

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

**DECEMBER 2008**

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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



Merry Christmas!!!

Julie and I wish you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your travels be safe and family time be a blessing. Wow, what a wonderful 2 years I have had as your chapter director. I would like to thank all of you for your support and assistance, I could not have done it without you. The “E” Team is an awesome group and I look forward to remaining on the staff.

We had a wonderful Christmas Party. The E Team cooks were at their best and we all had tummies that looked like Santa’s. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the party a success. I am thankful for the parting gifts I received from the staff. You touched my heart in many ways. Also thanks go out to Tom and Diana’s son in law Bear who was our Santa, and thanks to Bob Jones for his music.

We had 37 people at our diner gathering at Red Lobster. It was a lovely evening with good food and better fellowship. What a great way to end the year together. Just a reminder, we start the New Year at 10 am with breakfast at Golden Corral in Massaponax.

As you know, Sly will be stepping up as Chapter Director. I am blessed to have such a fine team as Sly and Tina to take over where I left off. I am so excited because they bring a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas to the team. Please join me in giving them our full support; we are in for a great ride.

Again, thank you so much for allowing me to serve you for the last 2 years. You’re the best.

Gordon

## CHAPTER E EDUCATOR'S NEWS

### Leaning

I think I enjoy motorcycling so much because I get to lean in the turns. I enjoy other parts of the motorcycling experience but leaning is one of the biggest highs (on a par with the camaraderie experienced during a weekend or other trip with VA-E members). But, this article isn't about why I enjoy motorcycling, it's about safety, so I better get on with it.

During a turn, a motorcycle must lean in proportion to speed, tightness of the turn, and position of the combined center of gravity of the bike and rider. If you go faster, you must lean more; if the turn is tighter, you must lean more; and if the combined CG is toward the outside of the turn, you must lean more (other things being equal). Now, here is the rub. Almost all of us have a natural reaction to lessen our lean angle when we get startled/surprised. If we think we are in any sort of danger, we do what we can to get into our safest condition and riding straight up seems safest (emphasis on "seems"). If we come into a turn a little too fast or the turn is tighter than we expected, we might find ourselves trying to straighten up and this will force us to go wider than we would otherwise. The most common way this might happen (and I have seen VA-E members do this, myself included) is for the rider to straighten up, maybe only slightly, while keeping the bike leaned – the rider apparently understands he/she must maintain lean angle but he/she impulsively reacts to the surprise by leaning the upper body in the opposite direction (or starts leaning less in the correct direction). Such a reaction moves the bike/rider center of gravity toward the outside of the turn and this requires more bike lean angle to maintain the same turning radius. In other words, the impulsive "straighten up" reaction is precisely the wrong thing to do.

I'm working on breaking this impulsive reaction (or bad habit if that is what it is) in my own riding. I'm not finding this easy. But, it is necessary.

Here is what I think we all need to cultivate in our riding. We should develop a habit of leaning, if only slightly, into each turn. Sport riders emphasize this to move their center of gravity toward the inside of the turn and thereby allow a turn to be taken with less bike lean angle. We Gold Wing riders, in general, are not into sport riding and tend to stay rather fixed on our bikes, not leaning any more than the bike does. It takes less effort to stay rigidly with the bike as it leans and this certainly "works" in almost any turn. It's completely natural on a touring bike. But, I'm suggesting we should be training our muscle memory to



The USAF and USN announced today that the first ever C-17 carrier landing has been a total success.

In other news.... The USAF and USN have launched a study to determine the optimal method for getting a C-17 off of an aircraft

shift our center of gravity in such a way that less bike lean is needed so if we are ever startled and need to turn tight-er, our reaction will be to lean our bodies into the turn.

Maybe you are way ahead of me and do what I am suggesting on a regular basis. If so, then any time a peg drags unexpectedly, you lean in more so the bike can lean less and you do so without even thinking about it. I've made some good progress on this in my personal riding but it took time. Intellectually I understood our bikes are designed such that a peg will drag before hard parts and peg dragging is merely a warning that a lean limit is being approached, but when I was startled by a peg dragging, this head knowledge didn't stop me from straightening. For me, the solution was to practice turning in a parking lot where I could ride in circles and tighten the turn until a peg dragged. I was actually practicing slow speed tight turns where I was counterweighting (leaning my body in the "wrong" direction) but just the fact that the pegs dragged occasionally and I got used to hearing them seems to have greatly reduced my instinct to straighten when I hear them at any speed. Although I'm elated that a simple peg drag doesn't cause me to straighten, I have discovered that what has really happened is I'm not startled by peg drags. When I do get startled, I think I still do react wrong. So, if you seem me playing the sport rider on my Gold Wing, don't say "that silly Gray must think he is a race rider doing 100 mph or something" but rather give me a break as I try to train my muscle memory some more.

Larry

# MEC's News letter

## DECEMBER 2008

Hello once again to my (our) GWRRA Family. It is with great joy that I once again can write to you about events, situations and the gathering of a few members of the E-Team. As you know this is the last News Letter for the year, and the last one I'll be writing as the your MEC. Hopefully, you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed writing them. There are times that I (we) as a people have to use extra initiative to accomplish our mission. I must admit that on occasion it has happened to me during the course of the year, however, when all is said and done and I have finished an article, I am relieved and happy that I can share my thoughts and experiences with you.

As you know there were two Christmas Parades on Saturday, Dec 6, 2008. One in Bowling Green and the other in Spotsylvania. I was appointed to get all information needed for the chapter to participate in Spotsylvania. Mind you, I have never ridden in those parades and had never ridden my bike in 20 degree weather before. To prepare myself mentally and physically, I told myself that I can do this, and that I must make a showing since I gave my word. I purchased the most expensive Thermo-Underware Gander-Mountain had along with Thermo-Socks a few days before the ride. I constantly listened to the weather report hoping that they would change the forecast from the expected 20 degree weather to the mid 40s, however that didn't happen. When I awaken on Saturday at 7:00AM, the thermometer said 21.5 degrees. I wanted to crawl back in bed but was determined to see if I could fathom the cold. Since I didn't have a Gerbin Heated Suit, I decided to do the next best thing, put on TWO Pairs of Thermo's and layer up from there. My fellow chapter members, believe me it WORKED. I left home at 7:40 and it was still 21.5 degrees. I never got cold not even a chill. We met at Golden Corral for breakfast, and in attendance was, Butch, Claude, Dan, Dave, Martha Jo and I.. We met Frankie at his house. From there we rode in the bowling Green Parade.

At 2:00PM we rode in the Spotsylvania Parade and had a blast at both parades. I am looking forward to next year's parades. Hopefully I will have a heated suit by then.

The long story is this. Don't let cold weather stop you from participating in such a worthy event. As the old saying goes "where there is a will, there is a way." I am a victim of circumstances.

Merry Christmas to all and once again, we are proud to be members of GWRRA and are willing to assist and serve any time and any where.

Sly & Tina

MEC's

## **Tech Tips from the Webdude :: Last Minute Tech Gifts**

### **Need some last minute gift ideas?**

So do I. With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, parades, plays, concerts, who has time to shop? Who can focus on that when you are trying to do your regular daily activities on top of that? Well, I guess that's why they invented the Internet. Especially for the souls that just don't have time to it. With life running at a faster pace than, say 15 years ago, it is hard to imagine what life would be like without cell phones. Which leads me to my first last minute gift. Does your son/daughter HAVE to have the latest phone? Well, I guess that was a rhetorical question because they would naturally say yes. Most cell phone companies have great deals around Christmas time for the latest and greatest phone. Some phones come with music players, digital cameras, email programs, and even virtual keyboards with touch screens. Just by renewing or starting a new contract, you can get one of these cool devices and if you get the right one, you can have all of the features that I just listed! Pretty cool!

Have you ever heard of iPod? I am sure that most of you have (or an equivalent). These handy mp3 players are great for the long trip (assuming you are not driving), a long day at the office, or a workout at your favorite gym. Nowadays, you can load thousands of songs on these little devices, some as small as a matchbook! For example, an iPod Shuffle with 1GB of storage can run you under \$50 at your local Best Buy, Circuit City, Walmart, or Target. You can also supplement your purchase with the perfect stocking stuffer, an iTunes gift card where you can download a boatload of music for \$25! Others also playback videos, movies, and movies trailers. There are (it seems like, anyway) unlimited resources to obtain music, podcasts, and movies.

Does that special someone enjoy taking pictures? As long as they don't have access to the Internet and are pretty handy with Photoshop (for fear of blackmail), a digital camera is the way to go! It could be the first gift they open on Christmas morning and take the heart warming photos of granny opening her favorite bath robe, or your son opening his first football, or your wife having a bad hair day! Those pictures will last forever and bring back smiles for years to come, unless you are the one that took a picture of your wife having a bad hair day. Then the dog house might be all you see for a few days (if your lucky).

If you have all of these gifts already, then I am the wrong person to be giving advice. Buy a lottery ticket, say Happy Holidays, and be done with it! As a matter of fact, send me your ideas and I can put them in next months newsletter article. Heck, I may end up taking you up on that advice!

At any rate, have a safe and happy holiday season because we want to see you for our New Year's breakfast and all of the fun and exciting things to come in 2009!

### **Resources:**

NewEgg Mall: <http://www.newegg.com>

TigerDirect: <http://www.tigerdirect.com>

Best Buy: <http://www.bestbuy.com>

Circuit City: <http://www.circuitcity.com>

-- Webdude, "E" Team Webmaster

STAFF MEETINGS ARE  
SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH MEET AT 6:30 PM TO EAT  
MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM ALL MEMBERS ARE  
WELCOME!

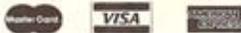
Visit with us for our Chapter Meetings the  
3rd Wednesday of each month  
Dynasty Buffet, Four Mile Fork  
Meet at 6:30 pm to eat  
Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

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Mon - Thur 11 - 10  
Fri - Sat 11 - 11  
Sun 11:30 - 9:30



Locations in Fredericksburg, Stafford, Aylett, Midlothian,  
Richmond and Lynchburg, Virginia &  
Hillsborough, North Carolina  
Coming to King George soon!

**Buon Appetito!**





## CHAPTER E NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

Established  
10/24/87

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 STAFF MEETING	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 CHRISTMAS PARTY
14	15 RED LOBSTER	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			

**MEMBER NEWS AND  
ITEMS OF INTEREST**



**Chapter E Birthdays**  
**December**  
**02 Jeff Dunkle**

**10 Kathy White**

**15 Darlene Jaeger**

**20 Mike Nelson**

**20 Jennifer Carter**

**23 Ray Hitt**

**24 Rob Hardisty**

**25 Robert Clark**

**27 Jim Bass**

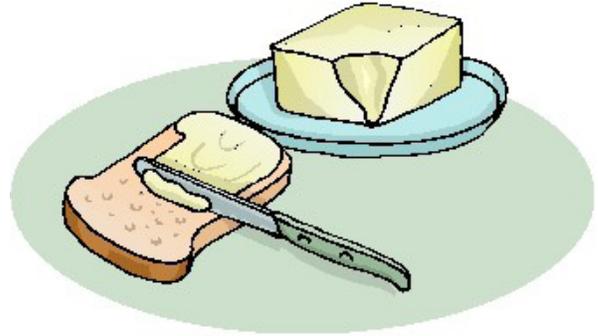
**28 Marla Kennedy**



**Chapter E Anniversaries**  
**December**

**18 Dave & Sharron**  
**Callahan**

**22 Joe & Sheila Pittman**



**SAVORY SPREAD**

8 oz. Cream cheese

½ cup mayonnaise

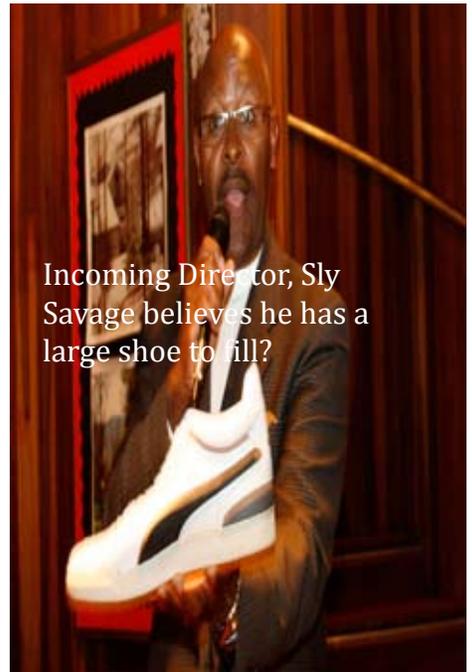
1 pkg. Dry Italian Salad Dressing Mix

Combine ingredients, blending until smooth

Serve on bread. DELICIOUS

Submitted by Karen Kestner





Anyone can sit on Santa's lap!

Incoming Director, Sly Savage believes he has a large shoe to fill?

Santa received a gift!

Food Bank Donation Drawing Items

Outgoing Director's gift from Chapter members