

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

JANUARY 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



January 2009

Happy New Year to my GWRRA Family. This is the first of many News Letters you will be receiving from me as you New Chapter Director. Hopefully you will enjoy reading them as much as I will try to put thought, facts, reasoning and information that pertains to our organization into them.

Katina and I are elated that you have chosen us to represent you in the capacity of Chapter Director. As I have learned through past experience, you will only get a return on the amount you have invested. Stating that, I want you to know that I will invest as much energy and time as I possibly can to enhance the already successful Chapter-E in Fredericksburg.

We had our first Staff meeting on January 6, 2009 and discussed many upcoming events and dinner rides. We are looking forward to many rides and dinners together as a TEAM. We must put forth every effort to make our summer a successful, fulfilling and eventful, yet safe one. This can only be done if YOU participate. We have some great and exciting rides planned for the year along with A special event for our wives/girlfriends. I advise you to come to the meeting to listen to all we have planned for you. Just remember what they say about the Lottery, "You can't win if you don't play". Well the same goes for GWRRA "You can't feel that you are a part if you don't attend the meetings." Just remember that it takes thought, planning, effort and a TEAM to make anything work, and we need YOU to make up the TEAM. We will be doing many things the same but some things differently. Just think, **you could win \$25.00 each time you come to a meeting. Did that spark your interest? Come to the meeting and find out how.**

Everyone has agreed to remain in their current staff positions, however, we do have a new Chapter Couple who will

be introduced at our January 21st meeting.

We started off with a big bang with 43 at the New Year's Breakfast. That gave me a boost and proved that you are a TEAM that likes to get together and News Years day proved that.

We are proud to be members of GWRRA and are willing to serve in any capacity where needed, anytime, anywhere.

Sly & Tina

Chapter Director

Chapter-E

CHAPTER E EDUCATOR'S NEWS

Winter Maintenance

Safe motorcycling depends on a safe motorcycle. We are probably riding less these days (Butch excluded, of course) and maybe now is a good time to consider maintenance that may take some time to arrange or accomplish. This month I'd like to list some things that could be done now rather than when the nice weather returns and you want to be riding.

TCLOCKS is a good place to start when thinking about maintenance requirements but I assume you know about these checks and I won't belabor them here (but there will be some overlap).

If you are using a battery that has caps where water can be added, now is a good time to check the electrolyte level. It's a pain in the neck to add water on a 1500 (I don't know if the seat has to come off on an 1800) but if you get 'er done now, you'll be glad you did in March or April (this comment applies to all maintenance items). If you need water, use only distilled water. Another thing you may want to do is check your records and see how old your battery is. If it's 5 years old, it doesn't owe you much and replacing now may save you a headache later. If you decide to replace, consider a sealed battery. These are more expensive but they are maintenance free and you won't have to worry about electrolyte levels again. AGM (absorbed glass mat) batteries are great but if you buy one of them it is very important to charge them per manufacturer's recommendations before use. You probably don't have the equipment to do this so buy from a reputable dealer who will do this for you.

You probably haven't checked your wheel bearings lately (neither have I, really, but I plan to now that I'm preaching you should). Put your Wing on its center stand. The rear wheel is now off the ground. Now get down on your belly or back and push the wheel from side to side. You should feel no "play" at all. Admittedly, this isn't the most thorough check possible but it is something we can all do without special tools. To check the front wheel, use some

sort of jack (maybe a scissor jack from your car if it has one) under the front of the engine to raise the front wheel off the ground while on the bike is on its center stand. You just need it off the ground – don't raise it so much that the rear wheel hits the ground. Then do the same kind of pushing and pulling on the wheel to look for play. Not only will you have grossly checked the front wheel bearing you will have also checked the steering head bearings. One more check of the steering head bearings would be to turn the handlebars lock-to-lock (wheel still off the ground) feeling for any unsmoothness (is that a word?).

While on your belly or back tugging on the wheels, check the date code on each tire. These are on one of the sidewalls and molded right into the rubber. They start with "DOT" and then have 4 digits. The first 2 digits indicate the week of manufacture – 1 through 52. The last 2 digits indicate the year ("08" for 2008). A tire with great tread that is 5 or 6 years old is worthy of replacement. Rubber gets hard and slippery with age and it just isn't worth it to be a cheapskate when it comes to tires (I can hear Gordon laughing now about the cheapskate of all cheapskates telling others to spend their money).

Brake fluid changes are often neglected. I know Greg changes his every year. I do mine every 2 and I like to do this in the winter when the air is dry. I don't know if I'm fooling myself but I know brake fluid is hygroscopic (absorbs water) so opening the system in dry air rather than a rainy summer day makes sense to me. Anyway, brake fluid should be changed regularly so the innards of your brake system do not corrode. This might be something best left to a professional (or to maintenance day where you can get the use of other club member tools and/or expertise). The clutch on Wings also uses brake fluid and it should get the same treatment as the brakes.

While considering fluids, what about fork oil? One of the jobs of fork oil is lubrication so this should be changed just like motor oil should. How often is completely dependent on mileage since last change and how you ride. If you have taken some of my previous advice and you practice quick stops regularly, you are exercising the front fork more and should change oil more often. I think Greg does his every year (maybe every other year, I should have asked before writing this article) and he reports that he feels the difference after changing the oil. I'm not as sensitive as Greg but I can tell you I've drained some black fork oil from neglected bikes that can't have been doing a good lubrication job. This, too, may be a job best left to a pro or maintenance day but you can at least check your records to see when this oil was last changed, can't you?

Antifreeze is also often neglected. Prestone and others say it's good for 5 years. I'm no smarter than Prestone so I'll take their word for it. If it is time to change yours, now might be a convenient time to tackle the job. The procedure is to drain and flush until only clean water comes

out. I drain, fill with water, drain, fill with water, drain, fill with coolant. This probably leaves some old coolant but very little. What I think is more important is to use distilled water (I don't want no stinkin' minerals in there) and to recognize that when you drain you never drain everything. After the fill/drain cycles I described above, there will be some amount of mostly plain water in the system before you add coolant. So, if you add a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water, you'll end up with a 40/60 (or so) mix in the end. Find out the capacity of your cooling system and then fill with enough antifreeze and a lesser amount of water to end up with a 50/50 mix.

Final drive oil doesn't need to be changed with each oil change so it sometimes gets forgotten. Try this: remove the larger cap on the final drive and stick your pinky in there. The oil should be right up to the top and shouldn't be black as tar. Drain and refill if needed. This job takes no special tools. Have the bike on the center stand before draining or oil will go all over the wheel (some may anyway). Refill back to the top of large cap opening when the bike is on the center stand. (Of course, use the right oil.) The large fill cap is a little fragile – don't over tighten or you'll be looking for a new one (but better to have to order one in the winter than when you want to ride).

The clutch and front brake levers ride on pivots that should be lubricated more often than most of us do it. They don't squeak when neglected so you won't really realize you are wearing them out if not lubricated. It is not too hard to disassemble these and grease the pivots. I suppose you could squirt some oil in without disassembly but who knows how well that works. And this lazy man's approach is messy; why not do it right?

Here is a real pain in the neck maintenance item: the air filter. If yours is due for replacement, getting started in January is a good idea so you're done by riding season (1800s are the worst). It's a frustrating job but nothing you can't handle. Replace the fuel filter while you have things disassembled and get double benefit from your hard work.

Maybe I've left out some often neglected maintenance item that comes to your mind. If so, bring it up at our next meeting or jot me a note so I can do so. After all, I probably only covered half of the things I should have (maybe I flatter myself at that!). (I know I've left off checking things that will be checked when you get your state inspection each year.)

Larry

CHAPTER E'S MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COORDINATORS' NEWS



Greetings "E" Team Members !

If you have not heard, Julie and I have stepped down as Chapter Directors but we have not gone away. We are now the Membership Enhancement Coordinators for the E team. What is this position about you ask. Well, I have attached part of the MED (Membership Enhancement Division) handbook for your enlightenment.

Membership Enhancement Coordinator Position Description of Duties and Responsibilities

Purpose:

The Membership Enhancement Coordinators main purpose is the retention of Members. They will work with the Directors to educate the Membership on the many benefits of being a GWRRA member (i.e. Gold Book, *Wing World*, Rescue Program, etc.) and make sure all the New Members, Prospective Members, and Expiring Members are contacted on a monthly basis when the Area Report List is sent out from the Home Office.

Chapter Level: Duties and Responsibilities:

- ◆ Develop and maintain a membership listing for the Chapter from the sign-in sheet and provide support for the Chapter Director.
- ◆ Be responsible for the sign-in sheet at Chapter gatherings making sure everyone signs in and checking Member's expiration dates.
- ◆ Work with membership data from Area Report (New Members, Prospective Members, Expiring Members, and Unassigned Zip Codes).

- ◆ Contact New Members, Prospective Members, and Expiring Members, via mail, e-mail, or telephone.
- ◆ Complete the contact data column on New Members, Prospective Members, and Expiring Members List. Complete and return the list by email to Region Membership Enhancement Coordinator
Send a copy to: Region Director, District Director, District Membership Enhancement Coordinator, and Chapter Director
- ◆ Review Full Area Report list received in January and June for Members in the area who may not be attending Chapter gatherings and may need to be contacted.
- ◆ Serve as liaison to the District Membership Enhancement Coordinator making sure the District Membership Enhancement Coordinator is made aware of any changes to the Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinators information (new Coordinator, email address, etc.).
- ◆ Promote changes positively to help keep politics away from the Membership.
- ◆ Be a mentor to New Members (explain the benefits of GWRRA, the terminology, Chapter Life, etc.).
- ◆ Promote involvement from the Membership – Encouraging everyone to become involved.

Other duties the Membership Enhancement Coordinator may be asked to do:

Gather and/or write articles for Chapter Newsletter.
Work with the Chapter Director and Staff to promote Chapter activities and FUN events for the Members.
May be asked to serve on the Couple of the Year selection committee.

Part of our new position also includes being the email coordinator. We thank Karen Kestner for her many years of service as the email coordinator. She has offered to maintain a back up data base in the event we lose ours so I will work closely

with her.

Also, I would like to expand upon the E Team We Care Newsline. If you are aware of any member that is ill, having surgery, lost a loved one or has some exciting news to share, please let me know so we let the team know.

We look forward to serving as your MEC Coordinators. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know. I am looking forward to an exciting new year with Sly and Tina as Chapter Directors. They have some new ideas and they are energized about serving the E Team. We are going to have many events this year and I will keep you updated each week so you can plan accordingly.

Thanks again for the privilege to serve the E Team.

Gordon Combs - Membership Enhancement Coordinator

VA-E Fredericksburg Battlefield Wings

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

**TAKE OUT
DINE IN**
(540) 373-4440
Call Ahead for Take Out Orders



2312 Plank Road
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

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!

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



01/17 Pot Luck at the Savage's Home

Take Harrison Rd West then turn Left on Piedmont, make First Right, Chancellor Park Dr then Quick Left on Willow Pond Dr. We are at 6608 Willow Pond Dr. House is on the Left. Limited Parking, so those of you that can carpool, it will be appreciated. Our home is located in the subdivision directly behind Chancellor High School. 540-379-8708

01/21 E Team General Gathering at Dynasty Buffet Eat at 6:30, meet at 7:30

01/25 Dinner Ride to Amici's in Garrisonville at 2 PM details to follow

02/03 Staff Meeting @ Vinnys 6pm to eat, 7pm to meet, everyone is welcome

02/6-8 Wingless Weekend in Williamsburg..... see www.gwrrava.org



CHAPTER E NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

Established
10/24/87

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 STAFF MEETING	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 POT LUCK SAVAGE HOME 3:00 PM
18	19	20	21 GENERAL MEETING	22	23	24
25 AMICI'S DINNER RIDE 2:PM	26	27	28	29	30	31

**MEMBER NEWS AND
ITEMS OF INTEREST**



**Chapter E
Birthdays**

JANUARY

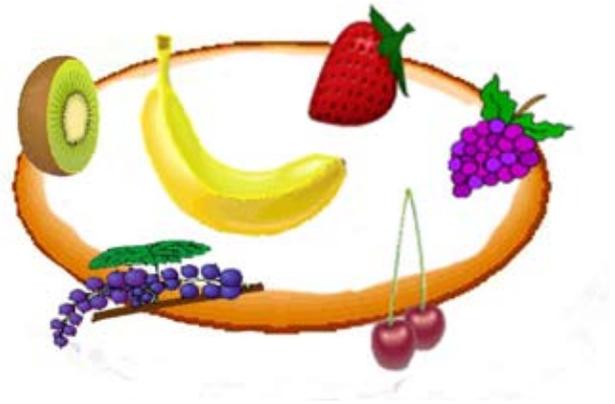
- 04 Michael Griffin
- 06 Diana Evans
- 09 Marry Messner
- 10 Kerrie Pratt
- 11 Ella Dorminey
- 13 Sharon Calahan
- 13 Tony Poulakowski
- 18 Gordon Combs
- 19 Sean Travis
- 22 Warren Carter
- 25 Dot Baldwin
- 28 Allen Scott
- 30 Mark Hardisty
- 31 Nancy Davis



**Chapter E
Anniversaries**

JANUARY

- 09 Ed & Wanda
Hoeferkamp



DESSERT PIZZA

1 - 18 oz. Roll refrigerated slice/bake sugar cookies

1 - 8 oz. Pkg. Cream cheese

1/3 cup sugar

Assorted fruits: strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, seedless grapes, mandarin oranges, etc.

Roll out cookie dough to make a round shape (like a pizza). Bake at 375° 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool Slightly. Combine cream cheese and sugar, mixing until well blended. Spread over cooled crust. Arrange fruit on cream cheese mixture. Chill.

*You could use 1 envelope of dream whip instead of sugar.

Submitted by Karen Kestner