



Battlefield Wings

Chapter E
Fredericksburg, Va

Region N GWRRA
www.battlefieldwings.com

CHAPTER STAFF



February

2005

Next Meeting

Feb. 16th

Chapter Directors – Jim & Bev Travis 804-224-8051 jettravis@juno.com
Assistant Directors – Mike & Keri Nelson 540-720-6021 wingvae@sprintmail.com
Chapter Educator – Gordon & Julie Combs 540-891-0574 gorcom@msn.com
Treasurer – Debbie Carter 540-659-7273 mwcdeb@aol.com
Secretary – Jennifer Carter 540-659-7273 tiburontootsie@aol.com
Newsletter Editor – Kathy O'Neal 540-371-9296 joflute@cox.net
Web Dude – Rob Hardisty webdude@battlefieldwings.com
Friendship/Phone Tree/Welcome Committee – Linda Jones 540-898-4111
boblinda1@adelphia.net
Chapter Goodies Coordinator – Richard Wilson 540-899-2375
richwil97@earthlink.net
Technical Coordinator – Greg Kestner 540-439-2408 kgkestner@starpower.net
E-Mail Coordinator – Karen Kestner 540-439-2408 kgkestner@starpower.net
2004 Chapter Couple/Ways & Means – Dan & Martha Jo Fritz
540-286-1142
Chapter Photographer – Ron Hardisty 540-207-0626

Ride Coordinators

Dave Calahan 540-786-6168
Frankie Chapman 804-633-7331
Gordon Combs 540-891-0574
Bob Dorminey 540-752- 6661

Ed Hoferkamp 540-898-7258
Greg Kestner 540-439-2408
Mike Nelson 540-720-6021

Table of Contents

Chapter Director	2
Chapter Educator	3
Chapter Couple	4
Around GWRRA	5
<u>Chapter E Happenings</u>	
Birthdays/Anniv.	6
Travel News	6-7
Advertisers	8-9
Upcoming Events	8
Fun Trivia	10-11

**Come to our Chapter
meetings the 3rd
Wednesday
Of Each Month**

**Dynasty Buffet
Four-Mile Fork**

**Meet at 6:30pm to Eat
Meeting begins at
7:30pm**

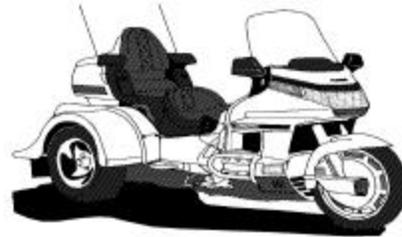
2005 COY

Dan & Martha Jo
Fritz

**Congratulations to our
new Chapter Couple.
Keep watching this
space for their picture!!**

Chapter Director News

Jim & Bev Travis



The holiday season is over. Santa has come and gone, presents have been unwrapped and the apple has descended in Times Square (the Peach in Fredericksburg). I hope you have cleaned the Reindeer Droppings off your roof and checked the Fireplace Chimney to ensure there isn't a jolly gent dressed in a red suit stuck up there.

Beverly and I have really enjoyed this holiday season's festivities. The look on our grand sons face at the Chapter E Christmas Party, when Santa, jokingly, told him that there was nothing left in his bag, was priceless. As always, our Chapter Chiefs did an outstanding job of providing a Christmas feast to be remembered.

We are looking forward to the New Year with much anticipation. There are plans in the making for dinner rides, chapter visitations and of course our monthly potlucks. We do hope to see you all on the road out there with us.

The next big thing in the future is Wingless Weekend in Williamsburg. We hope you all are planning on joining us there to share in all the fun.

Jim and Beverly Travis
Chapter Directors
GWRRA Virginia Chapter E
"Battlefield Wings"

Chapter Educator

Gordon Combs



I spoke about this at our January Chapter meeting. Since a lot of you did not make it due to snow, I am repeating it in our newsletter. Thanks.

Check It Out

by Robert Vaughan

Would you feel safe flying on a plane if you heard this conversation between the pilot and copilot, "Let's skimp on the checklists today. The plane looks safe enough."

"Tires" "They didn't look flat so the pressure is probably OK."

"Lights" "The ones I can see from here work."

"Oil" "It was fine last week."

"Brakes" "We have two--I'm sure at least one works."

"Windshield" "It's not all that dirty."

"I slept only four hours last night so let's not waste any more time here. Let's fly this baby!"

You might think twice about going on the trip at all if your pilot weren't interested enough in safety to do a proper checklist.

Is piloting a bike that's carrying your spouse any less important? You know the answer.

Tires need the correct pressure to prevent overheating (read "blowout"), excessive wear (read "expensive"). Not looking flat isn't enough. The only way to know the pressure is right is to use a tire gauge. Check the tires while cold. Write down the correct pressure for your tires, and keep it in the bike.

Lights are something we don't think about until one goes out that we can see from the rider's seat. Yet the taillight is what lets the car behind you see you before he runs over you. The co-rider can easily check the brake lights, taillights, and turn signals while you sit on the bike and push a few buttons.

How important is your oil? (Read "How expensive is your engine?") No, you don't check the oil by looking at the engine temperature gauge. There is a convenient dipstick made just for that purpose. Don't be a dipstick, use the one on the bike. Always using both brakes to stop or slow is the proper way to use brakes but the wrong way to check them. If one of three brakes starts getting weak, the other two will hide this fact.

Try using only the brake lever to check the one front brake that the lever operates. Then you will have an idea how that brake is working. Using only the brake pedal with an integrated braking system uses two brakes—one front and the rear. Testing the brake pedal this way makes it easier to know whether one of these two brakes is not up to par. Of course the best way to check out all three brakes is during the bike's regular service. Perhaps the windshield is the easiest of all to check. You can look at it as you are walking up to the bike. Are those bug spots you see? It takes only a minute or so to clean them off. They may be only an annoyance in the daytime, but you need all the visibility you can get at night. Another time a dirty windshield really shows up is when you head directly into the sun. That's when you'll really wish you'd taken an extra minute or two to clean your windshield. When you have your cleaner out to clean your windshield, you might also clean your face shield and your glasses. Then the whole world will look cleaner. Your bike's checklist should be something you use before every ride, just as a pilot uses his before every flight.

Check it out!

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2005 Chapter Couple Dan & Martha Jo Fritz

If you missed the Christmas party, you didn't get to hear Jim and Bev introduce Dan and I as your Chapter Couple for the Year 2005. And since you weren't at the Christmas party, you really missed a great time from start to finish. That doesn't begin to describe the food that was prepared for the dinner. Everyone out did themselves again – both cooking and eating. Thank you to everyone that helped make the party such a big success whether it was by decorating, cooking, or providing great company for everyone who attended.

As your Chapter Couple, I want to take a few minutes to tell you a little about ourselves. Many of you already know us quite well but many of our new members may only know our faces. I hope that by the end of our year, everyone will not only know us but will be a large contributor to our personal history by supplying us with many cherished memories.

Dan and I have been married for 6 years. We have 5 beautiful daughters and 6 ½ fabulous grandchildren (#7 is due in March). We have numerous dogs and 2 exotic birds. I said "numerous" dogs because we breed Chinese Shar Pei and therefore the number of dogs varies – sometimes from day to day. (By the way, we currently have 12 puppies available for sale as of this writing. Give us a call if you are just dying to own your very own Shar Pei.)

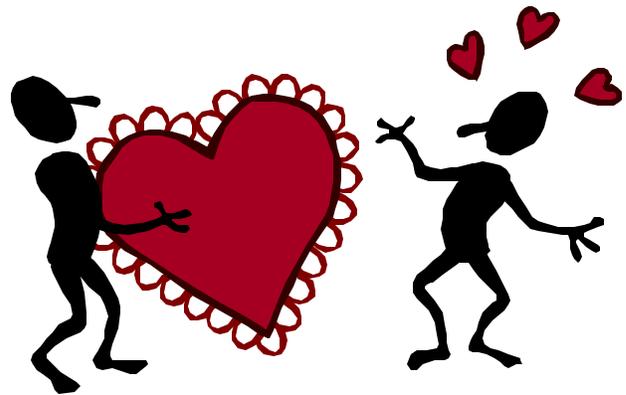
Dan has been very active in GWRRA for 20 plus years, thereby earning him a life membership. He has been a founder and charter member of many chapters including VA Chapter E. He has held just about every office at the chapter level at one time or the other. And, yes, he has even been half of the Chapter Couple before, but not with this wife. I'm sure he will do a better job this time.

I, on the other hand, have only been a member of GWRRA and Chapter E for about 8 years. The only other offices that I have held with Chapter E have been Treasurer under Dan and Audrey Mullen and then Assistant Chapter Director along with Dan under Dave Calahan.

Dan and I both ride our own motorcycles. Dan owns a '97, 1500 while I ride an '86, 1200. We are both drooling over the 1800s but can't afford one, much less two at this time. Dan has been riding since he was in high school and has owned just about every type of bike ever made. I have only been riding my own bike for about 7 years and have only owned a Yamaha Virago prior to my current Wing. We both participate in the Rider Education program and are both Master Tour Riders (level IV). Dan has gone one step higher by achieving Senior Master Rider.

We have been very active in GWRRA over the last 8 years. So active that the first date that Dan asked me on was to meet him at a Chapter E meeting. I stood him up on that one. But when we were married two years later, it was at Rally in the Valley on the floor of the Salem Civic Center in 1998. That way, every year when we go to Rally, we have all of our friends with us to celebrate our anniversary.

At the Christmas party, Dan said that his arm was twisted to get him to accept the position of Chapter Couple. It really didn't take much twisting. Every year since I joined Chapter E, we have been nominated for this honor but have had one excuse or another why we just couldn't do it this year. The reigning excuse was that we are just too busy. But, you know, we never seem to get any less busy and this is something that I have really wanted to do. Mike and Carol Lucas were the COY when I first got involved with Chapter E. They always seemed to be having so much fun and everyone around them did too. They were my initial motivation for wanting to try my hand at this job. There have been many great Chapter Couples since then who have set wonderful examples for Dan and I to follow. Each couple has brought their own special touch to this position and have served as fabulous delegates for Chapter E. I personally have admired each and every one. We hope that each of you will give us tips and pointers on how you were so successful. We also hope that every member of Chapter E will help us be the best Chapter Couple of the Year that we can be.





District News Region N News



REGION N RALLY ANNOUNCEMENT - Mike & Angie Mitchell, Region N Directors, announce that the 2005 Region N Rally will be held on May 19 - 21 at the Eagles Nest Theater, in beautiful Maggie Valley, NC. The Mitchell's say "The Eagle Nest is an 800 seat newly built music theatre that should suit our needs wonderfully. We will have plenty of room for all activities and vendors on site. There are plenty of hotels, campgrounds and full service restaurants in Maggie Valley to take care of everyone. The townspeople have opened their arms to us and are as excited to have us as we are to be there. The Region Staff will be working the area over the next few months to secure sponsorships, host hotels and other goodies that will enhance the Rally."

Region N Rally Chapter Challenge

Region N announces a Chapter Challenge to all Chapters within Region N for this year's Appalachian Adventure in Maggie Valley, NC. And those of you who have already pre-registered are one up on those that haven't.

Here's the way it goes. Each participant will receive one point for specific events that they attend while at the Region N Rally. Those points are received for the following:

- Pre-Registration**
- Scavenger Hunt**
- Attending a Seminar**
- Bike Parade**
- Poker Run**
- Best Dressed Contest**
- Bike Show**

On Saturday evening before closing, the points will be tallied and the winner will be that chapter who has the most points by Chapter percentage. That Chapter will be announced at closing on Saturday night, and will be our Region N Chapter of the Year. They will receive a trophy that will be kept by the Chapter until the next year's Rally, their chapter events will be highlighted in Region N newsletters and on our Region N web site, and they will get preferred seating at next year's Region N Rally. Photos will also be taken and an article about the Chapter will be submitted to Wing World for consideration. Wherever they visit, they will be welcomed as Region N Chapter of the Year. We are very excited about the Chapter Challenge and hope the Chapters will be too!

Good luck to everyone!
Mike & Angie Mitchell
Region N Directors

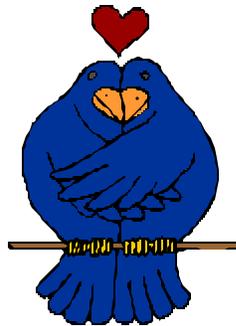
CHAPTER NEWS

Birthdays**January**

Gil Howard	7
Mary Messner	9
Ella Dorminey	11
Sharron Calahan	13
Gordon Combs	18
Warren Carter	22
Dot Baldwin	25
Allen Scott	28
Nancy Davis	31

February

Linda Hardisty	7
Nancy Groves	11
Larry Gray	16

**Anniversaries****January**

Ed & Wanda Hoeferkamp 9

February

Lou & Joyce Mitchell 11

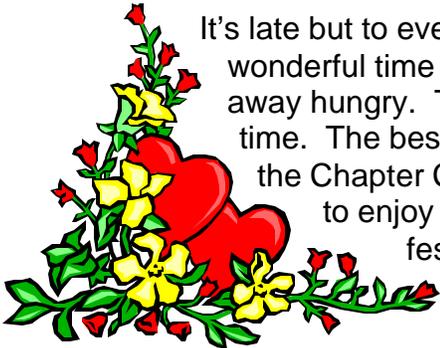
The December 15th 2004 Dinner at Red Lobster @ 6:30pm had in attendance, Jim & Beverly Travis, Ray Hitt, Kathy O'Neal, Gordon & Julie Combs, Ed & Wanda Hoeferkamp, Mary Messner, Greg, Karen & Alec Kestner, Mike & Keri Nelson, Ron, Linda & Mark Hardisty, Butch Groves, Frankie & Deloris Chapman, Don & Sharon Nissen, and Mike & Carol Lucas. The service was great and the food even better. It was a great way to spend a night during the busy holidays. Thanks to all who attended.

January 1st started out with the sun shining brightly and temperatures expected to reach into the upper sixties. A number of Chapter E members (approximately 20 or so) gathered at the Golden Corral to start the new year with good fellowship and a full belly. We all had a great time catching up with each other since it had been almost a month since some of us had seen each other. After breakfast, Greg, Butch and I decided to go for a bike ride. I can tell you that sometimes your year can be determined on January 1st. We had barely pulled out of the parking lot when a flock of gulls flew overhead and I suddenly had a dark brown splat on my windshield. We're not talking a small splat, this was one you had to look around to see through the windshield. We had to pull over so I could clean it off. So that is how my riding year started. After our pit stop, we enjoyed 2 hours of lovely riding through Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George & Caroline counties. I hope you can join us for our next ride this year. You never know what you might miss. I know what I wished I had missed.
Gordon Combs

Hi all;

January again and another pot luck at the Jones's house. Not as well attended as most have been in the past, but all who were here had a great time. Missed some of the regular eaters who normally come to our house. You know who you are and shame on you. Just kidding cause I am sure you would have been here if you could have. Sharing in the fun were 24 hungry people who ate every thing in sight. There were Ed and Wanda, Mike and Carol, Mike and Keri(not the same Mike), LLoyd and Mary, Greg and Karen as well as Alec, my how that boy has grown, Gordon and Julie(same old Gordon, never a dull moment), Ray and Kathy, Butch and Nancy, Jim and Beverly, George and Brenda with faithful sidekick Russell(everybody needs one). I almost forgot we were here also (Bob and Linda). You don't think I would go away from my house and leave that bunch here do you? Besides the food was too good to miss. Sorry some of you did.

Looking forward to the next opportunity to chow down again. To those I may not see, I wish you a happy and, above all else, a safe riding season. Keep the rubber on the pavement and don't take for granted your tires are in good condition. Check them out, they may surprise you. Believe me I know. Need any further information on my dumbness let me know. I will tell you. Ride, but ride safe,
Bob Jones



It's late but to everyone who did not attend the Christmas Party you missed a wonderful time as always. The food is always bountiful and no one goes away hungry. The dirty Santa this year was quick and everyone had a great time. The best part (as far as I am concerned) was when Ray and I turned the Chapter Couple duties over to Dan and Martha Jo. We were then free to enjoy the festivities. Plan on attending next year and enjoy the festivities, food and great holiday fellowship. Kathy & Ray

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 4th-6th: VA Wingless Weekend – Pajama Party**
- Feb. 12th: VA Chapter K Chili Cookoff**
- Feb. 16th: Chapter E Monthly Meeting**
- Feb. 25th: Chapter E Pot Luck @ Lloyd & Mary Messner's**
- March 3rd: Chapter E Staff Meeting**
- March 5th: VA Chapter F Crazy Supper – Winchester**
- March 12th: VA District Officers Meeting**
- March 13th: VA Chapter B Polar Bear Run**
- March 16th: Chapter E Monthly Meeting**
- March 19th: VA Chapter W Spring Festival**

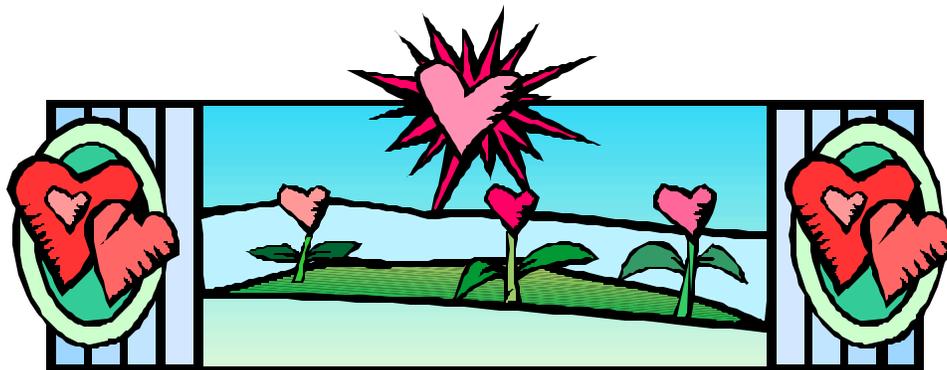


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Valentine Trivia

Did you know?

- Valentine's Day is the second largest day for giving greeting cards.
- More than one billion Valentine cards are sent each year!
- 85% of all valentines are purchased by women.
- The red rose, representing love, is the most popular Valentine's Day flower.
- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- 70% of those who celebrate Valentine's Day give a card; 49% call their sweethearts; 48% give a gift; 37% cook a special dinner; 33% give candy; 30% go out to dinner; and 19% give flowers.
- The Empire State Building in New York City, which played a prominent Valentine's Day role in the movie *Sleepless in Seattle*, has become a popular spot for couples to take or renew their vows.
- Valentine's Day is one of the most popular wedding days.

Symbols

Doves: It was thought that birds chose their mate for the year on February 14.

Doves mate for life and therefore have become a symbol of loyalty and love.

Love Birds: Lovebirds sit closely together in pairs, like sweethearts. It is also said that the lovebirds can't live without their mates. And so they have become a symbol of valentine's day.

Cupid: In Roman mythology, Cupid was the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Cupid is a winged, mischievous, chubby child who shoots people in the heart with his arrows, causing them to fall madly in love.

Hearts: The heart is associated with feelings of love. We "give our hearts" to those we love. The heart with a pierced arrow is a heart that has been shot by Cupid.

"X" sign representing a kiss: In Medieval times, those who could not write were allowed to sign documents with an "X". The signer placed a kiss upon the "X" to show sincerity. And so X came to represent a kiss.

The History of Valentine's Day

Why do we celebrate Valentine's Day and who is St. Valentine? St. Valentine's Day, the day of romance, is a mixture of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. It dates back to a Roman celebration, the Feast of Lupercal, which featured a lottery in which young men and young women were paired. In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, the Church may have looked for a patron saint

of love to take his place. February 14 was declared “St. Valentine’s Day” around 498 A.D. in honor of St. Valentine.

Saint Valentine

History has few definite facts about St. Valentine, but according to one popular legend, he was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II, or “Claudius the Cruel,” decided single men made better soldiers than soldiers who were attached to wives and families, he banned all marriages. Valentine, however, continued to marry young couples in secret. Caught in the act, Valentine, the “friend of lovers,” was imprisoned and sentenced to death. While imprisoned, Valentine miraculously healed the jailer’s daughter of blindness. The girl tried to save Valentine, unsuccessfully. Just before his execution on February 14th, Valentine sent a farewell note to her. It was signed “From our Valentine.”

