

Delta Wing Gazette



G W R R A R E G I O N H A R K A N S A S D I S T R I C T C H A P T E R W

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Well if you didn't make it to the Region H Convention, you missed an awesome time! It was great catching up with friends, trying new foods, and participating in some new activities! You can't have FUN if you don't PARTICIPATE!!

We had to move our dinner ride in March to the 1st of April because of the Region convention. We went to Big Butts in Leachville again and had a really good turnout. I sure will be glad when the weather decides to stay warm so we can ride the motorcycle to these functions.

Don't forget our meeting this month. It will be April 16th. We need everyone to bring your items for the basket to this meeting!!! We need to put it together to see what else we may need to go and get.



Bryan & Emily Dunham

Chapter Directors 2011

District Couple of the Year 2010-2011

(870) 278-5530

(870) 623-9091





Wing Wisdom Whittles

April 2011



PREPARED BY STEVE &
CAROLYN COTTON, REGION
H TRAINERS



“Whittles” articles are intended to provide information that can be presented by chapter members at monthly gatherings to help promote

A Growth Environment

There's just something about meeting with a group of positive, energetic, and creative people that stimulates my thoughts and spurs me to greater growth than I would be capable of on my own. We all tend to thrive in a positive setting.

One step you can take to increase your thinking power is to put yourself in a **growth environment**. If negativity is a powerful thought-buster, a growth environment is an even stronger **thought-booster**.

Here are eight characteristics of a growth environment:

Others are ahead of you. It's a sad day when you discover that, in every group you're in, you're at the top of your class. Such superiority might be good for your ego, but it's not healthy for your mental development. You will grow even more if you are in a group of people that you can learn from.

You are still challenged. It doesn't matter how young or old you are – if you're bored, you won't grow. Accept new challenges and ideas.

Your focus is forward. There's nothing wrong with remembering the past, especially if it increases your confidence or helps you to avoid repeating costly mistakes. But growth is impossible if you think your best days are behind you – look to the future.

The atmosphere is affirming. Think of how you felt the last time someone affirmed you when you were struggling with a difficult assignment or situation. I'm sure you'll agree that encouragement is a powerful motivator, especially in the midst of challenging circumstances.

You are out of your comfort zone. It's much easier to stick with what you know, but nobody ever achieved greatness by doing that. This is one of the benefits of working with creative thinkers – they stretch you and force you to look for answers outside your normal frame of reference. A friend of mine tells me to “Think Outside the Box”.

Failure is not feared. You may be hesitant to venture out of your comfort zone because you're afraid you'll fall flat on your face if you take a risk. But as Henry Ford once said, “Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently”.

Others are still growing. Yes, growth can be a group activity. It's often precipitated by less-than-ideal circumstances like increased competition, an economic downturn, the loss of key players, etc. But from a leadership standpoint, few things are more rewarding than watching your team become stronger through adversity.

There is a willingness to change. In a growth environment, you'll never hear anyone say, “But we've never done it that way before”. Not everyone embraces change with the same level of enthusiasm, but people who are committed to growth don't try to run away from it.



Wing Wisdom Whittles

January 2011



PREPARED BY STEVE &
CAROLYN COTTON, REGION
H TRAINERS



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If you're not currently participating in a growth environment, I encourage you to do what you can to make it one. **Take the lead – and others will follow.** When it comes to growth, there is definitely a trickle-down effect. Look at your calendar this year – what sort of events / meetings / activities have you planned for our GWRRR Members to help them?

I also want to share with you 12 pretty good rules that have been passed to me by a Navy Captain shortly after September 11, 2001. The first eleven were found in an FBI agent's home that died in that attack, and the Captain added the 12th.

12 Pretty Good Rules:

Always give 100%.

Listen.

Care about each other as individuals. Be loyal.

Do not tolerate sloppy, lazy, or incompetent work.

Support your boss. Think ahead.

Practice the three C's: communicate, cooperate, and coordinate.

Strive to be of service. Reject the “It's not my lane in the road” attitude.

Work hard, and play hard.

Laugh.

Be quick to praise.

Be honest.

Give thanks every day for the freedom and liberty you enjoy.

SAFETY

RIDER ED 'GIMME 5'

TOPIC: Team Riding Responsibilities

In GWRRA we are always doing things in groups. We meet our fellow chapter members and ride together for a weekly dinner run. Or we join each other for a weekend breakfast before going on a run. Or we make an ice cream run together on a weekly basis. Most chapters have this kind of camaraderie and fellowship in one form or another. Then there are the monthly Gatherings where we meet and eat and have fun. And the rides to visit other chapters and support them at their Fun Run or Anniversary Party or Pig Out, and various other events that chapters put on. Much of the time we ride together in groups traveling to and from our various destinations.



Whenever we ride in groups, someone is in the Lead position. Hopefully, it is one of our GWRRA-trained Road Captains. In our chapter, it is someone whom we trust, respect and have confidence in. Someone with good judgment who is prepared to lead the group from the starting point all the way to our destination. Someone who has a planned route and shares it with all who join the ride. S/He holds pre-ride meetings with all participants to tell us the route, advise us of any stops along the way, and discuss our speed on the road. Our Lead may ask questions about who is on medication, who may need to stop at shorter intervals (perhaps due to a smaller gas tank), who has a CB radio and who does not, etc. Our Road Captain covers hand signals for riders that are new to our group, too. Our Road Captain has been leading our rides for a few years now. We don't think twice about following him/her because s/he never lets us down. We always arrive safely when we follow our Road Captain. We are very fortunate to have such a capable Road Captain in the Lead!

We also have another Road Captain, trained in the GWRRA way, to bring up the rear of the group. This is our Drag bike, or Tail Gunner. These two (Lead & Drag) work together like Lennon and McCartney. The Drag seems to know what the Lead is thinking, securing the lane almost as the thought passes through the mind of our Lead. They communicate well with each other and with the rest of the *team*. They let the group know what is going on around us. They inform us about things, like telling us we will be turning – in advance of the turn; when a car is attempting to pass the group on a 2-lane road; or when a car is passing on the right when we are on the highway. Our Lead and Drag always keep us aware of hazards on the road and all around us. We know they are looking out for the safety of the group. With Road Captains of this caliber, we feel very safe. We know we can enjoy the ride and watch the scenery with these two in charge.

Wait! Stop right there! We *all* need to remember that even those of us in the middle of the formation have responsibilities. We are responsible to pass on the hand signals from the Lead, such as for single file, stagger formation, pointing out potholes and road kill, sand in the corners, and other hazards, etc. We need to be aware who we are riding with, too. The burden is not all on the Road Captains. We cannot sleep because we ride in the middle of the pack. We need to maintain safe spacing with the other bikes around us. And most importantly, we need to ride our own ride. We *must* stay alert. Hazards don't always appear in front of the Lead bike. Sometimes they come at the riders in the middle of the group. We need to be aware of our surroundings and always be prepared to react to the unexpected at all times. We must remember that, just because our Road Captain is leading us, we are not excused from thinking for ourselves and riding our own ride. We are *all* responsible for our own safety at *all* times. *Never* give that responsibility away. It is nice to have someone willing to help look out for your safety, but ultimately, it is your life. Guard it wisely! Be sure to ride your own ride, even while Team Riding!

Ride Smart & Be Safe!

Bruce & Melissa Thayer

Former MI Asst. District Rider Educators

The Big Bad Wolf



Oh my goodness, I had so much fun in Plano, TX. Cocoa Bear was with us. You should have been there. Everyone even took a bus to Red Lobster and left me in the room but I heard they really had a good time, wish I could have been there. As usual the riders got wet but I was safely tucked in the trailer so I stayed nice and dry, I'm really glad because that hail would have given me a headache—just ask Bryan. It was really cold coming back to Arkansas but on Wednesday when we were going to TX it was 90 degrees. Mildred even got a sunburn while doing the bike show on that Saturday.



I hear the next convention will be in Louisiana, I been there before and man do they know how to have FUN!!! I hope that we get to but haven't heard yet. Then we will get to

go to Rider Ed weekend, got to be sure and get some more knowledge on how to stay safe while riding.

LET'S RIDE RIDE and RIDE some more



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Vana Miller 4/19

Bryan Dunham 4/21

Wayne Miller 4/26

ANNIVERSARIES

none

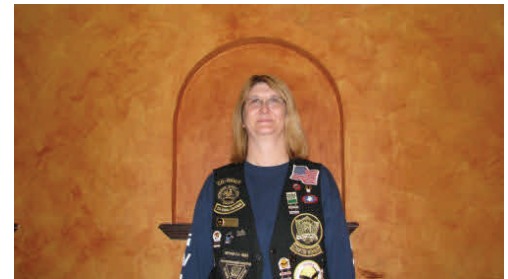
GWRRRA JOIN DATE

none

NEW MEETING TIME &
PLACE!!!

*GWRRRA Chapter W-Blytheville
Delta Wings
Meets the 3rd Saturday of the Month
At Plum Point Inn & Restaurant
On Highway 140 in Osceola*

MEC-MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR



Another month has flown by. The weather is getting much nicer; we have had some nice riding days already but just think it's only going to get better. Hope everyone had a good time at the Region Convention. Arkansas did their part to help the Region---we all did multiply things to help every day and had some great laughs. It was nice to see so many good friends. Arkansas brought home bike and light show trophies, mascot acknowledgment, longest distant, youngest rider and co-rider. We want to congratulate Bryan and Emily-they may not have become the Region Couple but they had the courage to compete and they have represented Arkansas well. We are very proud of them. Oh my gosh the ride home was wet and cold but we were all prepared---we had all our riding gear, our rain gear and we of course drove safe and smart.

Next will be the Louisiana Convention---I'm sure they have lots of FUN planned.

Then we need to get ready for Rider Ed Weekend, April 15 & 16th!!!! We hope that everyone has looked over the flyer and found something you want to take. Remember to keep your Level current you may need to take a seminar, if you are unsure the check with your chapter educator; they will be able to let you know. There will be riding course, seminars, and CPR. Some of the classes require preregistration so be sure to check the web site, get your forms in and any payment that might be required.

We have got a lot of GREAT fun planned for Arkansas District Convention so be sure to mark your calendars. You might be surprised at the fun you will have. We hope to see everyone there; we want to see all our friends. We want Arkansas to have the Best turnout of all the districts this year, let's make it happen. Make your reservations for Rogers, AR now.

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE

Mildred Glasscock
870-623-0728

From your ARKANSAS



District Directors

Wow, where did March go? Well I have learned that you can not get it back, so we shall go forward. We had a great time at the Region Convention, Your District Pine Derby car didn't do so well, but the track is coming to Arkansas and your car will get another chance. I was truly hoping to see a few more Arkansas faces there, but we know that our schedules can only hold so much.

I hope that as the Arkansas Convention approaches all of us will make plans to be there. Deadline for pre-registration is April 15th, so please get your calendars out and make plans.

Your District Team is working extremely hard to accomplish the 2011 goals that have been set, and I want to personally thank them for their hard work and time that they are sacrificing for the District. Remember that our goals can not be reached without each and everyone of us doing our part, so again I am asking for every participant of every chapter to come out and participate in everything that you can.

There are a few chapters tied so far with the Spirit Stick award, but there are many more opportunities to get your chapter in the running. Remember if you see the Spirit Stick at any event, go to the person that has it and make sure your chapter has received credit for being at the event.

The schedule has started off in a dead run, we have Louisiana's convention on April 7-9, then Rider ed weekend is the following weekend April 15-17, and we end the month with our first Chapter rally on the 30th with Chapter H. If you think that is a full month don't look at May because every weekend has a rally or convention.

Well the challenge is set before us and I personally am ready to take it on, yes it is a lot of time and money, but to represent Arkansas at every event is worth it. Will you join me?

I am looking forward to seeing all of you.

Remember,
If it looks like a good day to ride,
it probably is.

Chris and Pam DePriest



ARKANSAS

DISTRICT STAFF

District Directors

Chris & Pam DePriest
130 George Nic Road
Beebe, AR 72012
director@argwrra.org
(501) 882-9172

District Educators

Jim & Bonita Goodman
55 Eastland County Cove
Ward, AR 72176
educator@argwrra.org
(501) 743-8901

District Trainers

Larry & Brenda Penepent
818 Sparksford Drive
Russellville, AR 75802
trainer@argwrra.org
(479) 858-7188

District Webmasters

Bill & Belinda Shryock
5959 Glenwood Drive
Benton, AR 72019
webmaster@argwrra.org
(501) 940-1933

Assistant District Directors

Ken & Rhonda Holmes
222 Chateau Drive
Dover, AR 72837
asst_director@argwrra.org
(479) 968-5179

District Treasurer

Connie Brandon
13682 West Highway 72
Hiwasee, AR 72739
treasurer@argwrra.org
(479) 685-2268

District COY

District Ambassadors
Bryan & Emily Dunham
3602 North County Rd 729
Blytheville, AR 72315
district_couple@argwrra.org
(870) 278-5530 Bryan
(870) 623-9091 Emily

Assistant District Directors

Johnny & Mildred
Glasscock
1109 S. Parkside
Blytheville, AR 72315
johnnywg@swbell.net
(870) 623-5348

By the Book

By: Steve Cotton
Region H Trainer

The "By the Book" articles are intended to help familiarize GWRRA Volunteer Leaders and Members with the policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer's Handbook (OHB). A copy of the Officer's Handbook can be found at www.gwrro.org - Click on the Officer Connection tab at the bottom of the page; then select Officer's Handbook in the upper right hand corner. Please feel free to re-print these articles in Region, District, or Chapter newsletters.

Thanks to Harry Dollarhide (former Region H Trainer, and current Region H Director) for the inspiration to write this month's article based on ideas he wrote in July 2005. Revisions have been made to keep it current.

The Chapter and the Chapter Director

The majority of all GWRRA activity occurs at the chapter level. In fact, most Members will have very little direct contact with any Officers higher than the Chapter level, and the Chapter and the Chapter Participants are the life-blood of our Association. This month we will discuss a few of the traits of an outstanding Chapter Director. Keep in mind although "Chapter Director" is technically a "singular" term, we are speaking of the Chapter Director as a "team". From our experience in leadership positions, it was my "Better Half" that accounted for a significant amount of the success we enjoyed. But, someone has to take the credit, so I stepped up for that!

In talking about duties, staffing, and responsibilities of the Chapter Director, please refer to the Officer's Handbook pages C-4, and D-4 through D-8.

Now for some winning traits of great Chapter Directors:

The first and foremost reason anyone should assume the position of Chapter Director is **benevolence** – that is, for the betterment of the entire chapter. They should be principle-centered and caring individuals. All decisions should be made with the input of the Chapter Team, the entire Chapter Membership (even though obtaining input from the chapter may be a challenge in and of itself), and will be made with the pure and best interest of the Chapter Membership as a whole. This is one of the reasons why a District Director will follow an interview procedure to select the best possible person to lead a Chapter.

The second trait of a successful CD is a **positive attitude!** This sounds so simple, but consider how you feel when you organize rides, plan events, etc. and the participation is minimal at best? It is so easy to express the depressing, negative emotions you may feel. How can you remain positive? You will need to **consciously remember** and **practice** this simple technique: specifically look for and convey the positives, while intentionally ignoring the negatives.

For example, you spend hours organizing a ride, creating a route, selecting a restaurant, etc. and only 2 or 3 bikes show up. What does that really matter? The reason for the ride was for the enjoyment of the Chapter, whether it is for 1 Member or 20 Members, and this relates back to trait #1 (benevolence – that is, for the benefit of the entire chapter).

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The third trait I will mention is that a great Chapter Director will practice **inclusiveness**. My meaning here is the **opposite of exclusiveness**. The Chapter Director should greet all Chapter Participants and guests to welcome them to their activities. It really helps to learn their names also! The CD should consciously avoid and discourage cliques. Ideally, the CDs will spend very little time at Chapter Gatherings associating with the Chapter Team, but rather spend this time associating with Members (or guests) who are seen least often, to help them feel welcome.

Those of you that have ever taken a seminar I have presented will remember I always ask, "**How many of you were at one time a new member?**" Of course, everyone raises a hand, and then I remind everyone how good it felt when someone took time to visit with you. Make the visitors and guests feel welcome. Who knows, even those infrequent participants may become more involved with just a little acknowledgement and encouragement. Some CDs specifically request their Teams to NOT sit together at Chapter Gatherings or restaurants, but rather to help increase the feeling of inclusiveness throughout the Membership. This will help all Chapter Participants to feel included, and reduce or eliminate any perception of a "team clique".

The fourth and last item I will share this month is that great Chapter Directors will always treat the Membership with the utmost **respect**, and **set the tone** for others to do the same. People will come back to a gathering they enjoy being a part of - we all deserve respect from each other. Even in times of a possible "heated" discussion, take the time to "count to ten" and think about what you are going to say, before something comes out of your mouth that you wish you could take back. Good leaders will always get the message across in a positive and encouraging manner.

While these are considered important traits for a Chapter Director to have, they are actually good traits for everyone to possess! And even though these are not the only traits of an outstanding CD, these four are important ones based on our experiences.

Learn Something New...Then Teach Someone!

Steve and Carolyn Cotton
Region H Trainers

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					April Fool's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				LA District Con- vention Lafayette, LA	LA District Con- vention Lafayette, LA	LA District Con- vention Lafayette, LA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Rider Ed Week- end Morrilton, AR	Chapter W Meeting Rider Ed Week- end Morrilton, AR
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Vana Miller's Birthday		Bryan Dunham's Birthday	Dinner Ride- Applebee's Dyersburg, TN	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter		Wayne Miller's Birthday				Chapter H Con- vention Batesville, AR

GWRRA Chapters in Arkansas

<i>CHAPTER</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT /PHONE</i>	<i>MEETING DATE/ TIME</i>	<i>MEETING PLACE</i>
<i>AR-A</i>	<i>Little Rock</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>3rd Saturday Eat 8am Meet 9am</i>	<i>Frontier Diner, LR I-30 W frontage rd near Baseline</i>
<i>AR-B</i>	<i>Springdale</i>	<i>Frank & Sharon Maxwell (479)855-2278</i>	<i>2nd Saturday Eat 9am Meet 10am</i>	<i>Golden Corral, Rogers I-540 Exit 81 Pleasant Grove Rd</i>
<i>AR-C</i>	<i>Cabot</i>	<i>Roy & Georgia Dillinger (501)944-4705</i>	<i>1st Saturday Eat 9 am Meet 10 am</i>	<i>The Diner 3286 S. 2nd St #B Cabot</i>
<i>AR-D</i>	<i>Jonesboro</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>1st Sunday Eat 1:30 Meet 2:30</i>	<i>Western Sizzlin</i>
<i>AR-E</i>	<i>Hot Springs</i>	<i>Richard & Jean Penuel (501)922-4185</i>	<i>4th Saturday Eat 9am Meet 10am</i>	<i>Hester's Restaurant Travel Lodge Grand & Central</i>
<i>AR-H</i>	<i>Batesville</i>	<i>Tom & Chris Wammack (870)307-8661</i>	<i>Varies, Please check latest Newsletter or Call</i>	
<i>AR-J</i>	<i>Russellville</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>1st Saturday Eat Noon Meet 1pm</i>	<i>Western Sizzlin 105 E Main-Hwy 64</i>
<i>AR-L</i>	<i>Conway</i>	<i>Bud & Jan Danner (501)730-0827</i>	<i>3rd Saturday Eat 5pm Meet pm</i>	<i>Smitty's BBQ 740 Harkrider (Hwy 365)</i>
<i>AR-P</i>	<i>Mountain Home</i>	<i>John & Susan Sparks (870)424-2529</i>	<i>3rd Saturday Eat 12pm Meet 1 pm</i>	<i>Western Sizzlin Mountain Home</i>
<i>AR-R</i>	<i>Van Buren</i>	<i>Garry & Phyllis Floyd (479)474-1560</i>	<i>4th Saturday Eat 9am Meet 10am</i>	<i>Sister's Bistro 719 Main</i>
<i>AR-W</i>	<i>Blytheville</i>	<i>Bryan & Emily Dunham (870)278-5530</i>	<i>3rd Saturday Eat 9 am Meet at 10 am</i>	<i>Plum Point Inn Osceola, AR</i>
<i>AR-X</i>	<i>Clarksville</i>	<i>Robert & Paula Dolonski</i>	<i>4th Saturday Eat 5:00pm</i>	<i>Western Sizzlin Meet 6pm</i>