

GWRRA

# BATTLEFIELD WINGS, VA - E

REGION N

NOVEMBER 2006

[www.battlefieldwings.com](http://www.battlefieldwings.com)

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- Dinner Ride Coordinator - **Gordon Combs**      [gorcom@msn.com](mailto:gorcom@msn.com)

### Assistant Ride Coordinators

- |                        |                     |                     |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Frankie Chapman</b> | <b>804-633-7331</b> | <b>Bob Dorminey</b> | <b>540-752-6661</b> |
| <b>Greg Kestner</b>    | <b>540-439-2408</b> | <b>Mike Nelson</b>  | <b>540-368-3187</b> |
| <b>Ed Hoferkamp</b>    | <b>540-898-7258</b> | <b>Dave Calahan</b> | <b>540-786-6168</b> |



*Come to our Chapter meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Of Each Month*

**Dynasty Buffet - Four-Mile Fork**

Meet at 6:30pm to Eat

Meeting begins at 7:30pm

## CHAPTER DIRECTOR NEWS

Rally in the Valley and Fall Fantasy have come and gone for 2006. Last night we set our clocks back an hour so it will be getting dark in the evenings before a lot of us get home from work. The temperatures are also dropping quickly when darkness arrives, so for most of us, the riding season is probably tapering off for a few months. It's time to do those indoor projects (honey-do lists) while we take a break from our hobby. Some people will be riding year round and I'm sure Butch is happier than (put your own expression here) to have his bike back on the road. It'll probably take a few inches of snow to keep Butch off the road.

Rally in the Valley was a little smaller this year and the weather got us again. I think last year's rain drove attendance down this year. At least we had about a five minute period on Friday that the rain actually stopped. Nonetheless, we all found a way to have fun. The band Friday night was great and Sly showed us some dance moves that should qualify him for the show "Dancing With the Stars." I'm not sure if his Wing World cover shot qualifies him as the star, or whether they would hook him up with a Hollywood hottie, but the man proved he's got some moves. The ride to RITV was great as Thursday provided some nice sunny weather and the ride home Sunday was dry and warm. There were only three of us from the chapter that rode and those who chose to bring their 4-wheeler made a wise decision. Pat Hasiak tasked Keri and I with fixing the weather for next years' rally, so come on out to RITV 2007 where we won't have any rain.

Fall Fantasy was a wonderfully sunny and pleasant day and the only challenge we had was getting the power to stay on to make coffee and keep all the soups and chilis hot. Dan Fritz won the contest for best chili, and Greg and Wanda tied for best soup. As always the food was great because Chapter E has some really good cooks. The nice weather and the district traveling plaque brought out the crowds. We had three chapters vying for the plaque, B, O and W, and VA-B ended up winning because of their long trip. Our fundraising portion was fantastic as we had a lot of incredibly nice prizes for people to take home. Our thanks to Dan and Martha Jo for the many prizes they donated and the picture board at RITV that was displayed to entice people to come to our event. Thanks also to all other chapter members who donated afghans, pies and other goodies for the auction. This was our most productive Christmas charity fundraiser and our thanks goes out to "Gordon the Guiltmaster" for his amazing talents as an auctioneer, and to Vanna White number 1 (Karen) and Vanna number 2 (Martha Jo) who modeled the goodies for the audience.

The dinner ride to Smokey Pig was great. We had fantastic service with one waitress handling our group of 20 with no problem. Also she was very pleasant all evening. Makes me wonder why we can't seem to find a restaurant around here where a waitress can even handle two tables of four people, and doesn't seem to have an attitude. The ride home got a little chilly and I'm sure Keri will

remember next time to be sure her chaps are in the bike before we leave home.

We are exploring the possibility of participating in Christmas parades for Fredericksburg, Bowling Green and Spotsylvania. Stay tuned for details. Our last event this year is our Christmas party on 16 December at Wilderness Presidential Resorts. More info will be coming out about the party soon.

For those who are still riding, be careful out there. I saw signs of three recent deer collisions on I-95 in less than a mile, and two or three more the rest of the way home. The animals are on the move preparing for winter so we have to take extra precautions when riding our bikes.

Next spring we will have rides to Natural Bridge, Seneca Rocks, WV, Chrome World, and we are still working on a Virginia covered bridges ride. Stay tuned for dates for these events. So far all of these are day rides and we are looking into one or two overnight rides for next year. If you have any suggestions for overnight trips, contact us or Gordon.

Ride safe,

**Mike & Keri**

## CHAPTER EDUCATOR NEWS



## Thanks, Minimizing Risk

I'm walking on air after hearing about being selected as Virginia's Chapter Educator of the Year. My first order of business is to ensure you know that we all share this honor as a chapter. Gordon coached me through the responsibilities, Gordon and Greg performed the heavy lifting (presenting seminars) when I couldn't (because I'm not certified to present seminars), Mike and Keri kept me on track, and everyone worked together to make my first year a success by 1) helping me with Levels Program renewals/updates, 2) applying a little peer pressure to others to get current at their Levels or advance, 3) encouraging me in various ways (commenting on an article or presentation, attending seminars, and being my friend). My thanks to all you co-recipients (but I'm keeping the plaque for myself). I also need to mention Jackie Wall for her work at the District level. She was great.

Last weekend and for the next 2 weekends I'm taking MSF's Rider-Coach Preparation training. That's making life pretty grueling – 26 days in a row either working or going to this class before I'll have a day off. I should have prepared

a newsletter article in advance but, alas, I didn't. Not to worry, though, my training material has some "good stuff" in it that I can pass along.

Ponder these points (copied verbatim from MSF's Rider-Coach Guide):

- Safe motorcycle operation is a mental, physical, and social task that requires specialized operational skills and behaviors.
- Motorcycle crashes are not usually caused by a single factor, rather, they are caused by an interaction of factors, many of which can be minimized by a competent, prepared, and motivated motorcyclist.
- Motorcyclists should be aware of the risks inherent in vehicle operation, and implement a personal strategy to manage these risks and to minimize the chances of a mishap occurring.
- It is the responsibility of the motorcyclist to implement strategies to reduce risk.
- A strategy to minimize risk includes, but is not limited to, wearing safety gear and being visible in traffic.
- A strategy to minimize risk includes conscientiously applying a mental process to perceive traffic/roadway problems.
- A strategy includes an

attitude that leads to choosing to minimize risk.

- A strategy includes developing skill capabilities to effect basic and emergency motorcycle maneuvers.

Safe motorcycle operation requires that a rider maintain a positive, safety-conscious attitude and control personal behavior that may lead to increased risk.

The beginning of this list is just facts and we probably wouldn't quibble with any of them. But from the middle down, if you read between the lines, there are suggested actions we can take to improve our odds out there on the road. If you had any sense of "guilt" reading any of these, maybe that's telling you something (if you didn't, you're perfect or complacent – you choose). I was particularly struck by one of the last ones and have something to work on in my riding. I'll let you know how I make out in a few months.

I know I written some longer, and hopefully better, articles but I need a nap so you'll have to do with this.

Larry

UPCOMING EVENTS

# November 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed               | Thu | Fri | Sat  |
|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|--|
|     |     |     | 1                 | 2   | 3   | 4<br>Blue Knights<br>Teddy Bear Run<br>VA-J Goldwing Celebration |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8                 | 9   | 10  | 11<br>VA District Officers Meeting                               |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15<br>Monthly mtg | 16  | 17  | 18   |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22                | 23  | 24  | 25   |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29                | 30  |     |  |

- 1 Dec - VA-U Christmas Party
- 2 Dec - VA-D Christmas Party
- 16 Dec - VA-E Christmas Party
- 11-13 - Jan Maryland Winter Thing, Ocean City, MD
- 9-11 Feb - Wingless Weekend

**CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS — NOVEMBER**

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Tracy Boone      | 9  |
| Bob Renner       | 10 |
| Reggie Willis    | 17 |
| Jean Moore       | 22 |
| George Karhan    | 24 |
| Wanda Hoeferkamp | 26 |



**CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES — NOVEMBER**



|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Rob & Brooke Hardisty | 3  |
| Mike & Keri Nelson    | 8  |
| Bob & Linda Jones     | 19 |

## LETTER FROM BAGDAD

Fellow Chapter E Riders,

This blurb may seem late considering, but I would be remiss if I didn't tell you about the flag raising and "Freedom March" that took place here at the Palace on September 11, 2006. Believe it or not, this is probably the hardest issue for me to discuss.

On September 11, 2006, just about everyone here (I am referring to the Palace compound) exhibited some degree of sentiment concerning the events of 9/11/01. While everyone was still their friendly self, and everyone here is very friendly and cheerful, even the non-

Americans; that day seemed very somber. I think that most people, especially the Americans, were reflecting on what that day meant to them. For one thing, it meant that we were in Iraq, away from our friends and families.

The Embassy sponsored a flag raising on September 11 at the US Embassy Consulate building (at no cost to the government, of course). Those participating were volunteers giving up their day to perform the flag raising service. The attitudes of everyone partici-

pating seemed to be more spirited and full of determination. We raised and lowered well over 800 flags that morning. I think the flag raisings were a therapeutic exercise for all of us that were there. First, we were raising flags that were either going to be keepsakes as a remembrance of our tour in Iraq or be a present for someone special.

The military service members did the actual flag raising (see photo)



while us civilians either took the flag out of its original package or put the flag back into the original package. The military had the flag raising well organized with each individual performing a task, but together everyone was one machine working in unison. The group raising the flags were from all the Services and about 6 civilians (SIGIR had 3 civilians – remember, I work for SIGIR.) Two soldiers worked the lanyard up and down the flagpole. They worked the flags up and down so fast I thought the lanyard would break, but they could only move as fast as the flags could be put on or

taken off the lanyard. I guess the routine went something like this: boxes and bags of flags were stacked, a couple of people removed the flags from its container and placed the flag in a large cardboard box; one individual took a flag out of that box, unfolded it, and passed it to another individual who held it for the person that hooked the top of the flag to the lanyard as another hooked the bottom of the flag; up and down the pole and then another two people removed the flag's top and bottom and passed the flag to a group of six that were responsible for folding the flag in its traditional triangular form for packaging; after the flag was folded it was placed in an empty box being held by one of the civilians; and then the boxed flag was handed to me to make sure the box was completely sealed and then I placed the boxed flag into large cardboard boxes or grocery bags (actually they were bags from the PX) and set aside for transportation back to the Palace.

I noticed, and I think this is an important note, a lot of the flag boxes had "presented to" written on them and many of those were in memory of a service member. My guess is that it was in memory of someone killed or wounded in action. A few times it took my breath away and as I write this blurb, some of that emotion is starting to return.

**LETTER FROM BAGDAD (CONT'D)**

I think that flag raising probably epitomizes why most of us are here, beside the obvious, we take personal any American losing his or her life to a terrorist act. Determination is the word I would use to describe the flag raising. Determination to get the flags up and down the flagpole for a special reason; determination that we Americans are not going to give up, even after five years, on making Iraq free of terrorists; determination that we are going to do the best damn job at what we do, and determination this will not reoccur on our watch..



That afternoon, the Embassy sponsored a "Freedom March, which by the way corresponded, time wise, with the actual "Freedom March" that was held in Washington DC. Our ceremonies started with speeches by Ambassador Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad and Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. We also observed 2 minutes of silence at the exact same time it was observed in the United States (EST). Finally, we gathered outside behind the Palace to begin the mile and a half walk, led by our Ambassador. The walk ended in front of the Palace (see picture of me and the ambassador after the walk).

The next blurb will be for January as I am returning to the States for training during December, and oh yes, for Christmas!! I leave the US to return to Baghdad on January

2<sup>nd</sup>.

Until the next Baghdad  
Blurb...ride safe.

**Michael Herbaugh**

**FOR SALE**

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**1997 Goldwing Aspencade (Forest Green):**

- One owner, well maintained and garaged.
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Contact Sylvester Savage

Call 540-657-0297(H) or 540-379-8708(C)



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~

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**– HAPPY HOLIDAYS –**

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# WINGLESS WEEKEND

## GWRRR VIRGINIA February 9-11 2007



Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA  
(800) 932-9192 / (757) 229-4020

Mention GWRRR when making room reservations

Rooms blocked until January 21, 2007; Room rate \$64 per night single/double

Registration Fee: \$30 per person; \$12 under age 12; FREE under age 2; \$35 for non-GWRRR members

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR



## ALOHA WINGLESS HAWAII

### FRIDAY

Registration 6 – 8:30 pm

Social Time

Pajama Party Bingo

50/25/15/10

Ice Cream Social Immediately  
after drawing

Theme Contest:

\$25 Best Hawaiian Dressed – Male

\$25 Best Hawaiian Dressed – Female

\$50 Best Hawaiian Dressed – Chapter\*

\$50 Best Hawaiian Performance\*

\* Must have at least 4 members

### SATURDAY

Registration 8 am – 12 Noon

Door Prizes

People Games

Wingless Poker Walk

Chapter Competition Games

Seminars

Hospitality Room w/lunch

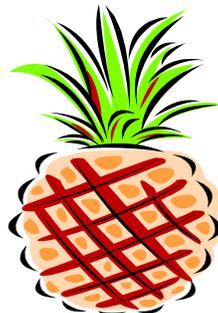
Evening Buffet

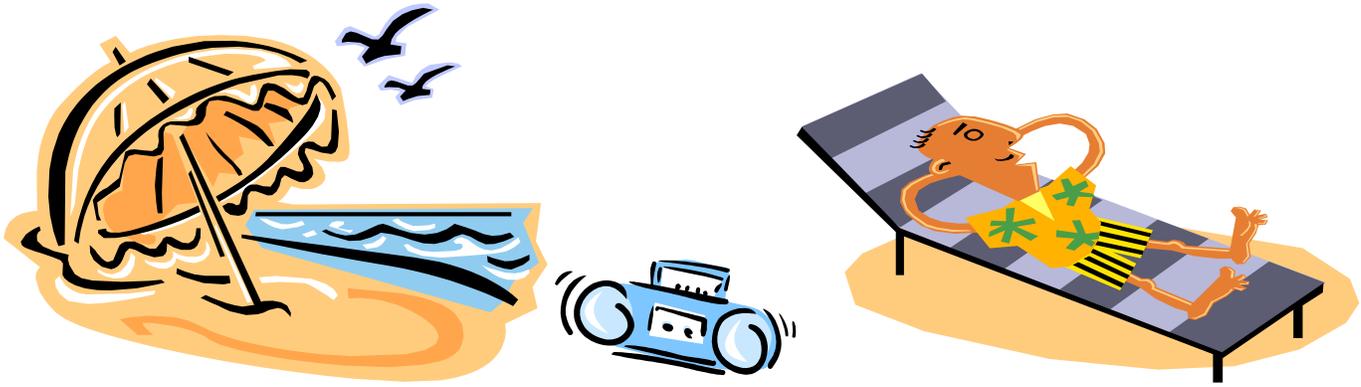
Entertainment/Dancing

50/25/15/10

### SUNDAY

Gospel Music Services – 9 am





**DIRECTIONS FROM RICHMOND:**

I-64 East to exit 238, turn right at the end of the exit ramp  
 Make a right turn at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light onto Rte 132  
 Go through 2 lights, take the next right onto Scotland Street  
 Go three blocks, the Hotel is on the right.

**DIRECTIONS FROM NORFOLK:**

I-64 West to exit 238 towards Colonial Williamsburg, then follow above directions

Pat & Kathy Hasiak  
 Virginia District Directors  
 703 590-5712  
 Rdwngdr1@comcast.net/Gemrubykat@comcast.net

-----  
 Deadline for Pre-Registration is February 2, 2007  
 (You must pre-register to be guaranteed the Saturday Night Buffet)  
 No Refunds after February 2, 2007

Return completed form with check payable to GWRRA Virginia to 13722 Mellowdew Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Rider: \_\_\_\_\_ GWRRA # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Rider: \_\_\_\_\_ GWRRA # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I would like an e-mail registration confirmation  Yes E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We agree to hold harmless GWRRA, the Co-sponsoring organizations and the property owners for any loss or injury to self or property in which I/we may become involved by an reason of participation in the event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rider Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-Rider Signature