

Richmond Wings Newsletter



Happy New Year

A new year and a fresh start. There are a lot of changes brewing all over the world and we are constantly being bombarded by the news outlets and social media. Unfortunately, our organization is not immune to changes either but consider that not all change is bad. For example, back in the 16th century, pre-industrial past was as violent as one can imagine. "In the middle ages, the murder rate in Oxford occasionally hit the same level as Dodge City at the height of the American gun-slinging wild west. But from 1500, the murder rates decreased rapidly, and not just in Oxford. In fact, across Europe, they more or less halved every 100 years, until they started to increase again in the late 20th century. The cause was better communication, through a massive increase in literacy and writing, allowing governments to act more regularly and with greater certainty of finding the guilty party." Maybe this example is a bit morbid but I hope it helps cement my point. GWRRA is undergoing a tremendous amount of change and processes and procedures will eventually crystalize and the turmoil will be something of the past.

Speaking of change, Iris and I are thrilled to be your new Chapter Directors and we will do our best to continue with the fun and camaraderie we've all come to enjoy over the years. I don't intend to make drastic changes but I strongly encourage all of you to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can make our events, our



Fritz Sassine &
Iris Guillet,
Directors
"Richmond Wings"
Virginia Chapter D

Gathering

Candela's
Pizzeria & Ristorante

14235 Midlothian Turnpike
Midlothian, VA 23113

(804) 379-0910

Dine at 6 PM
Gather at 7 PM

4th Wednesday
of each month

Continues from page 1



gathering and our rides a bit more exciting and memorable. No idea is a bad idea so please feel free to share with me.

Al and Debbie have done an amazing job with this chapter these last 5 years and I commend them for all their hard work. Don't worry, they're not going anywhere. Debbie and Al will continue to be a valuable part of our chapter. As you all know, they are now our Chapter Couple of The Year and soon they will be sworn in as Assistant District Directors. Congratulations Al and Debbie.

We look forward to an exciting year and being part of GWRRA

"Happy birthday Allen"

Chapters' D & W New Year Breakfast

On Monday, an unseasonably cold day at the County Seat in Powhatan, Chapters D & W gathered to have a New Year breakfast. Less people than last year but I know it was the frigid air that kept them in a nice warm bed because that's where I would have been. It was Allen's birthday and we forgot to sing for him. After eating, we posed for a traditional group picture. And then Tommy Broughton led the first ride of the New Year with die hard motorcyclist following him.

and Chapter D.

Credit to source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/oct/30/10-greatest-changes-of-the-past-1000-years>

Happy New Year,

Fritz Sassine & Iris Guillet
Chapter Directors -VA-D
fritzsassine@gmail.com

Group Riding

Happy New Year to everyone. I just got back from our annual New Year's Day Breakfast and Ride. A couple of rides baved the fridge temperature to bring in the New Year. So I decided to resubmit Carl article.

This information from the MSF Basic Rider Course Handbook: Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group – whether with friends on a Tuesday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally – is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride.

Arrive Prepared. Arrive on time with a full gas tank.

Hold a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals (see diagram below – not everyone has a CB). Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures (the lead and sweep riders should have CBs and everyone should agree on a CB channel). CB chatter should be kept to a minimum, so the lead and sweep riders can communicate. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.

Keep the group to a manageable size. Ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride Prepared. At least one rider in each group should have a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit so the group is prepared for any problem that might be encountered.

Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, when entering/leaving highways, or in other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.

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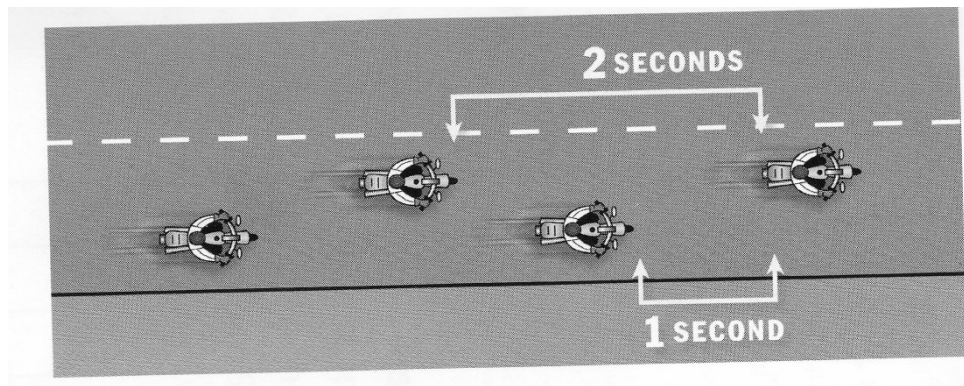


**Ride Coordinator
Tommy Broughton**

**Ride safe and remember
ATGATT.**



Group Riding continues from page 5



Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly need to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.



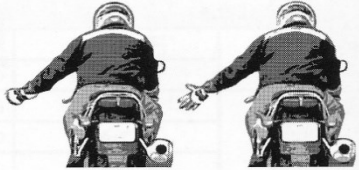
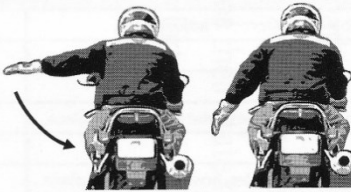



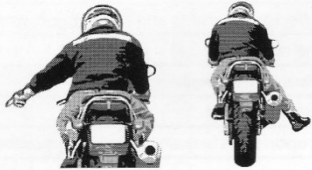

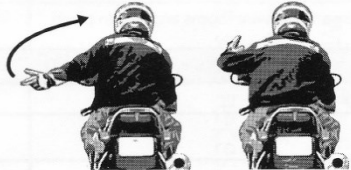




Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so he or she may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.

For mechanical or medical problems, use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.

Ride Safe and ATGATT,

Group Riding Hand Signals

<p>Stop - arm extended out, palm facing back</p> 	<p>Single File - arm and index finger extended straight up</p> 	<p>Turn Signal On - open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended</p> 
<p>Slow Down - arm extended straight out, palm facing down, swing down to your side</p> 	<p>Double File - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up</p> 	<p>Fuel - arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended</p> 
<p>Speed Up - arm extended straight out, palm facing up, swing upward</p> 	<p>Hazard in Roadway - on the left, point with left hand; on the right, point with right foot</p> 	<p>Refreshment Stop - fingers closed, thumb to mouth</p> 
<p>You Lead/Come - arm extended out, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front</p> 	<p>Highbeam - tap on top of helmet with open palm down</p> 	<p>Comfort Stop - forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion</p> 
<p>Follow Me - arm extended straight up from shoulder, palm forward</p> 	<p>Pull Off - arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder</p> 	<p>msf-usa.org</p>

2018 is here

Allen & I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. It's hard to believe that 2017 is a memory. Where did

the time go? It's fun to look back at all the events Allen I attended and the good times we had with all our GWRRA friends, along with the new ones we met in 2017.

Now that we stepped down as Chapter Directors, we will be moving on to more volunteer type work. We became Chapter D Couple of the Year 2018 & 2019 ambassadors along with going in with the district team as Assistant District Directors – North. So, you will be seeing us more often as we visit the Chapters in Virginia. Allen & I hope that this is the year that all chapters will have a couple serve as their Ambassadors and the couples will see what they have been missing.



*Al and Debbie Dowell
2018-2019 COY*

January is also time to end all paperwork with New Chapter Directors, Treasurers, and new District members as they come aboard. National has made some changes to the forms used for the end of the year. Please take the time now to read the instructions and maybe practice a little with the new spreadsheet. With the changes that the home office made, we hope it will make the paperwork easier for you to process. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call. The home office would rather spend time now going over the paperwork with you if it's wrong rather than sending it back to you.

Go to the District website and look over the new procedure on how to file the 990N with the IRS. If you are a new Chapter Director in 2018, this will help you.

Some of the changes National has made is that we are no longer Region N, but now Southeastern Territory which includes the following 12 states: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
See page 8 for the image of the new territories.

See you on the road, be safe!
Allen & Debbie Dowell
Chapter D Couple of the Year 2018



MARIE REPORTS THE NEWS (GOSSIP, RUMOR & HERESAY) AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DONATIONS TO THE HOMELESS HEARTS ARE WELCOME We're still collecting toiletries all year long. We are collecting the individual soaps, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, etc. that you get from the hotels when traveling. We deliver these to the McGuire Veterans Hospital's Chaplains Program. Bring them to our gatherings or give to someone in Chapter D. Thanks to everyone for their support.



Membership
Enhancement
Coordinator-
Marie Crow

2018 CALENDARS FOR LUCY CORR RESIDENTS If you have more than you need, we're looking for calendars for the residents. Consider donating your extra calendars to Lucy Corr Village.

"TWO WHEEL TUESDAY" The Tuesday riders are making it though some cold weather riding recently. In 2018 there are a lot of good rides planned to clear your schedule to take the opportunity to ride with them. Remember to dress warmly and hook up your heated gear if you have it. Thanks for all your hard work planning the Tuesday rides Tommy and Ted. If you want to be added to the Tuesday ride list, let them know.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING & LEVELS SEMINARS COMING IN 2018. We are planning some seminars for 2018 and we will let you know as soon as we nail down some dates. We have a First Aid/CPR class scheduled for January 27 so let us know if you are interested in taking that class. Let us know if you need the Advanced Rider Course to fulfill your Levels obligation. There will be a few of these courses planned for 2018 as well.

BINGO GAME AT LUCY CORR VILLAGE IN MARCH I haven't nailed down the date yet but we hope that we have lots of volunteers available to help the residents play Bingo with us. The residents love it when we come to visit and bring our Bingo prizes for them to win.

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROJECTS:

We're collecting DVD's to donate to the McGuire VA Hospital during our 4th of July celebration there every year. Consider going through your collection or picking up a few new or used DVD's for the Fisher House and the McGuire Veterans Medical Center and donate them.

RVA BIKE NIGHT 2018 STARTS IN APRIL! Join us at Mission BBQ every Wednesday (except our gathering night) from 5-8 and we can't wait for some warm weather and a chance to get together with our Bike Night friends.

CHECK OUT THE CHAPTER D WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE www.richmondwing.com is our website where you can find all the information on events and planned rides or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GWRRA-Richmond-Goldwing-VA-Chapter-D-1656767124575394/>





From Your Membership Enhancement Coordinator

ABOUT THE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM (CHOY)

We're starting a brand new year for rides and events for the Chapter of the Year Program for 2018. I'm working on the paperwork to send in for CHOY program for 2017 and it's a lot of records and forms that need to be included. My thanks to everyone who sent me information on their rides, events and educational opportunities to be included. All of our activities, are listed on the calendar at <http://www.richmondwings.com/#!calendar/zkl2p>.

The Chapter of the Year program was designed and created to stimulate the chapters to strive for excellence within their respective Districts. I'm looking forward to a fun filled year of activities, rides, motorist awareness events and rider education (University Training) for 2018. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see us do in 2018. We are here to assure that all Chapter participants have a good time. We're planning some seminars and training classes and we'll let you know as soon as our dates are locked in.

A few things to remember:

We need at least 3 people at each activity to be able to count it towards the CHOY program application.

Please contact me when you plan or participate in an event and want it included in the CHOY events.

If you attend a training seminar sponsored by GWRRA, please take a picture of the roster of attendees as we have to have proof of attendance. Take pictures of everyone having fun too!

Most important of all, **HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!** Remember, we all have a **"LICENSE TO HAVE FUN"**!

Marie Crow

Membership Enhancement Coordinator

MOTORIST AWARENESS PROGRAM

This year we want to focus a little more time talking to the public and teaching about Motorist Awareness. We have Motorists Awareness brochures that we have available for our Bike Nights and Cruise In's but you might want to also consider giving one to a work mate, a neighbor, a friend, a teen driver or to someone in the family. The purpose of the Motorist Awareness Division is to bring attention to the need to have drivers made more aware of the motorcyclists that share the roads with them. Motorists need to know that motorcycles are not like their car and it's harder for them to avoid traffic situations that might be handled a little easier while operating a 4 wheel vehicle.

Our Motto is "Share the Road"

Our Mission is to "Facilitate a Reduction in Motorcycle Crashes with Other Motor Vehicles."



Celebration

Happy Birthday

Allen L	Dowell Sr	1-Jan
Terri	Russell	1-Jan
Anthony	Cirillo	3-Jan
J.Allen	Hendricks	9-Jan



Corresponding Secretary
Ginny Broughton

Happy Anniversary

Buck & Joann	Burton	5-Jan
Marin & Lawanna	Link	8-Jan
Tom & Ginny	Broughton	20-Jan
Ted & Ethel	Nelmes	26-Jan

Happy GWRRA Anniversary

FYI

Riders' Schedule

Sun, Jan 01 VA—D& W New Year Ride

Tues Rides 09,16,23b&30

Sat, Jan 06 - VA-X Evangelical Church @3
 Sun, Jan 07 - VA-R Golden Corral @3
 Mon, Jan 08 - VA-J Roma's Italian Rest @7:30
 Mon, Jan 08 - VA-K Great 611 Steak.@7
 Tue, Jan 09 - VA-H Abingdon Moose Lodge @7
 Tue, Jan 09 - VA-W Pietro Pizza Rest. @7
 Wed, Jan 10 - VA-A The Oaks Community Ctr. @7:30
 Wed, Jan 10 - VA-B Providence Sq. Shopping Ctr. @7

Sun, Jan 14 - VA-I Great American Buffet@2
 Sun, Jan 14 - VA-C Angelo's Steak & Pancake House@6pm
 Wed, Jan 17 - VA-E Golden Corral @7:30
 Sun, Jan 21 - VA-V Original Italian Pizza @3
 Sun, Jan 21 - VA-B1 Bella's Italian Rest. @2
 Tue, Jan 23 - VA-L Pops Diner @7
 Wed, Jan 24 - VA-D Candela's Pizza Rest.@7
 Sun, Jan 28 - VA-O Belgian Waffle & Steakhouse @5
 Sun, Jan 28 - VA-F Golden Corral @9am

Soon to come new weekend rides. Emails will be sent.



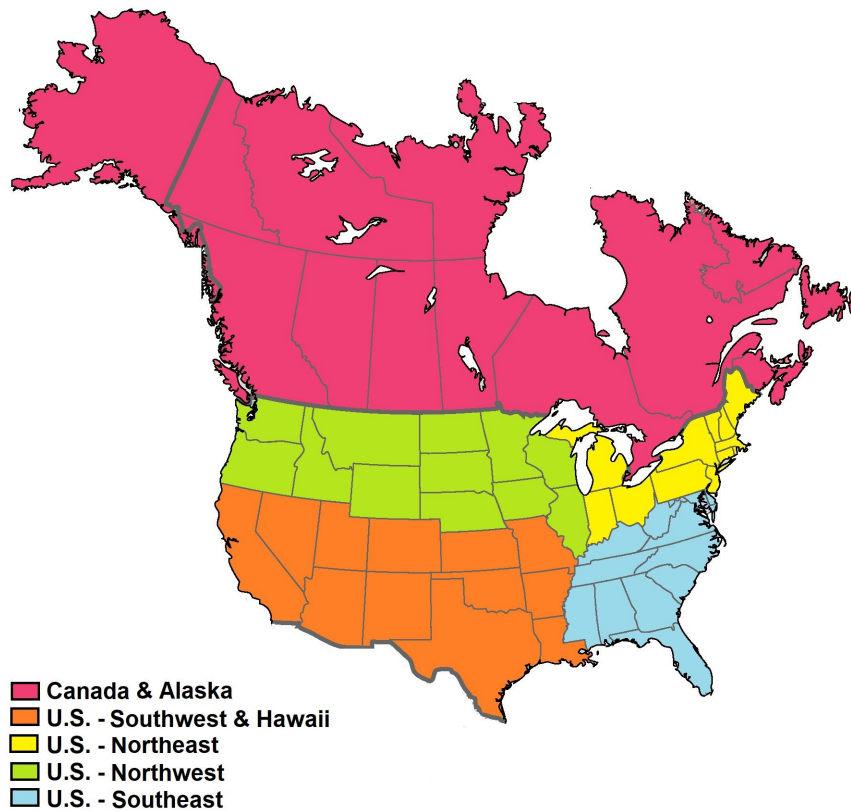
District, Region and National Updates



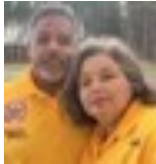







District News Update

District Directors Allen and Deborah Dowell
A look of what is ahead.

GWRRA MEP Territories



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New Year Eve Dinner Chapters D & W 2018



Where
were you
on this holi-
day event?



Starting the New Year with
Friends, family and folly.

GREAT FUN WITH GREAT FRIENDS & FAMILY