

WING WISDOM

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
LEADERSHIP TRAINING DIVISION**

Happy 30th Anniversary, GWRRA!

By Amy Peterson, LTD Newsletter Editor



As we celebrate another anniversary milestone as an association, it is important to think about the benefits of our GWRRA membership, and what we can do through training efforts to keep the association growing and healthy. Why do people decide to become members, and why do they continue to renew their membership?

When I started riding motorcycles 16 years ago, my parents invited me to join them on some group rides. It was a great way to learn to “ride my own ride” as the group helped to guide my entry speed into corners, point out road hazards and become a little more comfortable with my handling skills. The more I rode with the group and joined them for activities, the more these motorcyclists became like a second family.

As the horsepower, range and storage capacity of the motorcycles gradually increased, the more miles I began traveling each year. (Perhaps it worked the other way around!) I had already learned the importance of wearing protective riding gear, participated in rider education courses, and eventually had a CB installed on my motorcycle. The more events I attended, the more people I met from an increasing range throughout the United States (and throughout the world). Being an Associate member, my parents gave me their previous year’s *Gold Book* to carry with me until all members received them with membership. Over the years, my reasons for being a GWRRA member have evolved as well.

Why did you join GWRRA? Why do you continue to renew your membership? As volunteer leaders, these are important questions to ask ourselves...and then learn about from our GWRRA friends. What is important to them? What is enjoyable to them? What can we do to keep the association interesting, meaningful and fun? Sometimes we learn these answers from seminar participants. In other cases, we learn about motivations in more of a one-on-one or small group conversation. The important thing is that we keep asking for ideas, and what we can do better. Perhaps the answers may lead us to a new seminar idea, or a modification of an existing program. So keep those thoughts and ideas coming!



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Improved Relationships

By John Simonick, Texas District Director & LTD Instructor

Sometimes we interact with so many people that some relationships seem extremely superficial. We would like to improve these relationships, but other than spending significant amounts of time with each and every person, we may not know how we can do this. The time constraint prevents us from making any progress. Any quick fix to relationship building appears superficial, and may do more damage than good. Consider applying the **30 Second Rule**. This amounts to spending 30 seconds with an individual. (Please do not time this by looking at your watch!) In those 30 seconds, give this person your complete and undivided **attention**.

Give them **affirmation**. The definition of affirm is:

1. To declare positively or firmly; maintain to be true.
2. To support or uphold the validity of; confirm.

Let them know how important they are to you, the chapter, etc. Be sincere! Everybody has good qualities and brings some value to the world. If there appears to be nothing about a person that is good or there is no perceived value, then you are missing something. Finally, let the person know that you **appreciate** them. Be as specific as possible.

So to summarize the 30 Second Rule, simply remember to give the individual about 30 seconds of your undivided attention and address each of the three A's: Attention, Affirmation, Appreciation.



Time To Put The Gloves On

Here's a tip that combines both Rider Education and Leadership Training concepts. The suggestion comes from Lawrence Katz's and Manning Rubin's *Keep Your Brain Alive*. It's another illustration of how our motorcycling passion can also be healthy!

One way to improve your mental fitness is to wear gloves or heavy mittens while driving. This simple change forces you to rely on different cues from your senses to steer, change stations or modify other controls with your hands. Of course, you should always use common sense to remain safe. Here is Katz's and Rubin's explanation of how this minor change works to our advantage:

“In addition to fine touch, the skin has receptors for heat, cold and deep pressure. By blunting fine touch, you enhance the role of information coming from pressure receptors and activate different brain pathways involved in driving.”

Spending Time

By Amy Peterson, LTD Newsletter Editor

Life is too precious to spend it worrying about what other people think. The best way to make a good impression is by being the genuine person you are. Pretenses tend to fall short. True sincerity comes more naturally and has the added benefit of being much more impressive.

Life is too precious to stand still and just watch it pass by. Jump in and become involved. Yes, it will often be uncomfortable. Yes, it will become stressful at times. Certainly there will be challenges to overcome. That's often the beauty of it...at least when we can look back in hindsight.

Life is too precious not to make a difference. You have something special and positive to offer. When you make use of your talents, they will grow to become even more valuable. Look at any person you consider to be successful and you'll easily see that to be the case.

Whenever you're faced with a decision about which way to go - about how to spend your time, about where to set your priorities - stop for a moment and remind yourself. Life is truly precious and you are fortunate enough to be living it. Then move confidently ahead in the direction where that thought leads.

Life Support

In her book entitled *500 Ways to Throw Away Stress*, author Donna Smallin shares an idea that many of us have learned by getting involved with our second family, GWRRA. It is another way in which our membership is like the credit card commercial...priceless!

"Research shows that people who have family and friends to help them through stressful times stay healthier and recover faster than those who do not have a social support system. So hold on tight to family times and friendships!"

"The real secret of success is enthusiasm."

~ Walter P. Chrysler





By The Book — Chapter Meetings

By Dale Wingrove, Region H Trainer

This is the last article in a series telling you what the basic qualifications to be eligible for the Chapter of the Year program are. The last qualification is *The Chapter meets monthly at an appropriate site for the purpose of establishing Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge*. Now it is up to you to go out there, have a good time and make your chapter the **Chapter of the Year**.

WHAT IS A CHAPTER MEETING?

It is the means whereby GWRRA has **FUN**, grows, teaches, educates, informs and establishes a basis for GWRRA's very existence. The chapter meeting is the most important aspect of what we strive the hardest to accomplish; educating our Members. Educating them in ways of safety, skill, knowledge and the **FUN OF GWRRA**. If we, as officers, recognize and acknowledge these responsibilities to our Members, we understand the importance and the difficulty of obtaining our goals as represented in our motto, "FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE."

In paraphrasing an adage, "You can take Members to water, getting our Members TO the water, much less getting them to take a drink. We have found the only way to get them involved (so we can provide the "water") is to provide a positive, FUN and worthwhile environment. We call this a chapter meeting.

Properly done, a chapter meeting is the perfect medium to carry out our prime responsibility to our Members. It provides them a place to come to gain fun, friends, knowledge and camaraderie. It provides us the opportunity to "sugar coat" the pills of safety so we can teach our "family" the tools and skills that will enable them to live longer and to better enjoy their chosen hobby —Motorcycling.

Consider the word "meeting." It can be a little misleading. "Meeting" sometimes implies business, minutes, politics, reports, no-fun, dryness, rigid structure, speeches, and is capable of being BORING, BORING, BORING!! Obviously, this is not what a GWRRA chapter meeting should be!

Our immediate goal is to try and entice our Members to come to a monthly activity with their" family." **We do this by making our chapter meetings FUN!** We make it a relaxed, non-political, nonreligious, friendly place where there are no strangers... good food, interesting people and educational programs. This is not as difficult as it sounds, but it is very basic to accomplishing another of our missions: EDUCATE!

If we can motivate our Members to attend a chapter meeting, our job is half done. We must then ensure that the meeting is so good, so interesting, so entertaining, so rewarding and so much **FUN** that they will return each and every month. They will also "talk it up" with their friends, thereby helping GWRRA receive the positive publicity that goes a long way in attracting new Members into our "family."

Good **FUN** chapter meetings cannot be overemphasized...they are the backbone of a successful chapter. Good luck, and may all your efforts be amply rewarded.

Training Calendar

Many of our members travel to rallies and events outside their home state, so please forward details regarding any seminars to be shared in your area in the coming months. Send the information to Amy Peterson at amysescape@aol.com. Thanks for your help!



JUNE 2007

6/16: “Remembering Names” and “New Member Orientation” to be presented at the Georgia District Rally in Roma, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

JULY 2007

7/4-7/7: Watch the Wing Ding schedules or check the www.gwrra.org site > Leadership Training Division section for the LTD Seminars being presented in Billings, MT!

7/20-7/21: “Managing Change” and “Remembering Names” to be presented at the Minnesota District Rally in Mankato, MN. Contact Jerry Rigney at jerry1@iw.net.

AUGUST 2007

8/4: LTD Instructor Course to be presented in Sevierville, TN. Contact Ken and Julie Zahn at www.tngwrratraining.org.

8/4: LTD Instructor Course to be presented in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

8/11: Horizon Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

8/18: Knowledge Enhancement Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

8/25: Intermediate Leadership Skills Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

*“The word
impossible
is not
in my
dictionary.”*

*~ Napoleon
Bonaparte*



Additional Thoughts on Leadership...

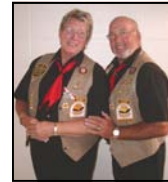
“By centering our lives on the timeless, unchanging principles,
we create a fundamental paradigm of effective living.
It is the center that puts all other centers in perspective.”

~ Stephen Covey

International LTD Staff

International Directors:

CJ and Bo Karcanes
336-374-6455
karcanes@surry.net



Curriculum Coordinators:

Dave and Sharon Aikens
478-953-4886
aikensdl@cox.net



Newsletter Editor:

Amy Peterson
763-783-1851
amysescape@aol.com



Webmaster:

John Bourg
281-242-5125
jbourg@omsi.net

