

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION  
NORTHEAST REGION B  
NH DISTRICT  
CHAPTER F



May 2011

Mike Stiger  
Director  
[director@gwrra.org](mailto:director@gwrra.org)

NE Region B Directors  
Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg  
[gwrra.ed.dottie@gmail.com](mailto:gwrra.ed.dottie@gmail.com)

NH District Directors  
Pat & Dick Thibaudeau  
978 827-6091  
508 341-1687 (Cell)  
[gwrranhdd@msn.com](mailto:gwrranhdd@msn.com)

NH Assist. District Director  
Mary and Andy Tarbell  
[nhwing@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nhwing@myfairpoint.net)

NH District Educator  
Dave & Sue Perrin  
[dbp@tds.net](mailto:dbp@tds.net)

NH District Treasurer  
Madalyn Sprague  
[hobandmadalyns@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hobandmadalyns@myfairpoint.net)

**CHAPTER STAFF**

CHAPTER DIRECTORS  
Bill&Dee Bascom  
603-542-3215  
[Gwrra.nh.f@gmail.com](mailto:Gwrra.nh.f@gmail.com)

ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTORS  
Looking

CHAPTER TREASURER  
BOB AMMEL  
802-295-3366

**District website**

[www.gwrranh.org](http://www.gwrranh.org)

**Chapter website**

<http://www.orgsites.com/nh/gwrrachap-f/index.html>



**CHAPTER DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

**RIDING SEASON IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Lets start riding.. Had hoped some were going to join us for a ride at May's meeting..but Dee& I rode by our selves.

May looks like it is a busy one.. On the Chapter level we have our Mother's Day dinner at Heart's Turkey farm Restaurant 2pm on Mother's Day. May 14<sup>th</sup> is Venco Wing open house..the 15<sup>th</sup> there is a non-wing bike blessing in Springfield, VT at the Calvery Baptist Church 11:30am.

Working on putting together a meet & greet for the 28<sup>th</sup> at Bunnell's in Claremont,NH.

**\*\*\*June's meeting will be moved to June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am \*\*\***

June we'll be starting our Ice Cream rides. They will be the 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday's of month. Meet at 6pm at the Price Chopper in West Leb.

**Bill's tip of the Month.....**

Sooner or later you are going to wonder about how to handle severe crosswinds - probably while fighting them. Surprise, surprise - you don't have to do anything and the motorcycle will handle most crosswinds just fine - with only normal responses from you. There are a couple of things that you can do to make the experience less stressful, however. For example, you can quit white-knuckling your grips. When you hold on tight you also tend to stiff arm your controls. Relax your grips and droop your

elbows. Allow your bike to be a bit unstable. Drive in the CENTER OF YOUR LANE. Lean forward and down to reduce your profile, and snug up your jacket.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 14,2011 Venco Wing Open House  
May 15<sup>th</sup>..Bike Blessing Springfield,VT (not GWRRA event)  
May 28<sup>th</sup>,2011 possible Chapter F open house  
Bunnell's 488 Main St, Claremont,NH

June 7-11,2011 Americade

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

June 12<sup>th</sup>..Chapter F Meeting

June 25-26 Chapter K at Bike Blessing

<http://nhblessingofthebikes.tripod.com/>

July 3<sup>rd</sup>..Chapter F meeting??

July 6-9,2011 Wing Ding

July 28-30,2011 New Eng Convention (Maine)

[http://www.newenglandrally.org./](http://www.newenglandrally.org/)

Aug 27,2011 Ride for Fallen Newport,NH (not GWRRA event)

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

Aug 28,2011 NH-K Golf Tournament/food drive

Sept 8-11,2011 Killington Clasic

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

Sept 18,2011 NH-E Hobo Stew



## *District Director's Message*

Hi, We're Back!! On Friday(April 29), around eleven pm we arrived in Ashburnham from Florida. We left on Thursday am, we had two drivers so we made the trip with just one overnight stop. We delayed leaving on Wednesday due to the forecast of inclement weather as we wanted to avoid any chance of driving through or near any of the violent tornadoes that have impacted the south. We were pleased to see the beautiful spring riding weather over the weekend. On Saturday, I had the privilege of presenting Vermont Chapter K with their official charter. Patrick, Loreen and the members of Vermont K did a great job with their chartering festivities and we want to send our Congratulations to them and welcome them into our GWRRA family. Hopefully, we will get the opportunity for everyone to meet our new Chapter members at some of our upcoming GWRRA events.

Just a reminder that with the riding season upon us, it is a great chance to broaden your horizons and visit some of our neighboring districts and partake of their events. Americade will be here next month, Wing Ding will be here in two months and if you have not attended either of these events, you don't know what fun you are missing. The NJ/NY Bi State Convention will be held in August, the PA District Convention in September, and don't forget the All New England Districts 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally this July. We realize that the cost of gasoline is very expensive, and that it is impossible to attend all events, but sharing the fun with your GWRRA family is very rewarding, and our family crosses State borders.

Don't forget the Capture the Flag contest, Chapter G still has the flag. I finally got to see the coveted flag on Saturday, and once again I want to thank Ed Heath and Mary Tarbell for all their efforts with this contest. After much discussion Ed Heath and I have decided to allow a chapter to capture the flag with just two chapter members, the idea of the contest is to have fun, and sometimes it is just impossible for our smaller chapters to get members to travel such a distance. Our goal is to have folks visit another chapter, and it is better to have two people visit a chapter and capture the flag, then to have the flag remain with one Chapter. Don't forget to bring your Passport Book when you attend other Chapter/District events.

NH Member Enhancement Coordinator, Ed Heath had the opportunity to speak on NH radio and promote Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and GWRRA on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Great Job ED!!!!

We want to wish all the "Mom"s a Happy Mother's Day! "A Mother's Love is instinctual, unconditional and forever"....Author unknown As we slice open the hot dog packages and throw some burgers on the grill on Memorial Day, we thought it might be appropriate to explore the true origins and meaning of Memorial Day: "Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from

honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in every state on the last Monday in May (as decreed by Congress with the passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971)." So if you know a veteran, an active member of the military, or recall someone who fought for this country but has passed on, take a moment to consider their service. We are all better off for their sacrifice

Pat & Dick



## **Assistant District Director message.....**

Good bye to those pesky April Showers and that annual chore of settling up with Uncle Sam!!! Thanks to everyone for getting their 2010 Financial reports in. While on finances, 2010 was a trying year financially for GWRRA with the OCP coming on line, creating a good sized expense that none of us had budgeted for. Fortunately, here in NH, we had sufficient reserves at the District level to assist members in offsetting those costs. We have heard that there were some areas around the country where Chapters and Districts were not able to help and the volunteer leaders had to bear the costs out of their own pockets.

This leads me to Fund Raisers. Please do not take this as suggesting that Chapters should not raise needed funds to operate, or, that no funds should be raised for purposes other than "normal" operating expenses. These events take a lot of time and effort by your Chapter. Friends from near and far incorporate them into their schedules to join with you to make them a success. When was the last time your Chapter Team gave them a critical look? Are they producing the needed revenues to finance your Operating Budget? Do they provide reserve funds for support of Programs that may arise? Is their success contingent on sunny skies? Are there other ways to raise needed capital, opening up time for FUN raisers? It has been noticed that in some quarters of the Association fund raising has gone well beyond being a method to gather together with friends, have fun, and maybe raise a bit of cash in the process. They have evolved into an almost obsessive activity where each year has to produce an ever increasing bottom line with no benefit to the participants. Think about it, is this GWRRA is really about? Perhaps you can encourage your Core Team and Chapter to "think outside the box" and incorporate the Programs into your events, invite riders that we have not yet met who may embrace the ideals of the Association and become part of your Chapter. Don't forget that outreach to the non-riding public is incorporated in our Programs. This topic is not a "local" concern. I know that it has been discussed at various levels of our Association. In preparing this article I sent an early draft to the Director of GWRRA, Mike Stiger, with the hope of hearing his thoughts. Mike, Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. The following paragraph is his advice to us.

*When evaluating your fund raising efforts there needs to be balance. Providing Fun riding opportunities for the*

*Membership to partake in is the main focus and goal of the Chapter Leadership. After all, Members participate*

*with us to enjoy their time riding with their friends. Fund raising for Chapter operating budgets and chosen charities should be a lesser priority. While there is nothing wrong with having these events, fund raisers should*

*never become the primary focus of the Chapter and consume the schedule.*

I know that changing things can be a touchy subject, but sometimes all it takes is the suggestion to do something a little different. Who knows, we may all be surprised next year at what new & improved FUN(d) Raising events may come out of it and how many new FRIENDS we may make.



## ***RIDER EDUCATION***

### **Are Your Chapter Rides in a Group...Or a Gaggle?**

I'll bet you've seen plenty of both - the nice tight staggered formation of five or so Wings, each one a second behind the offset bike moving as a unit - or, a string of seemingly unrelated motorcycles who all coincidentally happen to be going in the same direction. Before you decide one is correct and the other not, recognize that each style is a matter of choice. But if your Chapter chooses to ride as a group, or a team, there are some things to keep in mind, things that will first, promote safety, second, enhance the enjoyment of the ride, and third...look cool. The GWRRA Team Riding Manual is full of tips and tactics for successful team riding. Every Chapter should have at least one copy. If not, see your Chapter Educator. Another excellent resource is the Road Captain Course available through your Educator or as a download from the GWRRA Web site. A point that each of these manuals make that is not always put into practice, is the role of the leader and the tail gunner, or drag. In fact, the Team Riding Manual calls the lead bike, "Team Point" and the last bike in line the "Team Captain." As the titles suggest, the rider up front is not the leader (read - not in charge of the group). The lead bike and the drag bike share leadership responsibilities equally. They are both responsible for the safety of the group, and each has specific responsibilities relative to their positions in the group. Read the manual for the details.

The first question every Chapter must ask is, "which way do we want to ride?" Exerting influence on members to ride as a team, or a group, or a gaggle, if they would rather make another choice, does not make for a happy riding experience. Some Chapters divide their flights by style of riding. Those decisions are best made among Chapter members. If the decision is to ride as a team, then every member of the team has a job. That job is consideration for the group as a whole. But safety is always first. Remember to "ride your own ride." If your style does not match that of the group, simply notify the trail bike that you are dropping behind, and follow the group at your own pace.

Consideration for the group as a whole begins before we mount the bikes. Some simple decisions like, comfortable speeds, road conditions, pit stops, photo ops, etc. begin in the parking lot before the ride. The job of the lead or Team Point in this discussion is to LISTEN. There may be one or two vocal members of a group Who try to make decisions for the rest. Listen to all group members. Read body language and facial expressions to be sure the group is in agreement. Once you're on the road, use all of the tools available to you like CB's, hand signals, your own mental alertness, spacing between groups, bike-to-bike spacing, and proper placement of Trikes, bikes with trailers or with no CB radio.

Question for tail gunners -- In the manuals, the illustration of riders coming to a stop at a traffic light or stop sign shows the tail gunner (Team Captain) in the left track, right up against the bike in front. Suggestion: why not hang back a bit and move to the center of the lane to create space between the group and the traffic to the rear? That way you will have protected the group from being rear-ended while giving yourself room to maneuver just in case. When you are sure the traffic to the rear is stopping, gently move to the left, returning to the original formation.

The role of the Team Point and Team Captain is critical. But there is another rider who is critical to the integrity

of the group. That is the number two bike.

Reason # 1. Visibility

The Team Point has the basic responsibility for speed, direction, etc. As a result, he/she is often scanning for landmarks, road signs, turn-offs, etc. The second bike in line in the right track has the best forward visibility and can spot potential problems early. A second set of eyes never hurts.

Reason # 2. The worm.

How many times have you been stuck in traffic on a wide-open interstate for no apparent reason? It's what traffic engineers call "the worm." It's just a function of the dynamics of traffic flow. Even in a group of five bikes, we can experience the worm. If the number two rider daydreams for a second or two (never happens, right?), falls behind the point rider and accelerates to catch up, he/she creates the worm. Now the other bikes in the group must do the same, and pretty soon we have a gaggle, not a group. The Team Point can create similar difficulties by accelerating too quickly after a stop, or on to a controlled access highway, or even just allowing his/her speed to increase too much going down the back side of a long hill if the remaining riders have not yet reached the crest.

Successful group riding takes special skill and lots of practice. Chapters that do it well are impressive as they maneuver smoothly through traffic or on the open road. And cool as they may look, they are also taking maximum advantage of the safety issues afforded to an alert team.

### ***From the District Member Enhancement Coordinator***

#### ***Ed Heath***

May is **Motorcyclist Awareness** Month and I am thinking that as **motorcyclist**, we must all know someone that would like to join Goldwing Road Riders Association. Maybe you have a friend or acquaintance that owns a motorcycle, (regardless of brand) enjoys riding and would benefit from involvement with an organization like G.W.R.R.A.

The people we meet while riding or attending motorcycling events may not be familiar with G.W.R.R.A., all the benefits membership has to offer them, all the FUN they can have and most importantly, they are welcome regardless of what they ride. It is YOUR job to share the knowledge about the resources of our organization with all of your friends.

As the Membership Enhancement Coordinator for our great district of New Hampshire I am making it my goal to sign up at least one new member this month. If just half of our members were able to do that, look at how much the organization would grow. In order for G.W.R.R.A. to survive and grow we need new enthusiastic members with "fresh" ideas, new restaurants and places for us to visit and the energy to lead us forward. New members are key to increasing the levels of Fun, Safety and Knowledge for all of us.

Ok, you are saying that all of your friends belong already, How about posting a notice at your local supermarket or restaurant, encouraging fellow riders to join. Put your email or number down for them to call, and if you get a call, you just might have made a new friend and fellow rider. Think about it, give it a try, and see what happens.



**Regional Notes:**

Ed & Dottie Bahrenburg  
Northeast Region Directors

We're back in the Northeast!!! It is great to be home...but I sure wish the weather would warm up so we could get back out on the cycles. By the time you read this we will have been back home for several weeks and hopefully have attended VT-K's Chapter Kick off and to Rhode Island B's Breakfast. This is going to be a busy year. We are really looking forward to attending as many FUN activities around the Region as possible.

The ride home from Florida was very interesting. While we did have a ball in Florida and did a fair amount of riding with "our" Florida Chapter—The Lakeland Fire Balls, it was real nice to be home. As we came up through Pennsylvania into New York, it got cooler and greener and the roads got curvier and hilly. A big difference from the many straight, flat roads we traveled in Florida. We see people out riding almost every day that is not raining. The rain has given us time to do some maintenance on the bikes and get things caught up around the house. Looking at our calendar, we have every weekend booked up from now until the Bi State Convention with lots of GWRRA events. We have lots of opportunities to get our Passport filled. We hope to see you at the upcoming events...and don't forget your Passport!

One of the things we have noticed is that people are extending their time at the Convention/Rally sites. It is a great thing to promote for your Conventions. Most Rallies have so many great rides and things to do that you cannot do it all in a few days. By extending your stay a few extra days you are able to save on travel and related expenses. If you make contact with the local people prior to the Rally/Convention, maybe you can get an early look at some of the rides or things to visit. If you stay a few days after the Convention, you will have gained knowledge from the participants about the area's attractions. We are looking forward to traveling to the New England Convention in our camper and spending about two weeks in the area sampling some of the great roads and some lobster. The Bi-State has some really interesting rides planned and they are offering things to do if you come in early to the event. Pennsylvania has some of the best riding in the Region and I am sure that they will have some great things to do. With the present economic conditions and \$4.00 gas I am sure that travel will be down this year but maybe by combining your vacation with a Convention/Rally you will be able to visit your friends and see some new roads and sites without too much stress.

Our biggest Convention, Wing Ding is coming up soon and because it is on the east coast and in Tennessee where there is some great riding, I am sure that there will be a great turnout from the Region. Our Region has its traditional major Wing Ding responsibilities, The Grand and Light Parades. We also are scheduled to assist with registration. I have asked all the District Directors to be in contact with their members and line up some helpers for those events. We have had a pretty good response so far but we could certainly use more people willing to give a few hours of their time to help make things work smoothly. Please let your District Director know if you are able to assist. Check the website for the tentative schedule of events. I know we will be spending some additional time in Knoxville to try to take in all the riding that we won't be able to do during Wing Ding.

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month and it is a great time for recruiting events. I am aware that New

Hampshire, New Jersey and Maryland are staging recruiting days. New York manages the Americade GWRRR booth where there are lots of opportunity for meeting and recruiting new members. Chapter and District newsletters show that there are a lot of Mall Shows planned during May.

These are great recruiting opportunities as well as Motorist Awareness opportunities.

While I was writing this article, our Region management report came into my inbox along with a congratulatory email from Director Stiger about our 2.5% turnaround in membership from last years numbers. GREAT JOB everyone! It shows the work that your Chapter and District teams have done for the organization.

In closing, Dottie and I hope to see you at some of the many GWRRR events that are happening in our Region. Please come up to say Hi and introduce yourself to us as we want to meet as many of the members as possible.

Ed