

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Chapter "D" Region "N"



Your Next Meeting Will Be Held

There will be no Meeting in April

Chapter
Directors 2004
Steve & Diane
Flournoy

Meeting Place
Italian Delight
6331 Jahnke Road
7:00 PM

Chapter Couple
2004
Marty &
Lawanna Link

Chapter Web Site <http://www.frashure.com/chooper/vad>
Virginia District Web Site <http://www.frashure.com/goldwing>

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***Chapter Picnic April 25th will take place
of this month's meeting***



Chapter Director's Corner

The weather is getting warmer and we're seeing more bikes on the road. The traditional April showers are keeping some of us off the road. However, as can be attested to by the number of scheduled GWRRA events on the calendar, I think we can safely say that riding season is upon us. We had put the entire year calendar in the Newsletter for a couple of months and everyone seemed to like knowing what was going on. We've decided to make a small change in that plan as we also heard that the print was a bit small and hard to read without the magnifying glass. So...we've come up with an alternative. We'll put in three months at a time in a bigger font. That should give everyone planning time without the eyestrain. You'll find it at the end of the news letter.

We are also still working on some group ride options. One of the rides will be a brown bag picnic where we will meet up with Chapter C for lunch and an ice cream ride. As those firm up, we'll list those on the same page as the events. That way everyone can pull off the ride/ events list and keep it handy.

Steve went to the first River City Matinee. The crowd was a bit smaller than the usual Friday night events but will probably grow as the word gets out. The schedule for these events is listed in Marie's corner. Next Friday is Bike night so go out check out what everyone has done to their bikes over the winter.

That's about it for this time around. Take care and hope to see all of you at the Picnic.

Steve and Diane

NOTICE OF CHANGE – Chapter K has Changed Locations

Western Sizzlin Steak House
1309 Hershberger Rd. N.W.
Roanoke, VA 24012

Time and day will be the same.

Words of Wisdom from the Ancient One
“Those who adapt to their surroundings survive.
Proposed by Charles Darwin.
Proven by GWRRA and thousands of other motorcycle riders”.

From the Chapter Couple:

Since our last meeting, we have not had the opportunity to visit other Virginia District Chapters. We took a little trip to Alabama. We left home around 10 AM on Sunday, March 28th.

Our first stop was to visit our daughter Jeri in Phenix City, Alabama. We arrived on Monday about 3 pm. The weather was a little cool, but nice during the trip. On Wednesday, the weather

turned nasty. Thick ugly clouds and some rain with falling temperatures. In spite of the ugly weather, we were fortunate enough to miss rain during any of our rides.

On Thursday, we left for the Alabama District Rally, in Madison, Alabama, just west of Huntsville. Jeri went to the rally with us. Again, the weather was not good, but we still dodged the rain.

On Friday morning, we met with most of the Alabama chapter couples as they prepared for the selection of the new district Couple of the Year. Later, we sat in on part of the selection process. Later in the day, we took the classroom portion of the new TRI (Trike Riders International) Trike safety course. This course was devised and taught by TRI staff, and has been approved by GWRRA for Rider Education Levels. On Saturday, we took the 2-Up range portion of the course.

After winning 3 door prizes (Jeri and I got none) Lawanna won the \$200.00 drawing from Rally pre-registrations at the closing ceremonies.

Sunday morning, we headed for home. The weather was pretty cool, with high winds. We made it as far as Bristol, TN and stopped for the night. After overnight temperatures of around 29 degrees, we continued to home in COLD temperatures, with very high, cold and gusting winds. We pulled into the house at 5 PM that afternoon. My shoulders were really hurting from fighting the winds all day. From start to finish, we put 1,616 miles on the Trike.

We really had a good time on the trip.

Then we get home to hear the sad news about Don Morgan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and the family, as well as Chapter U and the GWRRA family. Even if we did not like the reason, we took pride in being a part of the motorcycle escort for his final ride.

We ride in a safe manner, we wear protective equipment and we take Rider Education courses to hone our skills, but please remember, we are still at the mercy of other's actions on the road. Keep this in mind when you ride.

Marty & Lawanna Link

Chapter Education

With motorcycle season upon us and although the recent loss of our much loved Don Morgan stems from slightly different circumstances, we thought that a reprint of this article from *American Motorcyclist* was timely.

Unseen Gorillas and Motorcycle Safety

'Inattentional blindness' studies shed light on car-motorcycle accidents

Your headlight's on. You're wearing a brightly colored helmet and clothing. The driver of the oncoming car looks right in your direction. And then he turns left into your path anyway.

Later, he tells the police officer: "I never saw the motorcycle."

How could that be? Just ask all the people who didn't see the woman in the gorilla suit.

Allow us to explain.

Recent scientific studies focusing on a phenomenon known as “inattention blindness” may help us understand why car drivers often end up causing accidents with motorcycles they “didn't see.”

One particularly interesting study was conducted by Daniel Simons and Christopher Chabris at Harvard University. In it, subjects watched a video of two teams of three people—one team in white shirts, the other wearing black—passing an ordinary basketball among themselves.

Some subjects were told to count the number of passes by either the white or black team (the “easy task”). Others were told to keep separate mental counts of bounce passes and aerial passes (the “hard task”).

During the video, a woman carrying an umbrella walks through the scene. In another version, a woman in a full gorilla suit walks through. In a third video, the gorilla stops in the middle of the scene, thumps its chest, and walks off.

Here's the scary part: Forty-six percent of the subjects did not see the umbrella woman or the gorilla in the first two versions. In the third version, 50 percent didn't notice the gorilla.

Basically, people concentrating on one task do not see something unrelated because they aren't expecting it, says Simons, an associate professor of psychology at Harvard.

“The intuition people have is that something different like that will jump out at them and they will notice it,” adds Simons. “But their intuition is wrong.”

Simons believes it is not a stretch to apply the same thinking to car drivers encountering motorcycles on the street. In a sea of cars, a motorcycle could be that “something different” the driver does not expect, and therefore does not see.

The key, he says, is attention. In the Harvard study, called “Gorillas in our Midst,” the subjects engaged in the “hard task” were less likely to notice the umbrella woman or the gorilla than were subjects performing the “easy task.” The more their attention was focused elsewhere, the less likely they were to notice unexpected occurrences.

Simons notes that some of the subjects in the study did not believe a gorilla actually walked through the scene until they were shown the tape again. They were astounded they missed something that was so obvious on second viewing.

On the surface, the study seems to be bad news for safety-minded motorcyclists. It suggests that no matter what we do, some inattentive drivers will still miss us. And it has obvious implications for those concerned with the whole subject of driver distractions, including cellphone use.

Meanwhile, a study by researchers at Sussex University in England found that experienced drivers were actually less likely than inexperienced drivers to look for potential hazards in unexpected locations. The study, which analyzed eye movements of drivers watching video clips of traffic situations, appears to indicate that years of driving train someone to look for the expected, not what is actually there.

But there are useful lessons for all of us that can be gleaned from these “inattention blindness” studies.

For instance, although being conspicuous is no guarantee you'll be seen, Simons reports that it may improve your odds on the road. He cites other studies in which subjects were watching black-and-white objects on a screen and an unexpected red object appeared. Even with the color contrast, about 30 percent did not see the red object. But at least the other 70 percent did.

Simons plans to join the faculty at the University of Illinois next year and hopes to do further research more directly related to traffic safety by using the university's driving simulator.

But on the basis of the results so far, Simons suggests that while nothing can guarantee you'll be seen by car drivers, such attention-getting equipment as modulating headlights (legal in most states), along with brightly colored clothing and helmets, may help.

"The goal," he says, "would be to make things more distinctive."

Remember, though, that just because the driver is looking right at you, that doesn't mean he or she really sees you. After all, half the people never saw the gorilla

Excerpt from the *American Motorcyclist*.

MARIE REPORTS THE NEWS (Gossip, Rumor and Hearsay) AND SPECIAL EVENTS

THE ANNUAL EASTER BONNET CONTEST WAS A "HOPULAR" TREAT IN MARCH. At our meeting on March 24th several brave "March Hares" prepared to strut their haberdashery for the masses. The annual *Easter Bonnet Contest* is always a fun event for our spring meeting. Prizes were awarded to Marie Crow, Lawanna Link, Larry Crow and Ted Nelmes for their creative headgear.

VaMAC'S ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BIKES on Saturday, April 3 at the Southside Nazarene Church was not well attended this year. The weather was so bad Saturday morning that we considered the Bike Blessing a lost cause for sure. What a cruel April Fools joke. The weather did get better by 2 PM and we had about 35 bikes, riders and co-riders attend the annual blessing. The church provided hot dogs, hamburger, BBQ and all the fixins' for the hungry crowd. Proceeds from the registration fees and donations for lunch will go to ASK to sponsor a scholarship. Thanks to everyone who came, everyone who stayed to help out and especially our friends at Southside Nazarene Church for hosting this event again this year.

CHAPTER D "ON THE ROAD AGAIN" BBQ & BIKE SHOW is Sunday, April 25 at Dorey Park. Fun and festivities start at 10 AM. Here is the schedule:

10:00 – 11:00 AM	Register for the Bike Show (<i>Bike Show participants compete for 1st & 2nd place awards. Best of Show winner is selected by show participants.</i>)
11:00 AM	Picnic Begins
12:00 Noon	Welcome & Lunch
1:30 PM	Awards & Prizes

Feast on BBQ, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and desserts. Cost is \$9.00 per person plus bring a main dish to share. There will also be pork butts for sale. There are games, door prizes, 50/50 and MORE!!! (Flyers available)

CHAPTER D CELEBRATES IT'S 20th ANNIVERSARY IN JULY It's time to celebrate another year older (and better) for Chapter D. It's a great big milestone for our Chapter. Our July meeting will be bringing lots of surprises. You don't want to miss it.

RELAY FOR LIFE POKER RUN IS SUNDAY, MAY 16. This is the 5th Annual Relay for Life Poker Run for us. It gets bigger and better every year. Last year our goal was \$1000. I am happy to say we

surpassed that by a smidgeon. Our goal this year is \$1200. If the weather is good and there are no hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes that weekend, we should be able to meet that goal or maybe surpass it. The Poker Run starts at Cycle Connection of Virginia and ends at Perrins BBQ. You will ride through some of the best riding roads in the area. Mark your calendar. We're going to have a great time and we don't want you to miss it. I will also need volunteers to help with various tasks including manning the stop points and registration. We want to especially thank MT & Mary Swift of Cycle Connection and Perrins BBQ for their participation in and help with this fundraising event. (Flyers Available)

POWHATAN RELAY FOR LIFE IS JUNE 4-5, 2004 We have such a great time and the people of Powhatan go all out for this event with music, decorations, food and entertainment. This year the theme is "Finding Nemo". Think about the sun, sand, scuba gear, fishing, snorkeling and fun in the water. Lawanna is working on a big special banner for the team to use. This year the team will honor our dear friends MacRae and Kim Powers and Jean Leehy. Chapter D has provided funds to purchase 3 Luminaries with their names and these will encircle the track at Powhatan High School on Friday, June 4. Come on out and join us in honoring our friends and fellow riders. Mark your calendars for this Relay event in Powhatan in June and the Poker Run fundraiser in May.

VIRGINIA IS FOR MOTORCYCLE LOVERS T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILBLE. We have long sleeve t-shirts in *black, white and gray*. Short sleeve shirts are *White, Black, Canyon Red and Salmon pink*. Proceeds from the sale of these shirts go to VaMAC. Once these shirts are sold, there will be no more available to purchase. I still have most sizes in most colors now. If you want t-shirts be sure to call me at 271-6345 before each meeting to let me know what size and kind. I will not be bringing boxes and boxes of t-shirts to each meeting, but I will be glad to bring some if needed. We have hats as well as t-shirts now.

RIVER CITY DINER/NORTH INTRODUCES *MOTORCYCLE MATINEE AT THE DINER.* Saturday, April 10 was the kickoff event for River City Diner/North at Parham Road and Interstate 95. Motorcycle enthusiasts came out in the "iffy" spring weather to River City Diner/North. This is VaMAC's kickoff event for RCD and we raffled off a gift certificate for Dinner for Two or Dessert for Two to celebrate the event. The winners are Charles Roberts of Ruckersville and Larry Crow of Richmond. This promotion was very successful so we're doing it again for Bike Nite on April 23. Motorcycle Matinee will continue every 2nd Saturday from April through October (except for September) from 2-6 PM. This allows for morning riders to come by for a late lunch or afternoon riders can meet up with their biking companions, share lunch and take off for a great afternoon of riding. It promises to be a unique and diverse change from our usual Friday night at RCD/South. **REMEMBER: BIKE NITE AT RIVER CITY DINER/SOUTH STARTS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 23.** Keep an eye on the VaMAC website at www.vamac.org for the latest news and pictures from these events!!!

<u><i>"Motorcycle Matinee"</i></u>	<u><i>"Bike Night"</i></u>
803 E. Parham Rd.	11430 W. Huguenot Rd.
2pm – 6pm	6pm – 10pm
(2nd Saturday each month)	(4th Friday each month)
April 10	April 23
May 8	May 28
June 12	June 25
July 10	July 23
August 14	August 27
September 18	September 24
October 9	October 22

2004 RALLY DATES TO REMEMBER:

Myrtle Beach Week	May 7-16	Myrtle Beach, SC
Americade	June 7-12	Lake George, NY
LaconiaBike Week	June 12-20	Laconia, NH
Honda Hoot	June 23-26	Knoxville, TN
Wing Ding	July 4-8	Grapevine, TX
Sturgis	August 9-15	Sturgis, ND
Delmarva Bike Week	September 9-12	Ocean City, MD
Biketoberfest	October 21-24	Daytona Beach, FL

Wing Ding 2004 News

Plan Early for WingDing 04. The Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) is proud to announce a WingDing like none before! The 26th celebration of the Association's annual event will be held at the newest of the Gaylord Opryland resorts, "**Gaylord Opryland Texas**". Come experience the grandeur of Opryland along with the splendor of GWRRA's 26th **WingDing from July 4 - 8, 2004**. It's going to be so big...we had to add another day. Now 5 days long! Register on-line today.

**If you hear of anyone who is ill or needs our thoughts and prayers, please let me know”
Call 748-3742 Thanks, Ethel**

- Mr. Eddie Crouse is at home and still has good and bad days. The Chapter is thinking of you Eddie.
- Mrs. Helen Carlyle is continuing her treatments for cancer. Linda reports she is tolerating them very well. We certainly will be thinking of you while you are under doctor’s care.

BIRTHDAYS

Fay Headly	4/17
JoAnn Burton	4/24
Roy Worrell	4/26
Belle Miller	4/28
Nancy Worrell	4/30

March 2004



ANNIVERSARIES

Larry and Marie Crow	4/5
Eric and Debbie Albert	4/10
M.T. & Mary Swift	4/10

*****Please Note: The GWRRA member with the luckymembership number from last month was not at the meeting. In fact there were two for our start up of this project. Neither member was at our last meeting so the money rolls over and the pot keeps growing. Since there is no meeting this month don't look too hard for a number. We will have a membership number hidden in the May newsletter and the pot will be worth \$30.00. Find your number, come to the meeting, and pick up your prize
PS Continue to wear your vest proudly to meetings and events.***

Marty's Musings:

Ride safe. How many times have we heard that? Most likely, more times than you can remember. But what does that really mean?

First, it should mean that you have checked your motorcycle over good. Tires properly inflated, oil and other fluids at the proper level, all hardware firmly attached, controls working smoothly, etc. (T-CLOCK).

Next, it should mean that all of your riding gear is in good shape. Helmet lining and straps are intact and not frayed or split, visor, glasses or goggles clean and free of pits and scratches (windshield too), gloves are in good shape and protect you whole hand and fingers. Shoes or boots cover the ankle and have good non-slip soles. Other clothing provide warmth or cooling as the weather dictates and you have considered the need to shed layers as it warms up, or layer up as the evening hours approach.

Now the most important part, are you ready to ride. We all know that riding is 10% physical and 90% mental.

The physical part is the effort required to get the motorcycle upright and hold it up when we have to stop, as well as working the handlebars to steer. This part is more pronounced on a Trike or at very low speeds on 2 wheels. All of this is made a little more physical and important when a co-rider is aboard.

The mental portion starts before you climb aboard. While we all know that riding is a great stress reliever, too much stress can keep us from doing the mental things we need to do every minute of every ride. We need to be able to constantly scan the roadway and surrounding area hazards, be able to predict, based on our scanning, what possible actions we may have to take to avoid those hazards and react accordingly. If we have a co-rider, they are an extra pair of eyes that can help us do this.

Most of us try to prepare ourselves by taking Rider Education courses, do some parking lot practice, reading magazine or newspaper article and discussing riding situations with other riders. A lot of times we recall situations we have encountered and how we handled them and try to visualize what other actions we might have taken.

Having considered everything above, there are still a lot of circumstances we have little or no control of. We can not control the actions of others on the road, including our fellow motorcyclists. I was told that people will pull out in front of other vehicles, regardless of size, but brake for a squirrel or rabbit. We can not control the malfunctioning traffic signals or missing signs. We can not control the animals that run out in our path. All we can do is rely on our training and experience and react to these circumstances. Some times, these are not enough and serious consequences occur.

Do we stop riding? My answer is **NO**. I enjoy the ride. I know that riding a motorcycle (Trike in my case) is more dangerous than riding in a car or truck, but the freedom and peace of mind that I get from riding I can not get any other way.

Over the years, we have lost a number of friends due to other people's actions on the road. I feel that, since they too found enjoyment in the ride, the best way to honor their memory is to continue to ride. I feel that not only am I riding, but in spirit I have them riding with me.

Marty Link

***Important!! Have you checked the expiration date on your GWRRA membership card lately?
If your expiration date is coming up, you can extend your membership on-line at
www.gwrro.org We will be checking your cards at the meetings.
It's quick and easy, don't delay, do it today!!!!***

CHAPTER D MEETING PLACES FOR RIDES

NORTH MEETING PLACE

McDonalds
Brook Road (Rt. 1)
Near Virginia Center Commons

EAST MEETING PLACE

Hardees 737-1064
Airport & 9 Mile Road
Highland Springs

SOUTH MEETING PLACE **

Sheetz Service Station & Convenience
2053 Huguenot Road & Robious Rd
Richmond, VA

WEST MEETING PLACE

Market Café – Exxon (used to be a Texaco)
10950 Nuckols Road 934-0144
Glen Allen I-295 exit 51B
Winning Member # 082853

CHESTER MEETING PLACE

Shoney's- Rt. 10 748-9087
I-95 exit 61B in the Bermuda Sq. Shopping
Ctr.
Chester, VA

Directions to the Picnic on the 25th.

Directions to Dorey Park

Chapter D Picnic and Bike Show April 25th

I-295 to Exit 22B (Varina Exit).

Turn Right at the first street onto Doran Rd.

Follow Doran Rd to the next stop sign and turn left onto Darbytown Rd. Dorey Park entrance is .6 miles on left. Look for signs. For more information call Steve or Diane Flournoy at 804-360-1159 Shelters 4,5,6,7

Remember the picnic takes place of the meeting this month.

GWRRA Upcoming Events

May

1	Poker Run - Martinsville	VA-M
1	Hobo Stew & All-Chapter Bike Challenge -	VA-O
1	Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Parade -	SABF & VA-F
2	Chapter Event - Stafford	VA-A1
6-9	Region N Rally/Vacation - Cherokee, NC	Region N
15	Relay for Life -Newport News	VA-O
15	Chapter Event - Charlottesville	VA-P
16	Relay for Life Poker Run -Powhatan	VA-D; Cycle Connection
23-23	Lonesome Pine Rally Coeburn, VA Lonsome Pine NC	VA-H,
22	Poker Run - Leesburg	VA-Y
22	1 st Annual Powhatan Bike Show Powhatan County Fair Grounds	

June

4-6	Relay For Life - Powhatan	VA-D
5	Covered Bridge Experience Poker Run - 9am, Shenandoah County Park, Maurertown, VA	VA-F
6	2004 Richmond Ride for Kids, -- Peds Brain Tumor Fdn.	US,PBTFUS
12	Tour 'deBurg - Fredericksburg	VA-E
12	Chickin' Pickin' Poker Run - Bedford	VA-V
7 - 12	Americade 2004 - Lake George, NY	Americade
19	A Teams Rendevous - Northern VA	VA-A & VA-A1
23-26	Honda Hoot XI - Knoxville, TN	Honda America
27	Rivah Rally Fish Fry - Jamaica Beach	VA-D

July

4-8	Wing Ding - Grapevine, TX	GWRRA Nat'l
10	Bike Show - Salem	VA-X
17	Chapter Event - Waynesboro	VA-G
31	Poker Run - Hanover	VA-U
29 - 31	Honda Homecoming - Marysville, OH	Honda America

Chapter D Group Rides

WATCH HERE FOR NEW LISTINGS BEGINNING NEXT MONTH. Two of the upcoming rides we hope to make are rides to the *Tour 'deBurg* on June 12th and the *A Teams Rendevous* on June 19th. Check your Calendars and we'll have more news shortly. Both events have fliers on the web site. Also watch for the Brown Bag picnics.