

# WING WISDOM

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

## From the Director's Chair

### ~ WING DING UPDATE ~

Well, it's official. Wing Ding 29 is over and in the history books. Our division didn't have as many Trainers and Instructors in Billings as we had hoped for, but all of you that were there did an outstanding job. We delivered 16 LTD Seminars to 346 members, and there were 28 Team members in attendance at our annual Trainers & Instructors Meeting.

Speaking of our LTD Meeting, Regions A, D, E H and N were all recognized with an award for Excellence in Training. Region I was recognized with a special achievement award for being the "Most Improved Region," thanks to the outstanding work of Mike & Lynn Briggs. They carried their hard work right into Wing Ding by delivering 4 of the 16 seminars and covering 3 of the 14 time slots at the LTD Booth.

The 2007 edition of the LTD Curriculum was distributed to all Trainers present at the meeting. We sent copies to some of you who were not there via Trainers, Instructors or Region Directors who were in attendance. The rest are in the mail. As in previous years, the District Trainers are asked to make additional copies and get them to each of the Instructors within your Districts. Region Trainers are responsible for distribution within Districts without Trainers. We will distribute the information to Districts without a Region Trainer.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a very special thank-you to Dave & Sharon Aikens, GA District Trainers and LTD Curriculum Coordinators. They were at the booth first thing Wednesday morning to help us set things up, and every time we needed anything they just appeared out of nowhere. Sharon was my ever present "gal-Friday" helping me set up the signs for the seminar rooms each morning, as well as keeping up with many of the seminar change-overs. Dave, in addition to writing and presenting the new "MS Power Point" seminar, filled in as the presenter for a last minute cancellation. And to top all of that off, they even filled in at the LTD Booth when we had a couple of "no-shows." Bo & I would still be in Billings at the LTD Booth if it weren't for these two fantastic people, and we just can't thank them enough. Did I mention that they made the large fold-up display that we had on the table to advertise all of the LTD Programs? What more can I say but Thanks!!

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## **From the Director's Chair** *(continued)*

The Operations Meeting was held two days before Wing Ding opened. Paul Hildebrand filled in for Melissa since she was still on maternity leave. His first order of business was to announce a simplification of titles. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> all Directors will drop the term National or International from their official titles, except for the Executive Director who will maintain the term "National" in her title and the Global Affairs Director. Paul did recognize that many of directors had patches and/or embroidery on shirts, jackets and vests that carried either National or International and he said that those could remain and be changed out over time. The only things changing immediately would be listings in Wing World and on Web Sites, Letterhead, Business Cards, and other forms of correspondence. He said this change was being made to make things simpler and easier for the members to understand.

David & Kathy Orr, Region N Trainers, presented an idea for an additional training program to be added to our curriculum. It is a program intended to be a follow-on to the Advanced Leadership Skills Program and should be targeted to those officers who are being groomed for additional responsibilities in the future. Stay tuned, as there will be more to come on this as we begin to develop the modules.



### **~ CHANGE IN PIN/HANGER BAR ORDER PROCESS ~**



One other thing came out of Wing Ding and the many folks who stopped by the LTD Booth to chat with us about all sorts of different things. We seem to still be having difficulty with the processing of orders for the LTD Pin and the hanger bars. It has been nearly a year now since our Executive Director gave the approval to stop charging for these items. However, several Trainers have contacted me and said that they were still being charged for bars and pins. Let me clarify the issue before I continue. There is no problem with the process for LTD patches. The patches are all received from the LTD Director based on the LTD Position Application Form and have been for many years.

The pin and hanger bar issue just continues to crop up regularly, and in an effort to resolve it once and for all, I solicited input from the Region Trainers on a proposal that John Cracchiolo (HQ Pin & Patch coordinator) and I came up with. After receiving favorable feedback from seven of you and zero negative feedback, it seems pretty obvious that we should move forward with a new process patterned after the one being used for the LTD patches.

Effective August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 all orders for LTD pins, hanger bars and Horizon Program Completion Certificates will be placed with the LTD Director via a simple e-mail message. I don't see any need to complicate matters with a special form nor any "sign-offs." You tell me the items you need, and I'll ship them to you. However, as a check and balance and to keep the Region Trainers in the loop, I would like you to "CC" your Region Trainer on each pin/bar request.

A buffer stock has been established and will be maintained based on forecasts to be gathered each October. Please order only the amount of pins and bars that you feel you will need for upcoming training events. Try not to build up additional stockpiles. While small stock piles will inevitably occur, if we work together I'm sure we can keep those to a minimum. Orders for pins and bars will be correlated with Training Activity Reports to continue to justify the decision to make all LTD supplies free to Trainers. If we don't put an undue burden on the supplies, it will be easier to maintain the "free" status.

## From the Director's Chair *(continued)*

Regular US Postal Service will be used for all deliveries and my commitment to you is that orders will ship within 2-3 business days. That should result in items being received in about one week. If you're not sure that I have your current and correct mailing address, you would be well advised to include it on the requesting e-mail.

Remember, the reason these are now free to us is that we are not to charge the members for them. They have already paid for them by giving of their time and effort to attend these training sessions. Let's all start thinking of these as awards or badges of honor. Maybe our members will too, not to mention the advertising value they will have.

Well folks, I guess that's about it for this time. We look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months as we travel through several of the regions.

Take Care, Be Happy and Keep Training,

*CJ & Bo Karcanes*

Leadership Training Division Directors

## The Umbrella Maker

By Earl Slack, Assistant Region E Director



This is the story of an umbrella maker. He came up with a unique, new umbrella that would slough off the rain, was easy to use and had a very nice logo. He had many customers who bought this new umbrella and liked the cool logo. Most of his customers read the brief instructions and found the umbrella very easy to open and use and enjoyed their time protected from the rain. They and their friends traveled everywhere enjoying the protection it provided. There were a few who didn't read the instructions (or weren't taught how to use it) and got very frustrated with the umbrellas. They still carried them around, cool logo and all, but they got awfully wet when it rained. A third group thought they didn't need the instructions, they just wanted to carry around the popular umbrellas. When it rained, they tried this and that, trying to get the umbrellas open or just holding it folded over their heads and wondered why they were getting wet.

Founded in 1977, Gold Wing Road Riders Association invented a new way to enjoy riding motorcycles safely and with your friends. For the people who have taken time to learn a little about all the information and support National passes on to us, GWRRA is a fun, safe and enjoyable experience. The chapter members enjoy the leadership of a knowledgeable staff and participate in a well-organized group of friends. Then there are a few who haven't **bothered reading the manual or taken any training to learn how to guide a chapter. They figure they can do it alone, they don't need anyone telling them what to do, they can "reinvent the umbrella."**

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## The Umbrella Maker *(Continued)*

We pay good money to be members of GWRRA. I for one expect my money's worth. When I was Chapter Director, I took the training and read the manual so I knew how to manage a chapter. I tried to take advantage of every resource GWRRA had to offer. Now I expect my current directors to do the same and am proud to say they have. Taking the training and reading the manual makes it a lot easier to "open the umbrella."

So if you're out running around in the rain, getting wet and your chapter director doesn't know how to open the umbrella, maybe you can start by asking him how you can help. Take the training that GWRRA has developed over the past thirty years and learn from the experience that the trainers have to offer. You don't have to be an officer in a chapter, or plan on being one, to benefit from this knowledge but you and your chapter will be the better for it.



## New Region Trainers

We have 2 new Region Trainers to add to our Team. Our new Region J Trainers are very new to LTD, but don't let that fool you. Larry & Barb Fowell are not just enthusiastic about training, they are Passionate about it. So much so that they had an e-mail in my in-box outlining their plans for Region J before Bo & I even got back from Billings. They came to us very highly recommended by Ron & Carol Hodgson, National Directors - Canada as well as Phil & Margaret Craven, Region J Directors and with their background, we just know they will become very active members of the LTD Team in very short order. We met with them and the Hodgson's on July 4th and knew in very short order that this dynamic duo were made for LTD so since Phil and I had already talked and I knew he concurred in their appointment, we finalized the paperwork right then and there. Larry & Barb can be reached at 780-466-0097 and [bmcle@telus.net](mailto:bmcle@telus.net).

The second one is actually not new to LTD as she was the Region B Trainer from 2000 - 2002. Effective July 17th, 2007 she returned to active duty status to once again lead the LTD Team in Region B. Patty Hoffman and her husband Don are excited about the opportunity to work with the new Region B Directors, Lorraine & Earl Knight (former Rhode Island District Directors) who have just taken over from Jere & Linda Goodman. Both Lorraine and Patty are very enthusiastic about incorporating the Timeline For Training into Region B and they are already developing plans and recruiting more instructors. Patty & Don can be reached at 814-798-2213 and [phofoman@verizon.net](mailto:phofoman@verizon.net).

Please join me in welcoming these wonderful people onto our Team. Bo & I are certain that big things will be happening in the "North" (both East & West) with the addition of these exciting folks. They are sure to "raise the bar" in the Training world, so hold on to your hats and lets get ready to ride. And now we just need two more Trainers to have a full Team. (I'm still looking.)



## By The Book — Area Reports

By Dale Wingrove, Region H Trainer

*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. Any quotes or references to topics contained in our OGB should not be taken “out of context.” A copy of the Officers Guidebook can be found at [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org) and click on the Info Exchange tab then click on Officers Guidebook.*

The following text has been copied from the *Officers Guidebook* on Page D-15. This text shows how the Membership list works. If you want to change your personal information that appears on the membership list call the GWRRA Home Office or go to [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org). Information specific to reading the Area Report and the Privacy Policy can also be obtained on the website through the GW Info Exchange.

### MEMBERSHIP / AREA REPORTS

When a GWRRA chapter is chartered or, as sometimes happens, its area is realigned, the Chapter Director and the District Director will determine and list all the zip codes that are included in the geographic area to be served by the chapter. The District Director must send this listing to the Home Office. This report is NOT a list of Members who BELONG to the designated chapter. It is only a tool for the Chapter Director to use for friend-finding, for determining success in enticing Members to attend functions, for Membership renewal reminders or for an initial mailing list. It has previously been mentioned and deserves to be again...the Members of GWRRA BELONG TO ALL CHAPTERS!! “Your” chapter was chartered as a convenience and benefit to the general Membership who reside within a convenient distance of your meeting place.

Once the chapter has been established, the Report becomes more important as a management tool and less as a “mailing list.” In most instances, sign-in sheets become your primary indicator of “Chapter Participants” and, in turn, lead to more effective chapter mailing lists. Please remember that the Area Reports are proprietary and confidential to GWRRA and MUST only be used for the expressed business purpose of GWRRA. All officers sign a Memorandum of Understanding when appointed to their position in which they agree to protect the confidentiality of GWRRA membership listings and membership information. Only with a written request from the District Director, will we change or modify an existing zip code zone. It must be noted however, that everyone living in a particular zip code area would also be changed.

The Area Report is sent monthly to the Regional Director who then divides up the report to the District Directors. As a Chapter Director, you would receive the Area Report for your area from your District Director or Membership Enhancement Coordinator. The report includes all current and expired members in your area, the status of these members, joining and expiration dates, and other information that is useful for the use of recruiting, and retaining members.

## 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](mailto:amysescape@aol.com). Thanks for your help!

### AUGUST 2007

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

**8/4:** LTD Instructor Course to be presented in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at [aikensdl@cox.net](mailto:aikensdl@cox.net)

**8/11:** Horizon Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at [aikensdl@cox.net](mailto:aikensdl@cox.net)

**8/18:** Knowledge Enhancement Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at [aikensdl@cox.net](mailto:aikensdl@cox.net)

**8/25:** Intermediate Leadership Skills Program in Perry, GA. Contact Dave Aikens at [aikensdl@cox.net](mailto:aikensdl@cox.net)

#### Reminder:

Now is the time to be promoting Knowledge Enhancement Programs for the fall months to prepare staff members to take over their responsibilities on January 1st.

For those experienced staff members who have completed the Intermediate Skills Program, the fall is also perfect time to plan Advanced Skills Programs to keep building on their knowledge and experience.

Training opportunities are a great way to meet other GWRRA volunteer leaders, share ideas, discuss challenges and develop solutions...and much more in a relaxed, FUN environment.

*“Even a mistake  
may turn  
out to be  
the one thing  
necessary for  
a worthwhile  
achievement.”*

*~ Henry Ford*





## **Additional Thoughts on Leadership...**

“Everything is always impossible  
before it works.”

~ Hunt Greene

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