

New Mexico District's Enchanted Wings Newsletter - *May 2012*

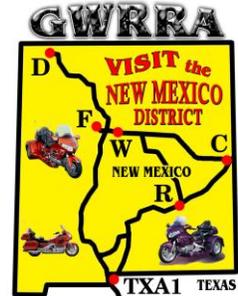
Gold Wing Road Riders Association -Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge



GWRRR



REGION F



NM DISTRICT

District Directors

Keith & Teresa Morrison

~From the back seat~

Most of you all probably know by now that a motorcycle was never on my wish list. It wasn't on my list years ago, or when Keith decided he wanted to get one. Years ago I had seen a terrible accident involving my cousin. Since that time I never had the desire to own or ride a bike.

When Keith decided that he wanted a bike, I thought for sure it would be another "new toy" that he had for about a year then move on to something else. I know now how wrong I was. This time he was sticking with it. He was going to make this bike his new hobby. Because I have such deep fears of motorcycles, Keith has been protective at most times so that I will continue to be the back seat rider.

Understanding even basic rider education has been essential to my fears. Continuous learning has also been essential. I can't say that all of my fears are gone, not by a long shot. But understanding and learning has sure helped Keith not get so many "accidental" hits to the back of his helmet....heeheehee

One of my first lessons learned was don't ever put your foot down!!!!!! Yeah, I was inexperienced enough to think that me putting my foot down was going to help Keith in some way...hahahaha!! I haven't done that again!

Over time Keith and I have gone on many rides. Some I never wanted to end, others not so much. Like Four Corners in February! Sometimes we ride with short sleeves under our jackets, sometimes I feel more like the Michelin Man and can barely get on and off of the bike.

I remember one of our first Chapter meetings and me asking Pam White and Kathy Bates "how do we keep from getting helmet head"....hahahahaha!! Still don't know the answer to that one. I've

learned over time that riding bikes ain't no beauty contest. I hate wearing hats, but I sure as heck will put one on my head to hide the ever tangled mop.

Folks say that I should get my own bike and I actually gave it a little thought a while back. But right now I love being Keith's co-rider. I love being with Keith and getting to talk and see things together. I guess for me it's kinda like having separate bedrooms, I'm not ready for that, nor am I that old yet. These are memorable moments that I love us having together.

Although I still have my fears, I will face them but not alone, thanks to my hubby and dear, dear friends.

Till next time....The District Co-Rider

Ride Safe!!!

Here's to good friends, good times, & Gold Wings!!!

Teresa & Keith



Assistant District Directors

Doug & Chris Pettigrew

Officer Trust

Mike Stiger, the Director of GWRRA, is always reminding us that "What happens in the Officer world, stays in the Officer world". Now Mike isn't talking about all the things we do in our volunteer positions is a big secret, he means not everything needs to be repeated. One of these is Member information.

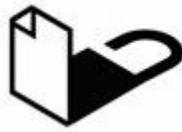
All Officers and Team Members have had the "can I talk to you" talk with a Member. Most, if not all the information shared should not be repeated and the Member's personal issue should be kept personal. If this information needs to be shared, say at a Team Meeting, the Officers and Team Members should follow the same rule. The information was shared to keep you informed, not so the information could be released to the Chapter.

We are not saying that this is happening in our District, it's just a reminder of the trust we all earn by helping our Members and making sure their information stays as private as can be.



Member information such as any and all contact information is private and should not be shared without the "need to know". Member information is to be used for official business as it relates to the operations of GWRRA and its Chapters. If anyone finds, sees, or knows of

Member information being used without the complete consent of the individual please let us know. We agree to inform the Home Office if we become aware of someone (current or former GWRRA Members) abusing the confidentiality of Members. We don't know if anyone is using your information unless you inform us, so please do not hesitate to let us know.



**RIGHT TO
INFORMATION**

Ride safe and often,

Doug and Chris Pettigrew
Assistant District Directors
Chapter C Directors

Rider Education

Jerry & Becky Stillwagon

It is Springtime in the Rockies, so that means the weather here in New Mexico is constantly changing. One day the weather may be below freezing and the wind blowing, the next day the sun is out, the temperatures are up and the wind is blowing. A few more days go by and it is snowing or raining and the wind is blowing.

As spring warms up it brings with it more motorcycles out on the road. Not all riders are the same; they come in varying levels of ability. I have sorted them into groups based on riding history and experience:

The first group on the road is what I call the "Fair Weather Riders". These are the individuals who have not ridden since last fall when the weather cooled off. Now that it's warming up out they come with the "machine" and they are ready for the road. Now, to be fair, some of these riders have many decades of riding experience and are very skilled, but others, their skills may be just a little rusty after sitting all winter. They may be a little wobbly on the stops and starts. Their turns are, perhaps, a little wider than they should be, and their stops a bit abrupt. Instead of being in first gear as they come to a stop, they are in second or third and may be struggling to hold the beast up.

The next group is the "Scooters". Again, to be fair, there are many excellent scouter riders. On the other hand there are many who are "wanna be motorcycle dare devils". They have the shiny new machine, a new helmet (required by law), the skills they gained from years of riding a bicycle and a belief that they are invincible.

With the price of gas scoring out of control we are seeing two new groups of riders as well:

The first is the "On the Road Again" group. These riders rode years ago, before the children were born or even before they got married. Now the kids are out of the nest, the spouse has finally given in or perhaps they even have a new spouse. Anyway, they are finally back on the motorcycle and

ready to go. They don't need a rider course because they either took one when they originally learned to ride or they are "naturals" and don't need to waste time taking a course. Watch out for these riders because whatever skills they may have once had have become "rusty" over time, but they may not have left the "attitude" behind.

The other group is the "Novice Rider". They think that because they can ride a bicycle they should be able to ride a motorcycle. How much harder can it be? They both have 2-wheels after all and you don't have to pedal.

I may have exaggerated a little... but the fact is that in springtime the weather changes from day to day and there are a lot of riders out there with various levels of experience. The novice or poorly skilled riders are hazardous to other riders and to anyone who shares the road. We need to watch out because we may be placed in harm's way as others respond to the erratic actions of these inexperienced or "rusty" riders.

Ride often and ride save.

Jerry and Becky Stillwagon
New Mexico Educators
e-mail: jwagon1@msn.com

Motor Awareness Coordinators

By Gene & Jeanie Wagner

The other day, one of many days that I ride my trike, I was riding down Paseo del Norte and yes you guessed it, at the wrong time of day. I was saying to myself, "Self I want to get home safe." I thought I could do what other riders do and ride down the road at 80 mph, then dodge in, dodge out and in between 4 plus wheeled vehicles. You know what, you have successfully gotten the drivers of these multiple wheels to notice you and probably not in the way you don't want to be noticed; another jerk riding a motorcycle.

I have an idea, why not ride with the flow of the traffic to keep you visible and even wave at the kids and even wave at their courteous drivers, their parent. Very simply, as I have often said, make drivers and passengers notice you and not be afraid of you by on how you ride but by the way you are riding with safety, courtesy and respect for yourself and the vehicles around you. Riding your bike/trike takes a lot of experience and skill and not because you can't do this fun sport, but because we are dying to be seen. We are approaching the best time of the year to ride...ride with one thought...I will not die to be seen, I will ride to live and set an example to others who ride!

We will be at the Cottonwood mall with 2 Motorist Awareness shows outside, Jeanie and I hope you come and join us. We will provide the dates for June and August; soon, they will just be one day shows.

Never Ride Faster than Your Angel!

Have a great day and ride safe.

Gene & Jeanie

Membership Enhancement

Joe & Nancy Opuszenski

Submitted by Lisa Capano and Bill Weiss, Region MEC's

Multi-Chapter Events

Hello Everyone!

This month Bill and I would like to talk about Multi-Chapter Events! We are sure that many of your District Membership Enhancement Coordinators have organized these wonderful activities along with the help of District Directors and Chapter MECs. It is always fun to get together at any time, share stories, share food, share ideas...but Multi-Chapter Events bring out the FUN in all of us! It is a chance to wear your Chapter Shirts and get out to promote GWRRA, as well.

Recently we had a Multi-Chapter Event here in Colorado. Five chapters along the Front Range got together and spent the day in Black Hawk, which is a local Casino Town in the mountains. Chapter G organized this outing along with Sun Honda, one of our local Honda Dealerships. This was actually called a "Wingless Weekend" event, and gave all of us the chance to get to know one of our local dealerships better, and for them to get to know us GW'rs and our needs for our bikes.

Great for Retention and Great for Recruitment. We all met at Sun Honda, had hot dogs and burgers while waiting for the Coach to show up, mingled with prospective GW members, talking about the Gold Wings on the floor of the dealership, our own Wings, and GWRRA, of course. The dealership was really amazed at all the knowledge we folks have about Gold Wings, and appreciated all the things we talked about to potential motorcycle buyers.

These Multi-Chapter Events are a Win-Win situation. Not only did all of us GW Family members have fun seeing and hanging out with each other, but we had fun talking and BRAGGING about our own beautiful Bikes!

Another Multi-Chapter Event is scheduled for May: this is a Bowling Event!!!! just another idea to throw out there to all the DMEC's! I was able to get the lanes booked and get an "All you can eat Pizza and Salad with Soft Drinks" lunch thrown in for \$12 per person! Play AND Food- what a great combo, right?

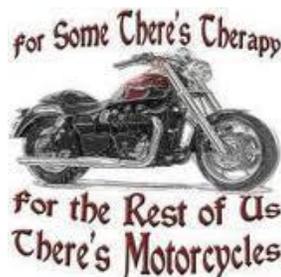
Bill and I encourage all of you GW's to talk with your local Honda Dealerships, and get them on board to help sponsor events or at least to participate in the GWRRA/Honda Dealership program.

If you have any ideas for Multi-Chapter Events that you would like to share with us and all the GW's out there, please send me your ideas. Have FUN with each other and with our BIKES!



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
NEW MEXICO DISTRICT

Joe & Nancy Opuszenski
Membership Enhancement
Coordinators
505.892.4223
joeopus@earthlink.net



Webmaster

Tom Evans

Words from the Web



Lisa and I have recently become the District Webmasters. We have met many of you from District Conventions and other events, but here is a brief bio for the two of us: We moved to Las Cruces from NJ in July 2010. We were considering a retirement move to the area, but after a visit to the area, we were so impressed, we found a way to make the move 10 years prior to expected retirement. In NJ, we had been Chapter Directors of NJ-F “The real F-Troop” and had been on District and Region staff in a variety of positions. We are on our second Gold Wing, a 2004 with 90,000 miles.

By Jan 2011, we became Chapter Directors for NM-T, a Chapter struggling from lack of Member participation. Our strategy was to use those things that had worked for us before to try to rebuild the Chapter through fun activities and events, but after a year, of meeting too few new friends the realization came that due to Chapter demographics, geographical reach, and Chapter history of Member non-participation, the Chapter needed to close, and Keith and Teresa realized that now we had nothing to do with our nights and weekends.

Keith and Teresa wear many hats in the District (many of them goofy) and asked if Lisa and I would help with technical aspects for the District such as the website and other data and graphical projects as they arise. We agreed, and built a new site with a new look and feel and as a phase 1, merely migrated the existing content to the new site.

Phase 2 includes online registration for the 2012 convention (See separate article) and recognition of our District Couples of the Year, Individual of the Year and Chapter of the Year honorees throughout the years. Our Members who have been selected to these titles should have their contributions commemorated, and we need your help to do that as we do not seem to have a listing of our past recipients of these honors. Many of our District Couples have continued on to the Region and International Selection processes and their journeys have been long, but enjoyable.

One thing that I have come to understand after creating websites for almost 20 years: “Creating websites is easy. Getting content for the sites is extremely hard.”

The webmaster job is very much like the Newsletter Editor in that the production is a team effort. The webmaster does not “write” the website any more than the Newsletter Editor “writes” the Newsletter. The holder of both positions use their technical expertise to create the look and feel of the final result, but need input, content and articles from their respective teammates and fellow GWRRA Members. This is especially true when trying to recreate the past.

So here is the call to action: *We need your help to identify past District Couples of the Year, Individuals of the Year and Chapters of the Year. The individual program managers for these programs are working on this as well, but we know that many of you can help. We need the names of the individuals or Chapter, the years of their tenure, and a good couple picture, hopefully posed in their vests.*

Also, when you visit the District Website <http://gwr-ra-nm.org/> you will notice the pictures in the banner. Some of those are stock photos and some are of our Members. We want to replace the

stock photos with panoramic shots of our Chapters, Chapter events, rides and other great NM related shots. Please bear in mind that the shape of the pictures are short but wide, panoramic shots. If you have photos that you would like to submit, please e-mail them to me Website@GWRRA-NM.ORG or just send me a link if they are online, and let me see if I can incorporate them into our banner.

The new site is in its infancy and like most website, it is a moving target and is never truly “complete”. The website is “all about us” and should reflect us, so please send your thoughts and suggestions for features that you would like to see. I make no advanced guarantees, except that we will try to incorporate features based on request. We are considering a form of Social Media for our District only. A lot of us use FaceBook, Twitter and other forms of Social Media but they are a bit too broad for our use and subject to a million types of security issues, viruses and malware. One of the items on the drawing board is our own forum where we can talk about upcoming events, promote our Member’s accomplishments, say hello across the vast NM miles, and share GWRRA and Motorcycle information.

We thank you in advance for your help with the new site and check out the article about the Online Registration for the 2012 Convention.

Webmaster

Tom Evans

2012 NM District Convention Online Registration

When September comes around and we all arrive at the Convention, one of our first stops is at the Registration table, and we grab our packet and walk off with little thought about the registration itself. In the past, we have filled out the paper form, and extended the prices, added up all the numbers, (hoped we did the arithmetic correctly) wrote a check, put it in the mail. It has worked okay but it creates a lot of work on the part of whoever gets that registration.

This year we want to improve registration with the use of an online form. If you have ever bought anything online from Amazon, e-Bay, Sears.com, Chromeworld.com, www.accessorypitUSA.com, etc, this works the same way, *except we can't take credit cards, and you just mail in the completed registration form with your payment.*

Here is how it works:

1. Go to <http://gwr-ra-nm.org/2012%20Convention%20Registration>
2. Add an item to your shopping cart, such as Registration for two, or Saturday Dinner. You can specify how many you want (dinner for 2?) before you add it to your cart, or you can change the quantity once it is in your shopping cart.
3. Then go get another item, add it to your cart, and keep doing that until you are done shopping.
4. Review your shopping cart to ensure that you have everything you need and that you have the right quantity
5. Then hit the “Checkout” button. At the top is a disclaimer that you accept by submitting the registration.
 - a. On the checkout screen, you enter basic info, name, address, GWRRA registration number, Home Chapter, and any additional comments.
 - b. Again, you can see the shopping Cart Contents at the bottom with the total of your registration.
6. Then hit the “Review Order” button.

7. Just like you think and like about every other online store, you now check your order one last time, to make sure it is correct.
 - a. If not, you can hit the back button and make changes, but if so,
8. Hit the "Submit Order" button.
 - a. After you hit the Submit Order button, the order is, well, submitted, and you can no longer make changes.
9. On the final confirmation screen you will see our Treasurer's mailing address. If you miss that screen, don't worry. We are sending an e-mail with all of your registration information to you and on that e-mail is our Treasurer's mailing address again for your convenience.

It may sound like a lot, but I assure you, it works the same as every other online store where you normally make purchases: Select a product, add it to your cart, continue shopping, find another product, until you are done shopping, then checkout with your name, address, etc and make payment. *(Again, we differ in that we cannot accept credit cards and you need to mail in a copy of the registration that you'll receive via e-mail with your payment.)*

We looked into taking credit cards as a convenience. Technically, it is a piece of cake, but it would add an average of \$3 to \$5 on top of every order, and we all have something better to do with that money (like buy more winning 50/50 tickets!!)

The online registration saves a LOT of work behind the scenes for those responsible for registration, and is a lot more accurate since the information is entered once and there are no typos caused by misreading hand written forms. So we encourage you to use the online form, but if you are not comfortable doing that, the PDF is available on the bottom of this page <http://gwrra-nm.org/convention> .

If you have questions or problems with the form, please feel free to contact me (evans@att.net Home Phone 575 652-3144) so I can help. The info will stay in the cart for up to 10 days (or until you submit your registration) so we will have time to answer any questions or fix any issues that you have.

A1 Chapter Director

Larry E. Kunard

April's gathering was a huge success. That is to say more than two people attended and agreed to talk about the same topic.

Actually, there were twenty-five (25) members present for this month gathering and a very good discussion of various topics. There were more motorcycles in their parking lot because the weather is getting warmer.

The ride coordinator position has been left vacant. Rick Ramos informed me that due to personal reasons he could no longer be the ride coordinator. Rick Ramos held this position for two years and did a great job. He will be a hard man to replace.

Door prizes.....COOKIES, etc, were baked by John Reynolds, Gail Reynolds and Jane Proctor. I mention both John and Gail because they both got a household competition going. Each had their own entry. John Reynolds won the overall prize. He sold (18) eighteen tickets, thus keeping (\$18.00) for his effort, plus, an additional (\$10.00) from the Chapter. Gail Reynolds (\$16.00)

and Jane Proctor (\$10.00). Each Member gets to keep the money for tickets sold. Maybe you would like to bring some cookies. Just ask me, I'll send you the rules.

Gregg and Sharma Brown were missed today. They are both in Houston, Texas for Sharma's follow up doctor's appointment. Our prayers are with them both that she is cancer free. Sharma believes she will be riding again in the very near future.

A survey was conducted regarding the Christmas Party. It appears that most Members would prefer a local "El Paso" Christmas Party.

I requested all Members to send me an email LK510811@aol.com as to suggested locations. I also talked about the District Christmas Party to be held in Albuquerque, NM, 12-08-2012.

The weather is getting warmer. It's time to ride. Check your motorcycle and get out there on the road. Stay focused and safe!

May's (05-10-2012) gathering will be again held at Applebee's, 7956 Gateway Blvd E, El Paso, TX. FYI: May 10, is the Mexican Mother's day. This might be a problem. I will try to keep you updated.

Please don't forget TX A-1's monthly dinner, held, the third Saturday of each month, 6:30 PM at Home Town Buffet, 9120 Viscount Blvd El Paso, TX

Don't forget your Regional and District Rallies.

Be sure to check your Membership card for expiration.

Chapter T-shirt and caps were available.

As always, if I do something to your liking, tell everyone.....
If I do something you don't like, please tell me.

Till next time. Keep them cookies coming.

Larry E. Kunard
GWRRA, Texas A1
Chapter Director
(915)-751-4111
(915)-238-5513
LK510811@aol.com

"Let's have fun doing it."

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 NM-F Gathering NM-R Gathering
6 NM-C Gathering	7	8	9	10 TX-A1 Gathering	11	12 NM-D Gathering
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 NM-W Gathering	21	22	23	24	25 Region Convention	26 Region Convention
27 Region Convention	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

LISTED BELOW ARE ALL THE CHAPTER GATHERING LOCATIONS AND TIMES

“A1” El Paso 2nd Thursday 6:00pm eat
IHOP 7:00pm Meet
1341 George Dieter
El Paso, TX

“C” Clovis 1st Sunday 8:00am
Smokin' Skillet
2018 Mabry Drive
Clovis, NM

“D” Farmington 2nd Saturday 9:00am
Golden Corral
1715 East Main St
Farmington, NM

“F” Albuquerque 1st Saturday 7:30am Eat
Golden Corral 8:30am Meet
2701 Coors Blvd, NW
Albuquerque, NM

“R” Roswell 1st Saturday Noon
Feb 4, May 5, Aug 4, Nov 3
Los Cerritos Restaurant
2103 N. Main St
Roswell, NM

“W” Albuquerque 3rd Sunday 7:30am Eat
Bea's Restaurant 8:10am Meet
10415 Central Ave, NE
Albuquerque, NM

Carlsbad
Mar 3, Jun 2, Sept 1, Dec 1
Best Western Steven's Inn
1829 S Canal
Carlsbad, NM

Hobbs
Jan 7, Apr 7, Jul 7
Rancher Steakhouse
2022 N Turner
Hobbs, NM

Queen
Oct 6

Your Team - Proud to Serve

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Vacant

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