



Goldwing Touring Association

Winter, 2008/2009

The Official Newsletter of the State of Wisconsin



Letter from the Editor

Chapter GB lost another member in October. Don Long. Don was part of our old chapter in GWRRA and joined us in GWTA. He put up a brave fight as it became harder for him to breathe. After he took a turn for the worse, he still found the energy to take a few more rides on the trike before he relinquished it to his daughter. He loved riding.

How many of us took the time to get to know Don Long and Pat Bostwick. They each were special in their own way. Did we take the time to find out what made them smile? Do we know much about the present membership? Sure, we know what kind of bike they ride but how many children and grandchildren do they have? Where were they born. If they are retired, what did they do for a living? What are their hobbies besides bike riding.

We do not know what tomorrow will bring and how quickly life can change. Make the most of today.

Darrell Broten has taken over for Bob Johnson as Chapter Director of Chapter Y.

Find the  for contact info.

Check out the attached flyer for the Winter Meeting. Enjoy a getaway weekend and share your thoughts about the direction of GWTA-WI and what changes you would like to see.

Drive safe visiting family and friends this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and may you find hope in the New Year.

Your Editor,
Barb Williams

Region Director's Corner

Region C Rally

For all of you have that asked for more information concerning fees, schedules, hotels, etc the Region Staff will be holding their annual Planning Session on February 21 in Chippewa Falls. More information will be coming out soon after that. For daily FYI's check out the Region C Rally thread on the Region C Website <http://gwta-c.com/GWTARegionCForum/forums/1/26685/ShowPost.aspx#26685>

Congratulations to the chapters who have turned in 7 Chance raffle tickets for the month of November. This must be money and stubs turned in. Nebraska turned in 16 tickets, Wisconsin turned in 13 tickets and Iowa turned in 9. Way to go. FYI, Illinois is in the lead for the month of December with 11 tickets so far.

Bike Raffle Tickets

No Bike Raffle tickets were turned back into us for the month of November. We do need tickets returned for the month of December. In prior years tickets had been released early and very few were returned early. So National decided to save the cost and not release them until early in the year. Please help us show National that is definitely worth their time and money to get us our tickets early. Regional Ticket Coordinator (TBA, but at this time is Randy and myself) can only accept checks or money orders. There will be no cash accepted (except at Gold Rush). When ticket stubs and monies are returned to the Region, the number of ticket stubs and money must agree. If the money is different from the number of ticket stubs -All will be returned to the State to be verified and corrected. Ticket stubs must be bundled and marked with the number of tickets on the packet. All staples or spine glue must be removed.

Gold Rush

The deadline for your state receiving a point for your Gold Rush registration is fast approaching (Dec. 31). Get ready for absolutely beautiful roads, great friends,

and so many activities you won't be able to fit them all in.

Camping will be at the Kentucky Horse Park and Campground. With lots of trees and two swimming pools, the park is an equine theme park and competition facility set on more than 1,200 acres in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass region. Man of War is buried at the Park. For reservations call 888-459-7275. Make sure to mention GWTA. Website is www.KYHorsePark.com for more information.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your Region C Staff.

State Director's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What a great time of year!! With this new season comes the season of "planning"! And lots of planning we do need to do - planning for the Region C Tailgate Party in June, planning for your local chapter rides, planning the route to Gold Rush in Kentucky, planning your local ice cream rides, planning the summer campouts, planning, planning, and more planning!!! Speaking of planning we have had two Wisconsin members who have done some awesome planning for our annual Meet 'N' Greet in August - thank you Mike and Lucy Hubert!!! For details, please see attached flyer!!!

February is the month of "big planning". The regional staff will be in Chippewa Falls to plan out the Region C Tailgate Party and to take a sneak peek at all the great things Chippewa Falls has to offer. Wisconsin's

Winter Meet 'N' Greet will be February 28, 2009 in Plover, Wisconsin. The meeting is being held at St. Elizabeth Inn and will start at 1:00 pm. Thank you Barb Williams for finding us a meeting place. Barb says, "There is a swimming pool for the children and grandchildren and we have the meeting room all day. The hotel provides water and coffee. They have a buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner. Please call 1-800-280-0778 or email www.elizabethinn.com. Make your reservation by January 30, 2009. Mention GWTA for a 10% discount." The meeting will mostly consist of finalizing the plans for the Region C Tailgate Party. We will be needing volunteers for several different small jobs at the Tailgate Party, so we will be assigning those at the meeting. If we all chip in a little bit no one will have to do too much. This year we will also be voting for the Wisconsin Family of the Year. The Family of the Year will represent Wisconsin at the Region C Tailgate Party and have a chance to become the Regional Family of the Year to

represent the region at Gold Rush. If you would like to nominate a couple or have any questions regarding Family of the Year, please contact your chapter director or us. The nominees will need to write up a resume with their personal information, anything they have done or do with GWTA, past motorcycle experience, and basic information about the family. Generally, they also have someone write up an article why they would make a good Family of the Year. Their resume can be a few paragraphs, but it also can be a couple of pages long. They need to bring this to the Feb. Winter Meeting. Darrell and Fran Broten and Jeryl and I have all been on the Family of the Year selection committee, so if you have any questions please contact one of us. If you are unable to make the meeting please email or call me with any ideas or suggestions you may have. (715-839-9986 or threewingers@sbcglobal.net) Also, please see attached flyer.

Jeryl and I have made a very hard decision - something that we have talked about for over a year. Some may remember when Barb and Tom Johnson were the Regional Directors that Jeryl and I said that we were going to retire when the Johnson's did. Well - that didn't happen. We felt the need to stay on and help the region become stable once again. Now that the region is stable we are announcing our retirement as of June 14, 2009 at closing ceremonies of the Regional Rally in Chippewa Falls. We feel very strongly that we can make the Regional Rally one of the best in Region C history with the help of our wonderful Wisconsin members. We want to say Thank You to all of our members - you all have impacted our lives in one way or another. As you all know, GWTA

is about family and with Carlee Jo starting middle school and so many more activities we want to make sure we can attend and be there for her without sacrificing GWTA. We will still be very involved, just at a different level.

We let Randy and Jen know of our decision over Labor Day weekend when they came to visit the fairgrounds. As you all know, the Regional Directors choose the state directors. If you have any desire to step up to State Director you can contact them. May you all have a very Blessed Holiday Season!

Jeryl, Sherri, Carlee Jo Vonderheid
Your Wisconsin State Directors



Chapter Director's Corner

What a great way to end 2008. 2009, watch out...

Chapter GB had our annual Chili Dump at Dean & Elaine Belanger's house on October 3rd starting at 3 PM and then the Color Ride on October 4th starting at the Shell station at Hwy. 41 and Cty. D at 10:30 AM with Dean & Elaine in the lead. We arrived at Woodlands in Gresham for a 12:00 lunch. It was very fulfilling to say the least. The weather was good and plenty of color on the ride. Thank you Dean and Elaine for all the time and effort you put into this. It's very appreciated.

On November 2nd we had a Pot Luck social at Jon & Lynn Lovlien's home. We took nominations for a Chapter Director for next year. Barb and I will be here for you for another year. All of the same staff is in place also with the addition of Joan Barbeau as our Ride Coordinator. We welcome her aboard.

We had our Christmas Party at The Woods on December 14th. We had allot of good food and conversation. Based on the feedback we think we will do this again next year. Canned goods were collected for donation to a local charity. Thanks to everyone for their donations of canned goods as well as those who donated door prizes.

Please support the following businesses for donating to the Christmas Party:
Naef's Cycle, North Honda and Team Motorsports and also for being sponsors of

our website. Also support the rest of our sponsors as well. Let them know we appreciate their support.

Marcus was the master of ceremonies for 'Dirty Bingo' and there were some interesting gifts. Jon Lovlien got what he wanted even after it passed through many other hands.

Check the website calendar for the Chapter Sleigh Ride at the Rock K Ranch on February 7th. More information will come as we get closer.

We have many other activities on our calendar for next year. See the website for dates and locations along with more to come.

Barb and I would like to thank everyone for their time, effort and support of this chapter. Having people like we have makes it that much easier to be YOUR Chapter Directors.

Pat & Barb Williams
Your GWTA - WI Chapter GB Directors
www.gwtawigb.org

CHAPTER Y ENDS SEASON, LOOKS AHEAD...

GWTA Wisconsin Chapter Y, the River Valley Riders, recently tied up another good motorcycling season and at the same time looks forward to even better riding in 2009.

The last scheduled club ride for the River Valley Riders was its October Color Ride on Saturday, October 10. Seven RVR members

on five motorcycles had a beautiful sunny and windless day while searching for fall foliage. They started from the Eau Claire Farm and Fleet, then rode north along the Chippewa River on Highway 178 and finally stopped for sandwiches. After eating they rode the banks of the Flambeau River on County Highway D to view more bright colors. A turn north on County Hwy E took them to US Highway 8, and then it was Highway 40 south to Bloomer for pie. All in all it was one of the best Color Rides ever held.

The November meeting occurred on the eighth, at Pizza Del Re, Eau Claire. This has been the location for many Chippewa Valley bike meetings in the past. The pizza eatery hasn't changed at all over the years; it still serves up the best thin-crust pizza anywhere and the simplest yet tasty salad bar. Sixteen members met to review the year, talk current motorbike issues, and plan for the future.

For Chapter Y the future contains a December meeting and Christmas White Elephant exchange at John/Judy Harper's in mid-December. It will be a great time. For January we will be having our annual New Year's potluck at Bob/Linda Kruger's, featuring a soup potluck and dominoes immediately after. The February meeting will take place in conjunction with the Wisconsin Winter Weekend in Plover. Chapter Y will meet on March 21 in the back room of Dooley's Pub, a local Irish watering hole with tons of ambiance.

Chapter Y is concentrating heavily on the Region C Rally set for early June, 2009. Our

early rides will be on Rally routes to confirm the circuits and watch for problems. Suggestions are being taken and ideas discussed. We are getting ready to help host the best Region C Rally in recent history.

The River Valley Riders wish all in GWTA a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2009 be your best year yet, with more miles ridden more safely, and with your highest smileage ever. (SPG—Smiles Per Gallon).

Ride Safely and Stay Happy!

Darrell

Member Retention

Greetings G.W.T.A. members:

I know this is the season to be jolly and it is hard to do when the bike is in storage. One way to do that is to get with friends and plan a weekend away, like the weekend with G.W.T.A. making plans for next year and the state rally. Also check your membership card. It would be a good time to increase your years of membership with your own or family XMAS gift! Don't forget the chrome for your wife that she just has to have!!! Hope all of you have a great winter. Brrrrr....

Happy Holidays
Dean & Elaine Belanger
WI P.R.

Wisconsin Chapters

Chapter GB - Green Bay, WI

Chapter Director

Patrick Williams-920-455-0244

wingrider@new.rr.com

Website - www.gwtawigb.org

Chapter Y - Eau Claire, WI

Chapter Director

Darrell Broten-715-835-2012

Cell: 715-829-2097

dbroten@sbcglobal.net

Contacts

Region C Director's

Jenifer Lipe & Randy Nelson

402-896-8541

402-290-1376 - Randy Cell

402-290-8690 -Jen Cell

ranelson@caos-consulting.com

jenlipe@cox.net

State Director's

Sherri and Jeryl Vonderheid

715-839-9986

threewingers@sbcglobal.net

Assistant State Director's

Bruce and Bev Roehrborn

920-526-3305

bjroehrborn@excel.net

State Educator

Marcus Baudhuin

920-865-1672

mdbaud1@yahoo.com

Member Recruitment and Retention Director's

Dean and Elaine Belanger

920-826-7287

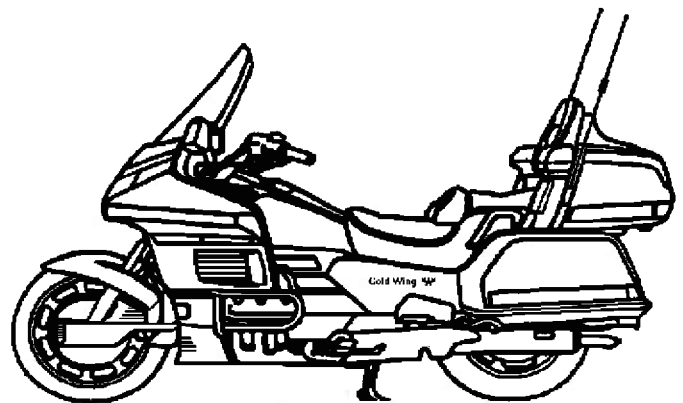
dbelanger@bayland.net

State Newsletter Editor

Barbara Williams

920-455-0244

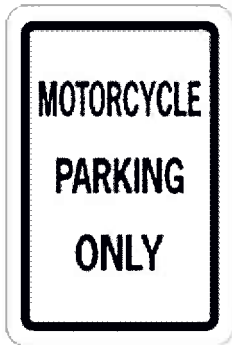
mrsgoldwing@att.net



What is the TA Way?

The *T. A. Way* is a manual of guidelines for the Chapter Director (CD). It was written for the CD as a tool, but we encourage all members to take the time to read the manual. You will gain a better understanding of our association and how it operates.

<http://gwta.org/taway/taway.htm>



Apparel



http://www.gwta.org/online_store/apparel.htm

Safety Corner

18-Wheelers Often make good 'riding buddies'

By: James R. Davis

Well the riding season is over for all of us except the snowbirds. This is a good time to install any of the "safety chrome" you may receive during the Christmas Holidays. This is also a good time to make a list of any maintenance that your bike might need before the spring riding season arrives. If you need any work done, check with your local repair facility about having it done during the winter months, that way when we get that 60 degree day in March, (wishful thinking) you'll be ready to ride.

But since it is WINTER & it arrived way too soon in my opinion, we should all have a survival kit in our autos. Yes, I know most all of us carry cell phones, but you can get stranded on the highway when it won't work for you. Just ask anybody who was stranded on Highway 94 near Madison for 8 hours last year when trucks blocked the roadway & it was closed for a long time. We should all carry a blanket, warm clothes, boots, bottled water & perhaps an energy bar, just in case.

I would like to thank everyone in GWTA for participating in our ice cream rides, Chapter functions & making GWTA happen in our area. I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a happy & safe New Year.

Marcus
State Educator

When I was on jury duty a few months ago I had occasion to spend a lot of hours with a trucker who explained to me many of the things that I have always been curious about. Not the least surprising of which, considering the setting, was how many truckers manage to accumulate far more miles in their rigs than the law allows with the illegal use of a second set of log books. (The message here is clear - many truckers out there are TIRED - morning, noon, or night.)

[I have only been inside the cab of an 18-wheeler once in my life, when I was a kid. The driver had allowed me to ride with him between LA and Monterey along the California coast. I could not believe how hard it had been for him to drive that rig - it had a 'brownie' (second shift-lever) that he managed by looping his arm through the steering-wheel. Well, technology has come a long way in long-haulers and brownies are a thing of the past. But the driver's job remains a tough one, and motorcycles often just add one more worry for them to have to deal with.]

This trucker that I mentioned above claimed that two-wheelers,

particularly those driven by women, (though they often get 'cat-calls' from his friends), are actually held in high regard by truckers - especially if they seem to know what they are doing. Motorcyclists, he said, are smart to keep their distance from the trucks. He said that though retreads have been banned from automobiles for many years, there are still trucks that ride on them and if one should blow the energy released is roughly equivalent to a stick of dynamite. A motorcycle that happens to be nearby would not stand a chance.

And though it is not possible to completely avoid riding on one side or the other of an 18-wheeler, he said, a smart motorcyclist would not linger there and would pass as soon as they could. He also said that motorcyclists that pass a truck only to then pull in front of it are smarter still if they do not pull in too quickly. He described a nightmare accident he once had where a small Toyota had pulled in front of him on the open highway then hit its brakes. He was hauling a load of steel rebars and there was absolutely no way he could even slow down before running over that car. Mass and inertia have their own rules.

As to motorcyclists in general, he said that he was no longer surprised at the number of times he would say something about a 'good looking bike' on the road near him to another trucker in the distance only to have that biker thank him with his CB. This,

because he has come to understand that most touring bikes have CB radios and that they seem to have realized that truckers can make good 'riding buddies' when the motorcyclist is riding solo. He described dozens of times riding 'escort' for a solo biker, and sharing a meal with a few of them along his way. That they invariably talked about their bikes (and he about his rig) while eating and how impressed he had been that they were really 'into' and knowledgeable about what they (the bikers) were doing.

I thought I would post this here because we often hear bikers describe 18-wheelers in rather nasty ways - like they were generically dumb, illiterate, drunk, mean, and dangerous. Truth is they are just people with a hard job and they are on the roads with people that do not have sufficient respect for how much time it takes to slow/stop those rigs so are constantly put in risky situations as a result.

My experience with truckers has been almost universally good. Hope this little Tip causes a few readers to re-think their attitudes about them. A trucker can be a life-saver in time of need. Why not maximize the odds?



Something to Think About

A man was exploring caves by the Seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him.

As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could. He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone!

Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it. We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

- * "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do."
-Walter Bagehot
- * "Be an example of what you want to see more of in the world."
- * "The most important single ingredient of the formula of success is knowing
* how to get along with people." -
Theodore Roosevelt
- * "Character is what you have left when stripped of everything."



Recipe for a Happy New Year

Author Unknown

*To leave the old with a burst of song
To recall the rights and forgive the wrong;
To forgive the thing that binds you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;*

*To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the non-worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare to go forth with a purpose true;
To the unknown task of the year that's new,*

*To help your brother along the road
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*



WISCONSIN'S GWTA WINTER WEEKEND

Feb. 27 – March 1, 2009

**St. Elizabeth Inn
5246 Harding Avenue
Plover, WI**

Come join your GWTA friends for a relaxed weekend away from home!!

The State Winter meeting will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, Feb. 28th. We will meet at the St. Elizabeth Inn in the meeting room. We will be discussing the Region C Rally, Gold Rush, Meet 'N' Greet and much more – bring your ideas!! This meeting is crucial for the Region C Rally being held in Chippewa Falls. We have a lot of information to discuss and we need your ideas! If you can not make the meeting please email Sherri or Jeryl with your ideas, questions, or concerns.

Check out the great hotel at <http://www.elizabethinn.com>. The swimming pool will be a hit for the kids and grandkids! They offer a buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hotel arrangements can be made by calling 1-800-280-0778. Make your reservations by January 30th. Be sure to mention GWTA to get a 10% discount. (This hotel has a tendency to fill up with skiers on the weekends, so reserve your room now.) Call now and be sure to ask about the cancellation policy! Any questions contact State Directors Sherri or Jeryl Vonderheid (715) 839-9986 or threewingers@sbcglobal.net.

MEET 'N' GREET

July 31-August 2, 2009

**CAMPING, MOTELING, GROUP RIDES,
PICNIC, FRIENDS & MUCH MORE**

**COME JOIN US FOR THE WEEKEND OR
FOR JUST A DAY!**

**Vista Royale Campground, Bancroft, WI
Americinn Motel or Elizabeth Inn, Plover, WI**

Campground and Hotels are approx. 13 miles apart

Vista Royale Campground Approx. \$35 a night

Check out the website www.vistaroyalle.com

We have sites 163 – 173 blocked until April 15th

When making reservations let them know you are with GWTA (715) 335-6860

**Americinn Motel
(715) 342-1244**

**Elizabeth Inn
(715)341-4414**

**PICNIC/POTLUCK
AT VISTA ROYALLE CAMPGROUND
PAVILLION**

Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009

EAT AT 1:00 PM!

Brats and Hot dogs & Beverage PROVIDED – Bring a dish to share

Raffle, 50/50 & Bango Ride after meal and State Meeting

For more information, contact Sherri or Jeryl Vonderheid, 715-839-9986 or threewingers@sbcglobal.net