



# Battlefield Wings

Chapter E              Region N  
Fredericksburg, Va.

GWRAA  
[www.battlefieldwings.com](http://www.battlefieldwings.com)

## December

**2005**

**Next Meeting**

**January 18, 2006**

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**Come to our Chapter  
meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday  
Of Each Month**  
  
**Dynasty Buffet  
Four-Mile Fork**  
  
**Meet at 6:30pm to Eat  
Meeting begins at  
7:30pm**

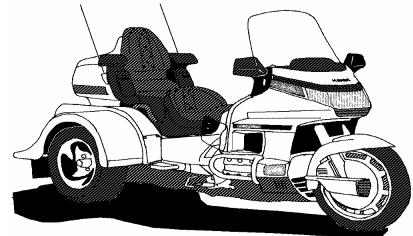
**2005 COY**  
Dan & Martha Jo  
Fritz



## Chapter Director News



**Jim and Beverly Travis  
Chapter Directors  
GWRRRA Virginia Chapter E  
“Battlefield Wings”**



We wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and have a  
**Happy New Year!!!!**

## Chapter Educator News

Larry Gray



## Panic

I suppose every unfortunate rider involved in an accident experiences panic in the seconds before impact. Panic is entirely natural whenever there is a perception of impending doom. By and large, it's a good survival reaction that God has given us so we can better flee danger. But, panic only helps our strength; it doesn't help us think. This month I'd like to consider panic as it relates to our riding.

If a left turner turns in front of a rider without warning and the rider has not slowed down or otherwise prepared for such an event, it may be that the best rider in the world would not be able to avoid a collision. The panic that precedes such a collision is not the cause of the collision, the failure to anticipate the left turner and adjust accordingly is. But, there are accidents caused by panic – needless accidents. A rider becoming unnerved by the sound and feel of his footpegs dragging in a fast turn might straighten out and direct himself right into the path of oncoming traffic or over the road edge. If he had carefully thought through such an action and was not panicked, he would not have reacted as he did. But, he was powerless once panic entered the picture.

It is imperative that we avoid panic when we ride. And, we can avoid or at least reduce the likelihood of panic with a little work. We can do at least two things: 1) think and rethink the proper actions to take in "challenging" situations and practice them as much as possible even when the situation is not challenging, and 2) find a safe place to practice maneuvers that we have apprehension about and thereby improve our skills and increase our confidence. Confidence is the opposite of panic – they are mutually exclusive.

I can't help you with the practice part (except to preach that you should). But, I can relate some of the things that we should think about and fully convince ourselves of before we start practicing. These things are probably not new to you.

Dragging footpegs or floorboards is not the end of the world. It does not mean that your tires are about to lose traction and a low side is imminent. Convince yourself that racers or other professionals lean more than you do without ill effects and then go practice in the parking lot until hearing/feeling the footpegs drag becomes what it is – a mere warning that you are approaching a limit. (By the way, I learned the hard way that highway pegs on my bike were hitting the ground before my footpegs. This is dangerous because hard parts hitting the ground does cause weight to come off the tires which could then lose traction. I solved this problem by mounting some “extensions” on my footpegs so they would again hit first and warning me when I’m approaching the limit.)

(If you think dragging footpeg warnings don’t apply to you because you ride conservatively, please consider this: Someday you may conservatively approach a curve and find out late that it is off-camber and you are dragging. If that happened, would you be more unnerved than a more aggressive rider who does drag occasionally? Sure you would. Are you unnerved in parking lot practice if a footpeg drags? If so, you need to overcome your panic reaction.)

A second example is throttle control. Snapping the throttle closed is probably not smart but it certainly is a panic reaction. If you are going in a straight line on dry pavement, snapping the throttle closed probably won’t get you in trouble. But, it may very well lead to trouble in a turn or on a slick surface because of engine braking and suspension changes. If you are in a curve a little hotter than you wish you were, do you want to upset the suspension or reduce the cornering traction of the rear tire? Convince yourself that smooth throttle control increases the likelihood of a happy ending and then consciously make all your throttle actions smooth all the time so it becomes a habit and you are less likely to snap the throttle closed in a surprise situation. (Smooth action is, of course, appropriate for other controls too.)

“Target fixation” is a sure recipe for trouble (this is the biggie) and your inability to look away from a problem is a form of panic. Your bike will go where your head and eyes are pointed. You must look where you want to go rather than at what is scaring you. If you are skeptical about the connection between where you look and where you go, remember the last time you made a U turn on a two lane road while looking at the far curb instead of turning your head all the way around to see where you wanted to go. Did you make it? Slow or fast, the bike will go where you are looking. After you are convinced of this, make it a point to always look where you want to go when something troubling presents itself (it won’t be easy). If you are in a corner too hot, never look at the center or fog line you are trying to avoid but rather look well around the curve – force yourself to do it for mild surprises and you’ll form the right habits and reactions to carry you through when a larger surprise presents itself. If you find yourself riding through potholes that you know you should have been able to avoid, you need more practice here.

That’s all that has occurred to me for this reminder but I’m sure there are many more mistakes caused by panic that could be discussed here. Don’t be shy about telling me what I’ve missed; maybe it can become food for a future column. In fact, any

suggestions you have for an installment of this monthly column are welcome. Being Chapter Educator does not make me knowledgeable on all subjects but I take it as my job to make this column useful and I will do my best to research and report on topics of motorcycle safety that are of interest to you.

Final comment: This month's column represents things I'm working on in my own riding. I'm a relatively inexperienced rider in VA-E and don't pretend to have all of this "under my belt." Sorry to bore you if you're way ahead of me on these points.

Larry

#### Chapter E Travels to Chapter U

IT WAS A BRIGHT AND SUNNY SUNDAY AFTERNOON WE DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO CHAPTER "U's" MONTHLY MEETING. ED LED OUR LITTLE PARADE (SOUTH ON RT.2 TO RT301) FOLLOWED BY LLOYD, BOB, RON & LINDA, MARTHA-JO AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, MR. DRAG--DAN.

WE WERE SOME OF THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE RESCUE SQUAD. DAVE AND NORMA (CHAPTER DIRECTORS OF "VA-U") MET US AS WE WERE PARKING OUR BIKES. AS WE WALKED IN, WE SIGNED IN AT THE TABLE THEN IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM THERE WAS COOKIES AND BROWNIES (REALLY GOOD ONES), COFFEE, AND SODA ETC.

THE GAVEL DROPPED WITH A THUD AND THE MEETING BEGAN. CHAPTER "U" READS THE SIGN-IN BOOK TO MAKE SURE THEY INTRODUCED EVERYONE THAT CAME FROM OUT OF THE AREA. I WAS ASKED TO INTRODUCE OUR CHAPTER "E" MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. DAN MENTIONED OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY THAT IS COMING UP IN DEC.

CHAPTER "U" HAS A PASS THE CHICKEN TO NEW MEMBERS AND THAT PERSON WEARS THE CHICKEN UNTIL THEY CAN PASS IT ONTO THE NEXT NEW MEMBER. WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME AT THE MEETING. WE HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL RIDE DOWN AND BACK. THE WEATHER WAS JUST PERFECT FOR THIS EVENT. THANKS CHAPTER "U".

RON

## 2005 Chapter Couple Dan & Martha Jo Fritz

Chapter Couple of the Year 2005  
Dan and Martha Jo Fritz



A whole year has past since we became the Chapter Couple. In some ways, it seems like just yesterday. Yet in others, it has been eons.

We have represented GWRRA well this year – at the ER, Mary Washington Hospital, Doctors' Offices, and Physical Therapy visits. We hope that we have done as well at other GWRRA functions and Chapter meetings. In many ways, we feel like we let you down as your COYs. And, in other ways, we feel like we got gypped out of about half of our year.

We had also hoped to get out for a lot of riding on our two bikes this past year. Unfortunately, we had to four-wheel it a lot instead. However, Dan hogged all four wheels – I just got to push. Dan, can we take the car from now on? That wheelchair was heavy enough without you in it.

We wouldn't have gotten through the past year without the love and prayers, and all the help we received from all our friends, or I should say, our GWRRA family. Many of you have given up much of your time to spend with Dan, bringing him lunch and other food treats. There are many other acts of kindness that you have done of us. If I start naming each of you, I will forget someone and don't wish to offend anyone by doing so. Please accept our deep gratitude. Thank you all.

Our hope for the upcoming year will be one wheel shorter than last year. Dan says, "Yes, Martha Jo, we can take the car from now on – the Tricar. Dan picked it up the first weekend of November and has already given it more shiny and spackley things than he could ever hope to give me for years to come. We have had it out for a couple of rides already. And Dan rode it in the Bowling Green Christmas Parade. With all the stuff he had in and on that poor bike, I'm surprised it even moved. If you don't believe me, ask to see the pictures.

Your new Chapter Couple for the Year 2006 has our promise to support them in anyway that we can. We are looking forward to Ed and Wanda becoming our Chapter's new representatives. Please join Dan and I in pledging to assist them through out the whole year.

Thank you again for allowing Dan and I to be your Chapter Couple for 2005.

**CHAPTER NEWS**

# Birthdays

Kathy White	10
Mike Nelson	20
Jennifer Carter	20
Ray Hitt	23
Rob Hardisty	24



# Anniversaries

Rufus & Jean Moore	16
Dave & Sharron Calahan	18
Harlan & Sharon Brooks	18
Joe & Sheila Pittman	22
Don & Sharon Nissen	27

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This link was forwarded to us from Allen & Debby Biddlingmeier, Rider Educators for Chapter MO-O and was sent to them by Pam Moore, one of their Chapter "MO-O" members. A special thanks to Allen, Debby and Pam for their sharing this with our Members. This is an excellent tool for all your Members, Friends and Families.

The medical emergency card is recommended to be kept in the left fairing (non-locking) pocket of your bike, in your car and in your wallet. If you have a cell phone, please read about what to program into your phone for the emergency crews. You can make as many copies as you want and it is always available online when you need to make a revision.

**Please share this link:** <http://www.medics.com/free-id.php> and update it as often as necessary so emergency personnel can tell at a glance what medication you're on, what health conditions you have and who to contact in case of an emergency.

Please pass this to your family, friends, and all of our Members it could help save their lives in an emergency.

Warm Regards,

Don Brock



DISTRICT  
&  
REGION NEWS



## Wingless Weekend - 2006 Dizney Daze - A Cruise to Nowhere

February 3 - 5

Williamsburg Hospitality House, Williamsburg, VA

*Reminder, Jan. 3rd is the cut-off for reservations at the Williamsburg Hospitality House at the discount rate, so get them in quickly!!!*

Remember, NO PETS ALLOWED





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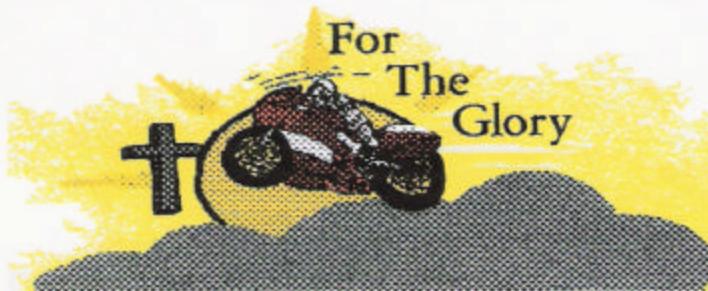
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