



# WingWords

MARCH 3, 2008

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE II

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## From your directors...

I hope all is well with everyone. It is snowing outside as I write this, and I keep daydreaming of a cool spring day—sunny and clear open road. Our Chapter calendar is in print and will be ready for the March meeting. Our big Chapter Fundraiser is just around the corner. (more about that later from the Assistant Chapter Directors) The following is a synopsis from the District meeting that your Directors attended.

### District meeting news:

- *Life Membership*—GWRRA is bringing back the Life Membership program. There was a write up in the December issue of Wing World.
- *Tenure Program*—There has also been a change in the tenure program. Now, all officers at all levels are committed to a one-year term, but there are no longer any limits on the number of years you can volunteer.
- *Membership cards*—The original member plus the -01 are free. Any additional family members who want cards will be charged \$5.
- *Chapter of the Year Program*—I thought that we would not qualify because we are short on staff, but was told that this is not true. When we are short staffed, I must fill in that position and GWRRA national has requested that all chapters participate...
- *Motorist Awareness Division*—There is a change. MAD program is being restructured and will now be a part of the Rider Education Division. We will no longer have the responsibility of speaking with the motorcyclist, but will work with the Educators at the various levels to assist in presenting this information to the riders. Our main focus is on getting the word out to the non-motorcyclists. There are PowerPoint presentations on the GWRRA.org website under the Rider Education heading.
- *Advance Rider Course*—GWRRA is working on a new advanced rider course (ARC), which will take the place of the ERC course.
- *Levels Program*—There are changes coming for the Levels Program—more information to come.
- *District Rides*—There will be rides hosted by The District similar to last year. They will be on the Chapter Ride Calendar.

**Mark & Marie DeBarge**

*Chapter Directors*

## From your assistant directors...

### **Rays of Hope Benefit Dance**

Our Chapter Benefit Dance is just around the corner. We could use a few more workers, and, of course, we need door prizes. As you receive prizes, please let me know so that I can add them to the Sponsor Board. Please bring all door prizes to the next meeting or call me, and we will try to get together to pick up the prizes. We will also need snacks for the dance. Please bring something. No popcorn please! Ticket sales are down, so please talk up the dance and please try to sell tickets. Hang flyers wherever you think they will be seen. I even have one in the back window of my car. The flyer is on web site. The \$12 price will end on March 15<sup>th</sup>, after that the price is \$15 per ticket.

### **Bill & Darlene Clark**

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*Assistant Chapter Directors*

### ...rider education...

Borrowed from Colorado Chapter Q  
With a Little change from myself (Mark)

**"Duh" Fact One:** The lower the ambient air temperature, the colder you'll be. (As I wrote this on New Year's Day, the official thermometer reading was -3 degrees F. That's pretty doggone cold!)

**"Duh" Fact Two:** The more breeze, the colder you'll feel. With a light morning breeze, the wind chill factor was minus 18 degrees F.

**"Duh" Fact Three:** The higher the humidity, the colder you'll feel. The humidity (boosted by snow and ice on streets and lawns) was 72 percent, quite a bit higher than usual.

**"Duh" Fact Four:** Temperature falls with an increase of altitude. Well, usually. Up in Telluride, the temperature was plus 7 degrees. Montrose's frigid air was being held in by an inversion.

**"Duh" Factor Five:** Lost body heat is lost—unless or until you replace it. And herein is where we motorcyclists should learn something from snowmobile fanatics. In the earliest days of snowmobiles, riders quickly learned to extend their rides and increase their pleasure—not to mention their safety—by using electrically heated clothing. The electrical system on your car, truck, snowmobile or motorcycle stores direct current electrical energy in its battery. You can plug into this source and heat a whole suit, separate pants, a jacket, jacket liner, a vest, socks, gloves, or any combination of these. On most GoldWings, there's plenty of wattage available to power heated clothing for two while riding. Your Wing's battery does not produce electrical power—it merely stores it.

If you connect your Widder or Gerbing's electrical clothing to your battery and do nothing to replenish the power, eventually the drain will exhaust the supply and your battery will go dead. Zap—no warmth, no lights, no radio, no start. Your Wing's alternator replenishes your battery as long as the engine is running at a normal cruising level—say 2200 rpm—unless you've got a walloping big electrical load from added lights or other accessories. As a rule, if your bike has a voltmeter, it should be showing about 14.5 volts while riding with everything turned on. This will keep everything and everyone happy. (If it's reading less, either you've got to turn off some gadgets or get ready to start pushing the bike!) How do you determine whether the cost of electrically heated clothing is worth the investment? That's a personal decision. First visit the Widder and Gerbing's websites and see how affordable these items are.

Now, some folks claim to be tough—they can stand the cold. But few people drive around during these winter months with their car windows rolled down and the heater turned off. Most people don't know what they haven't experienced. Once you've experienced a heated jacket and gloves, you'll know what I mean. By the way, one of our newsletter advertisers, Popoli's Honda, stocks a complete line of Gerbing's clothing. Give them a call—they're very nice, informative folks. Till next time, I hope you have a safe ride,

### ...and in other news...

If anyone has anything **bike-related** they'd like to sell and would like it included in the newsletter, please send a note to either Mark & Marie DeBarge ([gwchptd@comcast.net](mailto:gwchptd@comcast.net)), Bill Clark ([bclark51@charter.net](mailto:bclark51@charter.net)), or Darlene Clark ([humbug47@aol.com](mailto:humbug47@aol.com))

## Monthly Features

Attendance: 26 Members  
Guests:  
New member:

Next Meeting: March 17, 2008  
B'Shara's, West Springfield, MA  
7:30 pm

**Next Month: The return of the Birthday Listing!**