

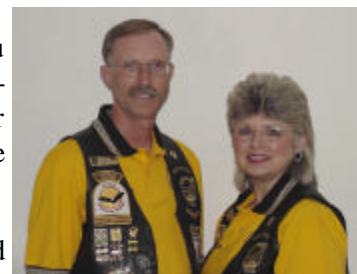
Wing Wisdom

Inside this issue:

Words From Int'l Directors	1-2
The Curriculum Corner	3
Quarterly Reports Reminder	3
Remembering Names	4-5
Brochure Update	5
By The Book	6
Training Calendar	7
International Staff Listing	7

Words from the International Directors

As part of the GWRRA Leadership Training Team, you have probably had some good ideas come to mind regarding how we could have more of a positive impact on our Members. Fresh, good ideas are always a step in the right direction, but we need to also act on them.



Years ago, a friend of mine looked at me in a meeting and made a statement that I've never forgotten. "Steve," he said, "ideas are like soap bubbles floating in the air close to jagged rocks on a windy day."

What a vivid picture of how incredibly frail thoughts and ideas really are! Think about it. How many times during the day does a thought pop into your head that makes you stop and say, "I really need to write that down - that's a great idea"? Now, how many of those thoughts do you actually remember and act upon? Unless you've made an intentional effort to record your ideas as they come, I'm guessing the first number is far greater than the second.

We all need to emphasize the importance of "landing our thoughts." I compare this process to landing an airplane. What is the first thing you do when the flight attendant announces that your plane has begun its descent? You fasten your seatbelt because you realize you could be hitting the runway hard and you don't want to get hurt.

Now, if you were really afraid of a bumpy landing, you could beg the flight attendant not to let the pilot land the plane. But, in addition to attracting unwanted attention from airline security, that would defeat the whole point of being on the airplane, which is to get you to your final destination. So you fasten your seatbelt, grit your teeth and prepare for impact.

The same principle applies to landing a thought. Any idea that remains only an idea doesn't make a great impact. The real power of an idea comes when it goes from abstraction to application. And that's where seatbelts (and perhaps some teeth-gritting) are needed. When you land a thought - either by writing it down so you can study it later or by expressing it out loud to the people around you - you're bound to get all sorts of responses. The members of your audience (including yourself) might be receptive to your thought, but they also might be confused, skeptical, hostile or indifferent.

(continued on page 2)



Words from the International Directors *(continued)*

Such reactions aren't reserved only for bad ideas. That's why it's so important to fasten your mental seatbelt before you attempt to land a thought. When an idea has potential, some part of the landing will probably be rough. But that's OK, because this process has a way of honing, strengthening and clarifying good thoughts, thereby turning them into great ideas.

With that in mind, here are four observations about thinking that may help you hang tough when you're trying to land a thought:

1. Thoughts never begin fully formed. I don't know about you, but I've never had a complete idea come to me immediately. This certainly would be a more efficient way of thinking, but it simply doesn't work that way.

2. Thoughts take time and others to reach their potential. Notice I didn't say it takes time *or* others to develop a thought. It takes both. Thought maturation works best when it occurs over time and with input from other informed, thinking people.

3. Thoughts are very fragile in the beginning. The quote from my friend says it all.

4. Thoughts only reach their full potential in a healthy environment. In this kind of setting, criticism is constructive, not destructive. Hard questions are asked to clarify and define an idea, not to attack it or tear it apart. Thoughts may be challenged, but the overall atmosphere is positive, not negative.

Even if you're completely prepared for bumpy thought landings, there will always be times when your thoughts crash and burn on impact. In other words, they fail to survive the landing process. Here are two reasons why:

1. They're not good thoughts. I sometimes wake up in the middle of the night with a great idea. I grab the pen and writing pad that I keep by my bed and jot it down, certain that in the morning, I'll be able to lift the thought to a whole new level. But when I look at what I wrote the next day, all that comes to mind is, "What a stupid thought! What was I thinking?" These thoughts fail because they're just not good.

2. An unhealthy environment. I just stated that thoughts only reach their full potential in a healthy environment. So it only makes sense that an unhealthy setting - marked by negativity, excuses, and excess stress and busyness - would be detrimental to good thinking.

In the future, I'm going to go deeper into the subject of good thinking - why it's so valuable and how to make it happen. Until then, begin to think of your thoughts as delicate soap bubbles - full of possibility yet always in danger of evaporating - and handle them accordingly.

Carolyn and I are looking forward to seeing each of you next month at Wing Ding XXVII in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Remember to *"Promote the Experience - Share the Excitement"*.

Steve and Carolyn Cotton
International Directors - LTD



"Change your thoughts and you change your world."

-Norman Vincent Peale

The Curriculum Corner

Time is getting short and the Big Party (Wing Ding) is almost here. The Seminar Schedule is set, the presenters are all busy polishing their seminars and here I am with no volunteers to man the LTD booth. Actually, that isn't strictly true. Several folks have said, just assign me whatever time slot you need me to cover. Now that sounds like a nice problem to have, doesn't it. But it really is a problem because I don't want to dictate anyone else's rally schedule.

So I'd like to offer an alternative solution for us to try this year. If it works, wonderful – I'm a happy camper. If it doesn't, so be it and we'll try something else next year. Here is my suggestion: I will create a table showing the Rally days split up into 2 hour time slots. I will designate each slot with a letter and a number. All you folks have to do is send me an e-mail asking for the time slot you wish to be assigned to (and at least 1 alternate – just in case someone beats you to your favorite). I will respond with confirmation of your slot. Quick, simple, no fuss, muss or bother. (can you believe I said that)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:30a – 10:30p	A – 1	B – 1	C – 1	D – 1
10:30a – 12:30p	A – 2	B – 2	C – 2	D – 2
12:30p – 2:30p	A – 3	B – 3	C – 3	D – 3
2:30p – 4:30p	A – 4	B – 4	C – 4	D – 4

I have put the final touches on the 2005 Update to the LTD Curriculum. If any of you have any seminars that you have been thinking of sending, you can still send them to me at any time and they can be incorporated into the next update.

I will be handing out the update disks in Ft. Wayne, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. Don't forget about our Trainer's and Instructor's meeting on Thursday from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please plan to attend so that we can have a good group discussion. LTD is only as strong as we make it. Let's lead by example.

Here's wishing all of you a safe and happy summer with lots of fun riding and successful training events.

Smooth Roads and Blue Skies,

CJ & Bo Karcanes
LTD Curriculum Coordinators



2nd Quarter Training Reports Due July 10th

Please plan accordingly to provide your training reports covering April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005. It would be helpful for Districts to report to the Region level prior to Wing Ding so the Region Trainer's report can be compiled and forwarded in a timely manner. Reference the Trainer's Handbook page 45 for more details regarding the content of these reports for each district.

"The state of your life is nothing more than a reflection of your state of mind."

- Dr. Wayne Dyer

Remembering Names

Last month I discussed information filters and how they affect what we perceive in our environment. In many ways, our information filters can affect the information we remember, including details from conversations.

Your memory can be a tremendous asset in business, GWRRA, family, and other personal situations. Memory skills take practice and a conscious effort in order to utilize more of the brain's potential. The new "Remembering Names" seminar is designed to provide some tools and techniques that you could use to remember more names and details about the people you meet.



Mnemonics (pronounced 'nem-on-icks') are methods for remembering information that is otherwise difficult to recall. The basic principle of mnemonics is to use as many of the best functions of your brain as possible to store information. By coding language and numbers in striking images, you can essentially file away an endless number of facts in your brain's "file cabinet." The key is to set up the coding/filing system so you can retrieve the information when you need it at a later time. The more you utilize the information, the easier it is to recall.

There are a some exercises/activities utilized in this seminar to illustrate that the right techniques can help to improve your memory – both to remember facts accurately and remember the structure of the information. As with other skills, the more you practice these techniques, the more effective your use of them will be in everyday life.

Suggestions for remembering names can be broken into three basic tips:

1. Image
2. Association
3. Repetition

To create an image that will last in your memory, it is important to get a strong impression of the person you are meeting. Look at personal characteristics that may be unique or different. Listen carefully to their voice. Concentrate on the conversation with your full attention. The most memorable images are those that are positive and pleasant, use all of your senses, and are three dimensional.

Another key to remembering names is to associate their name with a word picture or situation. This picture/image will provide more detail to help catalog or code the information associated with their name.

Some people are more introverted and aren't as comfortable having conversations with people. Some extroverted people can be easily distracted in social settings. The conversation stack is a perfect way to help both types get to know other people and learn more details to associate with their name. This technique allows you to focus more on what the other person is saying, rather than trying to figure out what to say next. Typical information you can discuss may include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| - Name | - Work |
| - Address (city/state/area) | - Hobbies |
| - Family | - Travel |

(continued on page 5)

"Remember that a person's name is the sweetest and most important sound in any language."

-Dale Carnegie

Remembering Names *(continued)*

In the case of GWRRA Members, this list may include type and color of bike, how long they've been riding, in which chapter they participate, etc.

There are many ways to build word pictures to help you with this conversational stack. The important thing to recognize is that you are creating images and associations that are more memorable because they are colorful, action-oriented and/or exaggerated.

When you are applying this association technique to other information, sometimes it helps to visualize :

- linking items with similar colors, smells, shapes
- placing the things on top of each other
- crashing the things together or merging the images
- wrapping or rotating the items around each other

Additional examples of these techniques are provided in the seminar. Each method can be utilized to create more links to the information to help you recall it when the details are needed.

Finally, repetition helps to convert information from your short-term memory to your long-term memory. When you first start the conversation stack, make sure you hear the name clearly and can repeat it correctly. Ask the person you are meeting to repeat their name if necessary. You can also repeat their name back, and ask about the spelling of it. For example: "Hi Jim. It's nice to meet you. Do you spell Peterson with an 'son' or 'sen'?" You can repeat the name silently to yourself, and even write it down if you forget easily. Use their name periodically in the conversation: "How long have you been riding motorcycles, Fred?" If you forget their name, ask again.

If there is an exchange of business or calling cards, keep it handy so you can refer to the information as needed. Make notes on the back after the conversation to help you review/recall the information at a later time. Many chapters also provide name tags so those that don't have their name on their vest or shirt can help everyone make that name and face association.

The methods suggested for remembering names are fairly simple and obvious in many ways. Use as many of your senses as possible to create IMAGES in your mind. ASSOCIATING those images and names with other similarities can really help. Then REPEAT the name (and review your conversation notes if needed) to help confirm your memory. Keep in mind that remembering names involves a skill, so progressive improvement takes practice and patience!

Brochure Update & Wing Ding Summary

Now that the training cards have been produced, it is time to update the Leadership Training Brochure. Watch your e-mail in July for a new brochure PDF file. The next Wing Wisdom newsletter will be sent in early August, and will include a summary of the LTD meeting in Ft. Wayne.

"It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers."

- James Thurber



By The Book -

The “By The Book” articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer’s Guidebook. Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.



What is the Senior Officer Program about? Have you seen a GWRRA officer with a “Senior” patch? Perhaps “Senior Chapter Director” or “Senior District or Region Director” and you wonder how did they get that title. What did they do to earn it? GWRRA recognizes it must maintain a continued succession of qualified leaders. In an effort to identify and make better use of the talents of those in leadership positions, GWRRA has developed the Senior Officer Program.

The purpose of the Senior program is to identify individuals that have demonstrated good communication skills, is a good organizer, is team-oriented, has a positive attitude and is willing to move up to the next level in GWRRA. Also to increase the number of qualified prospects that are capable of advancing to the next level of responsibility. The Senior program offers a competitive environment that encourages volunteer leaders to be the best they can be and provide a reward system for those who achieve this new level of accomplishment. They should be considered above average in their current position and have earned the respect of their fellow GWRRA Members. They should be a role model for others in the same position. The Senior volunteer leader should also be willing and able to provide coaching and mentoring skills to their peer group. As a Senior, they must be willing to take on additional duties such as handling some duties that would normally be handled by an Assistant Director at the next higher level.

To be eligible for a Senior position, the volunteer officer must be a Chapter Director, District Director, or Region Director. Next, the officer must be recommended for the Senior position by their appointing officer - the District Director, for a Chapter Director, or by the Region Director, for a District Director. After being recommended, approval must be obtained by the next level above the appointing officer.

Once being appointed a Senior Director, the volunteer officer is allowed to serve two additional years in their current position. However, each additional year served as a Senior must be reviewed and approved by the appointing officer.

So, if you see someone with the title “Senior”, you will now understand that it is an honor. And with that honor, the individual has also volunteered to accept additional duties to assist their appointing officer.

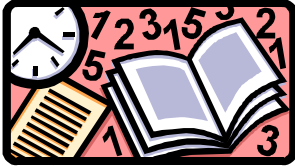
Harry Dollarhide
Region H Trainer

“The simple fact remains...that the stronger and more radiant we are, the more we can serve as a positive influence in the world. The more happiness we bring into the world, the better it is for everyone.”

- Dan Millman

Calendar of Training

Please bring information regarding your upcoming training events to the LTD meeting at Wing Ding, or forward them via e-mail to amysescape@aol.com. It is important to share the information with Amy Peterson so it can be added to the International Office website calendar. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



November 2005

11/05-11/06: Horizon Program in Des Moines, IA (Region E). Contact Amy Peterson 763-783-1851 or amysescape@aol.com.

International LTD Staff Listing

"If you are working on something exciting that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

- Steve Jobs

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