

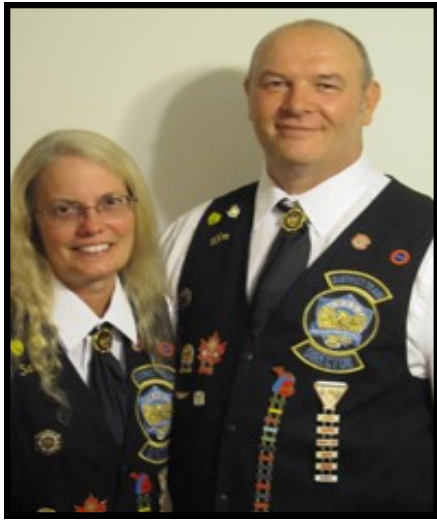


# GWRRA - Michigan District Newsletter



January 2013

Volume I



Kim & Sandy Barger  
District Directors

Hello Michigan

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. We are the District Directors for Michigan. Just a little information about us, we have been married 29 years and have 2 children, a son, Thomas 33 and a daughter, Teresa 23. We joined the GWRRA in 1999, our home Chapter is V. Sandy rides a 1998 Valkyrie trike appropriately named Sassy. I ride a 2003 Gold Wing. Sandy has been employed at Chemical Bank for the past 32 years and I have worked for Conair as a Service Engineer for plastics machinery for the past 21 years. Our hobbies include riding motorcycles and we love to camp with our friends. There is nothing like sitting around the campfire talking about the day's event or even what is planned for tomorrow.

We accepted the position of District Directors because we believe GWRRA is a great organization with a lot of great people and feel like it's an honor to do our part to help it grow. We also feel very blessed to have such a great team to work with many of whom have brought their expertise from different backgrounds and as a team we plan to have FUN, learn how to become a safer rider and meet a lot of great friends. Sounds like a great Motto.

In 2011, Sandy hit a deer with her bike on the way home from an ice cream ride. She was pretty banged up and ended up being in a wheel chair for 8 weeks. While in the hospital she received more than 75 cards from GWRRA members and friends across the state and even Canada. Many knew her, some did not, but still took the time to send get well wishes and prayers. When we arrived home there were members that came over that day and helped build a wheel chair ramp so I could get her in and out of the house. Other members came and brought food, others took turns spending the day with her and even the nights when my job took me out of town. So, when you hear the statement it's like a second family, it's not just a statement to us, it's a reality. This went on for several weeks and I know this happens throughout this organization all across the nation.

Her injuries would have been even more severe if she had not been riding with a helmet and full gear, which years ago we did not wear. Because of the GWRRA rider education we now wear

wear full gear. Charles Swindle wrote, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you deal with it". So, if you think with a positive attitude, positive things will happen. It's all up to you, we are just here to help. How much fun and how much you learn, is up to you.

Wingless Weekend is just around the corner which is being combined with the Spring Officers meeting. This is something we are trying this year, we are always open to new ideas and suggestions. If there is anything we can do to make your GWRRA experience a better one please let us know. Remember this is your organization and it takes your help to make it run.

One thing we can always use is new members so, when you meet someone invite them to a ride or a chapter gathering. We all know that once they find out how what a great group of people we are they will not be able to stay away .

Kim & Sandy  
kimbar@aol.com



Ron & Micki Linn  
MI District Treasurer

## Treasurer

Hi Everyone,

Since the District recently has had such a change in leadership (as of the last District Rally), I thought I would dispense with the technical aspect of my duties and tell you about Micki and I. I know in my past years with GWRRA, most of the time I did not know anything about the District Staff. So I figured that I should let you know where I am coming from.

I was born and raised in the Flint area. Two years after graduation from Atherton High School, I enlisted in the Air Force in 1973. I was stationed at Little Rock AFB in Jacksonville, Arkansas.

I was married later that year to my ex-wife Janet. Janet and I have two children, Cameron, now 36, married with two children and living in Rochester, Minnesota, and a daughter, Jessica, now 33, married with three children and living in Grand Blanc.

After my stint in the service, I was employed by General Motors Flint Assembly Plant for 31.5 years. I am also part owner of two Ten-Minute oil changes in the Flint area.

My first bike was a Kawasaki 750 Twin with a full Vetter fairing and saddlebags that I purchased in 1984. I rode that bike for four years and never got out of the county that I lived in. Don't get me wrong, I rode that bike all year long, even through the winter when the roads were dry. But it was not a long distance motorcycle!

In August of 1988, I purchased a used 1986 GL1200. I joined GWRRA and Michigan Chapter K after a co-worker, Jack Fry, seen that I had a Wing and invited me to a gathering.

After meeting the great people of GWRRA, I was hooked. My first Wing Ding was Madison, Wisconsin in 1989. In 1990, Wing Ding was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. There, I was the Grand Prize winner of a Blue 1990 GL1500. I rode that bike till 2004 when I purchased a Metallic Magenta GL1800.

I never held an office in the Chapter until 2008 as I was working a lot of 7-day a week stints, and a lot of those were 12 hour days. I just did not have time. I often wondered how others managed to work and still hold an Office!

I was divorced in 2000 after a 2 year separation. In early 2000, I met my present wife, Micki. Micki grew up in the Grand Blanc area, which is just south of Flint and graduated from Grand Blanc High. She was also divorced. Her children are Eric and Amanda. We had met at a bar and after a couple months, started dating in May. We were married four years later in 2004 and live in the Flint area.

Micki is presently employed by Randy Wise's Genesee Valley Auto Mall in Flint as an office manager. She has about 18 years working at auto dealerships. I retired in 2008 and drive cars part time for Randy Wise's dealerships.

In 2008, we were sworn in as Assistant Chapter Directors. Micki and I started visiting other chapters and came to make many, many great and dear friends! Two of those people were Kim and Sandy Barger of Chapter V in Freeland.

Then, in 2011, we were made Chapter Directors of Chapter K in Flint. In 2012, when Kim and Sandy were made the District Directors, they called Micki and I and stated that they needed a Treasurer. I honestly thought that he meant a Treasurer for Chapter V! It took me a minute to realize that he meant for the District, as he was not the CD of Chapter V anymore. We thought it over and accepted. And that is where we are today.

We hope that if you see us at the different functions that you will stop and say "Hi!" We love meeting new friends. We hope that we see many of you at Wingless Weekend.

Bye for now,

Ron and Micki Linn  
gwrramitreas@msn.com

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**DON'T FORGET WINGLESS WEEKEND**

**MARCH 1 & 2**





# Membership Enhancement

Hi all Membership Enhancement Officers, all other Officers and members.

Ben & Mary Gawrylowicz  
Enhancement  
District Coordinators

Well, here we are, a brand new year. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to have more fun than ever in 2013.

As you know, Membership Enhancement covers a wide area which includes **FUN**, Member Recruitment, **FUN**, Member Retention, **FUN**, Activities, **FUN**, Fundraisers, **FUN** and more **FUN!** The idea is not only to contact and recruit new members, but to have **FUN** and retain the members you already have. Our motto is **“Find a member, involve a member, keep a member”**. And believe us when we say, “if they’re having fun, they will stay”. Mary said a while ago, “I’m too old not to have fun!” How true that is. If your chapter is active, having **FUN**, riding and involving its members they will keep coming back and they will bring friends.

We appreciate the time and effort you have put into contacting the new and prospective members on your monthly reports. This has gone very well and Michigan is maintaining 100% for new and prospective member contacts. With your help, we will continue to do so! Remember, the more members, the more **FUN!** Please keep up the good work. Michigan is GREAT and you are a BIG part of that GREAT!

On a different note, we would like to invite any/all of your chapters to compete for “2013 Chapter of the Year”. What a great way to bring your chapter together and have **FUN**. It definitely takes everyone to make this happen.

We would also like to remind those who are competing for “2012 Chapter of the Year” that we need your information by Feb. 1, 2013 as we will announce the “2012 Chapter of the Year” at Wingless Weekend in March. We are very proud of all the chapters who have competed in the past and are very supportive to all who will compete in the future. You should be proud, too. And, please, have **FUN!**

Ben and Mary  
Benmary1968@yahoo.com

# Assistant District Directors Northern Section



Doug & Rowena McAfee  
Asst. District Directors  
Northern Section  
Special Projects

Greetings and Happy New Year to all.

Over the Christmas Holiday's we have been doing some traveling to our Chapters up here in God's Country. It never ceases to amaze us, that, no matter where we go we always meet new people and have a great time. Everyone has made us so welcome and a part of their Chapter.

December started out with us visiting Chapter Z for their monthly gathering and Christmas Party. Doug and I had a great time being with them and playing the Dating Game. We realized after playing, we knew each other too well and ended up in first place. I guess after 44 years of marriage you do begin to know each other. They are busy now planning for the 2013 riding season so stay tuned for an exciting summer ahead.

The following week end we traveled to Chapter H, in Sault Ste Marie Canada where we attended their Christmas Party. We had a wonderful time visiting with the Canadians. They know how to make you feel welcome. If you ever get a chance, go visit them, you will never regret it. They too, are planning for a great summer riding season with winding things down again in the fall with their campout and Knights of the Hatchet ceremonies. This is one even you will never forget, guaranteed!

We left for home Sunday, just in time to attend our home Chapter Y's Christmas Dinner and Gathering. The food was delicious and again we had a terrific time. This year the weather was on our side, Two years ago when Doug and I were Chapter Directors, at the time of our party, the lights went out at the hall, due to a snow storm and we had several different chapters planning on attending. Chapter Y didn't let us down and we moved the dinner and party to one of Chapter Y's member's home, Dan and Lorraine Sparks. They opened up their home to us and the party continued. This only goes to show how great the GWRRA family really is. You are a stranger but once.

December 15th we attended Chapter Q's gathering and party again up in Sault Ste Marie. Michigan. Sr. Chapter Director, Frank King and his lovely wife Deb, planned a great meal and had us laughing all evening with their gift exchange. They did an outstanding job in putting their party on, so if you are ever up their way and can attend their campouts and dinners, please make an effort to do so., you will never regret it. We have attended some of their activities and they leave you with the thoughts of anticipation of when the next event will be.

Don't forget to make an effort to attend Chapter J-2's after Christmas Party. All their information is on the GWRRA website. We have attended their party now for several years and always had a great time. It is a great time after the busy Christmas Holidays to sit down and relax and enjoy a good meal, the camaraderie of good friends, and an evening of laughs and fun. Hopefully we will see many of you there.

As the New Year begins, so do the activities. With winter upon us, and the snowbirds taking in the morning sun down in Florida or the other warm states we would like to remind you of some of the upcoming events here in Michigan during those cold winter days.

First of all we have our Spring officer's meeting and Wingless combination. The Michigan State Staff has a lot of fun planned for those of you who can attend. There are a lot of new things happening so this is your opportunity to attend the Spring Officer's Meeting/Wingless Week end and learn all what is happening and having your voice heard.

The Michigan State District Staff are more than willing to hear what you have to say and if at all feasible we will try to implement your great ideas. Remember, you are the basis of our organization and the staff are hear to work for you and see your ideas go to work for the benefit of all our members. So, plan on attending Wingless and find out for yourself.

Other winter activities are, OCP Class, Jan 19-20 Auburn Hills, Contact Vicki Philo for more information, Jan 24-27 Cabin Fever - Ohio District, Feb 15-17, Winter Rendezvous - Indiana District and don't forget March 1-2 is our own Wingless Week end. There are other Chapter events such as Anniversary Parties, After Christmas Parties, and the Blessing of Bikes.

In spite of all our snowbirds there are still a lot of activities being planned so enjoy the winter months and it won't be long before we are riding again. When that time comes around again, remember to come up North and say hello to our Northern Chapters. They all have great area's in which to ride and camp out in. Each Chapter event you are guaranteed good rides, good food, and most of all good friends.

Since Doug and I have taken on the position of Assistant Directors a year and a half ago, we have met so many members and made so many new friends. Our GWRRA family has grown and truly we are blessed. Thank you so much for making us feel so welcome.

We look forward to seeing all of you somewhere out on a ride or at a Chapter event this coming year and making more new friends.

Doug and Rowena McAfee  
rowenaa@charter.net

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**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR WINGLESS WEEKEND  
EARLY!**





Terri & Farmer Rodgers  
Asst. District Directors  
Central Section  
Goodies

# Assistant District Directors Central Section

## “TIS THE NIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS

And the madness is gone. The dizzying din of happy families and lots of grandchildren is now a quiet reprieve. Now is the time to recollect the happenings of last year, reunite with friends and start planning for next year.

With the expansion of the western section (Chapters C-2, K-2, G-2, G, N, O, R-2 D and S) comes the opportunity to get more travel in during the PMS months to come. Parked Motorcycle Syndrome is a relentless disease for which you will do anything to make it better. So with the opportunity to expand our winter travels, we are going to do just that. Wingless Weekend is yet another opportunity to break away from PMS. You could even try to attend a function or two outside of our section or elsewhere in the region. There are plenty of FUN events to break the syndrome. We encourage you to go to the new GWRRA - Michigan website and see what opportunities are available to you.

Now is also the time to start planning for the next big trip or any number of rides that you enjoy. Many of us old-timers could be mentors to the new riders in your chapter. Take them under your wing and help open their eyes to the great opportunities that riding in west Michigan can offer. We all have our favorite rides along the sunset coast. Show a “newbie” some of your best ones.

While planning your next big trip, look at the areas you plan to visit and see if you could attend a local function there. Half the FUN of this organization is the people you meet out on the road. Make an effort to visit an area within the district or region that you have never been to before. Find local contacts for helping you to plan a better trip than you could have done yourself.

GWRRA gives you many opportunities for travel and meeting new friends. You can participate with as many (or few) chapters as you want to. With membership world-wide, it is a golden opportunity to take advantage of local talent while planning your next trip.

The association also gives our members opportunities to improve riding skills, expand and improve your public speaking skills or learn life skills through other programs that can enhance your lifestyle or leadership skills. You can take with you any part of the association that you choose. Ask any staff member to help you in getting the information you need. You never know, you could meet your next best friend or riding partner. It's all here to benefit the members. Use it wisely and maybe your case of PMS can improve drastically.

Ride safe, arrive alive and have FUN.

Jerry (Farmer) and Terri Rodgers  
mrandmrsfarmer@yahoo.com

# Assistant District Directors East Central Section



Gayle & Dennis Jisa  
Asst. District Directors  
East Central Section—Vendors

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The **East Central Section** consists of chapters: **A, D2,E,F,F2,L, Q2, U, V and V2**. Recently Chapters B2 and K have closed. These chapter members have joined other chapters so some of our chapters have grown larger. This is a good thing as it gives more members to join in the FUN activities!! Be sure to check out the Google calendar on the web site to see what activities the chapters have

planned for the new year (see a few below). Each chapter can add their activity, which gives your chapter less to have to plan and more FUN places to go. It is so much more FUN when you join with old friends and make a few new ones along the ride!

Speaking of FUN we hope you have sent in your reservations for Wingless Weekend! If you have not done so yet be sure to do it soon so you don't miss out on the great weekend we have planned for you. The theme is Gilligan's Island so come dressed as your favorite character or just come in your best island costume and join in the many activities that are planned!

The District and Region events are also listed on the Google calendar and the web site's. Check them out and see which ones fit into your schedule. Share your ride with a friend and ask them to share and soon you will have a group going along. The more you have the more FUN there is to have as well.

If you would like to know more about how GWRRA functions and why things work so well get in touch with Vicki Philo ASAP as there is an OCP (Officer Certification Program) taking place on January 19-20 in Auburn Hills (near Pontiac). Don't let the name of the program scare you! You don't have to be an officer to take the class. It is open to any GWRRA member and is FREE!!

Here are a few highlights going on this year in our section: **Chapter Q2** has their Anniversary Party on April 13<sup>th</sup>, **Chapter A** has their Blessing of the Bikers on April 28<sup>th</sup>, **Chapter L** has their Picnic in the Park on May 19, **Chapter E** has a Fun Run on June 2, **Chapter V** has their Anniversary Party on October 5<sup>th</sup>, **Chapter F2** has their Anniversary Party on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and **Chapter A** has their Anniversary Party on November 2. We sure hope you mark these great times on YOUR calendar!

The **East Central Section** has their **annual camp out on August 23-24<sup>th</sup>**. There will be more information coming so keep an eye out for it! This is a GREAT RELAXING weekend. The new location has cabins to rent for those who do not camp. (They are air conditioned, too!!)

We are looking forward to seeing you out and about having more and more FUN!! The more you visit other chapters the more they will come and join in your FUN!! Winter is a great time to have a game night, movie night, or just a plain old fashion pot luck social at a member's home. ENJOY and SOON it will be time to get our two wheel rides out again. Till we see you again, ride safe, what ever your mode of transportation be this time of year.

Gayle & Dennis Jisa  
wingcoy@charter.net





# Assistant District Directors Southeast Section

New Kids on the Block

Bob & Nancy Natter  
Asst. District Directors  
Southeast Section

As most of you know, Nancy and I are the newest District staff members. We Live in Garden City, Michigan and our section is the southeast corner of the state. We have yet to visit

all of our chapters, but it is on our agenda for the new year. We have had some great times during the chapter visits so far and we look forward to upcoming visits. Nancy & I both ride Goldwings and we have a Timeout camper that we enjoy. This past year, we were able to make all three district rallies along with the region rally. We found it inviting that most of the district staff members also camp.

Nancy and I are looking forward to some of the many outings that the chapters and districts have to offer. Wingless Weekend will be a little different this year as we are combining the spring officers meeting with the Wingless activities. It looks to be a busy fun filled weekend. Have you sent in your registration form yet? Does your chapter have an event planned this year? Is it posted on the District web site events page? If not, send us an email and we'll see to it that it gets posted.

We are here to serve the chapters and the members. If there is anything we can do to assist your chapter, please contact us.

**Bob & Nancy Natter**  
bobandnancy1000@comcast.net

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Where is Wingless?  
At the Lexington Hotel in Lansing  
Of Course. . . .



Vicki & Ed Philo

District Trainers

# District Trainers

We're very excited to be part of the Michigan District Team and be able to serve the members of Michigan. We have some big shoes to fill but we'll do the very best we can to keep the Leadership Training Program going and growing. We look forward to our next big project which is the Officers Certification Program coming up in January.

*The following information was taken from the OCP Student Workbook:*

What is the Officer Certification Program? A training and certification program administered by the Leadership Training Division, for current and prospective GWRRA Officers and interested Members. In it we communicate what GWRRA is, what it stands for, and why it is structured and operated the way it is.

It is a 1½ day training class consisting of:

- 9 (eight) modules covering the Officer Handbook
- Knowledge Exercise
- 4 modules of expanded, advanced seminars especially for the GWRRA Officer.
- An additional module geared specifically for Region/District Directors and their Assistants.

We also want to achieve continuity throughout GWRRA. If a Member should visit a Chapter Gathering in any area of our Association they should experience virtually the same “feel” as they do their own home Chapter. While we recognize they will not be exactly the same due to personality and energy, the basic message and goals will be the same.

Our Officers Certification Program has been scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> in Auburn Hills. We encourage all officers and potential officers to attend. We have information on hotels in the area that we'll be sending out to those who register.

For additional information or if you would like to register, please contact Ed & Vicki Philo at [vep@ymail.com](mailto:vep@ymail.com) or 517-605-0592

Sincerely,

Ed & Vicki Philo  
[vephilo@ymail.com](mailto:vephilo@ymail.com)



Bruce & Mellisa Thayer  
District Educators

# RIDER EDUCATION

“World Class Education”?

Welcome to the New Year! We hope everyone had a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. The New Year brings a whole new opportunity to do things differently. Or perhaps you have decided to stretch yourself and try something new, or even renew some of the things you have done right in the past. Have you already made your New Year’s resolutions? If you have, you can still add one or two more. And if you haven’t, it is not too late! One of the most important things that sets GWRRA apart from other motorcycle ‘clubs’ and organizations is our

Rider Education Program. Our mission is “To Save Lives Through Quality, World Class Education”. That phrase, world class education, got me to thinking. Does GWRRA really have the best Rider Education offered in any motorcyclist organization? Our own personal experience is limited to GWRRA and the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), the only other motorcycling group Melissa and I have been affiliated with. Our purpose in joining the AMA was to support their governmental activities that endeavor to protect the rights of all motorcyclists. When we belonged to the AMA we were not aware of any educational activities available.

So, due to our lack of personal experience with other organizations, we decided to do a little bit of research to see which motorcycling groups offered any kind of Rider Education, world class or otherwise. With a bit of help from Google and Wikipedia and the world-wide web, we searched on-line and found some info on several of the largest, best-known motorcycle groups. Here is what we found:

AMA – American Motorcyclist Association – With over 220,000 members, this is probably the largest group of motorcyclists, open to all, working in political circles on behalf of the motorcycling community, among other activities which include the sanctioning of motorcycle racing. The AMA does not have local chapters or clubs like other motorcycle groups. And as noted earlier, we are not aware of any training available to its members.

MSF – Motorcycle Safety Foundation – The MSF is a not-for-profit organization that is sponsored by 11 major motorcycle manufacturers including Harley Davidson and Honda. Most of you know of this organization, whose principal focus is on rider training courses to meet licensing requirements of many states. MSF courses are open to all motorcyclists for a reasonable fee. They are the principal state-endorsed rider training organization in the United States, responsible for Rider Course curricula and training, among other things. It is not a membership type group, but they pretty much set the standard in the United States for motorcycle rider course training, offering classes for beginning riders and experienced riders alike. (The GWRRA Rider Course offerings are similar in style and content to this benchmark training organization.)

CMA – Christian Motorcyclists Association – An evangelical motorcycle ministry group that works to spread the Gospel through its local chapters, this group has approximately 125,000 members. There are local chapters throughout the country and more than 30 chapters active in Michigan alone. The CMA appears to be a non-denominational religious and social organization, though it promotes the Christian faith. There is no reference to Rider Education on their national website.

H.O.G. – Harley Owners Group – Okay, who doesn't know this group? Did you know it is only for Harley owners, their friends and family? They are definitely affiliated with Harley-Davidson which operates the club. HOG promotes the H-D brand and lifestyle. And Harley-Davidson also operates the Rider's Edge motorcycle training program. Rider's Edge is not part of H.O.G. In other words, H.O.G. does not have a Rider Education program. It is a social organization with an emphasis on riding activities, and counts some 1 million members worldwide. But just to cover the details, the Rider's Edge training program offers classes for beginning riders and experienced riders available only through Harley-Davidson dealerships. The rider course training is similar to MSF classes, only longer (more hours) and much more expensive (upwards of \$250 per student).

BMWMOA – BMW Motorcycle Owners of America– Another brand-specific organization, this one promotes camaraderie and friendship. There is a BMW Performance Center that members can arrange training through at a 15% discount, but the classes range in price from \$595 to \$1995. These classes appear to be in cooperation with professional rider training courses such as Total Control and Keith Code's riding skills training. Like GWRRA, the BMWMOA is not owned or operated by the motorcycle company. They claim to have about 40,000 members around the world.

GWTA – Gold Wing Touring Association – This group is a spin-off from GWRRA and was formed in 1987. It has virtually cloned the GWRRA Rider Education Program, including having a very similar Levels Program and Rider Ed seminars.

Hells Angels – Yes, they still exist, with over 100 chapters worldwide. Did they ever do anything constructive for our society? Can anyone without a loud Harley-Davidson motorcycle and a handful of tattoos join? With such a high threshold to membership, maybe they don't need motorcycle training. Perhaps we should leave this group alone.

This is certainly not a complete listing of all the available motorcycle groups one could join, given the proper bike or relationship, but these are some of the larger and better-known organizations. Anyway, you get the idea. There are several sources for motorcycle rider training. But other than GWTA, which apparently copied the GWRRA program, none offer much else. And aside from MSF's training, their rider courses are much more expensive than GWRRA Rider Courses. There are many motorcycling groups based on: a particular brand (like Honda); a particular marque (model of bike, such as the Gold Wing); a style of riding (example: dual sport); a common set of beliefs (Christianity, for instance); or some other common thread or purpose. Of the entire spectrum of motorcycling organizations of all types, only the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, to our recently gained knowledge, places a significant emphasis on training motorcyclists – both riders and co-riders – as well as residents of their communities.

Collectively the GWRRA Rider Education Program encompasses a lot of ways to train, inform, advise and prepare our members to be better and safer riders and co-riders. We offer on-bike Rider Courses for motorcycles, trikes and sidecars. We offer seminars delivered in person and by recorded videos. Our Chapter Educators give regular talks to their members about riding safely, and they write articles (or submit something they read and wanted to share) for their chapter newsletters. Educators at the District, Region and International level also contribute articles for our membership. From the chapter level newsletters on up to our monthly Wing World magazine, GWRRA promotes, encourages and publishes articles on riding tips and strategies. These are all mechanisms for sharing the best ideas and techniques related to riding and safety on the road.

The Motorist Awareness Program (MAP) is another side of GWRRA's Rider Education offerings. The focus of MAP is to heighten awareness of all motorists in our communities through seminars, radio spots, and local newspaper articles. People that don't ride motorcycles need to be reminded that cars and trucks are not the only vehicles they need to look for when they are driving. Reminding our friends and neighbors to be aware that they share the roads with motorcycles, and the importance of consciously looking for motorcycles while driving, is key to making the roads safer for everyone. Nobody wants to be responsible for an accident, let alone an accident with a motorcyclist.

There is another important aspect to GWRRA's Rider Education Program. We refer, of course, to the Levels Program. The beauty of the Levels Program is that it encourages and provides incentive to members to start up the ladder in the Rider Education Program. The first step, or Level, is the easy one that anyone can make without too much thought. The member is simply asked if s/he will make the commitment to ride safely (rider and co-rider alike). With that, they are a Level I (one) Safe Rider (or Co-Rider). We have never encountered anyone who would not commit to ride safely. This level does not require any training. It does not require any renewal. It is a very easy step to take from any perspective. The training and preparedness steps beyond Level I allow participants to move up in the Levels Program. Most people recognize the benefits of the training, and the higher levels let everyone know you are serious about safe riding.

That is the beauty of the Levels Program. Especially with people who are competitive or like to climb to the pinnacle and be the best at whatever they do. Whether they see it as a race to the top, or think of it as a sign of their ability or competence, or view it as a prestigious achievement. Once they take that first step, they are often hooked. They feel the desire to progress to Level II, then Level III, and ultimately to Level IV – Master Tour Rider. By having a reward-like program that plays on the human need to excel, the members are encouraged to enroll in training to help them become better and safer riders and co-riders. This includes taking a rider course in a safe environment with trained coaches. It also includes learning CPR and First Aid (both are required for Level IV), which prepares them to know how to help in case they encounter an accident while they are out riding, or in any other situation. The Levels Program portion of the GWRRA Rider Education Program really was very ingeniously designed to motivate and encourage our members to strive to be the best and safest Riders and Co-Riders they can be. And we would suggest that they are the best in the world because of it!



GWRRRA offers Rider Courses, seminars, chapter newsletter and magazine articles, monthly talks at chapter Gatherings, not to mention parking lot practices. Can you think of a more complete way to approach rider education than this? We can't. This sounds to us like a full spectrum "World Class Education" program for motorcyclists!

So if it is not already one of your resolutions this year, perhaps you should consider adding several of these activities to your list of things to accomplish in 2013. If you are not already enrolled in the Levels Program, talk to your chapter educator or contact us, your Michigan District Educators. Or talk to anyone who is active in a GWRRRA chapter. They can steer you in the right direction. Remember, you are never too old to learn or to be reminded of good riding practices. We hope you have a GREAT year in 2013!

Ride Smart, Be Safe!

Bruce & Melissa

1800mi.ridered@gmail.com



Ken & Patti Kintner  
Web Master  
COY Coordinator

## Couple of the Year Coordinators

Hello Michigan Members!

As we start out the next year of FUN with GWRRRA we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

If you don't know by now – I'm Ken Kintner CD from Chapter W & took over the job of Web Master from Val Jones. Val did a great job in the past and I'd like to follow in her footsteps. and do my best to take care of the Michigan Members website needs.

I would like to make sure if any chapters need help with uploading newsletters that it can be a little confusing at first but after you do it a time or two it becomes very simple. At this time about 2/3rds of the chapters have been uploading their own and the rest are emailing it to me so I can then upload it for them. It would be REAL KOOL for me to have all the chapters doing this on their own!

Please give it a try and if it works for you – I'll give you an EXTRA HUG! Sorry guys but I'll give you an extra hand shake...

Here are the instructions step by step... It's probably best if the CD does the uploading – that way they can preview & proofread before it goes out. Either way the Chapter Director is responsible for the content.

**Go to the district website and click the button at the top header (submit)**

**Then click the Logon to Newsletter Upload button.**

**Chapter to upload: enter (your chapter newsletter login)**

**Chapter Password: enter (Your chapter upload password)**

**Then Click submit**

**A new page will open where you can click Browse button to locate your saved file that MUST be the same every month! It never changes!**

**(For example Chapter V's Newsletter name is: ChapterVNewsletter.pdf)  
When you have selected the file click the Upload button After the upload is finished your can click the logout button and or just close the window.**

**YOU DID IT!**

THEN – what I do with Chapter W is email out a link to the online newsletter INSTEAD of attaching it to the email...

It sends out a lot quicker and the members will download their email much quicker...

The link to your newsletter never changes and you can put it in the signature line of your emails like I do...

Example the Newsletter link for Chapter V is: <http://www.gwrra-mi.org/chapter/V/newsletter/ChapterVNewsletter.pdf> Note the last part is what your FILENAME must be (for chapter V)

Hope this helps... Any questions – feel free to call anytime!

Thanks, Ken Kintner –

Michigan District Webmaster & CD Chapter W

Ken@plenawee.com

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Michigan COY Coordinator

Hello I'm Patti Kintner, my husband Ken & I are CDs from Chapter W and I'm now the new Michigan Couple of the Year Coordinator. Ken & I were the Michigan District Couple in 2011. We had a great year and met many new friends in the process. Not just from Michigan but Indiana, Ohio and beyond.

We would like to extend our circle of friends to include all the Chapter couples and invite them to participate in the selection process at Wingless Weekend. Being selected or not – the entire process is fun and you meet new friends for life. Please encourage your chapter couple to contact Ken & I with any questions they may have about the process. Time is running short and we need to get organized with our selection process. Call Patti at 517-902-6222 or Ken at 517-902-8983 with any questions about the program and we can share our experience with you!

Happy New Year & see you at Wingless!

Patti Kintner

MI District COY Coordinator

Ken@plenawee.com



Rick & Esther Keeling  
2012—Michigan  
Couple of the Year

# Couple of the Year

We want to start by saying it's been an honor, to have the privilege to represent the State of Michigan. Esther and I have attended as many of Anniversary Parties, Fun Runs, and Rallies/Conventions that we could attend. I've said this before, is that the best part of G.W.R.R.A. are the opportunities, and the keyword in "opportunities" to enrich your lives. Being selected as Couple of the Year can literally change your life. Your circle of friends seems to get bigger and bigger. It's been a wonderful ride, and like all rides, they must end.

In March, the new District Couple will be selected at Wingless Weekend, in Lansing. So all of you current Chapter Couples of the Year, The Couple of the Year program is a wonderful way to enrich your lives. And future, and everybody is a future Couple of the Year. Take advantage of the opportunities G.W.R.R.A. has to offer. The Couple of the Year. Take advantage of the opportunities G.W.R.R.A. has to offer. The Couple of the Year program is a wonderful way to enrich your lives.

The current Chapter Couples of the Year should check into the District selection process, through your M.E.D., State website, contact Patti Kitner, District Couple of the Year Coordinator, or contact us Rick & Esther Keeling, your current District Couple of the Year. If you have any questions about the program. Remember you were selected because of who you are, just be yourself. That's what got you where you are right now.

Rick and I have done a lot of traveling this year and have had watched the selection process in, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and at Wing Ding in Fort Wayne, and participated at Region D. All of them are unique in their own way. Many great Couples from different occupations, and lifestyles.

We have had a Great time and will continue to have Fun and encourage others to come and have Fun with us!

Rick & Esther Keeling  
Rickesthermicoy2012@yahoo.com



Michigan Chapter-G, Grand Rapids is alive and well.

### The Midnight Riders

First our Chapter wishes all out there a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

We still have a few "die—hards" out there that continue to ride as long as the Sun is shining and the roads are clear. We had our annual Christmas

Party on December 15th with about 20 members present. The food was great, renewed friendships and meet some members that we haven't seen for some time.

We'll be attending the Wingless Weekend, which for my wife Jane and I will be a new experience. We've been members since June of this year and really enjoy being part of our Chapter G family. Every one has gone out of their way to make us feel comfortable and welcome.

Our Chapter Gathering is held on the second Sunday of the month at Cheshire Grill here in Grand Rapids, please stop on by for a visit. Our Website is: [GWRRA-MI-G.ORG](http://GWRRA-MI-G.ORG) for more information and schedule of events.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob Ungrey  
Chapter G District Newsletter Editor



Tom Taylor & Darlene

MI—Chapter J - Jackson, Michigan

A Great End to A Great Year!!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> times a charm!! Even if you don't believe in old wives tales you have to know that many of us felt the charmed when we captured the State Plaque after our 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to capture a traveling Plaque, any plaque. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 members of Chapter J traveled to Chapter Q in Sault Saint Marie to capture the state plaque and join in the festivities at their annual Christmas Party!!

It all started a few months ago when we got tired of monitoring the location of the traveling plaques. They were either too far or too close or the timing was not right etc. etc. So, we set our sights on the Region Plaque, it was in Fort Wayne and we decided it's been out of Michigan long enough. With some planning we thought our friends from Michigan's Upper Peninsula could come down and claim it. So, to prove our thirst for a plaque 19 of Chapter J's finest made the trip to Ft. Wayne with one thing in mind, bringing home the Region Plaque.

However, a fun but much smaller group from Detroit showed up at the last minute to ruin our plans. They clearly traveled the farthest distance and captured the plaque for Michigan, yeah,

[Chapter S2 - Detroit](#) *Motor City* Wings . Not to be discouraged we immediately scheduled a visit to Detroit on their next meeting day with again, one thing in mind, bringing home the Region Plaque.

This time 8 of Chapter J's plaque chasers made the trip to **Chapter S2 - Detroit** *Motor City* Wings only to be disappointed when Chapter "H2" Cleveland, Ohio The Northshore wings showed up with the minimum number required to claim the plaque for the state of Ohio and their chapter. After some looking we found the next opportunity to capture the region plaque was not until the end of February!!! Well we tasted blood and could not wait that long so...we set our sights on the state plaque in the Sault.

Now as they say the rest is history. Nine members of Chapter J's plaque chasers (Gordy & Ella May Rudolph, Gary & Carol Williams, Jeff & Terri Curtis, Randy Lea, Darlene and I) made the trip to the UP and did what had to be done!!! Yes we attended the party, yes we had a great time and yes we took home the plaque.

As they say, it's not the destination it's the journey and the company you keep. With that in mind I must say we had a great time chasing plaques the last few months and I must also say we are not done!!! Thanks to everyone for a great 2012. Darlene and I are looking forward to an even better 2013!!! Ride Safe and Ride Often T2



#### Chapter J-2—Clare, Michigan Shamrock Wings

My tenure of being a Chapter Director is almost over. In January, Bob & Kim Scott will be taking over Chapter J2. Clark & I have been Chapter Directors for 10 years and it is time for new ideas. We will not be going very far because Bob has ask Clark to continue helping with the newsletter and being the MEC. I will help with these positions. I keep being asked "How is it going to feel stepping down?" So much

has been going on with our families that it will seem nice to have a choice of being with them. I was a firm believer that if you take on a position, you be there for the activities planned. You can't do your best if you aren't around to go to the activities that your chapter plans. So throughout the 10 years, Clark & I tried to attend as much as we could, including outside our chapter. I thank all my staff throughout those 10 years for all they did to help. I just don't how to say THANK YOU enough. I can't leave out the District staff throughout those years either, for the information passed down to help keep our chapter going strong. Saturday night, February 2, 2012, Bob & Kim Scott and their new staff will be installed at the Clare VFW Hall (upstairs) at 7 pm with a dinner before. It would be nice to see as many as possible attend the installation. (After all, it has been a while since a complete change at J2). Please come and support the Scott's and their new staff. We feel very confident with the Scott's taking over and we are ready to step down. Thank You, Bob & Kim for stepping up.

Clark & Sandy Wentz  
989-435-4753  
[cewskw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cewskw@sbcglobal.net)





## Chapter Y—Houghton Lake, Michigan

### Wings of the North

Hello from Chapter Y

Our Chapter activities include our gatherings which are the second Sunday of the month. We gather at Fred's of Roscommon with breakfast at 9AM and the gathering at 10AM.

Every Wednesday we meet for dinner in our surrounding area, so look on our newsletter for each month on our calendar to see where we are going and come join us.

During the winter months we are not very active due to many of our members head for the Florida state and enjoying the warmth of the climate. If you are ever up our way, take time and visit us. We welcome all of you to our dinners or any of our events. Right now we are in the planning stages of our riding season so keep looking at our website and see what we have planned.

Duane & Laurel Lee Prince

Chapter Directors

[dnlprince@core.com](mailto:dnlprince@core.com)



## Chapter H—Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Canada

### Knights of the Hatchet

Hello from Chapter H Ontario

Wow it is hard to believe that there is only three weeks left in 2012. Plans are being made for next year's rides, campouts and rallies.

Our Chapter will finalize our ride schedule some time in January. Chapter H has two main events our annual Wawa Ride and our Camp-out. Last year we had to cancel our Wawa Ride which would have been our 17<sup>th</sup> annual, due to forest fires in the area. Hopefully we will once again be able to do this ride the second weekend in June which is the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we will post a flyer on our web page [www.on-h.org](http://www.on-h.org) with all the details as soon as we can.

Our Camp-out is September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the weekend after Labour Day, and as soon as the flyer is made we will post it also on our web page. So please check out our web page. For those who have not been to our camp-out or who have not heard of the Knights of The Hatchet we welcome you to come and be a member, we promise you that you will not be disappointed.

We ride every Tuesday around 6pm in the summer and have coffee around 7pm in the winter at the A & W.

Ken and Kathy Frechette

Sr. Chapter Directors

[kfrechette@shaw.ca](mailto:kfrechette@shaw.ca)

# GWRRA-MICHIGAN EVENT CALANDER 2013

## JANUARY

Date	Event	Where
2 .....	Chapter W—Dinner Ride. ....	Adrian, MI
3.....	Chapter A—Gathering .....	American Legion Sterling Heights. MI
5 .....	Chapter J-2 - After Christmas Party. ....	Dry Dock Hope, MI
19-20.....	OCP Classes. ....	Auburn Hills, MI
24-27 .....	Cabin Fever—Ohio Dist. . . . .	Mt. Sterling, Ohio

## FEBRUARY

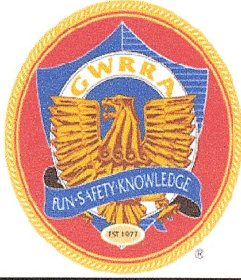
2.....	Chapter J-2 Officer Installation. ....	VFW Clare, MI
15-17.....	Winter Rendezvous—Indiana Dist . . . . .	Indianapolis, Indiana

## MARCH

1-2.....	<b>Wingless Weekend— Michigan District/ Officer’s Meeting</b>	Lansing, MI
23.....	Chapter G—Anniversary Party. ....	Grand Rapids, MI

## APRIL

13.....	Chapter Q-2 Anniversary Party. ....	Cass City, MI
20.....	Chapter C Anniversary Party. ....	Maybee, MI
28.....	Blessing of the Bikes Chapter A. ....	Sterling Heights, MI



**Gold Wing Road Riders Association**  
 Michigan District Wingless Weekend  
 March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
 Lexington-Lansing Hotel  
 "Gilligan's Island"  
 Come Castaway With Us !!



Please Type or Print CLEARLY .....

Riders Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GWRR #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-Riders Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GWRR #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Limited to 300 Persons - Envelopes **MUST** Be Postmarked No Later Than **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DRAWING - ONE of TWO FREE NIGHTS STAY AT WINGLESS WEEKEND !!  
 REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31st, 2012

GWRR Member: \_\_\_ X \$ 33.00      Non-Member: \_\_\_ X \$ 43.00      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Vegetarian Meal(s) Requested: (Please Circle)    1    2**

**Assigned Banquet Seating: - Please Designate: Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ or Other: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Note: If no choice is specified, seating will be assigned by the Michigan District Team**

Wingless Weekend Shirts with Logo: All Shirts Sales Are With Pre-Registration ONLY !!  
 Sizes 2X and 3X are an additional \$ 2.00

Short Sleeve T-Shirt with Logo: \$ 12.00 each ( \$ 14.00 for 2XL or 3XL)  
 Small: \_\_\_ Medium: \_\_\_ Large: \_\_\_ XL: \_\_\_ 2XL: \_\_\_ 3XL: \_\_\_      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Short Sleeve Golf Shirt with Logo: \$ 20.00 each ( \$ 22.00 for 2XL or 3XL)  
 Small: \_\_\_ Medium: \_\_\_ Large: \_\_\_ XL: \_\_\_ 2XL: \_\_\_ 3XL: \_\_\_      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Lexington Hotel Rates: \$ 88.00 Single / Double Beds  
 Do NOT Send Money for the Hotel. Read the Following: Upon Receipt of this form, You Will Be Sent A Special Hotel Room Reservation Card. To Reserve Your Room, You MUST Complete And Mail It To The Lexington Yourself. If You Are Sharing A Room With Another Couple Or Person, Please Send Both Registration Forms Together. Hotel Rates Are In Effect Until February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Make Check Payable To: GWRR of Michigan  
 Mail Payment To: Ronald Linn, GWRR of Michigan, District Treasurer, 1345 Peachwood Dr., Flint, MI. 48507  
 Any Questions, Please Call Ron At 810-239-5334 (Home) or 810-223-4404 (Cell)

Charge To Your Master Card, Visa, Or Discover Card ....

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We/I Do Agree To Conform And Comply With The Ideals Governing This Rally, And We/I Further Agree To Hold Harmless GWRR, Co-Sponsoring Organizations, And/Or Any Property Owner (s) For Any Loss Or Injury To Self Or Property In Which We/I May Become Involved By Reason Of Participating In This Rally. We/I Also Agree To Assume Responsibility For Any Property Which We/I Knowingly Damage. We/I Have Read This Entire Form. I Also Agree To The Credit Card Charges, If Applicable.

Riders Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Riders Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SORRY. NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 12TH, 2013 PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THIS FORM**