

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Region N



Virginia

Virginia District News

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JULY 2003

WING DING RECAP

We hope that all the Virginia participants at Wing Ding in Madison, Wisconsin, had a great time and a safe journey both to and from Madison.

Region N should be very proud. Our Region N Couple, Tom and Kathy Peck were selected International Couple of the Year. Guess what folks – that's five out of the nine years Region has been in existence. Hurray for Region N!

However, that was not all. Our very own Region N Educators, Gene and Martha Davis were selected National Educator of the Year! Another plus for Region N!!

Congratulations to both of these couples.

Virginia also came out well in the bike show. Each VA participant that put their bike in the show walked away with a plaque.

So, if you ask me, Wing Ding was a success just because of the above matters. However, I need to mention the great vendors, great food, and entertainment for all of us at Wing Ding. From the Block Party in Oregon, Wisconsin, which also featured a fireworks show, to J & M's Block party for us at the Coliseum, and to of course the other great restaurants in town, Gold Wingers ate good, partied hearty, and had a great time. There was something for everybody, and for the most part, Virginians came home, tired, broke, happy, and dreaming about next year when Wing Ding will be held in Grapevine, Texas – Yee Ha!

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF A CHAPTER

Yes, the baby arrived on July 12, 2003. Chapter G kicked off with 196 folks from all over Virginia plus folks from Chapter NC-E2 to welcome them into the GWRRA organization. And of course, that meant Fats Bernard, Chapter O Senior Chapter Director could now pass on his pacifier. Of course we had to make a big deal of this – it's now a ritual. So Frank, wear the pacifier proudly until Virginia again

welcomes a new chapter into the organization. Their meetings are the second Saturday of the month. Information is up on the web site, so let's get out there and support them. Remember, they are still babies and need our support.

UPCOMING DISTRICT RALLYS

WALLER IN THE HOLLER is right around the corner, to be exact, **August 7 – 10, 2003**. Darrell and Debbie Hutson and the entire WVA crew will be sure to show all a good time. Flatwoods, WVA, where the rally is held is a beautiful mountainous area of WVA, and there is lots of good riding here for those of you that love those mountain curves. And for those of you that like to eat, well, WVA feeds you good, too. Along with bike shows, seminars, people games, Friday night entertainment, you name it, you too can WALLER IN THE HOLLER.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS BLAST – August 21 – 23, 2003. Down in Paducah, Glynn and Lesia Tucker along with the rest of KY are gearing up to greet all their visitors. Starting off with a Poolside ice cream social on Thursday night, a comedy/hypnotist show on Friday, plus a bike Light Show, the awesome Middle TN Precision Drill Team and Purple Peddlers.....wait a minute – you mean there's more? You bet. They have many vendors for you to see in an "inside climate controlled space", with outdoor vendors for tire, painting, etc. This is also KY's 20th year anniversary with GWRRA. If you get a chance and can attend, go celebrate with KY, and maybe you can win a 2003 Escapade Eclipse Trailer.

ALL CHAPTERS PICNIC – JULY 26, 2003

Please give a big hug of thanks to all the Chapter Couples and especially, our District Couple, Joe and Nancy D'Eufemia for putting on a picnic for the District that can only be described as "awesome". From the location (which was for the most part, shady) to the food, to the games, it was just great. What a wonderful job! There were 218 participants in attendance, and it was wonderful to see everyone. And we even had celebrity there. Tom and Kathy Peck, our International Couple were in attendance, and we want them to know they are welcome back any time they can come. However, Virginia treats even celebrities like Tom and Kathy like family, so before long, they were no longer celebrities and just part of the family. I believe they were even put to work a couple of times. Tom and Kathy, thank you so much for your gracious and warm comments about Virginia.

DEADLINES APPROACHING

It's hard to believe how fast a year goes by, but it's almost Rally time, and the deadlines for various items are coming due. They are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Rally Logo Ad | July 30, 2003 |
| Restaurant Guide Ads | August 15, 2003 |
| Photo Contest | August 30, 2003 |
| Spirit of VA Nominations | August 30, 2003 |

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

SCAVENGER HUNT

As you all know by now, we will be having a Scavenger Hunt at Rally in the Valley this year in conjunction with the Salem Retail Merchants Association. **What you don't know is that the lucky winner of the Scavenger Hunt will leave the Rally with an additional \$100.00 in his or her pocket.**

For those of you that arrive early for the Rally, come by the Civic Center on Thursday morning to pick up a scavenger hunt sheet. Although each participant will get one in their registration packets, this is an opportunity for those of you that will get there before registration to go ahead and do this now.

Scavenger Hunt Times:
10am to 4pm Thursday
10am to 4pm Friday
10am to 3pm Saturday

All Scavenger Hunt sheets should be turned into the registration no later than 3:30pm on Saturday afternoon.

As stated, one of the purposes of this event is to get to know Salem better, and have the folks in Salem get to know us a little better. This is a great PR chance for all participating Goldwingers, and a chance to win a monetary award, not to mention just having some fun away from the rally site for a couple of hours, and maybe stopping at one of the many restaurants and coffee shops in downtown Salem. For those that do their Christmas shopping early, this is a great chance to pick up some unique gifts. The streets of downtown Salem will be decorated for the Fall season, and the merchants are looking forward to a visit from Goldwingers. Mr. Bob Garvey, President of the Salem Retail Merchants Association will be on hand Saturday night to present the award to the lucky winner.

We would like to thank Linda Hall and Bobbie Jo Harrison of VA Chapter K for planning the Scavenger Hunt route for us, and also for their assistance in selling the retailers on this venture.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR RALLY IN THE VALLEY

**Door Prizes
Goodies for the Hospitality Room
Packet Stuffing Goodies**

Everyone loves the hospitality room, and we like to brag that we have the best-baked goods in town. So, don't forget to bring that pie, cake, cookie, brownie, whatever for the hospitality room. Chapter B

will be handling this again this year. They do a great job, and let's keep them busy with passing out goodies to hungry travelers.

Chapters W and our newest Chapter G are handling Door Prizes this year. Feel free to drop off door prizes to either one of these chapters between now and Rally. And of course, you can always bring those prizes with you when you come.

Packet stuffing goodies can be pens, key tags, pencils, note pads, whatever. If you work for a large company, they may have some advertising goodies that they would like to donate. The date for scheduling the packet stuffing will be announced in the August newsletter.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR RALLY IN THE VALLEY 2003 need to be made now! We have learned that there will be a Virginia Tech game that weekend in Blacksburg, and rooms are already filling up. Therefore, you need to make those reservations as soon as possible.

Due to the Virginia Tech game, the hotels are become slightly nervous with the empty rooms not yet reserved. For those of you that choose the hotels that have been blocked by the District, please make your reservations as soon as possible.

For others of you that have blocks of rooms, now would be a good time for you to check on how many rooms have been reserved in the block and encouraging others to make reservations. Because of the Virginia Tech game, some of the hotels have announced that they will be releasing the block earlier than anticipated.

We don't want to see you all without a room, so get those reservations in now. I personally went down to Salem to see what was left in the hotels where the District had blocked rooms, and there are plenty of rooms now, but like the others, they may be releasing the blocks a little earlier this year.

These hotels and the others in the area where Gold Wings have stayed in the past are listed on the web site.

Virginia's theme for Rally in the Valley 2003 is "Living the American Dream".

Opening Ceremonies, the logo contest as well as the table decorations contest will be based on this theme. Put your thinking caps on folks, get those pens and pencils to work, get your creative juices flowing and come up with unique and creative ideas for this theme. **The deadline for the logo contest will be July 30, 2003.**

Spirit of Virginia Award – As you know, this is awarded to a special person in Virginia GWRRA that stands out due to their commitment, love, and true GWRRA spirit. I am sure we all know someone like that. This may be the someone who is always there to volunteer their help, who comes up with innovative ideas for the chapter, and who is an example for all of us. This is also usually a person who does this with the good of all in mind, and rarely if ever seems to want our thanks. Think about a person whom you think is like that, and you've got your nomination. If you do have someone in mind, please go to the web site and look up the rules to nominate that special someone.

PEOPLES CHOICE PHOTO CONTEST AT RALLY IN THE VALLEY

Yes, we want all you amateur and professional photographers to get out there and take a picture of something depicting what you believe "Living the American Dream" is all about. The photos need to be submitted by August 30, 2003. We need the dimensions of the photo to be 8 X 10 and matted on either cardboard or a foam board. We will be hanging the pictures in either the hospitality room or registration area. They will each be numbered, and those attending the rally will be the ones to pick the winner. Yes, this is people's choice. The winner will not only be recognized at Closing Ceremonies, but we will submit their photo to Wing World for consideration and they will receive a monetary award.

Q99 TO DO LIVE REMOTE AT RALLY IN THE VALLEY

The District has just signed a contract with radio station Q99 who serves the SW Virginia area to do a live remote at the Rally on Saturday morning. We are very excited about this - not only do we have the remote on Saturday morning, but they will be advertising the Rally from Monday through Friday preceding that Saturday morning. It benefits VA GWRRA many ways – makes the public more aware of what we are all about, hopefully brings more people to the Rally, benefits the businesses of the local sponsors we are obtaining, may generate more members for GWRRA, and last but not least, simply makes it more fun for our visitors at the rally. The Q99 Bear along with their radio personality will be there from 9:00 am to 12pm on Saturday, so stop by and say hello.

Plaque Attacks

As of this writing, VAE has the COY Plaque, VAI took the District Traveling Plaque away from Chapter H, and KY-Y has Region Wandering Plaque. Sounds like we need to get some folks out to KY to get the Region plaque back.

Newsletter Award

The winner of the Newsletter Award for June is Chapter C. Great job folks. Keep those cards and letters coming!

TIGGER TALK

Here we are on the backside of summer. Hard to believe. Seems like the year just got started and before long the kids will be back in school, the evenings will be turning cooler and Rally in the Valley will be upon us. This

time of year also means that soon there could be some changes in your Chapters Staff. It's time to start thinking about that next Chapter Couple, and for some of you, a new Chapter Director. Those of you who are stepping down at the end of the year should already have an Assistant Chapter Director in place. A big part of the success for the new Chapter Director lies in your hands. By now you should have already started the training process. We all want our Chapters to continue to thrive so it is imperative to train those who will be taking our place. Make them a part of the decisions you make. Let them take over a Staff meeting or Chapter gathering. Give them the knowledge they need to make their transition and tenure as smooth as it can be. Encourage the Chapter to support them and help them. All of the above are important things to help keep your Chapter flowing smoothly. We all want that to happen.

Now back to Rally in the Valley. We have listed some things we need to make the Rally the success it has been in the past. Most importantly, we need you. Without folks coming to have fun and help out, there would be no Rally. Come play with us, won't you?

VIRGINIA DISTRICT STAFF

Assistant District Directors

Keith & Carol Lindgren
Wade & Marina Farmer
Orin & Donna Thomas

District Educator

Cundiff & Ellen Simmons

Assistant District Educator

Jim Sharkey

District Trainer

Bob & Sandy Renner

MED Coordinator

Chris & Kathy Hooper

Assistant MED Coordinator

Wayne & Lynette Stewart

Recruiting & Retention Coordinator

George Craddock & Isabel Gray

District Treasurer

Stan & Lou Smith

District COY

Joe & Nancy D'Eufemia

District COY Coordinator

Mike & Keri Nelson

Rally Registration Coordinator

Dave & Lois Nichols

Rally Vendor Coordinator

Steve & Linda Whitmer

These are the folks that make GWRRA Virginia run smooth. Without their help and dedication, Angie & I could not do this "job". Give them a hug when you see them, it's the only pay they receive. Additionally, make sure you give them a few minutes at your meetings and functions to get up and say a few words on behalf of the District.

Rally Assignments

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Registration | D,U,W |
| Field Events | I |
| Bike Show | O |
| Hospitality Room | B |
| Poker Run | X |
| Information Fri | L |
| Sat | V |
| Security | A1,P,R,J,C |
| Door Prizes | W,G |
| Parade | C |
| Rally Shirts | M,Y,F |
| Ice Cream Social | Z |
| Bike Light Parade | H |
| Road Kill Café | K |
| Camping | E |
| Grand Prize Sales | L |
| Food Servers | A,F,Y |

Thanks to all that volunteered for these important tasks. It is the volunteers that make Rally in the Valley the best Rally going!