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CHAPTER E DIRECTOR'S NEWS

AUGUST 2009



Hello to all my GWRRA Family and Friends. As many of you know, we are coming to close of the summer and many of us haven't been riding as much as we would like because of various reasons. The old saying "time flies when you're having fun". This has been a fun summer for me and I'm sure many of you as well but it seem that it has just gone by too fast. In a few weeks we will be in the fall then we'll be looking for old mister winter with no warm days and not much sunshine, so we should enjoy what's left of the summer by riding as much as possible.

The month of July brought us some unexpected incidents or should I say Accidents. No matter how much you ride there is always the unexpected that could happen to you. As you know, Butch Groves was on his way to participate in a Triathlon in Lake Anna, VA and a Deer ran in front of him causing him to wreck his bike and he was taken to Mary Washington Hospital where he spent several days recovering from Broken Ribs, and many abrasions to his face, Arms, Knees, Hands, & Elbows. Upon receiving the call, I rushed to the hospital and there he was lying on the stretcher with Nurses using a watery solution to scrape the gravel out of his hands and elbows. This is not a ride safe letter, but it is information to make you aware of how important it is to ride with safety gear on. In my 40 years of riding I have many times ridden without safety gear and never realized that pebbles, sand and gravel imbedded itself into your skin. To see it being removed is a scary sight and also painful one to the person it's being removed from. However, Butch is recovering just fine but I don't think he likes Deer very much anymore.

On our way to Chapter-U's Poker Run, several of us were riding on Route #2 and Tony Poulakowski was the second bike. Approximately 5 mile from Bowling Green at approximately 10:15AM a small Buck darted in front of him and Tony caught the rear end of the Buck and tossed him across the road into the wooded area. Tony was able to maintain control of the bike without going down. The only damage was to his front fender. As of yet we don't know if the Deer was killed or seriously hurt. Since we were so close to the event, we decided to continue on our journey and had a great time while there.

There are two things I learned from those accidents: 1. It is imperative to wear safety gear, and 2. Always expect the unexpected.

As usual, we are willing to serve any where any time and any place.

Sly & Tina

Chapter Directors VA-E

CHAPTER E EDUCATOR'S NEWS



The Rest of the Story

At our last chapter gathering, Diana gave me high praise for being able to negotiate a figure 8 during parking lot practice after not having ridden for 7 months. She repeated her statements in last month's newsletter and my head is swelling – it is always nice to be complimented. But, Diana didn't tell the whole story. Maybe she didn't observe everything I did during the parking lot practice but if she did she kindly left out at least one example of my parking lot practice riding – my swerves. Here is the rest of the story.

My swerves were lousy. Pitiful. Abysmal. Pathetic. And so on. Those descriptions are humbling but they don't get to the crux of the issue. The crux is poor swerving skills translate to increased risk on the highway. I might hope I am always looking far enough ahead, keeping good separation distanced from other cars, etc. to never need to swerve "for real" but I can't guarantee that. What if I almost swerved skillfully enough to miss that deer? I need to develop better swerve skills.

So, this month I present Swerves 101; the basics. My apologies to you if your swerves are already perfect and you were hoping for something with a little more application to your riding.

I have a sentence or two on each on these thoughts:

- 1) Look where you want to go
- 2) No braking until the swerve is complete
- 3) The bike leans, you don't
- 4) Countersteer
- 5) It takes practice

Target fixation is something we've all heard about and probably most of us have experienced some form of it. It is hard look in one direction and not have the bike start moving in that direction. Early in my riding career I nailed several pot holes dead center because I fixated on the obstacle rather than the escape route. Train yourself to look at the solution rather than the problem. The obstacle will be screaming for your attention but you must look where you want to go to have any chance of getting there in a swerve situation. It is amazing to me how hard this is. Knowing something intellectually and being able to do what you know you should do at a time of surprise is not easy.

Swerves can take your tires to their traction limits. You and your 900 pound bike are headed in some particular direction and you want to change that direction twice (once to steer clear of the obstacle and once to get back in the pavement's direction so you don't end up in the ditch) in a short time and short distance. The tires' grip on the pavement is going to make those direction changes possible if you give the tires a fighting chance. You can't, however, ask them to slow you down while they are providing the quick direction change. So, keep off the brakes

until the swerve is complete and the bike is back vertical. (This, too, is hard to do – the initial reaction to almost any surprise is to try to slow down.) You shouldn't snap off the throttle or accelerate during a swerve either. It may seem silly for me to mention accelerate – who would want to accelerate while swerving around an obstacle? – but I'm not thinking about an intentional acceleration. I'm thinking about the unintentional throttle input that could happen as the handlebars swing during a swerve if the rider has not developed this skill.

In a swerve, you want to change direction twice as quick as possible. The bike has to lean to turn and the amount of lean and delay in getting to that lean will determine how fast the bike direction changes (other factors being equal). If you let the bike lean underneath you while staying upright, your rotational inertia does not come into play and quicker leans can be achieved. So, make no attempt to lean with the bike, just let it lean under you. By the way, when I muffed my first swerve at our parking lot practice, I quickly realized not letting the bike lean underneath me was at least one of my problems.

At all speeds faster than a walk, you turn a motorcycle by countersteering (actually, I think you always countersteer but I'll leave that as a debate for another day). Push forward on the left handlebar and you will go left (or start going less right if you were going right). In an aggressive maneuver like a swerve, you need to aggressively push on the handlebar. No mamby pamby inputs will do if you need a non mamby pamby swerve. On the other hand, those inputs (like all motorcycle control inputs) should be smooth or you will exceed the tire traction limits. You will need three firm handlebar inputs to execute your swerve: one to turn away from the obstacle, one to stop turning away and start turning back in the original direction of travel (but shifted over), and a final one to stop turning as the original direction of travel is approached. These should come without conscious thought. If you do have to think about them during a practice session, you may be trying too hard.

Speaking of practice: Practice, Practice, Practice. I am clearly preaching to myself on this one. I understand and believe everything I've said in this article but last month's parking lot practice session demonstrated to my satisfaction that my swerving skills are deficient. My reading and writing about swerves is no substitute for on-bike practice. The same is probably true for you.

Maybe some day Diana will tell me she thinks I'm a skillful swerver. It would be wonderful to hear that from such a talented newsletter editor, accomplished photographer, excellent cook, proficient trike rider,

Larry

CHAPTER E'S MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COORDINATORS' NEWS



Greetings E Team Members

We had a few rides going on this month. On July 25th, seven of us wandered on down to Chapter U for their event. In attendance were Gordon, Larry, Tony, Tim, Frankie, Ron and Sly. We had a good time and left with full bellies.

On Monday the 10th, Sly and Gordon rode up to Chapter A in Burke for their monthly meeting. It's always fun visiting other chapters and you might come back with the 50/50 as Gordon did.

Remember, our meeting on the 19th is only 30 minutes long so we can go on an ice cream run. Please ride your bikes.

Rally in the Valley dates: October 8,9,10

Rally in the Valley Hotel Information: You need to make your reservations ASAP as Virginia Tech has a home game the same weekend and rooms are going fast. We have rooms blocked at: Comfort Inn & Suites, Wildwood Dr, Salem right off I81 at exit 137. Please ask for a blocked room under group name GWRRA E. They are \$89 plus tax per night. The reservation phone number is 540-389-7171. Please thank Debbie Carter for taking care of us again this year.

There will be a Rally Registration contest for Chapter E. If you pre register with the chapter director by 09/25, you will be entered into a drawing for two free registrations.

08/17 Ride to Camp Fantastic meet @ WAWA on route 17 North 4 pm, depart 4:15, we will eat dinner in Front Royal.

08/19 E Team General Gathering @ Dynasty Buffet

Just a reminder this will be a 30 minute meeting, we will be riding to Cold Stone Creamery for ice cream. Please ride your bikes.

08/23 Parking lot practice and dinner ride to follow

08/29 All Chapters Picnic, we hope for a large turnout (details to follow)

09/01 E Team Staff Meeting @ Vinny's 7 pm

09/16 E Team General Gathering @ Dynasty Buffet

09/23 VA-C Fall Sprawl (details to follow)

Please check these websites:

www.battlefieldwings.com

www.gwrrava.org

www.region-n.org

www.gwrra.org

What's new on the Virginia District Calendar !!!

Go to: <http://www.gwrrava.org/vaevents.html>

Gordon Combs

Membership Enhancement Coordinator

GWRRRA VA-E Battlefield Wings

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Tech Tips From the Webdude :: Windows 7

In case you haven't heard, Microsoft will be releasing Windows7 to the public on October 22, 2009. It is the latest and much anticipated operating system since Windows Vista. It has already been released to computer manufacturers, such as Dell, Gateway, and HP, for pre-installation on their systems. The look and feel of Windows7 is very similar to Windows Vista, but I find that it boots up faster and is not as much of a resource hog as Vista is currently. I currently use the Release Candidate of Win7 and have grown quickly to like it. I plan to replace my Vista OS with Win7 when it is released to the public.

Windows7 Editions

There will be three flavors of Windows7 available upon release. Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate versions will be available.



Home Premium will probably be the most popular since computer manufacturers will install this version on the majority of their pre-installed

configurations. This version is your basic version where you can perform your everyday activities, such as email, Internet browsing, and banking.

Professional and Ultimate will probably be the version installed on business configurations that require advanced networking, full backup and restore capabilities, and many other advanced functions that a business may require.

How Do I Know What I Need?

Let's take a table from Microsoft's website and lay out the differences between each edition:

Feature	Windows7 Home Premium	Windows7 Professional	Windows7 Ultimate
Make the things you do every day easier with improved desktop navigation.	X	X	X
Start programs faster and more easily, and quickly find the documents you use most often.	X	X	X
Make your web experience faster, easier and safer than ever with Internet Explorer 8.	X	X	X
Watch, pause, rewind, and record TV on your PC.	X	X	X
Easily create a home network and connect your PCs to a printer with HomeGroup.	X	X	X
Run many Windows XP productivity programs in Windows XP Mode.		X	X
Connect to company networks easily and more securely with Domain Join.		X	X
In addition to full-system Backup and Restore found in all editions, you can back up to a home or business network.		X	X
Help protect data on your PC and portable storage devices against loss or theft with BitLocker.			X

Interested yet? Before you run out and buy a copy, you might want to run the Upgrade Advisor to determine any incompatibilities that may be present in your machine. There is some hardware/software, device drivers, etc that may not work with Windows7. Run [this program](#) to find out.



I am not trying to sell the product, but I know that there are many people out there that think Windows Vista is not allowing your computer to run as it should, and frankly hate it. There are folks that would like to upgrade but aren't sure if they want to upgrade to Vista.

Please visit Microsoft's Windows7 page for more details.

References

Windows7 homepage: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/>

Windows7 Upgrade Advisor: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>

Contact the webdude: http://www.battlefieldwings.com/staff/staff_member.php?id=23



CHAPTER E NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2009

Established
10/24/87

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 STAFF MEETING	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 GENERAL MEETING	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30 PARKING LOT PRACTICE/ DINNER RIDE	24/31	25	26	27	28	29 ALL CHAPTER'S PICNIC

MEMBER NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST



07 Norman & Josephine Butler
08 Alvin "Tim" & Eva Hayes
28 Greg & Karen Kestner



01 Debra Revely
02 Peg Davison
05 Joyce Mitchell
06 Carol Lucas
09 Martha Jo Fritz
12 Butch Groves
14 Ranny Randall
22 Terry Murphy
23 Delores Brown
25 MaryLynn Groves
28 Calvene Williams_
29 Larry White
31 Ron Hardisty

STAFF MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED
FOR THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH MEET AT 6:00 PM TO EAT
MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

**TAKE OUT
DINE IN**

(540) 373-4440

Call Ahead for Take Out Orders



2312 Plank Road
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405



Visit with us for our Chapter Meeting
The 3rd Wednesday of each month
DYNASTY BUFFET - FOUR-MILE FORK
Meet at 7:00 pm to Eat
Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Goldwings Needed for Triathlons

Rides 1-5 are finished thank you to all who participated.

6. Saturday October 3, 2009: 9:00 – 1PM (4 Motorcycles Needed)
Lake Anna Beach Marina – 349 Pleasants Landing Road – Bumpass, VA 23024
Race Starts at 10AM – 24 Mile Bike
7. Sunday October 4, 2009: 9:00 – 1PM (4 Motorcycles Needed)
Lake Anna Beach Marina – 349 Pleasants Landing Road – Bumpass, VA 23024
Race Starts at 10AM – 12 Mile Bike

Notes:

1. All events pay \$50/bike. Lunch/food will also be provided if you can wait until the first runners come in.
2. If you could be onsite 1 hour prior to the race starting for orientation and placement that would be great.
3. Some folks will have officials on board; others will lead out the first cyclist, follow the last cyclist, or patrol for mechanical/safety issues.

Thank you very much in advance! If you have any questions please give me a call at 336-577-2801.

Greg

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DAN FRITZ, ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTOR, CELL: 540-903-2897.

FOR SALE:

Used Pod Cargo Trailer, \$150. Contact Dave Robinson (540) 760-4359



BATTLEFIELD WINGS



Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Chapter E

FALL FANTASY FUN RUN

OCTOBER 3, 2009

Date: October 3, 2009 Time: 10:00 am

PLACE: Curtis Park, Stafford, VA

LUNCH: 12:00 noon (Awards/Auction to follow)

Cost: Adults \$7.00 7-12 \$3.00 6 & Under & COYs Free

Chili & Soup Cook-Off

Bring your Specialty & help with the judging

Awards: Best Chili & Soup \$25.00 each

Best Overall - \$50.00

**TREASURES TO BE AUCTIONED
GOOD, QUALITY, PERSONALLY HAND CRAFTED**

Directions: From I-95, Fredericksburg Exit 133 onto US 17 North (Warrenton Rd).
In 5.5 miles, turn right on SR 612 (Hartwood Rd.). Travel 2 miles and turn right on
Jesse Curtis Lane into Curtis Park. Look for GWRRA signs.

Contact: Sylvester Savage, Chapter Director
cell 540-379-8708
sylvestersavage@comcast.net

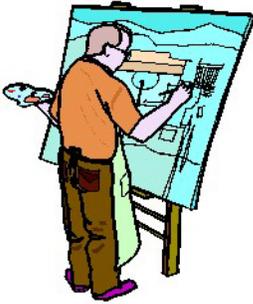
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITY



WANTED



GOOD QUALITY, PERSONALLY HAND CRAFTED TREASURES



It is time to start thinking about making something for October's Fall Fantasy Fun Run to be auctioned off on behalf of our annual Christmas charity. We are looking for anything knitted, crocheted, sewn, wood working of any kind, embroidery, tin punch, painted, baked, or anything else of an artistic nature that you think someone else might like to own or buy for a gift. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

