

CHAPTER E BATTLEFIELDWINGS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

Please visit our web site at: www.battlefieldwings.com



CHAPTER E HOME OF THE REGION N EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

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BATTLEFIELD WINGS, VA-E



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CHAPTER DIRECTOR NEWS



Yipee, we now have extra daylight hours to ride in the evening. I look so forward to day light savings time as it is nice to come home from work and still have light to get out for a while. The weather is starting to get warmer and those bikes are screaming to get out of the garage and take us for a spin. At least some of us. The doctor still has me in a sling till at least the end of March and he said it would be at least May before I can ride again. As you may have gathered, I am very bummed about this. I want to ride so bad that I go into my garage and sit on the bike dreaming of the day when I am freed of my non riding prison.

We have a couple of upcoming events this month. On the weekend of the 14th through the 16th is the Horizons Program. We have 6 chapter E members signed up including myself. On Saturday the 22nd, our own Larry Gray will be hosting a Team Riding Seminar at Gander Mountain starting at 9:30 am. Please make plans to attend and support rider education. We have a tremendous team in place for rider ed starting with Jim Sharkey and Renee Starkweather as Virginia District Educators, our own Greg and Karen Kestner as Assistant Virginia District Educators, and our very own Larry Gray, your Chapter E educator and current Region N Educator of the Year.

I would like to encourage everyone to get out and support our other Virginia GWRRA chapters. A number of you get out to meetings and events already, but I would like to see more of us out there. Please consider going to some of the other chapters' functions. It is always fun and we are always welcome.

Well, as Forrest Gump said, "that's all I have to say about thaaat." Till we meet again,

Gordon

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U Turns and Other Slow Speed Maneuvers

I often hear riders say they are intimidated by U turns or weaves or other slower speed maneuvers. I hear this a lot when teaching BRCs but I've also heard it from experienced motorcyclists so I think it is worth devoting a monthly article to. I'm still working to get better at slow speed maneuvers myself so I'm speaking to myself too as I outline the generally accepted techniques for slow speed maneuvers and in particular the tight U turn.

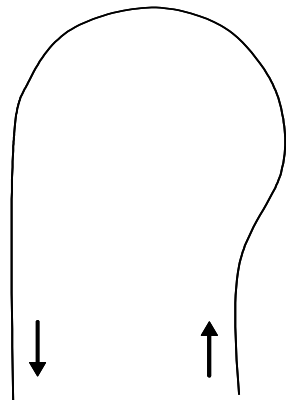
There are three major techniques that, taken together, will help a rider make a sharper and more confident looking U turn. The first is the most basic: turn your head and look where you want to go. Many BRC students (and I don't think it is completely confined to them) think they are turning their head far more than they actually are. You should be able to see your Gold Wing radio or CB antenna when you look back to where you want to go when you start your U turn. This is hard to do if there is a curb or other obstacle near your intended path and you aren't confident about the turn. Gain confidence in a parking lot free of obstacles and then turning your head will be easier to do in the real world where there are obstacles.

The second technique is to slip the clutch. Even if you are not trying to go slower than what the bike will go at idle in first gear, slipping the clutch will greatly smooth things out. Here's why. If you start to lean a little more than you planned (or you get scared), the natural (and often proper) reaction is to increase throttle a bit. But, just a tiny increase in throttle on a Gold Wing can cause a substantial jerk and usually an overcorrection in lean angle and a straightening out in direction. By slipping the clutch, you smooth this out and avoid unwanted changes in direction. You can also ride the rear brake a little and by modulating clutch and brake smoothly you can adjust speed and thereby lean angle as needed with very little or no change in throttle.

The third technique is to delay turning the handlebars. If you let the bike lean a little more before you turn the handlebars you will have to turn them more to arrest the lean. And this is good. With more lean and the handlebars turned more, you will execute a tighter U turn. A variation on this technique is to start a left U turn by starting left of the right boundary (more toward the middle) and first steering right and then turning left. (This is recommended in Jerry Palladino's Ride Like A Pro video.) The idea is to establish more left lean at the right boundary for your turn rather than waiting until you are halfway into it – a motorcycle always turns tighter when leaned. (I leave it to you translate this for a right U turn instead of left.) It is also quite acceptable to maintain an upright body position (upright relative to the ground) and let the motorcycle lean underneath you when executing slow speed maneuvers. This is called counterweighting and most riders find it very helpful.



VA-E's half-crazed CE. Luckily, Bob Dorminey has agreed to add some stability to the CE position starting this month. Let Bob know you appreciate him stepping in to this troubling situation.



If any of these techniques are not in your bag of tricks and you are dissatisfied with your U turn abilities, give them a try. The head turn is a must. Don't worry about the other two until a full head turn is no problem for you. Once you've got that, try the others.

Like other motor skills, all of this will require practice to make perfect. And, most people find that lefts are easier than rights or vice versa. Don't let that throw you. I devote more time practicing the direction I have more trouble with and I still haven't gotten it even with my "easy" direction. I hope you don't have this frustration.

See you at our next Parking Lot Practice???

Larry

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TECH TIPS FROM THE WEBDUDE

DESKTOP TIPS

Do you ever feel overwhelmed with all of the icons on your desktop? Do they clutter the beautiful background that you put together for your computer? Well, let me just give you a tip that I find very useful. First of all, I like to hide my taskbar so that I have maximum visibility of my screen and access it by simply moving my mouse to the bottom of the screen. So if you are like me and have a bunch of applications open at one time, you have to close/minimize all open windows to access the program icon that you need to open next from your desktop. I like to have shortcuts to the programs that I use the most on my Quick Launch Toolbar. Below is a graphic illustrating what I mean.



As you can see, I have many shortcuts to programs that I use the most on the top row and all of the open applications are on the bottom row. I stretched the taskbar up (you have to unlock the Taskbar to do so) so that there was enough room to show all of the items that I want to see. These programs are a single click away, as I do not have to close/minimize any of my open applications to open new ones.

MOVING PROGRAM ICONS TO THE QUICK LAUNCH TOOLBAR

If there is a program on your desktop that you want to move to the **Quick Launch** bar, simply click and drag the icon down to the taskbar and drop it where you want it. This process does not remove it from the desktop, so you can delete the shortcut from the desktop once it has been moved to the taskbar. If you mess something up, you can always access the program from the **Start->Programs** menu.

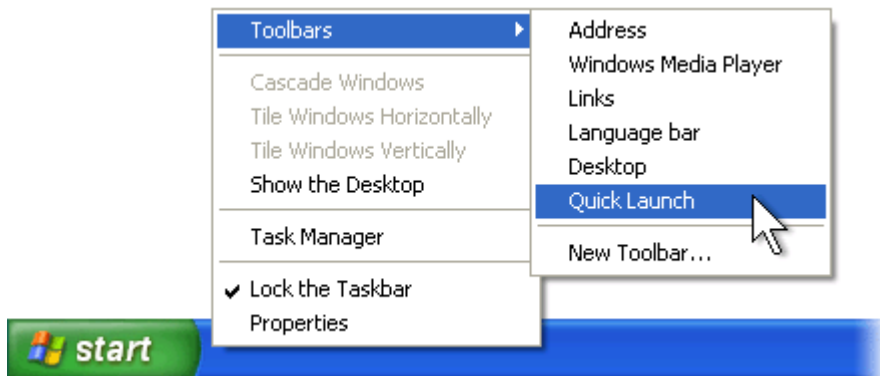
The section below describes the process to **Displaying The Quick Launch** toolbar, taken from the Microsoft website.

DISPLAYING THE QUICK LAUNCH BAR

Published: September 7, 2006

The Quick Launch bar is a list of shortcuts to your favorite programs. You can use the Quick Launch bar to open programs with a single click, without having to go through the **Start** menu. Microsoft Windows XP displays the Quick Launch bar by default, so it might already be part of your taskbar. Look for the Quick Launch bar directly to the right of your Start button.

If you have disabled your Quick Launch bar, you can display it by right-clicking your taskbar, clicking **Toolbars**, and then clicking **Quick Launch**.



Windows XP displays the Quick Launch bar, which by default shows shortcuts for opening Microsoft Internet Explorer and for displaying your desktop. Other programs might add a shortcut to the Quick Launch bar, too.

To start a program, just click the shortcut.



With the Quick Launch bar displayed on your taskbar, your favorite programs are just a click away.

RESOURCES:

Microsoft Windows XP: Tips and Tricks:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/setup/tips/default.mspx>

Questions?? Contact the Webdude:

<http://www.battlefieldwings.com/contact/?id=22>

-- Webdude, "E" Team Webmaster

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BATTLEFIELD WINGS

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 STAFF MEETING	5	6	7	8 VA-U
9 TIME > 	10	11	12	13	14 HORIZON PROGRAM	15
16	17	18	19 GENERAL MEETING	20	21	22 TEAM RIDING SEMINAR
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 VA-K
30	31				OLD COUNTRY BUFFET UPDATE?	PAST HIGHLIGHTS PICTURES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH 8: VA-U HANOVER U TURN BOOGIE DANCE PARTY

MARCH 14-16: HORIZON'S PROGRAM <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/horizonpromo08.pdf>

MARCH 22: TEAM RIDING SEMINAR @GANGER MOUNTAIN 9:30am

MARCH 29: VA-K ROANOKE CHILI COOK OFF/SWAP MEET

APRIL 5: VA-W CHESTER SPAGETTI DINNER <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/vawdinner08.pdf>

APRIL 12: VA-I MANASSAS BULL RUN <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/vaipoker08.pdf>

VA-C NEWPORT NEWS SPRING THAW <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/vacspring08.pdf>

APRIL 13: VA-L CHESAPEAKE PRE-TAX DAY POKER RUN <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/valtax08.pdf>

APRIL 19: VA-X SALEM BIKE SHOP <http://www.gwrrava.org/images/vaxbike08.pdf>

MANASSAS HONDA OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 24TH – 26TH TENNESSEE DISTRICT SPRING FLING <http://www.tngwrra.org/Downloads/WebRegistrationForm.pdf>

APRIL 26TH - VA-J SOUTH BOSTON BOYS HOME RIDE

VA-O WILLIAMSBURG BIKE CHALLENGE

MS WALK DOWNTOWN FREDERICKSBURG

MAY 10TH : VA-E FREDNECKSBURG E-LIM-PIKS

http://www.battlefieldwings.com/fliers/tour_de_burg_08.pdf

VIRGINIA DISTRICT AGENDA FOR 2008:

<http://www.gwrrava.org/vaevents.html>

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STAFF MEETINGS ARE
SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST
TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH
MEET AT 6:30 PM TO EAT
MEETING STARTS AT

**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!

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Visit with us for our Chapter Meetings the

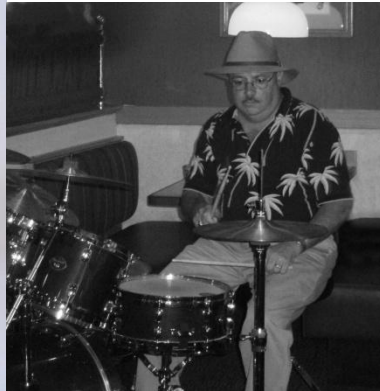
3rd Wednesday of each month

DYNASTY BUFFET - FOUR-MILE FORK

Meet at 6:30 pm to Eat

Meeting begins at 7:30 pm

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Due to Gordon's surgery he will most likely be returning next month to entertain us again!

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MEMBER NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

February General Meeting Ride Pot Winner: Ted Odle \$50.00, unfortunately he was not present....but the pot starts this month with a roll-over amount!

NO PEEK BEEF CASSEROLE

2 lbs stew beef - cut into 1 inch

1 envelope Lipton Instant Onion Soup

½ cup red cooking wine

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1-4 oz. Can of whole mushrooms, drained.

Put all in the crock pot, mix, stir, cook on high 5 to 6 hours then on low for 8 hours.

SERVE over rice or noodles

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Kestner

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