

Big Sky Region I



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News and Views for December 2011

COMMUNICATION

Recently all the Districts completed their annual meetings. I happened to check a social media site the other evening and saw that recognition was given to some for their help and support. My immediate thought was "what if those people don't use the social site - how will they know?" Of course they won't know unless we use the more traditional ways of telling others about the good things people do and say. I recall when email was the new-fangled method of communication. Now some seventeen years later, it is common place and other mediums are popping up every day. My point is simple, if you use one, use the others also, to recognize and praise the members who step forward and help the other members.

This leads me to wanting all the District Directors to take a look at their chapters and membership and see who is due some special recognition. The Region Director's Award for Excellence is waiting to be given to a special person. The only thing I need is a written recommendation. It brings the person more recognition for their efforts and contributions. Of course, I add in a registration for two to the Region rally. So take a look and see if you don't have that person right there in front of you who deserves something special just for them. Do you have people serving in leadership positions that qualify for senior status? Again, we just need to make the recommendation. None of your staff work for free! They receive recognition from you and that is just what they deserve.

December is a busy month, and year-end financials are due by January 15th. An early start getting things in order always helps. Remember the 990N Post Card filing can be done just after January 1st.

- 2012 rally planning continues and more great things are being added
- The Region I buckle is selling well. Have you reminded the chapters to get their orders placed? Only about 20 of the serial numbered ones are left.
- Are you planning to attend Wing Ding this coming year? Region I has door prize responsibility and volunteers are needed to man this duty.
- 2012 planning. Have you shared with the other District Directors your thoughts and training needs? I suggest a monthly email to stay in touch with your peers.
- Wing World officer listing. Please check monthly to make sure your Chapter Directors are listed correctly.

2011 has been a great year for Peggy and me. We have learned a great deal while settling in as your Region Directors. As we enjoy Thanksgiving with our real family, you will not be far from our thoughts. We enjoy your friendship and

COY/IOY Coordinators
OPEN

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We wish you Holidays filled with the peace of the season, the warmth of family and friends, and the joy of sharing smiles and laughter.

support and hope you had a great Thanksgiving. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Mike and Peggy Hudnell
Region I Directors



A FEW WORDS FOR DECEMBER

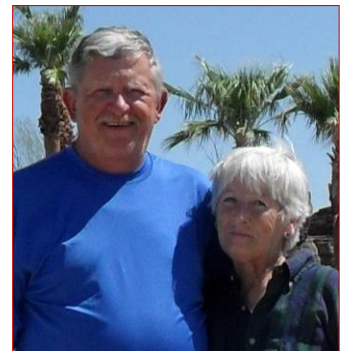
Just wanted to wish everybody a Happy Holiday and hope you get all the "safety chrome" you asked for.

Terry and Cheri Huffman
Assistant Region I Directors
Oregon District Directors



HELLO FROM ARIZONA

I've been sitting here wondering what I should write about. Maybe I should write about 10 region members (six on bikes) attending the AZ District Convention October 29-30 in Tucson... no, Mike will do that (ask him about the Talent Show). Maybe about Terry Huffman's ride home and being towed off the snowy pass, or his flat tire... no, he'll do that. Maybe about the centennial motorcycle helmet Dean Kalles took home, paying honor to the Fire Departments of 9/11... no, Dean will want to show that off. Whatever - there were a lot of great memories made that weekend and we enjoyed seeing all who joined us. (See page 7 for some pictures.)



I've seen the weather around the Region and most of you are suffering from PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome). Your bike may be parked, but your mind could be planning the District and Region Conventions/Rally that you'll attend next year. Maybe it's that trip to Wing Ding, or Alaska, or wherever. Remember, it's the ride, not the destination. I won't bore you with details, but it's 70 degrees and sunny here in Arizona.

Shirley and I would like to thank each and every one of you for enhancing our GWRRRA participation during 2011, and we look forward to seeing you in 2012. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dale and Shirley Dufner
Assistant Region I Directors



LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN THE REGION

The last of the Leadership Training Program classes this year were conducted in November. Several members took advantage of these opportunities for becoming seminar presenters, i.e. LTP and/or RE Instructors, for becoming Certified Officers, and for gaining information about GWRRA policies and procedures, i.e. how and why the Association operates.



- An Instructor Development & Certification Program (IDCP) class was conducted on November 12th in Buckley, Washington by Master Instructor Mike Briggs. The class was planned, organized, and supported by the Washington District Trainer, Roy McKenzie. Two members from the Montana District, four members from the Oregon District, and four members from the Washington District successfully completed the IDCP class. As soon as these members conduct either a LTP or a RE seminar, in those subjects, with a Senior or Master Instructor present, they will be Certified Instructors. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!
- An Officer Certification Program (OCP) class was conducted on November 19th and 20th in Selah, Washington (a Yakima suburb). The former WA M Chapter Director, Ron Hafsos, was extremely helpful in arranging a conference room at no cost and coordinating our stay in the area. *Thanks to Ron! It couldn't have come together in such short notice without him.* Seven members who participate in the WA M Chapter, including soon-to-be WA M CDs – ACD – Treasurer – COYs, successfully completed the OCP class. A member participating in the WA P Chapter and the Washington District Couple (WA L) also successfully completed the class. The Washington District Director, Susie Hutchinson, also attended the class – as a refresher after her earlier OCP training as a CD – and again successfully completed the class. The class was conducted by the Washington District Trainer, Roy McKenzie, and also Dianne and John Kester, Region I Trainers. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

*John & Dianne Kester 208-524-1768
Region I Trainers*



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR EDUCATOR

Well, what a year this has been. I've gone from Chapter Educator to District Educator and Region Educator. This has been a ride I will never forget. I've had the opportunity to work with so many great members. I made lots of new friends. Learned so much my head hurts. I'm looking forward to 2012 and hope this ride keeps going so well. I wish to thank all of the members of GWRRA - it is because of you that both Washington District and Region I have done so well in the area of Rider Education. My heart goes out to all of you, and now that the holidays are here, I wish you the best and a great new year in 2012.



Now down to Rider Education for the month. As you can see, we are into the cold weather time of the year. For most of you, it's that time we have put our bikes to sleep for the long winter nap. This is not the time for us to take a nap, since we can use this time to take Seminars and First Aid Updates. Ask your Educator to put on some of the new seminars just released in the past few months. If you take the time to learn more now, you will be bettered prepared for the upcoming riding season in 2012. If you can't find a seminar presenter, contact me and I'll help to get you setup. Another option is to come to the 2012 Washington District Rider Education Workshop on February 11th in Buckley. See the Washington District website for the flyer coming soon. As in the past, we are already well into the planning stage and are setting up great presenters, such as Dottie with her great CPR/First Aid update and Tom from DOL to talk about Washington Motorcycle changes and more. The all new Co-Rider Seminar will be put on for those who need to get their levels current. We'll have this and much more, so come check it out.

The Region Team is also working hard on lots of classes that will be presented at the 2012 Region Convention in August, including ARC's and more. Watch for more on this as the New Year takes off.

One last reminder: we're not mind readers, so if you have any thoughts on Rider Education needs, please pass them on to the Educators so we can make things happen for 2012.

Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year

Bob and Becky Minor
Region I Educator/Washington District Educator



SOME REMINDERS FOR DIRECTORS AND TREASURERS

This is the time of year when our jobs as Directors (District and Chapter) and Treasurers (again District and Chapter) become a little more demanding. Why? Well, because this is the time of year when financial reports will be coming due, charter fees must be collected and paid, and the dreaded IRS 990N's must be filed.

I am sure most of you have, or are in the process of, collecting Charter Fees from your Chapters. Once you have the fees collected from all your Chapters, write one check payable to the Home Office (GWRRA) and send in the fees. I recommend you send along a list of the Chapters for which you are sending fees, so both you and the Home Office have a record of the Chapters represented by these fees (it helped me a few years ago when the Home Office thought there was an error in my transmission).



The next deadline we face is the filing of the 990N Electronic Post-Card. This should be done as soon after January 1st as possible. Yes, I know this year since the first is on Sunday, the 2nd is a Holiday, so take an extra day. The point is to do it at your first opportunity after the first so you can get the E Postcard confirmation back in time to attach to your Financial Reports. Also remember to forward a copy (of the confirmation) to the Home Office at 990n@gwrra.org. I recommend the use of the GWRRA Power Point program which is available on the Region I web site. Make hard copies of the slides for the filing of the 990N, which will provide you (or your Chapters) with a step-by-step process for completing the filing. There are several steps and the Power Point program walks you right through it.

In January, the Annual Financial Reports are also due. Remind yourselves and your Chapters that these reports are due by January 15th. All the current forms are available on the Region I web site and can be downloaded to your District sites, or your Chapters can download them directly from the Region web site. There are some changes, so direct your Chapters to throw away all their old forms and download the new ones (which are available in both PDF and Word versions for your convenience). If you receive outdated forms, it is your responsibility to send them back to the Chapter and require them to use the current forms. (That is what I will do if you use the wrong forms when you send me your District Financial Packages.) Obtaining Bank statements can be challenging, but you can always walk into your bank and ask them to print-off a statement as of Dec 31st for you. Any bank I have dealt with has always been happy to do that for me. Or if you have on-line banking, you can print one from your computer.

If there is a Director or Chapter change happening at the end of the year, it is the retiring Director's responsibility to complete the 990N filing and the Annual Financial Package. And retiring Directors, don't forget to have the new Directors complete an IRS 8822 (Change of Address form) so the IRS knows you are no longer responsible for IRS records for the District or Chapter.

Well, there you have it - the check list for the end of the year reports. Actually, if you have kept good records throughout the year, the Annual Financial Reports aren't that difficult. Probably the biggest issue is

just doing them. And the 990N really isn't that hard if you follow the slides in the Power Point program.

Finally, if you have problems or questions, always feel free to call me at 360-249-3463 or email me at ervg@comcast.net.

Erv and Phyllis Granahan
Region I Treasurers



FROM YOUR REGION MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT OFFICERS:

As the year draws to a close – a huge thank you to the Membership Enhancement Team for all their hard work with the retention initiative!!! You've all done a fantastic job!!! You are wonderful to work with. Enjoy your holiday season.

It's time for a holiday poem, courtesy of the Internet:

'Twas the night before Christmas, and not until Spring,
Would an engine be running, not even a Wing.
The bikes are all sleeping, they're covered and warm
Batteries are tended, nylon covers their form.

My bros were all nestled snug in their beds,
While visions of new chrome danced in their heads.
And I in my doo-rag, bike jacket and boots,
Out shoveling snow, and dreaming of scoots.

Then from the horizon there came such a clatter,
My shovel I dropped, what could be the matter?
Away up the hill, I slogged through the snow,
Looked up at the sky, where'd all that noise go?

A throb from the heavens like straight pipes so hearty,
Gave summer's good thoughts, a loud biker's party.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an 1800, red trailer in rear.

With a little old rider, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than Crotchies his Wing came on,
And he whistled, and shouted, and sang out this song:

"Now, Harley! Now, Big Dog! On Honda and Beamer!
Now Vulcan! Now Injun! On Victory and Triumph!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now RIDE away! RIDE away! RIDE away all!"

As small bikes that from the semis do fly,
When they meet with the air blast, mount to the sky.
So up to the house-top that Wing it flew,
With a trailer of goodies, and ole' St.
Nick too.



Take care and enjoy!

Carmen and Dan Weakland
Region I Membership Enhancement Officers

And then, in a twinkling,
I heard on the roof,
No rumble and thunder
of pipes to gave proof.
I ran to the house, boots thumping around,
And in came St. Nick all bearded and round.

Dressed all in black leather, from do-rag to boot,
His chaps were all tarnished with road grime and soot.
A T-bag of goodies he'd flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

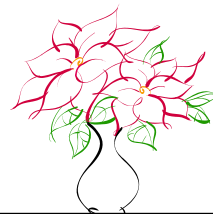
His shades -- how they twinkled! His doo-rag how scary!
With chains intertwined, through skulls that were cherry!
His droll little mouth had done many a row,
So the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
The smoke had a strange smell; it gave him relief!
He had a broad face and a large fat beer belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was tattooed and plump, a right jolly old rider,
So I offered a cold Bud, thought what could be right?
A wink of his eye as he downed that cold beer,
Gave me to know I had nothing to fear.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to my ride,
And fixed it with Chrome, Horsepower and Pride!
And giving the peace sign with bikers' good cheer,
Took off for his Wing idling near.

He sprang on the saddle, his gloves on the bars,
A wheelie he threw then off toward the stars!
I heard him exclaim, as my chest swelled with pride...
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good ride!



DECEMBER MILESTONE GWRRA ANNIVERSARIES

33 YEARS

TERRY A MORRIS	WA-R
SHARON MORRIS	WA-R

30 YEARS

KARON AMBROGI	WA-C
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25 YEARS

MAVIS B WILLSON	WA-M
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20 YEARS (NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS)

MICHAEL D BERREMAN	WA-O
DONALD WEBER	ID-T



Happy Anniversary!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL, FROM WYOMING

We had an excellent attendance for our fall planning meeting. Steve and Mary Able (Chapter Directors for Sheridan, WY) and their chapter are well on their way to getting things organized for a wonderful convention this coming year.



March will be the Spring Meeting in Sheridan, to finalize everything for ALL of you to come and enjoy the friendship and to have fun in Sheridan on your way to WING DING IN FORT WAYNE, IN.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner... there is so much to be thankful for that it would be difficult to begin in the correct order. So we will start with a THANK YOU to EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU that have and are now serving our country.

My husband says: ALL GAVE SOME AND SOME GAVE ALL; my prayers are that the GOOD LORD BLESS AND KEEP US ALL.

Thank you all for your guidance, patience, understanding, support, and most of all FRIENDSHIP. This has been a rough year for me personally and because of you I am getting through it and look forward to the new year and serving Wyoming through this wonderful family known as Gold Wing Road Riders Association.

Also, the Christmas season is just around the corner. Our wish is that all of you have a wonderful holiday season to share with your family and friends.

Stay Safe & Happy Holidays!

Dawna Hill
Wyoming District Director

Jane Datisman
Wyoming Assistant District Director & Trainer



WA DISTRICT

We would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year. Thank you, everyone, for a good job well done this past year, and we look forward to another busy and prosperous year

Susie Hutchinson
Washington District Director



MONTANA DISTRICT NEWS

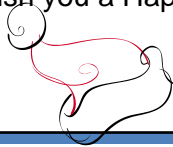
The Montana District 2012 Rally will be held on July 26, 27, and 28, 2012 in the city of Bozeman, Montana. Our host hotel is the Day's Inn, offering great accommodations, a full hot complimentary breakfast buffet, swimming pool, hot tubs, and very clean spacious rooms. All of the rally's functions will take place at the hotel. The area around Bozeman offers some great riding, including Yellowstone National Park. From Bozeman to Yellowstone is about 90 miles, and can be accessed either through West Yellowstone, or through Livingston. Other local mountain riding is available throughout the Gallatin Valley. For those who prefer to "rough it" (camp out), there are three campgrounds in the area. For more information, please visit the Montana District Web site at: www.gwrra-mt.org. More information will be added to the web site as it becomes available.



I would also like to announce that I've put up a Facebook page for the Montana District. Hopefully, this link will take you there: <http://www.facebook.com/>. If not, a search from within Facebook for MT District GWRRA should take you there.

We from the MT District would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a very Merry Christmas!

Darrell and Vonnie Robson
Montana District Directors



First a visit to GWRRA headquarters, and then on to the Arizona District Convention in Tucson – we saw two outstanding Drill Teams perform, watched the pool-side Best Dressed Competition, and were entertained by some great Arizona Talent... all in all, just a fantastic weekend!

