

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

OCTOBER 2009

www.battlefieldwings.com



BATTLEFIELD WINGS, VA-E



CHAPTER STAFF

Chapter Directors – Sly & Tina Savage

sylvestersavage@comcast.net

Assistant Chapter Directors – Dan & Martha Jo Fritz

FRITZNFRIENZ@aol.com

Chapter Educator – Larry Gray

LARRY.E.GRAY@BOEING.COM

Assistant Chapter Educator – Bob Dorminey

bobdorm@wildblue.net

Chapter Couple - Tony & Sharon Poulakowski

gwrre@tony-n-sha.com

Chapter Goodies Coordinator – Richard Wilson

richwil97@comcast.net

Charity Coordinators - TBD

Email Coordinator - Gordon Combs

gorcom@msn.com

Lead Dinner/Ride Coordinator – Dan Fritz

FRITZNFRIENZ@aol.com

Assistant Dinner/Ride Coordinator – Sly Savage

_sylvestersavage@comcast.net

Membership (MEC) Coordinators/Hosts and Welcome – Gordon & Julie Combs

gorcom@msn.com

Newsletter Editor/Photographer/Historian – Diana Evans

ladydi1650@verizon.net

Program Coordinator – Sly Savage

sylvestersavage@comcast.net

Activity Coordinators - Debbie Little and Julie Combs

gorcom@msn.com

Recognition and Awards/Flyer Coordinator –Tom Evans

hungrybear1@verizon.net

Secretary/Treasurer – Nancy Groves

NancyGroves@cs.com

Special Events– Karen Kestner

kgkestner@erols.com

Assistant Special Events Coordinators - Mike & Carol Lucas

mllucas3544@aol.com

Technical Coordinator – Greg Kestner

kgkestner@erols.com

Webdude – Rob Hardisty

webdude@battlefieldwings.com

CHAPTER E DIRECTOR'S NEWS

OCTOBER 2009



Once again I (we) come to you with Greetings from the Savage Household. It's such a pleasure to share with you the information pertaining to past events, incidents, dinner rides, pot luck dinners, rallies and just pertinent situations that are interesting to either talk about or to wish you were a part of when it happened.

Many of you went to Winchester to capture the Plaque but were unsuccessful because of a shortage of members participating on that ride including myself because of a prior engagement. I do realize that we (I) cannot make every function and or ride but we sometimes should sacrifice something or our time to assist in the success and continuation of your (our) chapter. I think you should ask yourself these questions. Do I not go on dinner rides because of our economy? Do I not participate in chapter functions because I am unhappy with the chapter's ideals of fun safety & knowledge, or do I not want to be part of the staff because they seem to do everything the way they want and lastly, do I not attend the gatherings/meetings because they do the same old things? If any one of those questions pertain to you, please talk to a Staff Member or someone who assist in the growth of the chapter and maybe your thought process will change.

Our dinner ride to Ladysmith was well attended. We ate at "The Timbers Restaurant and as usual had lots of fun enjoyable conversation and good association as fellow Gold Wing-ers. There were 13 in attendance. I suggest that you try eating at "The Timbers" if you want a delicious meal and lots of it. This is a fairly new place and the atmosphere is serene and relaxing. When we arrived there were very few cars and or people eating. My thought was, oh this is just another restaurant to, but boy was I wrong. I don't normally eat desert because I always try to fill up on the main course, however I was forced to try a slice of chocolate cake and it was mmm good.

Our next event was a Pot Luck at Tony & Sharon Poulakowski's house. Let me tell you about a Chicken Dinner for everyone. Before I do that I want you to know that the last Pot Luck dinner we had was given by Dan & Martha Jo Fritz & Tom & Diana Evans. Everyone in attendance brought Pasta, Pasta Salad, Vegetable Dish, Salad, Fruit, Deserts and Drinks. There was NOOO Meat, NOOO Chicken or NOOO Fish. Well at the Poulakowski's Pot Luck everyone wanted to correct what we thought was a unique situation, Nooo Meat. So, every family in attendance decided to bring Chicken except the one person who brought a vegetable dish. We had Fried Chicken, Baked Chicken, Barbecued Chicken, Steamed Chicken, Boiled Chicken, Broiled Chicken and Uncooked Chicken. Now that was what you call a real Chicken Dinner! I think we've decided to make a list of what will be needed at future Pot Lucks and have those who are coming to mark off what he/she will bring. Even though we ate lots of chicken, we still had fun associating and laughing with fellow chapter members.

Our second main event for the year was our Fall Fantasy event held on 3 October. This was my first time attending Fall Fantasy and also as the CD. I had to ask those seasoned

members just what and how I should do whatever was needed to be done. I thank all of you for your assistance and support in making it a success. As has happened in past activities, we were threatened with possible thunder storms and also rain for the day, but after many prayers asking for good weather we were blessed with a perfect day with temperatures in the high 70's. We had a wonderful time eating Chilly and Soup made by various members and deserts as well. Thanks to all who cooked and or brought something either to eat or give away. Oh what an awesome sight to see the many Arts & Crafts made by our very own members. We had Wood Carving, Knitting, Crocheting, Sewing, & Hand Paintings done by Chapter-E members. We have loads of talent in our chapter. Because of the threat of rain we didn't have as many outside chapters in attendance as expected but we did have a great time.

As you know we are embarking upon our holiday season and are anticipating great things to follow as we approach Thanksgiving & our Christmas Party. I am looking forward to working with all of you in making our Christmas Party a success. We will start planning at our next gathering.

Once again, we are willing to assist anytime and anywhere needed. Until then I (we) enjoy our GWRRRA Family & Friends.

Sly & Tina

CHAPTER E EDUCATOR'S NEWS



The 2009 "Guys' Ride"; A Safety Account



Last month 6 of us took a two day ride to West Virginia. We had a great time even though we rode in rain almost the entire trip (625 miles on my odometer). We did many things right safety-wise and, unfortunately, a couple things wrong. I relate the safety aspects of this ride in this month's article to give you the benefit of our experiences.

Greg had planned the route and by the end of our ride we were all convinced nobody does this better than Greg. **Someone should plan the route in detail and lead it so there is no need to stop on the side of the road to figure out what to do next. Preplanning makes everything more relaxed.**

We were less than 100 miles into the ride when my bike's CB started acting up and soon thereafter the engine began to miss. We all pulled off the road to assess the situation and it turned out I had an alternator problem; I only had 8 or 9 volts with the engine running. Fortunately, we got this problem resolved in 30 or 40 minutes and were on our way. If we had been unable to fix this problem, we would have had to make some tough decisions. **No one can plan for all possible events so it is important to remain flexible on any group ride and have the mindset that you will make the best of whatever comes your way. Having a rescue plan in place would also be a plus.**

We had lunch in Seneca Rocks, WV. During lunch Frankie was singing Delores' praises because she made him take a sweatshirt. He had not planned to bring it but was quite comfortable as a result Delores' insistence. I, on the other hand, had gotten a little bit wet and was cold. **Bring the right gear for a trip like this. We were expecting somewhat different riding conditions but you get what you get and you need to be comfortable to ride safe. Bring a few things "just in case."** (I was wearing an Aerostitch one-piece suit when I got wet but switched to a Tour Master rain outfit and it kept me dry. Jeff and Bob both wore Frogg Toggs and they were dry. Gordon had a First Gear rainsuit and he was dry. Greg and Frankie were also dry but I don't know what they were wearing. A tall windshield is a plus if you want to stay dry in the rain.)

Between lunch and dinner Bob noted that he was more tense riding in wet conditions and that tenseness leads to fatigue and fatigue to unsafe riding. That is certainly true for all of us. **Recognize your own state of mind in every ride and slow down, take more breaks, or do whatever you need to do to break this downward spiral before your riding becomes unsafe.**

At 6 PM or so we got to our planned stopping point. All of us were relieved to be done with riding for the day because it was getting dark. The first motel we stopped at was sold out but the second had vacancies. Things worked out fine for us this time, but it is easy to see how we could have had a significant problem with no motel reservations (it was getting dark, it was raining, deer could be around the next corner, etc.). **The ride planner or someone he designates should determine if anything that would increase motel demand is going on at places where you may want to stop without reservations.**

On the second day of our ride we came upon a section several miles in length that had clumps of mowed grass on the pavement. Riding over these with any lean on the bike at all was attention-getting in the rain and we were careful to dodge these patches. **Soon (maybe by the time you read this) there will be leaves on the back roads. When fallen leaves are wet, they can be like ice and must be avoided in curves.** During a stop for gas, a helmet dropped from a seat to the ground. This had happened to 2 of us earlier in the trip so now half of us had dropped our helmets in less than 36 hours. Helmet manufactures say you shouldn't trust a helmet that has been dropped from this height. **When taking off your helmet, don't put it on the seat where it can fall. Do the professional thing and set it on the ground next to the bike, put it in the trunk, or hang it from the helmet holder.**

At our final meal stop on the second day, we doubled up in 3 parking spaces. Everything was wet and the greasy spot in the middle of each space was hardly visible. Bob's foot slipped on this as he came to a stop and we almost had a chain reaction mishap but Bob's reaction time saved the day. **Use extra surveillance and care in wet parking lots to keep your footing. Same goes for toll booths and the like.** After our meal as we left the restaurant parking lot, 3 bikes got on the road and headed to a stop light half a block down the road. The last 3 bikes waited for a car to pass before turning onto the road from the parking lot. The stop light was red and the first 3 bikes were first in line at the light. The car driver now between us saw that she had separated us and she stopped short of the first 3 bikes and graciously motioned for the back 3 to pass her and regroup. Bob went around her. I was next and I started to go around a few seconds later without the slightest check to see if anything was coming behind me. Just before disaster struck, I saw a car out of my peripheral vision and stopped. Here are a couple of things to remember. **1) Ride your own ride; just because the guy ahead of you has determined something is safe for him doesn't mean it will be safe for you several seconds later. 2) Don't get so caught up in what someone else is telling you to do (the gracious car driver in this case) that you forget the basics like a head check before pulling into another lane.** Our ride custom is to say grace at each meal and thank God for past safety/protection while asking for future safety/protection. I'm thankful we do this and He answered.

We all made it home sometime around 6 or 7 PM. It was a wonderful time to be with friends and I'm ready for the next opportunity to find some new twisty roads. Maybe you should join us or another group of friends for an overnight ride like this!

Larry

CHAPTER E'S MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COORDINATORS' NEWS



Greetings E Team Members

Wow, what a month. We had 13 team members in attendance at Chapter C's Fall Sprawl on September 19th. As always, we had a great time and left with extremely full bellies (the steaks were at least a pound each).

Julie and I were awarded a plaque for the longest distance riding 2 up. Chapter E came in second for the largest chapter in attendance.

On October 3rd we had our Fall Fantasy. Even though it was light on attendance, everyone there enjoyed good soup and chili and a great auction. We sure have some talented people in our chapter as we auctioned off some quality hand crafted items. My personal thank you to the E team members who came out and helped put on this event. We sure missed the rest of you.

On October 8-11, we had a large number of E Team members travel to Salem for the Virginia District Rally. The weather turned out to be great and we took advantage of it. My thanks to Dan and Martha Jo for hosting our chapter lunch. Also, a large thank you to all who helped on the hospitality table, you're the best. Be sure to check out Butch's new paint addition to his bike. In case you did not hear about it, Karen Kestner came on Saturday 2 days after her surgery; Cathy O'Neal also made an appearance after her surgery- Way to go Girls. Our sympathy went out to Frankie and Delores who both were sick during the Rally. You also missed out on Ike and Tina Turner who made a surprise appearance, ask some of your fellow chapter members about their visit on Friday. If you think carpet people can cut a rug, then you should have seen Sly on Friday night, he sure has the groove. If you missed the Rally this year, you missed a really good time.

At our meeting next Wednesday the 21st I will be asking an important question... What do you want to see our Chapter do?

Please be prepared to give me your input so we can plan for next year.

Till we meet again,

Gordon Combs
Membership Enhancement Coordinator
GWRRA VA-E Battlefield Wings
H 540-891-0574 W 540-891-1603
C 540-840-0394 gorcom@msn.com





CHAPTER E NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

Established
10/24/87

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Chapter Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MEMBER NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST



02 Mike & Jennifer Plaugher
09 Dan & Martha Jo Fritz
30 Dannie & Carole Hays



05 Melanie Randall
11 Charlie Smith
12 Frankie Chapman
22 Dave Callahan
25 Richard Wilson
30 Mary Cole
31 Maurice Keller

STAFF MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED
FOR THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH MEET AT 6:30 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



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

