



Gold Wing Road Riders Assoc. Region N, North Carolina District

# Triangle Wings

NC-E, Cary, North Carolina

North Carolina Chapter of the Year, 2010

Friends for Fun, Safety  
and Knowledge

## Wing Words

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### CDs' Corner



Tom and I find it really hard to believe that it is already 2012! With the advent of the New Year, our first ride, the annual Polar Bear Ride, left Lake Pine with 12 bikes at 11:00 am and traveled to Bay Breeze Seafood in Sanford. Upon arrival we met Anita who had driven there because of her recent knee surgery. 14 of us enjoyed a wonderful lunch and great company. Bob Henard led the ride home for 7 bikes who wanted to ride the new 147/540/40 expressway prior to the toll that would be incurred on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. With the balmy 60 degree weather, we had to keep reminding ourselves it was January!

On January 11, we had our annual Ride Planning Meeting as our Sweet Treat event for the month. We added a number of two and one-half and three day trips to the calendar and plan to have overnights involving the Blue Ridge Parkway, Williamsburg and Jamestown, Charleston, Maggie Valley and Spruce Pine, NC. Some of us are even planning to attend the West Virginia District Convention in Summerville, while others are headed back to Americade. We have added all the rides to the web calendar for all members to see and plan to discuss any additions or changes at the January Chapter gathering.

2012 also brings some changes to our Chapter team. After many years of service, Rod and Maxine have decided to be a JAM," just a member". They have served as an officer or have spearheaded the Ride For Kids since joining GWRRA. Andrew has agreed to perform some of the Rider Ed functions: the Safety Talk at our monthly Gathering, the Newsletter article and one of the monthly reports. Carol has tentatively agreed to see what else is needed and will try to keep members current in the Levels program and submit that paperwork. We are truly grateful to Rod and Maxine who have been superb Rider Educators with us for the last three years.

Leslee has also asked to be replaced as our Sunshine Lady and we accepted her request with regret. Leslee will be missed because she has done such a great job with the cards and goodies for our birthday and anniversary celebrations. Michelle has agreed to be our 2012 Sunshine Lady and we look forward to working with her in her new position.

Tom and Carol

Visitors: Find us at our new location; Golden Corral, 5707 Dillard Dr., Cary.



## Chapter NC-E Rider Education



### Are you Visible?

The most common statement when Police arrive on scene is "I never saw the rider." Unfortunately the damage has already occurred and a motorcyclist has been struck by an automobile. Here are some tips on how to stay visible while you ride a motorcycle.

- Stay out of the blind spots of other vehicles and give yourself enough room to react:
  - ◆ Make sure you can see the drivers of the cars around you.
  - ◆ Creating a safety buffer around you- leave enough distance ahead of you and giving yourself space to maneuver should trouble arise you will then have the necessary space to get out of the way.
  - ◆ Avoid lingering or riding in blind spots created by the A-pillars and C-pillars of cars. Passing can be a dangerous maneuver, so be very aware when overtaking/passing a car or another rider.
- Be visible at intersections. When stopping or slowing, flash brake lights or use a brake light modulator. Keep an eye on your mirror to be aware of what is coming up behind you. When entering the intersection, make sure the oncoming traffic can see you – especially the ones in the left turn lane. Use your entire lane to move to the most visible position. Use your high beam (sparingly) as you approach the intersection to wake up a distracted driver; but do not flash it up and down as this could be interpreted as a signal to some drivers to go ahead.
- Wear bright or reflective safety gear, it's an easy way to stand out. Choose light colored gear, and try to find jackets/ pants that are treated with a reflective finish. Some apparel now comes with a reflective finish that's only visible at night. If you don't have reflective gear or want to take a more proactive approach to being seen, buy reflective tape and apply it to anything from your helmet to your saddlebags.





## Chapter NC-E Rider Education



- Use hand signals when possible. Extending or flexing your arm is a very effective way to raise your visual profile in addition to using your turn signals. Just make sure you're able to control your motorcycle while performing the hand signals.

HAND UP =  
RIGHT TURN  
HAND DOWN =  
STOP



LEFT TURN



HAT TAP =  
BRAKE LIGHTS



- If someone is following too closely and you aren't able to maintain an effective safety cushion around you, there's nothing wrong with lightly tapping your brakes to activate the brake lights. If that doesn't help the tailgater back off, do your best to safely exit the lane and find a safer place to ride.
- If you're not in danger of blinding oncoming traffic, driving with your high beams on will add an extra level of visibility. Also extra driving lights up front are a great addition.
- Use your horn - although loud car stereos or other distractions (cell phones, texting, putting on make up etc.) can prevent motorists from noticing the sound of your horn, the split second decision to press the horn button can make the difference between becoming a victim and avoiding an accident.
- And finally, always assume you are invisible and ride accordingly!

Andrew Scott

NC-E ACD

### Safety Tip

If you have a choice of lanes to ride in, the second fastest lane is a compelling choice. This allows a way for the hot dogs to pass you (more or less legally), and is, not incidentally, where the least lane changing takes place (unless it is a three-lane road, of course.) *From Motorcycle Tips and Techniques:* [www.msgroup.org](http://www.msgroup.org)



# Chapter NC-E Member Enhancement



There is quite a flurry of activity in the recruitment and fun areas recently. We have a new Marketing Director in Phoenix for GWRRR, Manny Moreno. We spent about 2.5 hours on the phone with him and others a few nights back as an introduction and he is enthusiastic and full of great ideas. He has been involved in GWRRR for 19 years and now it is his time to shine! He is in tune with the need to float ideas into the field as a sanity test before pouring effort and money into the idea going forward. The passport program last year is an example of where, judging by the conversations we heard when it was first introduced, many predicted the success of the program before it was launched. So, what is going on that is new? Have you noticed or participated in the many new contests and revamped programs available?

## “GWRRR ANNOUNCES NEWLY REDESIGNED WEB SITE & 35th ANNIVERSARY PRIZE GIVE-AWAY. Phoenix, AZ (January 5, 2012)

The newly redesigned Web site of Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRR) is now live on the World Wide Web.

GWRRR aims to extend the reach to all Gold Wings and Touring Motorcycle enthusiasts.

The new Web site features expanded content and streaming media including video clips, live customer service assistance, Member rides photos, Trikes, non-members section, travel information and much, much more! The redesign incorporates bold colors and graphics and new navigational tools.

The screenshot shows the GWRRR website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Join, Advertise, Contact, Site Map, and social media icons. Below this is a main menu with categories like GWRRR, Programs, Recent News, Travel Information, Members, Non-Members, Events, Officers, and Trikes. The main content area features several promotional banners: a 'Find-A-Friend' program banner with the text 'NEVER PAY DUES AGAIN!', a 'GWRRR 35th Anniversary Caribbean Cruise!' banner, and a 'New 2012 Loyalty Savings Program!' banner. On the left side, there is a 'Quick Links' section with items like '35th Anniversary', 'Wing World Magazine', 'Message Boards', 'Live Chat', 'RSS Feeds', 'Region Map', and 'Find your Nearest Chapter'. There is also a 'Join Now' button at the bottom left of the screenshot.

To encourage you to visit our new Web site, and to help celebrate our 35th Anniversary, we will giveaway 3 prizes each day, January 9th through 12th (12 prizes total). Each day, you have 3 ways to win a prize! Here’s how to enter: Starting Monday, January 9th, visit our newly redesigned Web site [www.gwrrr.org](http://www.gwrrr.org) and do the following:

**Like** us on Facebook. Click on the “Like” Facebook button on our homepage. Sign on to your Facebook account (or create a Facebook account) and you are entered to win a prize. You only have to **Like** us on Facebook one time and you will be automatically entered each day to win a prize. It’s that simple.



## Chapter NC-E Member Enhancement



**Follow** us on Twitter. Click on the “Twitter” link, then click on the “Follow” link, sign on to your Twitter account (or create a Twitter account) and you are entered to win a prize. You only have to **Follow** us on Twitter one time and you will be automatically entered each day to win a prize.

**Find Wingy** on our new website. Find Wingy (same image from Wing World magazine), click on image, fill out form and submit to enter & win a prize. Wingy will appear in a different location each day starting a 7 a.m. MST. Have fun! We will randomly select 3 winners each day, Monday January 9th through Thursday, January 12th.

Winners will be announced the following day in “Recent News” on our new website! You can enter up to 12 times (3 times each day). Subject to rules of giveaway. Prizes include: GWRRA Vintage T-Shirt (three available), Gold Wing Motorcycle Model (three available), 1 year subscription to Norton Anti-Virus Software (three available), GWRRA Motorcycle Flag (one available), GWRRA Motorcycle License Plate Frame (one available) and a Griffin Logo Bolo Tie – Red (one available).”

Many of us have received recent correspondence about a new coupon book that will be a part of new and renewal memberships. Now more than ever we should find that recruiting a new Member is easier and renewing for ourselves is better since the benefits are growing: Manny understands that the benefits need to be something we can use.

**“GWRRA ANNOUNCES FREE LOYALTY SAVING COUPONS FOR NEW & RENEWAL MEMBERS IN 2012!** Phoenix, AZ (January 9, 2012)

Truly exciting things are happening with Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) in 2012 and we would like to invite you to participate. We will be giving free loyalty saving coupons to new Members & existing Members who renew in 2012. These loyalty saving coupons, which are valued in the hundreds, will help you save money and are brought to you by some of our valued advertisers from *Wing World*:

**Big Bike Parts    Boostaroo    Cozy Winter East Coast Cycles  
The Flag People    Gene’s Gallery    Motor Trike Niehaus Cycle Sales  
Rampage Power Lift Ramps    Sierra Electronics    GWRRA Official Products**

The loyalty saving coupons will arrive in your new Member & renewal Member packets throughout 2012. Existing Life Members and Members who have renewed for multiple years, including 2012, will also receive the loyalty saving coupons by mail.

We want you to know that we are truly honored that you have chosen to be part of our GWRRA family. Your membership is much appreciated, and we will do our very best to continue to meet and exceed your expectations. Your continued patronage and loyalty is a vital part of our growth. And for that, we are most grateful.”



## Chapter NC-E Member Enhancement



Check out the new GWRRA Website and you can win fabulous prizes. We all know that we can't tell our current friends the same stories again without someone wondering if we are starting to forget things. The solution is to invite new friends into GWRRA. Sharing your love of Motorcycling and experiences with other GWRRA Members is a part of the fun. Print out a copy of this article, take a copy of a Membership Application (or use the one in your *Wing World* magazine or Gold Book), and go find a new motorcycle riding friend. Surf the website and win stuff. Sounds like Phoenix is listening and living the GWRRA Motto –especially the FUN part!

What are you waiting for? There is something in it for you if you recruit 5 and you get your Membership paid for, Recruit *yourself* (a.k.a. *renewing*) in 2012 and you get these new coupons. (As luck would have it, we signed up for another three years last year...)

*What if you can't find 5 new Members yourself, but the folks looking for new Members pool their success and want the Chapter to reap the reward? Later you will hear about a revision to the program where the Chapter can use the combined recruiting of five separate new memberships for the benefit – perhaps to give away a free Membership, pay for the annual Chartering fee, or purchase GWRRA goodies, etc.*

### **GWRRA Membership Programs you might not be aware of:**

#### **Life Membership:**

For those individuals who have been a Member of GWRRA for twenty consecutive years and pay a nominal annual membership fee of \$20 per year.

#### **Subscription Only:**

The subscriber receives 12 issues of Wing World magazine for \$40 per year.

Your Friends for **FUN**, Safety, and Knowledge,  
NC-E Membership Enhancement Coordinators  
Tony & Michelle Van Schaick





## News from the *Appalachian Gazette*, our Region N Newsletter

### *“Poised for 2012”*

As we prepare to close the book on 2011, we look back on the past twelve months, and would first like to take this opportunity to say a “Huge Thanks” to all of the volunteer leaders, who have contributed to the overall success and accomplishments of each of our five Districts and ultimately Region N. And, we’d be nowhere without the many contributions and volunteerism of the 8600 (plus) GWRRA members residing within Region N. During the year our Districts conducted five “fun filled” conventions, with a number of fresh and innovative activities. At last year’s Region Operations Meeting we discussed spicing up our conventions with some new ideas and thinking “outside of the box” to make all of these events somewhat different and more fun for the participants. Our District Teams did just that . . . as we saw some activities that were new, creating more excitement for the attendees, and placing more emphasis on involvement of the members in attendance.

We’re proud of our Rider Educators and Leadership Training Programs. We have more than doubled the number of qualified seminar presenters and Rider Coaches within the Region. There is a new excitement of taking our training programs to the Chapter level, and inviting those Chapters who don’t have a qualified presenter to come join the training activities of those Chapters who have active training programs. That type of cooperation can only foster stronger programs, Chapters and assist our membership to avail them-selves of training programs at the local level. Our trainers in both key programs, and don’t forget the folks who teach the Medic First program, have been extremely active and busy throughout the year. The hours of contact in the Region’s Motorist Awareness Program has to be the strongest in the nation . . . they even had to revise the National Report to accommodate the number of contact hours reported by Region N. Addition-ally, our emphasis in Crash Scene Response Reenactments, by each of our Districts, has served to highlight the importance of our First Aid, CPR and AED Training. Admittedly, until this year, we only took the MFA/CPR class as a requirement of our levels program, however our first hand involvement in assisting at two major accidents during the past year has escalated the importance of knowing the proper actions to take in such an incident.

We have five strong couples now appointed to the position of District Membership Enhancement Pro-gram Coordinators (MEPC). These folks have a significant impact on the fun programs and recognitions that we bestow on our Chapters and Members. Programs such as Recruiting and Retention; Newsletter Recognitions and monitoring; Chapter and District Couple of the Year; District Chapter of the Year; Gold, Silver & Bronze Annual Chapter Recognition Program and the important monthly processing and reporting requirements of the Area Report Listing. The District MEPC’s have a “full plate of responsibility”, and that’s why it’s necessary that each Chapter MEPC, or Chapter Director (if the Chapter has no MEPC) provides the feedback to their District Membership Enhancement Coordinators. Almost all of the products associated with the MEPC program require reporting and documentation to the Region, and in many cases all the way to National level. So, we ask you to help these volunteers to do their job, by doing yours and cooperating in pro-viding them the information they need to properly function.

We titled this article “Poised for 2012”, because we believe that’s where we’re currently at. We have five active Districts, strong leadership at the core of each District, some very active Chapters, a great deal of enthusiasm and Chapter pride channeled toward the ideals of the association, “FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE”.



continued



News from the *Appalachian Gazette*, our Region N Newsletter

We have strong Rider’s Education, Motorist Awareness, MFA, and Leadership Training Programs in effect; and we’re gaining momentum in bolstering the Membership Enhancement Program. The challenges as we progress into 2012 will be to maintain the positive contributions of our strongest programs, and to strengthen our effort and impact in the “People Programs”, in areas that will attract and hold new members to our Chapters.

Many of us make a number of New Year Resolutions. Join us in our resolution to help make our Chapters, Districts and the Region a more enjoyable and fun experience for all who participate in our common hobby that we so enjoy . . . riding motorcycles. Until next year . . . ***Ride Safe, Ride Often!***

*Ed & Mary Ann Grazier*  
*Appalachian Region “N” Directors*

*Plan now to participate in our  
 Region “N “ District Conventions for 2012*

*April 26 thru 28*

*Tennessee District Convention “Spring Fling”*

*Pigeon Forge, Tennessee*

*June 14 thru 16*

*West Virginia District Convention “Down Home Rally”*

*Summersville, West Virginia*

*August 9 thru 11*

*Kentucky District “Blast” Convention “Derby Days”*

*Frankfort, Kentucky*

*September 20 thru 22*

*North Carolina District Convention “Wings Over North Carolina”*

*Concord, North Carolina*

*October 4 thru 6*

*Virginia District Convention “Rally in the Valley”*

*Salem, Virginia*

“New Location”

“New Location”

“New Location”

“New Location”



## News from our *North Carolina District Newsletter*

### “WHERE DID 2011 GO?”

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing an article for January 2011. Well, 2012 is here so let's all embrace it and start off with a bang and a smile on our face.

2011 was a year of change. We made decisions that will forever “change” the face of the NC District Rally. We made a decision to “change” how we would conduct the 2012 Operations Meeting. “Change” is not something that people like and is not always easy. We are creatures of habit and tend to do the same thing over and over. However, doing things over and over can get you in trouble. People tend to get bored, disinterested, take things for granted when they do the same thing over and over. It is only natural that when you get bored or disinterested you stop doing what makes you feel this way. Basically it can become a chore and just ain't fun. So what do you do?

Chapter Directors, are your chapter gatherings falling off? Rider Educators, have registration for your courses fallen off? Ride Coordinators, has attendance for your rides fallen off? Chapter Members, are you finding it harder to attend chapter gatherings? We would like to challenge each of you to take a hard look at your answers and decide what you are going to do about it.

We all agree that the common thread of this association is our motorcycles. But be honest, it's also for the friends and fellowship we have found by riding and playing together. Ask yourself this, how long will you continue to nurture your friendships and continue to fellowship if you are not having fun when you get together because you are doing the same old thing?

Our question to you is this.....what are you going to do about it? Will 2012 be the year that you make a change or will you sit back and grumble and throw stones or will you choose to get out of that rut and try something new even if it is fun?

Chapter Directors, we challenge you to spice up your meetings! Do something different, play a game, tell a joke, have a “theme” gathering. People want to be around people that are having fun. If you want to grow your chapter, give them a reason to come and play with you. If you ever want to step down and just be a JAM you need new blood in your chapter. You are going to burnout along with all the other members that keep doing the same thing because you have no new members to take over.



Rider Educator, there is so much more to educating than talking about falling leaves. You are responsible for giving something to your members that is different and relates to their everyday rides. Find them different courses that they may not know about. Make it fun.

Ride Coordinator, do you realize that you are the heartbeat of the Chapter? You are responsible for having FUN, SAFE rides. Yes, Wingers like to eat but there is more to riding than just going from ice cream shop to ice cream shop.



## News from our *North Carolina District Newsletter*

Find the interesting roads that are right in your back door to get to that ice cream shop. Have you ever planned a ride to a sister chapter gathering, pulled out your local county map and left just 30 minutes earlier to take a different route to get to that chapter gathering? Remember it is about the ride and the fun that the ride creates!

Chapter Members, do you know that YOU are the most important part of the chapter? There is no chapter without you. So....let us ask you this, will this be the year you make a "change". Will you continue to stay in that rut you have fallen into? Will you continue to set in the same back corner table and wait for visitors to come hug you? Will you go out of your way to make them feel welcome and invite them to join you? Will you volunteer to come up with a ride that you stumbled on and maybe no one else knows about? You and only you are responsible for your own happiness and fun.

Will 2012 be the year that you "change"? Will you step outside the box, get out of your comfort zone, get out of your rut? Life is what you make it! Let's all start 2012 off with a bang! Let's all embrace change for 2012 and do your part to have a blast and put a smile on your face in 2012!



**Remember....it's all about the ride, it's all about FUN!  
Ride Safe!**



Andrew & Vickie Butcher  
North Carolina District Directors



## News from *INSIGHT*, the GWRRA Newsletter

We would like to thank GWRRA Member Larry Garcia, who brought this excellent article to our attention. When teaching motorcycle riding and safety courses, we have typically responded to student questions about whether laying the bike down is a good idea with feedback like, "Why would you intentionally crash your motorcycle in an attempt to avoid crashing your motorcycle?" Over the years, only a very few situations came to mind where this might be a viable option, such as to avoid decapitation during stunt riding in a movie set, etc. However, I doubt many of us will ever accidentally or intentionally find ourselves in such situations.

The following article from Better Motorcycling was posted in February 2011 (author unknown) at <http://bettermotorcycling.wordpress.com/2011/02/22/laying-it-down-fact-or-fiction/> brings up some thought provoking items that we encourage Members to consider. It amplifies the need for training.

### “Laying It Down”: Fact or Fiction

“You can normally spot a fairy tale from afar. It starts like this, “Once upon a time, in a land far, far away...”. For motorcycle crashes it starts like this, “Yep, I had to lay her down...”. Immediately what follows is fiction. It is amazing to me how many people have employed this tactic they never practiced or were ever taught (sarcasm).

**“Laying a bike down is never a plan, it is a consequence.”** Laying a bike down is never the plan of any rider, it is the consequence of failed braking. You over-braked your rear and induced a slide-out. You did not plan this, but this is what happens most of the time under panic braking because under stress you will slam your brakes. For those who might want to cling on to the fairy tale that laying a bike down is a viable technique, answer these questions...

Where or how did you learn to lay your bike down?

What training is available for this technique?

Who teaches this technique?

How often do you practice this maneuver?

In other words, in the precious 2 seconds you have to decide what evasive action to take you're going to rely on an induced impact (you and your bike hitting the pavement) which you never practiced, which will produce a much longer stopping distance and a higher impact speed, not to mention loss of control, because somehow you rationalized this was the best possible outcome?

Come on, riders, let's educate not propagate. Don't let anyone say this to you without a challenge.

Metal/plastic sliding on the pavement has a much lower frictional value than rubber, you are going to slide a much longer distance. Even if impact is imminent, you would do better to minimize injury by scrubbing off as much speed as possible by braking before impact.

**“The stopping distance you trade off by sliding on your side could easily mean the difference between crash or no crash.”**





## News from *INSIGHT*, the GWRRA Newsletter

The fact of the matter is the trade-off in distance may mean the difference in crashing or not. For example, if you are traveling 50 mph and slide to a stop on your wheels on a well-traveled, level asphalt-paved road your stopping distance is going to be about 104 feet. Now, if you slide to a stop on your side, the stopping distance is going to be about 185 feet. The 81 feet difference is what we are trading for, easily the difference between colliding or not.

The one thing we have to mention is that you are already in trouble because you failed to compensate for an impending hazard. Not casting stones, I have failed many times as a rider myself but let's call it what it is. Don't compound your troubles by losing control of your bike. All kinds of nasty things can happen if you slide-out. It is important to note that braking alone will not cause you to slide-out. It is possible to lock up your rear tires and not lay the bike down. You can ride it out:<http://bettermotorcycling.wordpress.com/2009/05/03/how-to-ride-out-a-rear-wheel-skid/> ...or ride it out until impact, if that is your situation.

Riders will crash for two reasons:

1. Failure to detect hazard (reaction time)
2. Loss of control of the bike

Both are elements of training necessary for surviving the mean streets.

If you truly believe you successfully deployed a "laying it down" maneuver to avoid a crash or minimize injury I'm willing to hear about it. But expect to be challenged."

As experienced Motorcycle Safety Training Instructors, when we have spoken with students about crashes that a friend or loved one has experienced, they are often mildly surprised when we explain what was the likely cause of the accident. In many cases, the problem is identifiable with very little information.

It is a difficult moment for many to recognize for the first time that the person they held in such high regard as experienced riders were not as good as they thought – especially considering how easy it was to diagnose the problem by someone who wasn't even there - based on a second hand description.

How is this possible? The studies performed back in the early 80's, and validated over and over by later research, are used to create quality training. This training focuses on what was found to be the cause(s) of the majority of accidents. Instructors of that training are conditioned to look for the telltale signs and begin the trainees on the road to correcting deficiencies before they make a negative impact on their lives. Well-meaning spouses and friends are seldom a good source for training unless certified by a respectable organization to conduct that training. The learner must also be receptive to what they will be taught. A number of MSF instructors (Rider Coaches) we have worked with over the years will be the first to tell you that they would not attempt to teach their own spouse – deferring to another instructor, one whom the spouse might be more receptive.

We usually start beginner training with a statement like "for the next 2.5 days we will try to teach you both how to ride and, more importantly, how to survive on a motorcycle as you go forward. Most of you will tend to focus only on what you need to be able to ride, but you should keep in mind that the strategy we will teach is much more important to your success in any future riding endeavors." This is a major reason why we have the classroom component in most of our GWRRA riding courses.

In a number of beginner classes outside of GWRRA, an experienced rider participates in the course for moral support for an enrolled spouse or friend. In almost every case, they have confided in us at the end of the course that they came in thinking they knew more than the course would teach them.



## News from *INSIGHT*, the GWRRA Newsletter

More importantly, they commented that they are surprised they had survived so long without formal training. In some cases, they shared how much trouble they had learning something on their own over months or years when the techniques taught in the class were presented and mastered in mere hours for beginners. Riders who already had their license have NEVER been the top student after testing is complete (in our experience).

In GWRRA, we generally don't teach beginner training. We refer Members to organizations that specialize in it, and have motorcycles for practice riding. Our efforts are more focused toward enhancing the skills of those who already have their license. Many have never had formal training, and use GWRRA training to enhance their skills. Way too often we hear comments like "I have ridden safely for 30+ years, so your training would be a waste of time." We hope the string of LUCK these people have enjoyed is not about to end. The less lucky ones are exposed to situations where their skills are tested more frequently. The number of miles traveled without an accident is seldom a measure of skill. The false sense of confidence can present a problem if it keeps folks from continued training and improvement; learning and practicing skills found lacking in motorcyclists involved in accidents and even fatalities.

We have routinely said that you don't need to learn the hard way when so many have volunteered to do it for us. Hence the statement you often see in our correspondence: **Friends don't let Friends Learn by ACCIDENT!**



Is 2012 your year? Will you participate in or help inspire others to take a course that WILL save lives? GWRRA is full of caring Members interested in taking advantage of a great Rider Education Program.

Your fellow GWRRA Members will appreciate your efforts to enhance your riding abilities through continuing training. Even the MSF envies what we have in GWRRA – students that come back for refresher training. If you recall how it benefited you or a friend, share it with others. Word of mouth advertising goes a long way in our Association!

**Tony & Michelle Van Schaick**  
**International Directors, Rider Education**

# NC-E Chapter Happenings



## Rides and Events



*Our rides will depart from the parking lot between Perkins Restaurant and Kroger Supermarket on Hwy 64 in Cary, NC. We leave promptly at the stated time, so don't be late and don't forget to bring \$1.00 for the Ride Pot! Please contact Tom and Carol Scully if you have any questions about any of these events.*

### January Events

**Jan 17- 6:30pm** Monthly gathering at our new location; Golden Corral; 5707 Dillard Dr., Cary

**Jan 27-28** NC District Ops Meeting and Winter Thaw. Click this link to see the flyer: <http://www.gwrranc.org/pdf/winterthaw.pdf>

**Jan 28- 11:00am** Dinner Ride

### February Events

**Feb 4- 8:00am** Leadership Training at the O'Berry Center in Goldsboro

**Feb 8- 7:30pm** Sweet Treat Ride

**Feb 11- Time TBA** Shearon Harris Plant Tour

**Feb 21- 6:30pm** Monthly gathering at Golden Corral

**Feb 25- 11:00am** Dinner Ride

# NC-E Chapter Happenings

## Polar Bear Ride January 1, 2012

