

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

JULY 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

July 2009



Hello to all my GWRRA Family and Friends. I must start by stating a THANK YOU to all of the many members who assisted in making our Tour DE Burg a success. I mention the word SUCCESS not because of a huge financial gain prospered to our chapter through this event, but because of the participation and assistance rendered while the event was in process. Although there were a few set backs, we weathered through the storm (literally). I personally believe that we would have had many more in attendance had it not been predicted that we would experience sever thunder storms and rain. The weather forecast was right this time.

Also, I thank all of you who donated gifts to the chapter. Although I picked up many food items from CostCo, many of you went to different stores to purchase items and food. The deserts were delicious and the food was very tasty. I thank those who cooked and served as well as those who maintained the games. Our working together assures me that we are a team who come together when needed. I must admit though that I wish we had asked for help when we brought stuff home and had to unload it into the house and also the storage bin, however, we managed although exhausted. That old saying "we learn from our mistakes".

As you know some of Chapter-E's members went to Wing Ding in Tulsa OK. What an enjoyable trip. Those who went were, Frankie & Delores, John & Helen, Tim & Eva, Ray & Kathy & I, (Sly Savage). Chapter-E was well represented. Let me tell you why I say that, although I am getting ahead of my story somewhat. We became friendly with the shuttle driver from the hotel and he sent a shout out over the Tulsa, Oklahoma Radio Station for his new friends in GWRRA, Chapter-E, Fredericksburg, VA. We were elated to hear our chapter being announced on the radio.

As I mentioned many months ago at our chapter gathering that had I started preparing for this trip by setting money aside for it, a little at a time and that my plan would work if I set aside X amount of money each month I would have enough traveling money and spending money when I was ready to travel to Tulsa. Well it worked and I wasn't stressed as to how much I could or could not spend. This is how I prepare for travel each and every time. So much about me.

I met Tim & Eva at 5:15AM at the end of his street on Sunday, 28 July and headed for Carmel Church to meet up with John & Helen and Frankie & Delores. We all arrived there within 5 minutes of each other. We made sure our tanks were full and our bladders were empty and took off for our trip within 10 minutes of our scheduled time to leave. We were prepared for warm to hot weather since we were going where temps were expected to reach 100 or more. When we left from Carmel Church and headed West on Rt# 64 the temperature dropped to 58 degrees. We were a little bit chilly. I've been told that I always dress too warm, well I wasn't dressed too warm that morning. After riding for approximately 115 miles we decided to get breakfast and thaw out a little. We proceeded on Rt. 64 West until mid afternoon and stopped for fuel & lunch. While sitting in a Subway in Kentucky, we looked out of a window and saw a Red Goldwing pulling a White Trailer and turning around and heading in our direction. I recognized the bike and trailer, it was Ray & Kathy. What a wonderful feeling to be so far from home and see someone you know and especially chapter members. We talked for a few minutes and they continued on their way. We continued our trip and spent Sunday in Morehead, Kentucky and Monday Night in CUBA, Indiana. Yes, CUBA!! We enjoyed our stay each night. Upon leaving Cuba, we continued to Tulsa with an on time arrival. We were very fortunate that for three days and 1,294 miles of riding, we never ran into rain.

As I mentioned in a previous paragraph that we became friends with our shuttle driver at the Tulsa Select Hotel, we didn't have to touch our bikes the entire time we were there because the shuttle took us to and from the Convention Center. What a wonderful service!! When our Wing World Magazine stated that Tulsa,

Oklahoma welcomed Wing Ding, they told the truth. We were welcomed with open arms. Everyone was friendly and warm. Each one of us enjoyed going to and from the Convention Center and purchasing items for ourselves and others. But most of all we enjoyed seeing many old friends and meeting many new friends. In fact I finally met Stu Oltman & Shirley Garcia and had the opportunity to have pictures taken with them after taking the classes they taught. I also took a technical class (don't remember the instructor's name) and as some safety and visibility issues arose, I mentioned to them about the Visibility of wearing a White Helmet. Everyone seemed quite intrigued with the idea.

We enjoyed our stay in Tulsa and I could give you many more details, but I do not want to bore you so I will tell you about our return trip. To sum it all up, we left on Saturday, 4 July and had wonderful weather. Upon waking up on Sunday I heard rain on the window pain. We had a continental breakfast put on our rain gear around 9:00AM and never took it off until 6:30 PM. What does that tell you? Yes we rode in and out of rain all day Sunday, July 5th. We spent the night in Beckley, WV. On Monday Morning the sun was bright and shining and we headed home and I think by that time everyone was ready to sleep in his/her own bed.

I can only tell you that it's always worth the journey to take a trip to Wing Ding when riding with your friends in GWRRA. Thanks to those who went and represented Chapter-E.

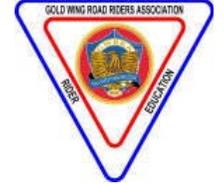
As usual, we are willing to serve and assist any where and anytime as needed.

Sly & Tina

Chapter Directors VA-E

Fredericksburg, VA

CHAPTER E EDUCATOR'S NEWS



Panic

I know I have written newsletter articles on this topic before but it seems to me to be one of the most important topics in safety so I write again. Actually, while I was out of town on my extended business trip, I had an experience that brought panic to the forefront of my mind for several minutes.



The vessel I worked on in a semi-submerged state. Notice stairs (barely visible) going down the middle column and out of sight under the main deck.

The vessel I work on is similar to an oil drilling platform that would operate in the Gulf of Mexico. Its main deck is more than 100' above the sea surface. To get onto the vessel from a pier, you have to either climb the 10 flights of stairs that are attached to the side of the vessel or, if an elevator is available on the pier, ride it up. During my extended trip the elevator was almost always available but I did use the stairs on many occasions.

My job was to oversee construction work and report to the next shift what had been accomplished during my shift. Half of the time I was on this assignment I worked the night shift. One night, I needed to check on progress of a job that was being accomplished under the main deck. The best way to observe the work was to go halfway down the stairs. As I said, I have used these stairs many times. They are very sturdy and have a handrail but they are only connected to the vessel on one side and are outside and open to wind. On the night in question, I started down the stairs from the main deck. It was pitch black as soon as I got down the first flight. I got a lump in my throat and held onto the handrail with a death grip. I asked myself why was I being such a wimp – I've used these stairs many times and I know they are perfectly safe. I was able to continue and complete my mission but every step was measured and the handrail was always tightly held.

I was experiencing a mild form of panic. I was in a new situation (it was dark and I could not clearly see that the stairs were still in fine shape) and my natural, human reaction was to enter a state of fear. In this particular case I think my fear actually reduced my ability to negotiate the stairs safely but it was out of my control to change my state of mind; my moments of panic were completely involuntary.

This kind of thing has happened to me (and you, I bet) in my (your) motorcycling career. Each time I come to a curve a little faster than I'm used to or need to stop quicker than I planned to or, or, or, I tense up and that bit of fear temporarily reduces my skills. I'm convinced that if I ever encounter a situation that I judge to be well beyond my skill level, I'll go into a full panic and have no chance to do the right thing. So, I'm always careful to not "get in over my head." If I'm riding in a group, I'm particularly careful to not let peer pressure cause me to take chances I wouldn't otherwise take. On the other hand, when I'm riding alone I do, on occasion, try to ride at my personal limits for short periods of time when I can maintain full concentration on some aspect of motorcycling that I want to improve on. The first time I lean the motorcycle to X degrees in a corner, I'm a little tense but by the 100th time it seems natural, the anxiety is gone, and I have more mental capacity left to deal

with something else that might come up further into the curve. Similarly for other situations/maneuvers.

There is a fine balance here between taking too many risks and improving your skill level. Each of us needs to find our personal balance point and ride at an appropriate comfort level. But, don't be afraid to stretch on occasion. Read about the proper technique for some maneuver and then find a place to repeat it over and over where you can slowly move from your comfort zone to a zone of higher skill that will become your new comfort zone. Just remember to not stretch too much at once and do your practicing in a place where risks are minimal if things go wrong. You don't have to ride at the new comfort zone limits you achieve, I'm not recommending that. Having "higher" comfort zone limits just gives you more to work with before panic sets in if a surprise comes along on your next ride. Panic is involuntary, debilitating, and must be avoided at all costs when riding a motorcycle.

As I write this I have literally not been on a motorcycle for more than 6 months. I plan to take my preaching to heart very soon. Hope to see you on the road many times this summer.

Larry

CHAPTER E'S MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COORDINATORS' NEWS



Greetings E Team Members. Below is an article titled “Every Member Matters”. That’s because you do and always will.

The following article is a reprinted from the June 2009 Kentucky Chapter Y Newsletter.
Have you ever belonged to an organization where you felt like you were just a number, basically invisible to the rest of the members? That is not a good feeling, and you get no fulfillment out of being a member of that organization. When you join an organization like ours it is not because you have to, it is because you want to. Perhaps you are looking for other people with similar interests, motorcycle riding, or for the social outings, or some other reason. Regardless of the reason, you are important, and you matter to our organization. You bring something unique to the organization. You are a different person with different ideas and methods of doing things. **The important thing is for you to share those ideas.**

When there is a discussion concerning whatever topic, do not be afraid to share your thoughts. It is up to the leaders of our organization to keep an open mind and to accept new ideas. Nothing makes a member, old or new feel more important and accepted than when they have a chance to contribute. Without input from the members, we can get into a rut and keep doing the same things over and over again. The first couple of times they were fun to do; now it is old hat and becomes boring. Boring leads to complacency and the next thing, you know we are no longer having fun. People stop participating and things will fall apart. In order to continue to have fun we must continue to participate, because **“EVERY MEMBER MATTERS”.**

Jim Reising
Kentucky Chapter Y
Membership Enhancement Coordinator

Below you will find every ride/event we have scheduled between now and the end of August. We would love to see you out at any of these events. If you have any questions, please contact me.

07/18 Pork, Peanut & Pine Festival Ride

07/19 Pot Luck @ Harrison Road Community Center

07/25 Ride to Chapter U's Annual Poker Run

08/02 Triathlon

08/04 Staff Meeting @ Vinny's 7 pm

08/19 E Team General Gathering @ Dynasty Buffet

Look for dinner rides coming soon!

Please check these websites:

www.battlefieldwings.com

www.gwrrava.org

www.region-n.org

www.gwrra.org

Looking forward to time spent with my E Team family,

Gordon Combs - Membership Enhancement Coordinator

VA-E Fredericksburg Battlefield Wings

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Tech Tips From the Webdude :: Do You eBay?

You've probably heard of it and you might have even visited the site, bid on an item, or just browsed around looking for that next sweet deal.

Internet Commerce

Pierre Omidyar, a 28 year old Iranian/French immigrant created the computer code that would become eBay in September of 1995. The business model was to create an online community that could trade items, person to person. The trading method was an online auction. The first item sold was a broken laser pointer and it was bid up to \$14.83. The site became a success and grew exponentially during the late 1990's.

How it Works

If you're just curious about eBay go to their website and search for some items that might interest you. Be as specific as you can in their search box. You could also browse through categories that interest you

like: collectables, jewelry, musical instruments, books, even automobiles and real estate.



Now if you actually want to buy or sell items you're going to have to register with them and set up an account. To do that, look for **register**.

They'll ask for lots of information from you including a credit card and possibly a bank account number to attach the account to so you can buy and sell items. For your own protection, make sure you have a secure web connection by looking for "https:" in the web address:



You might also want to carefully read the eBay user agreement. Once you are registered you're ready to start buying and selling. Good Luck! You'll be joining millions of others from all around the world who have "eBayed".

How much does it all cost?

Whenever you list an item for auction on eBay there is a listing fee. If you sell your items using a payment service called PayPal they will charge you a fee also. There are also similar nominal fees for items you purchase on eBay in addition to the amount you bid. When bidding on items you should also be careful to note the shipping costs as you will usually be required to pay for shipping also.

Reference

More history of eBay: http://ebay.about.com/od/ebaylifestyle/a/el_history.htm

Help: <http://pages.ebay.com/help/account/my-ebay.html?fromFeature=My%20eBay>

PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/>



CHAPTER E NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

Established
10/24/87

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 STAFF MEETING	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 GENERAL MEETING	16	17	18 PORK PEANUT & PINE FESTIVAL
19 POT LUCK	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MEMBER NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST



18 Larry & Kathy White
30 Terry & Elaine Murphy

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



2 Dan Fritz
5 Katina Savage
6 Julie Combs
8 Nolan Clark
21 Karen Kestner



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 1-4 are finished thank you to all who participated.

5. Sunday August 2, 2009: 7:00 – 11AM (4 Motorcycles Needed)
Mountain Run Lake Park -9642 Mountain Run Lake Road – Culpeper, VA 22701
Race Starts at 8AM – 16 Mile Bike
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.

TRIP TO TULSA, OKLAHOMA

DAY 1- June 28, 2009

Frankie, Delores, Helen, John, Tim, Eva and Sly all met at the Petro Truck Stop in Carmel Church and departed for Tulsa Oklahoma. In route to Tulsa, our first stop was Kentucky. We all went out for dinner, met several people, made new friends and stayed the night there. The ride was 500 miles and the weather was beautiful for riding.

DAY 2- June 29, 2009

The weather was great. We met Ray & Cathy at a rest stop. We stayed the night in Cubic, Missouri.

Day 3- June 30 2009

We arrived in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The last 100 miles was the hottest of the trip! We checked in to the hotel and rested for the evening. The next morning, we went to the Civic Center, we observed the selecting for District Couple and later went back to the hotel. We caught a shuttle to go shopping later that afternoon before heading to dinner at the Charleston Restaurant. The food was great. We started to Oklahoma City but the bad weather caused us to change our minds. We turned around and went back to the hotel in Tulsa.

On our return trip back to Virginia, Sly took us to St. Louis to the Gateway Arch. There we saw a film showing how the arch was built. We spent the next nigh in Evansville, IN. We rode all day that Sunday in the rain to West Virginia which is where we stayed the night. The next morning, was the last leg of the trip headed home. We arrived at Sly's home around 3:30. We relaxed for a while and reflected on our trip before heading back home in Bowling Green.

Many thanks to Sly for guiding us and serving as a leader on the trip. He did an excellent job in making sure that we all traveled safely.

And by the way, John would always let us know when it was time to gas up. We had a great time together, laughing and sharing stories. It was so great to fellowship with others.

SUBMITTED BY: Frankie & Delores

Invitation to pot luck dinner

Sponsored by Tom & Diana Evans along with Dan & Martha Jo Fritz

Date: July 19, 2009

Location:

[Harrison Road Community Center](#)

Address:

4728 Harrison Road

Fredericksburg, VA, 22407

Time: 2:30 pm till?

We look forward to you spending time with us!

I made a statement at our Chapter Meeting (July 15) that Mr. Larry Gray is a *show off*. What did I mean by that statement? Well, he has stated that he has not ridden his bike in 6 months. But, at the parking lot practice last Sunday he was out there doing “tricks” (on wet pavement and in the rain part of the time) that I will probably never have the courage to do on my two-wheeler. (Which by the way is a Harley), yes Dan you will forgive me, I know.

For someone who has not been on a motorcycle in so many months, Larry showed extreme control, ability, and the safety that he preaches. I for one am extremely proud to have him as our Chapter Educator.

SUBMITTED BY: Diana Evans

P.S. Dan, What is the windiest city in America?

“Whatever city my husband is in”,

did that come from MJ?



People having FUN at the Tour De Burg
June 20, 2009

Pictures provided by Tony Poulakowski

