



Virginia District Times

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Woo Hoo!

Christmas is here! Oh No! Christmas is here! Holidays bring both joy and stress. Some of us look forward to gathering with family and friends to celebrate Christmas (or Hanukah, or Kwanza), while others get depressed thinking about loved ones far away (or gone).

Whether you love or dread the holidays, there's one aspect that we all have to contend with ... holiday shoppers. They're bad enough when you're in a car. Blocking intersections, running 'pink' lights, changing three lanes at once to get to the shopping center, failing to yield ... wow, if you weren't stressed before you got on the road, you will be by the time you get to your destination! But if the weather is cooperating enough for you to be on your bike, you need to be extra-extra vigilant. These drivers are focused on one thing: getting their shopping done. They don't care about and aren't looking out for other cars and trucks, let alone a motorcycle.

If you're planning a weekend ride, examine your route and look for shopping areas that may become a hazard. And when riding in a group, try to keep the groups small. While most drivers won't break into a group unless necessary (now, now, I said 'most'!), the holiday shopper will absolutely force their way in to get to their destination as quickly as possible. Everyone in the group needs to keep an eye out for cars that will want to change lanes at the last moment.

Now, I could continue on about all the other dangers to motorcycles this time of year – wet leaves, wind chill, low sun blinding drivers, wildlife on the roads ... but I'll leave that to our District Educator. So in the meantime, ride safe, ride aware, and if you have to go holiday shopping on your bike, take the trailer. Holds so much more than the bike's trunk!

Happy holidays!

Virginia District Directors

Kathy & John Skinner



Kathy & John Skinner
VA District Directors
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Don't Try This On A Goldwing ...

Allen & I would like to share the great news on our grandson Justin Dowell who lives in Virginia Beach, VA. He has worked very hard for four years to meet the goal he has set for himself... BMX World Champion and on the road to the 2020 Olympics.

The 18-year-old out of Virginia Beach, Virginia, took the rainbow jersey in men's freestyle park at the the UCI Urban Cycling World Championships Sunday in Chengdu, China, following in the tracks of teammate Perris Benegas, who led an American sweep of the medals in women's event hours earlier.

"I can't believe it — like I'm speechless," a thrilled Dowell commented after putting down a "dream run" that scored 92.2 points in his first attempt at the course Saturday. "Everyone rode so good, and I'm just so happy to be here."

Costa Rica's Kenneth Tencio Esquivel took the silver after putting up 88.9, and Australian Brandon Loupos finished with a bronze earned for his first round ride, which scored 88.72 to edge countryman Jake Wallwork, who ended fourth for his 88.6. Americans Daniel Sandoval, Jeremy Malotte and Nick Bruce finished seventh, 10th and 11th, respectively.



The men's competition was without 2017 world champion Logan Martin of Australia, who was injured in a crash in training last month. Competing as a junior, Dowell finished eighth in 2017. Dowell's gold gave the Americans four of the six medals up for grabs in BMX freestyle in Chengdu. In the women's competition, Perris was joined on the podium by Angie Marino and Hannah Roberts.

Dowell's gold closed out the second edition of the Urban Cycling Worlds, which are set to return to China again in 2019.

BMX freestyle is set to make its Olympic debut in Tokyo in 2020, joining BMX racing, which has been an Olympic discipline since 2008.



Allen & Debbie Dowell

Asst. District Directors North
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804-222-1303



BMX World Champion. Justin Dowell competes in the men's freestyle at the UCI Urban cycling World Championships on Nov. 11, 2018 in Chengdu, China.

Asst. District Directors North & 2018 VA District Couple

Allen & Debbie Dowell

Hello Everyone



This month I would like to talk about the GWRRA Level System, why it is important and provide a refresher on the Level requirements. My motivation for presenting this information is as follows:

First, I feel the Level System is a valuable education tool that helps us all to be safer while riding. It motivates us to obtain or maintain our knowledge base and riding skills through periodic education.

Medic First Aid enables us to help our fellow riders should the need arise. You will receive a patch to display your accomplishment in the Level System. More importantly, in my opinion, we will all be safer riders and be better at managing the risk of riding our motorcycles.



Leroy Gross

VA District Educator
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301-641-1032

Second, I have processed about ten Level 4 applications since July 2018. That is fantastic! Based on the numbers of Master applications nationally, we have processed about three times the national average. We should be proud of that. However, I have not processed very many Level 1-3 applications. That concerns me. I think there is a reason for this. Some time ago we lost the Chapter Educator position. We no longer have that motivating force at the Chapter level to keep the program moving.

Therefore, I am reaching out to the individual members in our district to begin participating or progress in the Level System. I am going to make this very easy. All you have to do is send me an email expressing your interest in the Level System. I will fill out your application, update your Level in the Rider Education Database and send you a completed copy of your application for your records. If there is a requirement that you must complete to progress to the next Level I, will explain that to you. It's that simple! My email address is leroygross@outlook.com.

Below you will find a summary of the requirements for each level in the GWRRA Level System. Hopefully this will be a useful reference to help you decide which Level fits you. Again, I am always here to help you with the process. I look forward to hearing from you!

That's all the news for now. Ride Safe!

District Educator

LeRoy Gross



Master Tour Rider
"The Pinnacle of our
Program"



GWRRA Level System

Basically there are four levels:

1. Safety by Commitment
2. Safety by Education
3. Safety by Preparedness
4. Safety by Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Rider Education Levels Program

"THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF RIDER EDUCATION"

Each level requires that you are a member of the GWRRA and you have completed the previous level. The rider and co-rider requirements for each level are as follows:

Level 1: Safety By Commitment

Rider and Co-Rider requirements:

- The expressed commitment of the Rider or Co-Rider to strive for and practice safe riding.

Level 2: Safety By Education

Rider requirements:

- Have 5,000 safe miles.
- Have a current motorcycle license.
- Have completed an approved on-bike Rider course within the past three years.

Co-Rider requirements:

- Have 5,000 safe miles.
- Have completed an approved Two-Up Rider course or GWRRA Co-Rider seminar within the past three years.

Level 3: Safety By Preparedness

Rider requirements:

- Completed a formal approved on-bike Rider Course within the past three years.
- Maintain current First Aid, CPR **or** MEDIC First Aid certifications.
- Carry a First Aid kit on the motorcycle.

Co-Rider requirements:

- Completed an approved Two-Up Rider course or GWRRA Co-Rider seminar within the past three years (a sanctioned PLP is not allowed to be used for this Level).
- Maintain current First Aid or CPR **or** MEDIC First Aid certifications.

Level 4: Safety By Commitment and Preparedness

Rider requirements:

- Have been current in Level III for at least one full year.
- Have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles.
- Be current in both First Aid **and** CPR certifications.
- Wear proper riding apparel at all times while riding.
 - *Proper riding apparel, a.k.a.: proper riding "gear" will include, at a minimum, a DOT (FMVSS 218)/Snell (M2010) / ECE 22.05 approved helmet (approved standard applicable to the local area), eye protection, long sleeved jacket/shirt (no "riding pull on/off sleeves"), long legged sturdy pants, full fingered gloves and over the ankle footwear. Some have coined the acronym ATGATT standing for All the Gear, All the Time.*

Co-Rider requirements:

- Have been current in Level III for at least one full year.
- Have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles.
- Be current in both First Aid **and** CPR certifications.
- Wear proper riding apparel at all times while riding (see definition in the Rider section above).



Can You Teach An Old Dog New Tricks?

Let me start at the beginning of this story. I joined GWRRA in August 2002 and was eager to soak up as much knowledge as I could so I took every rider ed course that was offered. In the fall of 2003 I completed a road captain course. In 2004 I became our Chapter Educator (as it was called then) and it was not long until I became a Certified Seminar Presenter (again as it was called then). I had many an opportunity to not only use all that knowledge but also to present that knowledge to others.

Now lets get to the end of this story. A few months ago I became Assistant District Educator and I was looking forward to helping our District Educator in presenting a road captain course November 10th. As luck would have it, on the day of the course we only had 4 participants and 2 instructors so I decided to go ahead and take the course all over again. Luck was the key word to use because after a 14 year gap it was extremely refreshing to take the course again and also to see other instructors methods and style. In addition, I was able to use my knowledge when it was my turn to lead or drag so the newbies could hear a veteran calling out the lane changes and such. Small things came back to mind throughout the course and I was really glad I took the course again. My only regret is that I waited 14 years to do it. I guess the old saying is correct, you really can teach an old dog new tricks.



Gordon Combs

VA Assistant District Educator
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540-840-0394

Virginia Assistant District Educator

Gordon Combs

The Virginia District is still searching for a District Ride Coordinator



The District Ride Coordinator must be a Road Captain, a level 3 or 4 in the Rider Ed Levels program, and enjoy riding and sharing great ride information with others. The District Ride Coordinator will work together with the District Educator for the benefit of the Rider Education program, each following their specific responsibilities.

The role of the District Ride Coordinator is to help plan and distribute ride information for all types of rides in the District throughout the year, to ALL members in the District, including those who do not regularly participate with a Chapter. Using social media (Facebook, Google Calendar, GWRRA Events Page, etc.) the Ride Coordinator maintains a calendar of available rides, open to all and open to all bikes.

Motorcycle Lobby Day Meeting 2019

The Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists (VCOM) and Tom McGrath's Motorcycle Law Group invites all interested motorcyclists to attend this year's Motorcycle Lobby Day Meeting. This year it will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019. Beginning at 1:00 p.m., Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists lobbyists will lead an informational meeting at the Holiday Inn Richmond South, located at 4303 Commerce Rd., Richmond, VA 23234. At this meeting we will discuss this year's legislation affecting motorcyclists. We will also give pointers on how to talk to your legislators about these important issues. Later that evening, attendees will enjoy a free BBQ dinner. On Monday the 21st, we will leave the hotel at 8:00 a.m. sharp for our annual trip to the Capitol. The 21st is a holiday so many people will be off work. After lobbying our legislators, we will head to Penny Lane Pub where The Motorcycle Law Group will provide lunch to all who attended as a thank you for coming to support Virginia motorcyclists.

This year we intend to pursue two legislative initiatives that came out of this year's Motorcycle Legislative Roundtable. One will amend section 18.2-324 of the Code of Virginia to clarify that it is illegal to blow grass onto the roadway. Grass on the roadway can be a hazard to motorists, especially motorcyclists. The other piece of legislation will seek to change the law in order to allow motorcyclists to use the right shoulder of any limited access highway when traffic is congested. The proposed bill would only allow this for the purpose of leaving the highway at the very next available exit. This is an important issue to motorcyclists, especially in areas such as Tidewater and Northern Virginia where it is not uncommon for air cooled motorcycles to overheat in congested traffic.

We often find ourselves on the defensive end of legislation. VCOM lobbyists keep watch for bills which negatively affect motorcycling as well. As these bills are filed we will identify them so that we can discuss them at Lobby Day and convince legislators to oppose them.

I encourage everyone who can to join us. It is a lot of fun, it is educational, and most importantly it shows the legislators that motorcyclists are a significant and active portion of the electorate.

For more information you may call VCOM at (800) 437-9434. For Room Reservations call (804) 592-2900. Make sure to ask for the Motorcycle Lobbyist Event Rate. We hope to see you at Lobby Day.



Matt Danielson

McGrath, Danielson, Sorrell & Fuller
Tom McGrath's Motorcycle Law Group
1-800-321-8968 Motorcyclelawgroup.com



December 12, 2018

Sad News in the Motorcycling Community...

...The 32nd Annual Rolling Thunder Ride to DC will be the Last

It has come to our attention that the upcoming 32nd Annual Rolling Thunder Ride to DC (Run to the Wall), which has been held every Memorial Day weekend since 1987, will be the last. This morning I spoke with Pete Zaleski, Vice President of Rolling Thunder, Inc., who confirmed that what we had heard was true. We are told that the difficult decision to end the annual event was due to a number of reasons. One was the expense of putting on the event. Another we are being told was pressure from the Pentagon Police Department. The Pentagon parking lot is the staging area for the ride.

We have been told that Rolling Thunder, Inc. will continue to be active, and will continue its work on behalf of POW/MIAs, veterans, and active duty military. However, if you have always wanted to take part in the Annual Ride to DC, you may want to book your rooms now. 2019 will be your last chance.

[Matt Danielson](#)

McGrath, Danielson, Sorrell & Fuller

The Motorcycle Law Group

1-800-321-8968

Motorcyclelawgroup.com



Happy New Year Eve Dinner 2018



Come enjoy the evening with good friends
GWRRA Virginia Chapters D & W

Date: December 29, 2018

Time: 5 P.M. 8 P.M.

Where: River's Bend Grill
13283 River's Bend Blvd.
Chester, Va. 23836
(804-530-9953)

Room holds (45) people. You must call or email
the person listed below if you are attending

"We need to give the Restaurant a head count"

Deadline: December 23, 2018



Debbie Dowell 804-222-130

mickeydowell1240@gmail.com

"Richmond Wings"
GWRRA Virginia Chapter D

Directions

From the West: Rt. 10 East going towards Rt. 295
Turn left to **Rivers Bend Blvd Shopping Center**
Turn Right at the 2nd Shopping Center entrance.
Restaurant located on immediate left entrance,
meeting left angle towards the back.

From the North: Rt. 295 South to Rt. 10 Chester.
Go about a mile, Turn right at River Bend Shopping Center
Turn Right at the 2nd Shopping Center entrance.
Restaurant located on immediate left entrance,
meeting left angle towards the back.

LET'S GO HAWAIIAN

Tennessee District 37th Annual Spring Fling

WHEN

May 2, 3 & 4 2019

**WHERE**

Pigeon Forge at the Ramada Inn South and Convention Center. All activities will be at the Ramada Inn South to include opening, inside vendors, outside vendors, hospitality room, chapter challenge games, training and much more. The Talent Show on Friday night and Closing on Saturday night will also be at the Ramada Convention Center.

AFTER CLOSING DINNER SHOW

Will be a new show at the
Hatfields & Mc Coys Dinner Theater
\$36.00 Per Person

REGISTRATION FORM

Will soon be on our WEB SITE

www.gwrratn.org

Daily 50/25/25
awarded every day.
Grand 50/50
awarded at closing.

Point of contact for more information.

Dennis Peterson
TN Assistant District Director
931-302-5283
tnchapterq@gmail.com

GRAND PRIZE
\$1000.00
BABY GRAND PRIZE
\$500.00



Nova Scotia is the place to be in 2019



To all our GWRRA friends on both sides of the border, please let us take this opportunity to invite you to

**Yarmouth, “The Gateway to Nova Scotia”, Canada
for our
2019 District Sou’ Wester Rally.**

I know it is not Thanksgiving yet for our friends South of the Border and Christmas is still six weeks away, but we do not want anyone to miss this opportunity.

**All the information that you need is on our website
www.canadianatlanticregion.org**

Just follow the instructions to see our brochure, register at the host hotel and register for the rally on line. I would caution you not to wait as 60% of our rooms are already booked.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

To book your room, please call the Hotel direct at 1-902-742-2446 and tell them you are with GWRRA and want to book your room for the rally for August 1- 4, 2019. The rate is \$130.00 per night Cdn from Mon July 29 to Monday Aug 5.

**For more information or queries, call Noel at
1-902-834-2179 or 1-902-497-9005 or email: nfacey@ns.sympatico.ca
Look for our monthly Rally Updates.**

We look forward to seeing you there Noel and Bev Facey, your rally hosts

Wing Ding 41

Nashville, TN

August 27—31, 2019

PREREGISTRATION ENDS JULY 22, 2019

General Public Full Pass \$50

GWRRA Members Full Pass \$40

Life Members Full Pass \$20

<http://41.wing-ding.org/>



Registration includes...

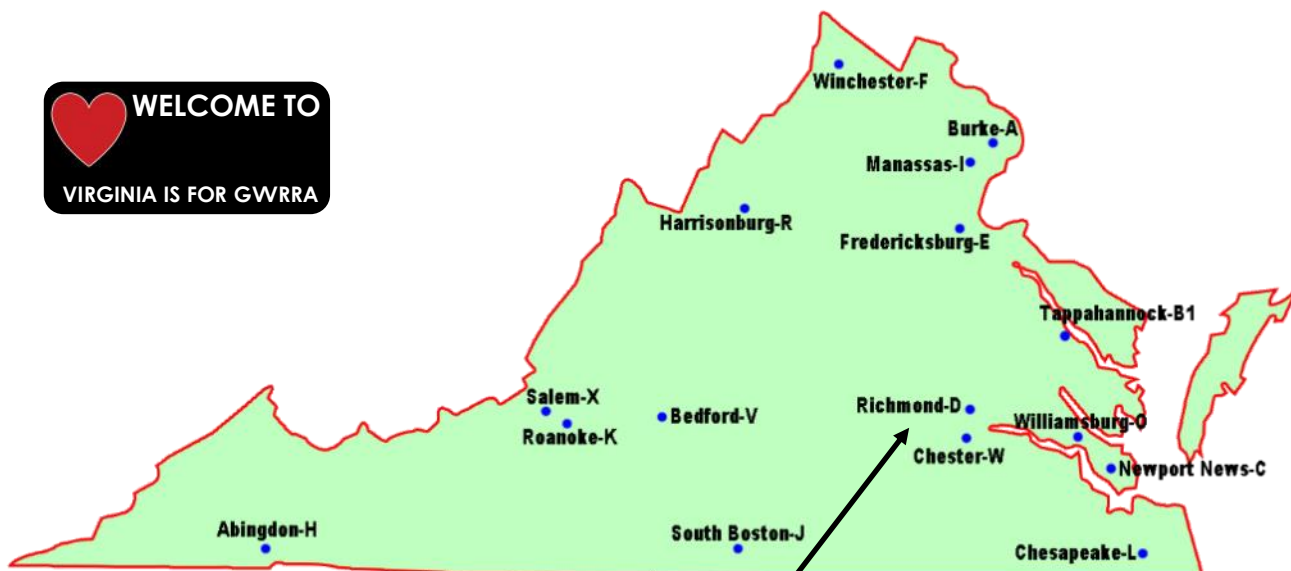
- 4-day pass to indoor Trade Show
- 4-day pass to Demo Rides on all participating manufacturers' bikes
 - ◊ subject to availability
- Wing Ding Welcome Party
- Access to Seminars and Parades
- Access to Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Optional dinner and priority seating prior to free Entertainment Event
- Access to free Evening Entertainment Event
- Souvenir Event Pin and Pocket Guide
- Exclusive opportunities for tours, dinners and other ticketed events
- Numbered armband for chance at thousands of dollars in amazing prizes!
- Precision Drill Team Exhibitions and other performances
- Optional Rider Education Safety Courses, CPR Classes and more...

See You There!

VIRGINIA CHAPTERS

CHAPTER	LOCATION	CHAPTER DIRECTOR	PHONE	SOCIAL GATHERING
VA-A	Burke	Mary O'Connor director@gwrravaa.org	703-365-6775	2nd Wednesday
VA-B1	Tappahannock	Jim & Beverly Evans jevansez@gmail.com		3rd Sunday
VA-C	Newport News	Dave & Donna Huey DHUEY1800@cox.net	757-719-0668	2nd Sunday
VA-D	Richmond	Fritz Sassine & Iris Guillet fritz.sassine@gmail.com	804-938-9183	4th Wednesday
VA-E	Fredericksburg	Gordon Combs gorcom@msn.com	540-840-0394	3rd Wednesday
VA-F	Winchester	Stephanie Davis davis.stephanie80@yahoo.com	540-664-6430	4th Sunday
VA-H	Abingdon	Paul & Dorothy Baker 09nellie@comcast.net	276-628-6047	2nd Tuesday
VA-I	Manassas	Mack and Tracey McMillan mack.mcmillan52@yahoo.com	571-338-5418	2nd Sunday
VA-K	Roanoke	Bobbie Jo Harrison threewheelcruzin@verizon.net	540-309-0566	2nd Monday
VA-L	Chesapeake	Zac & Angie Bon zachkbon@gmail.com	757-581-0908	4th Tuesday
VA-O	Williamsburg	Ray & Tammie Pierce gwrravaochapterdirector@cox.net	757-268-6286	4th Sunday
VA-R	Harrisonburg	Gary Hoover hoov@shentel.net		1st Sunday
VA-V	Bedford	Jonathan Whitworth otteridevav@gmail.com	540-425-0028	3rd Sunday
VA-W	Chester	Sheila Hazen gwrravaw@gmail.com	804-396-9088	2nd Tuesday
VA-X	Salem	Larry Stanton larry25022@gmail.com	540-922-1401	1st Saturday


WELCOME TO
VIRGINIA IS FOR GWRRRA



2017
Chapter of the Year
VA-D Richmond



Date	Chapter	2018 Event
Jan 1	Holiday	New Year Day
Jan 20		VA District Ops Meeting at the North Garden Ridge Volunteer Fire Company
Jan 27	Virginia	Medic First Aid / CPR Class—Middle Peninsula Regional Airport, West Point
Feb 8—10		Maryland Winter Thing Ocean City, MD
Feb 23-25		WASHINGTON D.C MOTORCYCLE SHOW WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER
Feb 24	F	VA-F Crazy Supper
Mar 3	Virginia	Couples of the Year Meet & Greet at Big Mouth Rest. 4338 S Laburnam Ave Richmond
Mar 11		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 17	K	VA-K Chili Cook-Off Vinton Senior Center, 820 E. Washington Ave.
Mar 24	Virginia	Medic First Aid / CPR Class—Dulles Public Safety Center
Apr 7	X	VA-X Spaghetti Dinner Evangelical Methodist Church, 1920 Lucas St. Salem, VA
Apr 12-14	Tennessee	Tennessee District Rally “Spring Fling”: Ranada Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN
Apr 21	A	VA-A Picnic in the Park Shenandoah National Park Mile Marker #37, Pinnacles Picnic Area
May 5	L	VA-L Cruise In For Safety Chesapeake Square Mall
May 12	D	VA-D Celebrating Mom - Dorey Park Henrico, VA
May 19	V	VA-V Chick’n Pick’n
May 28	Holiday	Memorial Day
May 31-Jun 2	Missouri	Wingin The Ozarks MO District Rally Branson, MO
Jun 4-9	New York	Americade 35 – Lake George, NY
Jun 9	B1	VA-B1 Scavenger Run Tappahannock Airport, Airport Rd Tappahannock, VA
Jun 16	O	VA-O Casino Picnic New Quarter Park, Williamsburg, VA
Jun 16	A	VA-A Poker Run
Jun 28-30	Virginia	Virginia Rally In The Valley at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center
Jul 4	Holiday	Independence Day
Aug 16-18	Kentucky	The Blast—Kentucky District Rally Cave City
Aug 28-31	Wing Ding	Wing Ding 40 : Knoxville, TN
Sep 1-2	Wing Ding	Wing Ding 40 : Knoxville, TN
Sep 3	Holiday	Labor Day
Sep 15	Virginia	All Chapters Picnic—Tucker’s Beach 244 Barn Rd, Shacklefords, VA 23156
Sep 22	W	VA-W Party in the Park Point of Rocks Park Shelter 4 Enon Church Rd Chester, VA
Sep 27-29	N C	NC District Rally Haywood County Fair Grounds 758 Crabtree Rd. Waynesville, NC
Oct 6	C	VA-C Fall Sprawl Extravaganza 485 Simmons Lane. White Stone, VA
Oct 20	Virginia	District Staff Meeting - Golden Corral- 2501 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights, VA—1pm to 4pm
Nov 3	Virginia	CPR class at the Middle Peninsula Airport
Nov 4		Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 10	Virginia	Road Captain course in Tappahannock
Nov 17	Virginia	District Training Day, Union Prospect Baptist Church Annex, 601 Stratton Major Rd, Shackleford
Nov 22	Holiday	Thanksgiving Day
Dec 25	Holiday	Christmas Day



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Ride Safe

Tis The Sensation To Make You Jolly...



Virginia District Team

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
District Director	Kathy Skinner John Skinner	757-613-6191 757-482-5700	kathy@jds corner.com
Asst. DD West	Wayne & Kathy Whitworth	540-875-8064	wayne69997@yahoo.com
Asst. DD North	Allen & Debbie Dowell	804-222-1303	mickeydowell1240@gmail.com
District Educator	Leroy Gross	301-641-1032	leroygross@outlook.com
Asst. District Educator	Bob Beltz	757-869-8277	beltzb@cox.net
Asst. District Educator	Gordon Combs		gorcom@msn.com
Asst. District Educator	Steve Morgan	757-647-5196	smorgan1701e@verizon.net
Asst. District Educator	Sherry Morgan	757-647-5125	smorgan1701d@verizon.net
District University Coordinator	Donna Romano	804-316-2156	dfromano@gmail.com
District Treasurer	Roman Paryz	757-687-9282	roman.paryz@gmail.com
Member Enhancement	Denise & Ervin Blake	804-693-4268	ltcope10@yahoo.com
Asst. Membership Enhancement	Candy Picagli	757-593-0155	chpicagli@live.com
Asst MEC	Ann Peterson	703-583-1655	nativepeterson12@gmail.com
District Couple of the Year	Allen & Debbie Dowell	804-222-1303	mickeydowell1240@gmail.com
District Event Photographer	Jim Peterson	703-583-1655	nativepeterson12@gmail.com
CPR/MFA Coordinator	Ken Taylor	703-819-6766	2012pearlwhiterider@comcast.net
District Special Events Coord.	Bobbie Jo Harrison	540-890-2890	threewheelcruzin@verizon.net
District Rally Vendor Coord.	Linda Carlyle	804-652-9520	lindaredwing05@verizon.net
Asst. Vendor Coord.	Trish Adams	757-538-9989	onebchnut@charter.net
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National

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GWRRR Directors Emeritus	Ray & Sandi Garriss		director@gwrra.org

