

# ***GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION***



## **Chapter W Newsletter**

### **February: 2008**

Hi Everybody;

Well, time sure flies when you're having fun. January is almost over, and I have to get an article together for the February newsletter already. By the time you read this, January will be gone and you know what that means? It means we are one month closer to riding season.

Even though we are not riding, we are still engaged in a number of motorcycle related activities. We had a fantastic after the holiday party a couple weeks ago. I hope all those who attended had a fantastic time. I know Ginny and I did. The P. P. L. & B., Travelogue was fantastic. That's Penny, Pat, Linda, and Bruce in case you haven't figured it out. Be sure and thank them for the effort they put into this great presentation.

Another fun activity coming up in February is the ride-planning meeting. This will be at Greg and Dee's on the ninth. Don't forget to bring a small dish to pass. Keep it small because Dee does not want to have a lot of left over food. More important than food, if anything is for bikers, bring your ideas for rides, places to go, and fun things to do.

Saturday, January 26. There was a New York district meeting held in Binghamton. I would like to thank those who attended from Chapter W. Thanks go out to be Greg and Dee Eames, Dave and Diane Hill, Gary Mandak, and Paul and Suzette Wood. Paul and Suzette were there in a dual role. Paul is assistant District Director. Here are a couple of items of interest from the meeting.

There will be another chapter basket raffle. So start thinking of items to put into the basket. Ginny and I would be happy to make the basket from last year's raffle available. We need a volunteer to step forward and take responsibility for coordinating this effort for the chapter.

The rally theme is NASCAR. Plans are being developed for a Saturday night car show. We're talking about model cars. The rules for this car show are to be determined. Now is the time to start planning for an entry if you are one of those handy folks.

Chapter W will again be responsible for the rides. It's not too early to start thinking about rides for the rally.

If you are planning to attend Americade, think about manning the GWRRA booth while you're there. The plan is to have two people in the booth at all times. Each assignment will be for three hours, and there are 30 slots available. People working the booth get a vendor armband which admits you into the TourExpo and Roaring Brook. Contact Ed Bahrenburg for more information.

There was emphasis on promoting more interactions between chapters. We should keep this in mind at our ride a planning meeting. Attending another chapter's activities will give us the opportunity to earn points toward having the district pay our registration fee next year. This is a bonus in addition to the fun.

See you on the road again soon.

Mike, .

The next normal Dinner meeting will be on  
February 21<sup>st</sup>. **2008** at Pando's, 2771 Scottsville Road.  
Please call in your reservations to **Dave and Diane Hill** - 377-1801  
before the 17<sup>th</sup> ,.  
Dinner Meeting schedule: Meet and eat at 6:00 pm – Meeting after dinner.

**Visit our Web Site at [www.gwrri-nyw.org/](http://www.gwrri-nyw.org/) & See Want Ads, updates etc.**

#### Breakfast At Stoney's

Breakfast at Stoney's takes place the first Saturday of each month. Please plan on joining the gang there for a delicious breakfast and gabfest.

Stoney's is located at 2005 Lyell Ave. just off I-390. It is almost across from Lee Road on the south side of Lyell. Lyell turns into Spencerport Road at Howard Rd.

**Please RSVP Al Skiles at 352-1087 before Thursday of the first week.**

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## *Congratulations and Best Wishes*

Sue Skyner	Feb. 1	Larry & Mary Barber	Feb.8	44 Yrs
John Skyner	Feb. 2	Wayne & Vivian Lawton	Feb 21th	4 Yrs
Linda Martens	Feb. 24	Dave & Diane Hill	Feb. 27	9 Yrs

### **Editors Corner**

Greetings, Chapter "W" and all other "Gold Wing Riders,"

The 2008 Ride Planing Meeting is at the Eames home.

10:00 AM, February 9, 2008

Bring a small dish to pass for brunch.

All members are invited. We want as much input as possible for this year's rides. If you have any ideas for Tuesday night desert rides or weekend overnight rides, please bring them with you.

Last month I asked for any new additions for the newsletter. I guess that didn't mean much as I do not have use of my computer now, due to the recent windstorm. At least for this month the snail mail will get their newsletter before the cyber addressee's. Who would ever have thought it ??????

Sorry for any inconvenience I may have caused.

Not to much to say this month except that spring is just around the corner. Be patient it'll come.

CYA

*Poor Billy*

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Ron Hinz – 585-615-RIDE

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**Ride Schedule for Jan. 2008, All rides leave BKW at 6:30 PM****More info on the chapter website –**

- 2-5 Bill Gray's - 1225 Jefferson Road
- 2-12 Slayton Place - Slayton Ave., Spencerport
- 2-19 Stoney's - 2005 Lyell Ave.
- 2-26 Olympia Family Restaurant - 2380 Lyell Ave

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**Have Tools, Will Travel**

As we ride our Goldwings, we seldom think much about breaking down, as our bikes are about as reliable as any bike every made. However, in the event we get stranded along side the road, do you have the correct tools to get you back on the road again? It is far better to check now, than check later stranded on the road.

**Manual**

Our owner's manual can be a good source of information for trouble shooting if our bike quits along side the road. But how many have actually read the manual or know where it is? We should review it periodically to check our maintenance schedule as well as trouble shooting information. You may want to purchase an aftermarket Repair Manual for more in depth information.

Gold Book – Pack your Gold Book as it may be invaluable to call one of many Goldwing riders in the area that may be able to help. Make sure you carry a cell phone as roadside phone booths have become a thing of the past.

## Tool Kit

Our Goldwings came with a tool kit that is a good start and may be sufficient for most emergencies, but not all of them. You know if you are stranded, it will be along a dark lonely road with no chance of finding help. How many have been stranded at a service station? How many service stations actually “service?” Take out your tool kit to see what is actually in there and see if you need additional tools for unseen circumstances.

### Tool Kit Additions:

Flashlight – The only tool to light up the night or for looking into the dark crevasses of your bike when you drop something in there. Extra batteries when you forget to turn the flashlight off, again.

Socket Set - Look over your bike and see if there are additional sockets not included in your tool kit. You may have wrenches for all the necessary fixes, but a socket will be more robust and give you better leverage for stubborn bolts.

Bulbs – Include an extra headlight bulb and tail light and turn signal bulbs so you will be visible at night. Wrap them in some bubble wrap so you don’t have broken bulbs to replace the burned out bulbs.

Tape – Bring along some electrical tape and duct tape. You can fix almost anything with a sufficient amount of tape.

Tire repair kit – Many riders feel that repairing a tire is not safe, but it may be the only way to get you to a place to replace the damaged tire. Get a tire repair kit that can safely plug a hole and practice on a tire before you actually need it. It is best to practice on an old discarded tire and not your new one. Practice plugging enough times that you feel comfortable using this type of repair kit. Remember this won’t work for sidewall damage.

First Aid Kit – Pack a small first aid kit and take a first aid class to feel more comfortable if an emergency arises. A little time and money spend for a first aid kit and a class could pay big dividends in an emergency situation.

Multi-tool – This tool can be used for many things and can be carried with you off your bike as well. It has a knife, some screwdrivers and other assorted tools in one small package. Plus it really makes you look manly.

Being stranded alongside the road can be frustrating as well as dangerous. Being prepared for such emergencies could be a lifesaver. If you are stranded with your co-rider on a dark lonely road due to poor planning, you may find this situation more dangerous that you ever imagined.

Practice Safe Riding  
Gary Mandak  
Chapter W Educator

## The Stella Awards (enough to make us all wonder what the world's coming to)!

It's time again for the annual "Stella Awards"! For those unfamiliar with these awards, they are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued the McDonald's in New Mexico where she purchased the coffee. You remember, she took the lid off the coffee and put it between her knees while she was driving. Who would ever think one could get burned doing that, right?

That's right; these are awards for the most outlandish lawsuits and verdicts in the U.S. You know, the kinds of cases that make you scratch your head. So keep your head scratcher handy.

Here are the Stella's for the past year:

### 7TH PLACE:

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The store owners were understandably surprised by the verdict, considering the running toddler was her own son.

### 6TH PLACE:

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles, California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hub caps.

Go ahead, grab your head scratcher.

### 5TH PLACE:

Terrence Dickson, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just burglarized by way of the garage. Unfortunately for Dickson, the automatic garage door opener malfunctioned and he could not get the garage door to open. Worse, he couldn't reenter the house because the door connecting the garage to the house locked when Dickson pulled it shut. Forced to sit for eight, count 'em, EIGHT, days on a case of Pepsi and a large bag of dry dog food, he sued the homeowner's insurance company claiming undue mental Anguish. Amazingly, the jury said the insurance company must pay Dickson \$500,000 for his anguish. We should all have this kind of anguish.

Keep scratching. There are more...

## 4TH PLACE:

Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, garnered 4th Place in the Stella's when he was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten on the butt by his next door neighbor's beagle - even though the beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. Williams did not get as much as he asked for because the jury believed the beagle might have been provoked at the time of the butt bite because Williams had climbed over the fence into the yard and repeatedly shot the dog with a pellet gun.

Grrrrr .. Scratch, scratch.

## 3RD PLACE:

Third place goes to Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania because a jury ordered a Philadelphia restaurant to pay her \$113,500 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and broke her tailbone. The reason the soft drink was on the floor: Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument. What ever happened to people being responsible for their own actions?

Scratch, scratch, scratch. Hang in there; there are only two more Stellas to go...

## 2ND PLACE:

Kara Walton, of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a night club in a nearby city because she fell from the bathroom window to the floor, knocking out her two front teeth. Even though Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the ladies room window to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge, the jury said the night club had to pay her \$12,000....oh, yeah, plus dental expenses. Go figure.

1ST PLACE: (May I have a fanfare played on 50 kazoos please?)

This year's runaway First Place Stella Award winner was Mrs. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who purchased a new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home from an OU football game, having driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her, are you sitting down, \$1,750,000 PLUS a new motor home. Winnebago actually changed their manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home.

Are we, as a society, getting more stupid...????