

The Iron Clad Wings



Gold Wing Road Riders Association
GWRR's Motto is...
Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

**Chartered
 15 April, 1995**

BRONZE Level Chapter for 2017



We're More Than Gold Wings...



Chapter Directors: Dan Clark & Lorrie Thomas
 wingernut93@aol.com lorriemthomas@aol.com
 Dan's Cell 757-343-1783 Lorrie's Cell 954-599-5178

Ride & Grow with VA-L

We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at Pop's Diner, 1432 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23320 Our meet, greet and eat—begins at 6pm, our gathering begins at 7pm. We invite you to come out and have fun with us

2020 Road Warrior Awards



- January:
- February:
- March:
- April:
- May:
- June:
- July:
- August:
- September:
- October:
- November:
- December:



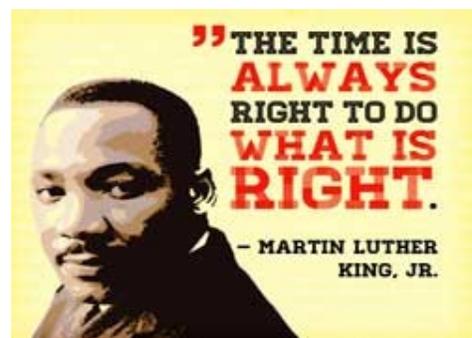
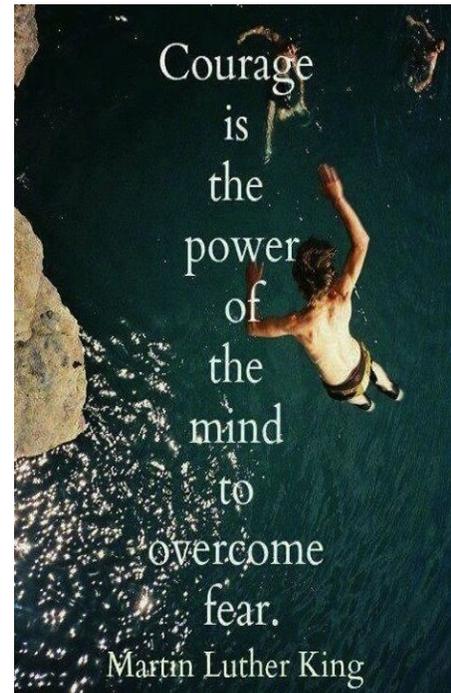
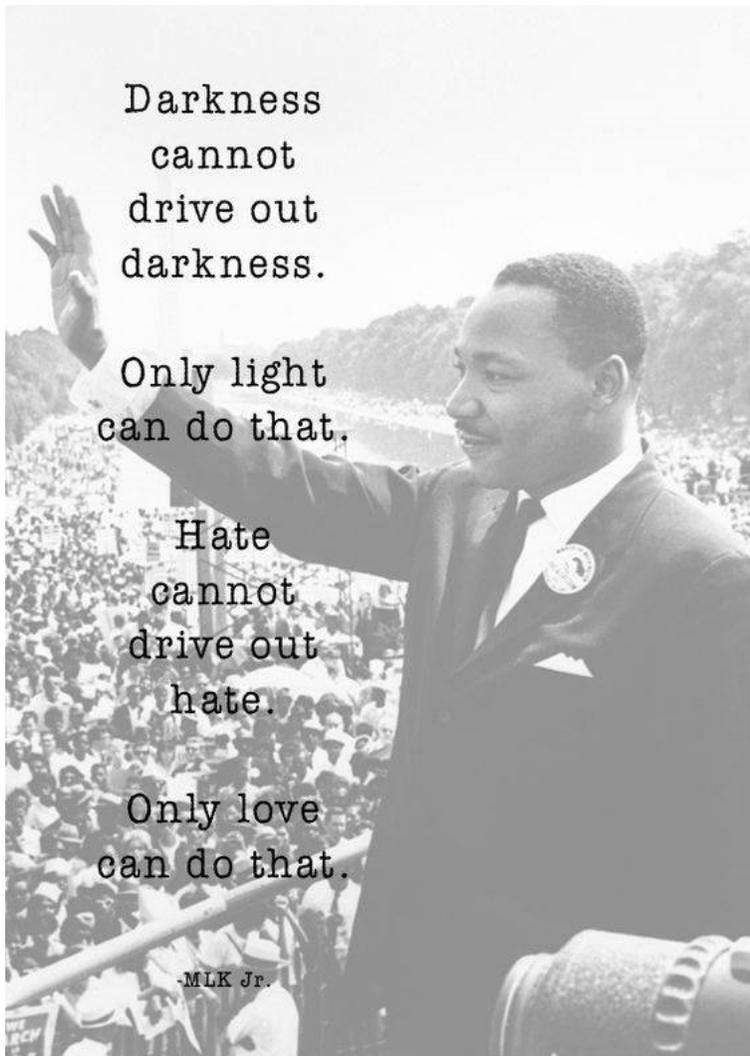
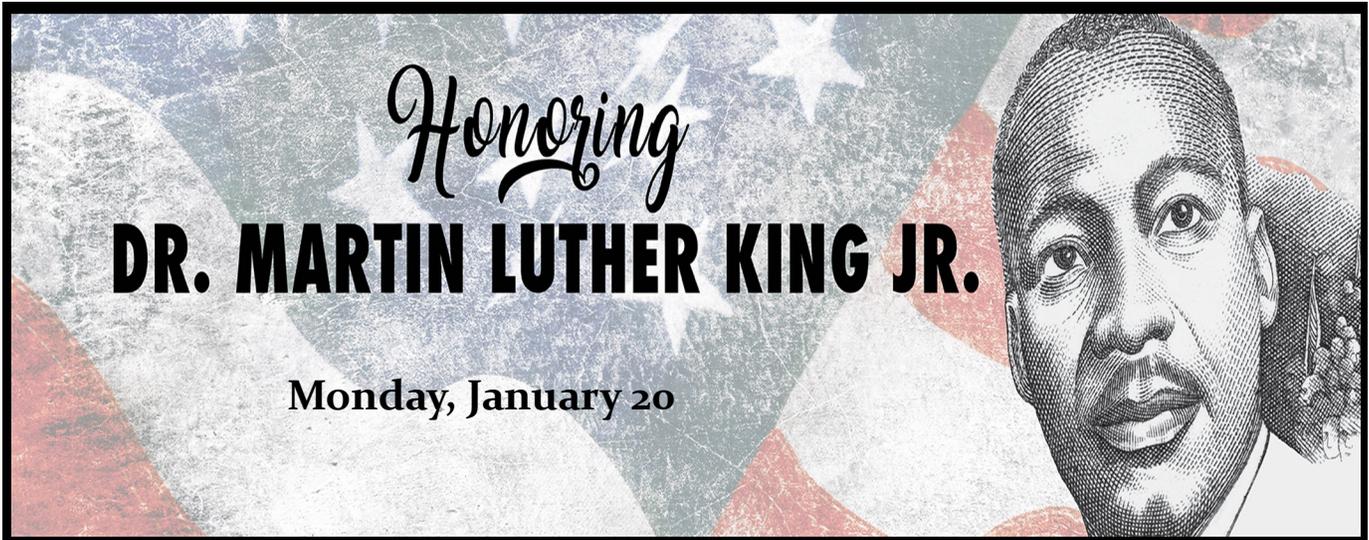
IN THIS ISSUE

- Chapter Team Articles
- District News
- National News
- Our Mission Statement
- Birthdays & Stuff
- Ride Calendar
- Event Flyers

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Why you Don't 'See' Motorcycles on the Road
- Two Words- Battery Charger!
- SNAPSHOTS—a look at what Chapter L's been up to
- Chapter L Funnies

The Iron Clad Wings



The Iron Clad Wings

Dan Clark & Lorrie Thomas

Chapter Directors

wingernut93@aol.com

Dan cell (757) 343-1783

Lorrie cell (954) 599-5178



Chapter Directors



Happy New Year and welcome to a new beginning. First, I would like to thank Zach, Angie and their Team for a job well done over the past years and for their dedication to the Chapter and the Association. Thank you.

As the new Chapter Director and Chapter Team we have a new direction. You will see a return of some of the fun things that were done in the past and some new adventures. We will listen to you, the Members, and incorporate some of your ideas. Most importantly, we want you to be more involved, to have more fun, and enjoy the Chapter and family we have acquired.

The focus for this year for the Chapter is Membership. We all need to lend a hand in recruiting new Members. Think about why you joined GWRRA? The Association has developed a 4-month free Membership which includes the Wing World magazine and Rescue for their bikes for 35 miles. A copy of the form is included in this newsletter. All you have to do is talk about it and hand it to the prospective Member, it's that easy. Growth is essential not only for the Chapter but the Association. I encourage every Member to recruit at least one new Member in the next year. What a sight that would be to see that many new faces at a Gathering.

We are looking for Members to fill some positions on the Team. If you may be interested in volunteering a few hours a week or month, come talk to me. We would love to have you join in the planning for the Chapter, the more voices, the more the fun. As you all know, I always sign off with, be safe, ride safe and keep the shiny side up.

Dan Clark & Lorrie Thomas, Chapter Directors

The Iron Clad Wings

Dennis & Phyliss Easton

Membership Enhancement Coordinators

eastondm@cox.net



Membership Enhancement



Chapter L Membership Enhancement

Hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season.

As we get 2020 off to a big start, I want to lay out some standard things we are do each year.

- Winter dinner rides (gatherings)
- Summer ice cream socials
- Weekend rides to various destinations. Usually 1-2 hours around Hampton Roads
- Long distance fall ride 6-10 hours away
- Monthly Gathering (Pop's Diner on Greenbriar Parkway)
 - Watch for new games each month
 - Got any suggestions, let Phyliss or I know
- Chapter Visits (All within about 1 hour of Hampton Roads) come join us
 - Chapter C in Newport News
 - Chapter O in Williamsburg
 - Chapter NC-E2 in Elizabeth City, NC
- Chapter L Picnic
- VA District Rally (In Lynchburg, VA this year)
- Wing Ding 42 (In Springfield, MO this year)
- All Chapter Picnic
- Chapter L Christmas Party
- Chapter L Training

Continued next page...

The Iron Clad Wings

Dennis & Phyliss Easton

Membership Enhancement Coordinators

eastondm@cox.net



Membership Enhancement



Now, what's new:

- Operations Meeting in Charlottesville, VA (All members are invited) Jan 17-18
- Wingless Weekend in Williamsburg, VA (All Members are invited) Feb 14-15
- Chapter Recruitment and Motorist Awareness Events
 - Stay tuned for dates and locations to be announced

Now,

Which event are you going to participate in?

Which event do you want to help plan?

Which event do you want to lead?

Which event do you want to add to the ever-growing list of things Chapter L participates in?

What can I do to convince you that you are wanted and needed?

Call or email me with your thoughts or ideas about anything. We would love to see and or hear from you this year.

Thank You,

Dennis and Phyliss Easton

GWRRA VA-L

Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinators

Chapter Couple of The Year 2019

VA District Couple of the Year 2019-2020

eastondm@cox.net

757-636-1023 (Phyliss Cell)

January 2020

The Iron Clad Wings

Dan Clark

Ride Coordinator

wingernut93@aol.com

Ride Coordinator



Since our last gathering the weather has turned colder and we have turned a cold shoulder on riding. We have welcomed a New Year and a new Chapter Director and Team. We will make every attempt to fill the calendar with rides in the upcoming days and look for good weather. We would like to have the input of you, the Chapter Members. We will listen to what it is that you want, where you want to go and want to do. This is your Chapter and I want to have fun and continue to make it fun. We cannot do this without knowing what it is that you want to do and want on the calendar. Don't be afraid to approach one of the Team Members with an idea, I assure you we will listen and don't be surprised to see it on the calendar. I am also looking for Members to fill positions within the Team. If you think you may be interested in volunteering just a little time per month, come and talk to me, I have many small jobs available. Diversity is vital to the success of the Chapter. I hope we may have more Members join on the Team.

Till next month, try to stay warm, look at the calendar as we will be updating it regularly and as always be safe, ride safe and keep the shiny side up.

Regards,

Dan Clark,
Va-L Chapter Director

The Iron Clad Wings

District

We've got a lot of giving to do!



Six months ago, I was asked to take on the position of your District Director. Looking back at the articles I have written, I got to introduce myself in July, I was honored with thanking all those who's hard work made the Rally in the Valley such a success in the August article. In September I shared what was coming up, such as, Wingless Weekend, the Officer's Conference and a bit about Rally. Myth busting was my theme for October. I hoped it answer some questions and cleared up some rumors. November examined the swiftly shrinking calendar for 2019, asking the Teams to start thinking about 2020. Then came December where Goal setting vs New Year's resolutions was discussed.

This is the direction we will be taking, 2020 is here. The pedal is to the medal or is it the twisting hand is on the throttle? A clean slate has been given to us and the future lies ahead. Time to give the Members what they want and need. As you read this article, you may have already attended the Officer's Conference. If not, every Chapter was represented, so all that is new or refreshed is in your Chapter Team's hands and soon to be delivered to you.

I asked each Chapter Team to write measurable goals based on what they felt their Chapter needed to thrive and to grow. The goals will be brought to you the Members for input, reviewed at least quarterly, and changed if needed.

The process isn't left to the Chapters, only. The District Team has done the same thing. They are promising to be more available to the Chapters, visiting as often as they can. The Assistant District Directors will be speaking with one voice, answering your questions, offering direction and supporting you exactly as I would. The Membership Enhancement Assistant will be available to help with the ARL, helping you to set up recruiting events and giving you the hints and tricks we have collected that will keep your Members happy and engaged. The District Couple of the Year is focused on helping you to recognize outstanding couples or individuals in each Chapter. Need help with a budget or the Chapter finances? The Treasurer is just a phone call or email away. As the Memorandum of Understanding states, (the contract Chapter Team members have signed), a newsletter is not only a great tool for good communication and recruitment/retention, it is required. The District Team can help with that, too. Was training one of your goals? We got that! We also help with a website if it's in your plans.

Team GWRRA has revised the handbook and are creating programs regularly to assist in all we hope to accomplish. I will make sure you are aware of what is coming.

I wish I could promise that all this can happen quickly or easily. My request for a magic wand was once again denied. BUT we have the energy and drive to make this one of the best years for GWRRA Virginia! I want to hear from you, the Members and leaders of the Virginia District. We can handle anything if we work together.

Virginia District Director

Lorrie Thomas

The Iron Clad Wings

National



FOR MORE INFO ON BENEFITS, VISIT **GWRRA.ORG**

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

4 *Free Months*



Yes! I would like a 4 month free trial membership to GWRRA

Name: _____ Corider: _____

Address: _____
(Street Address)

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: (_____) - _____
(Area Code)

Email: _____

Referred By: _____ Member Number: _____

MAIL TO: GWRRA-PO BOX 42450, Phoenix, AZ 85080-9942

The Iron Clad Wings

Our Mission Statement: RIDE & GROW

Respect all motorcycle riders and motorists

Inspire members to participate in the Levels Program.

Dedicated towards providing a family atmosphere so everyone has fun.

Educate our members about new innovations regarding riding, safety, and about GWRRA.

&

Give back to the community, resulting in a positive image of motorcyclists.

Relax, and enjoy the ride!

Offer assistance and encourage participation by all members.

Work with members by assisting them in achieving their goals.

So, what are we really saying...

We don't discriminate; all types of motorcycles are welcome. If your friends are looking for a group to ride with, that believes in and practices safety, we are that group. Respect drivers by being courteous with our lights and riding style.

We want all our members to participate in the Rider Education (Levels) program. The Levels Program allows members to advance from Level 1 (Committed to Safety) to Level 4 (Safety By Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness), also known as Master Tour Rider. As our members gain experience and miles, we inspire them to advance to the next level.

We are a family association; we are dedicated to providing a fun and friendly atmosphere to members and visitors of all ages. We strive to make every event fun.

Chapter L is dedicated to educating our members and visitors about motorcycling. We do this by having training provided by certified trainers that have graduated from Gold Wing University. We educate members about riding alone, with a co-rider, and in a group. We educate on riding as a team, pulling trailers, crash scene response, leadership, fun events, advances in motorcycling, and much more. Our trainers are evaluated by senior trainers to ensure they remain up-to-date regarding motorcycling.

Not all motorcyclists are the same; we strive to present a positive image to the public. We inform the public about what our association stands for; Friends, Fun, Safety, & Knowledge. We are a part of the community and want the community to be a part of us.

Have fun and enjoy riding with Chapter L. We want all of our riders to relax and enjoy the ride while being among friends that share your passion... riding.

It takes everyone to make the Chapter successful. But what is the definition of **successful**? Successful means the Chapter is fun. Successful means the Chapter rides a multitude of routes with varying distances. Successful means people want the Chapter to thrive. Successful means people ask "what can I do to help..." Successful means our membership thrives. In other words, we cannot be successful without you. Participation from all members results in the Chapter being successful.

Have you achieved your goals you've set? Regardless whether your goals involve motorcycling or are professional, chances are, there is someone in the Chapter that wants to assist you in achieving your goals. Our goal is to assist you in achieving your goal.

Our Motto: RIDE and GROW with VA-L

The Iron Clad Wings

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Other Information



“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Helpful information for members

To get Chapter, District, and National patches for your vest, contact our Chapter Treasurer, Will Conrad.

For things you might typically pick up at a Rally, but don't want to wait until the next one comes around:

- **Chapter Shirts/Rider Ed patches:** See the Chapter Directors; Dan Clark & Lorrie Thomas
- **Name Tags:** www.ThEngraver.com (take note of spelling—only 1 'e' at beginning)
- **Vests & sewing patches:**
 - Perfect Fit Alterations, 357 Johnstown Rd, Chesapeake. They also do vest embroidery
 - The Leather Arts Store at 415 N. Military Highway, Suite 13. Ask for the owner, Dennis
- **Embroidery & Name Tags:** Nancy Harbison Uniforms & Tailoring at 479 South Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach (463-3241)

These are by no means the only place to get your desired items, just the ones that seem to be used the most by local chapters.

The Iron Clad Wings

Gathering & Ride Calendar



Check out our website to see the latest updates to our calendar <https://gwrraval.org/>

Date	Chapter	Event
Jan 17-18	Virginia	District Officers Conference, Comfort Inn—, Monticello, 2097 Inn Drive, Charlottesville, VA
Jan 20	Holiday	Martin Luther King Day
Jan 28	L	Chapter L Gathering, Pop's Diner, 1432 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake, VA. Meet at 7pm
Feb 14-15	Virginia	Wingless Weekend -Best Western Hotel, 351 York St, Williamsburg, VA
Feb 17	Holiday	President's Day
Feb 22	F	VA-F Crazy Supper, 155 Fairgrounds Rd, Clearbrook, VA (Frederick County Fairgrounds)
Feb 25	L	Chapter L Gathering, Pop's Diner, 1432 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake, VA. Meet at 7pm
Mar 8		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Apr 30—May 2	Tennessee	Tennessee District Rally "Spring Fling": Smoky Mountain Lodge & Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

The Iron Clad Wings



Gold Wing Road Riders Association Presents

Wingless Weekend 2020

“Celebrating Your Inner Child”

Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15

Hosted by the Virginia District

Registration Friday 6:00 pm - 8:30

Social Time, Fun and Games,
Costume Contest

Categories:

- ✚ Babies
- ✚ Toddlers
- ✚ Kids

Ice Cream Social

Karaoke in the Lounge

Registration Saturday 8:00 am -
Noon

Modules/ Seminars

MFA®/CPR

Chapter Challenge

Hospitality Room

History Tour of Williamsburg

Dinner

Entertainment * 50/50 * Dancing

The Iron Clad Wings

VA-F
Saturday
February 22

Crazy Sports Supper 2020



**EVENT LOCATION: 155 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD CLEARBROOK VA
{FREDERICK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS}**

PRE-REGISTRATIONS WILL END ON FEBRUARY 14th, 2020

PRE-REGISTRATIONS IS \$10.00 PER ADULT GUEST (\$12 @ DOOR)

\$6.00 PER CHILD AGES 6-12 (\$8 @ DOOR)

CHILDREN ARE FREE UNDER THE AGE OF 6

**COMFORT INN HAS ONCE AGAIN OPENED THEIR DOORS FOR OUR GUEST TO COME AND
STAY FRIDAY 21st, SATURDAY 22nd, 2020**

1601 MARTINSBURG PIKE WINCHESTER, VA 22603

Phone: (540) 667-8894

**\$70.00 PER NIGHT FOR 2 INCLUDING YOUR BREAKFAST
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN
FEBRUARY 14th, 2020**

I/WE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS GWRRA OR CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATION OR
PROPERTY OWNER FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY TO SELF OR PROPERTY IN WHICH I/WE
MAY BECOME INVOLVED BY OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT I/WE AGREE TO ASSUME
RESPONSIBLY FOR ANY PROPERTY WHICH I/WE KNOWINGLY DAMAGE.
I HAVE READ AND AGREE WITH THE ABOVE.

(ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR PARTY MUST SIGN THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT)

SIGN

PLEASE MAIL BACK REGISTRATIONS TO OUR TREASURER:
REGISTRATIONS ARE NON - REFUNDABLE FOR THIS CHARITY

DAVE SHIRLEY
P.O BOX 24
STEPHENSON, VA 22656

QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL STEPHANIE 540-664-6430

The Iron Clad Wings

HOST HOTEL

Evergreen Smoky Mountain Lodge and Convention Center
4010 Parkway

For Reservations Call 865-453-1876

Rates Start at \$88.00 / night Wed thru Sat.

Be sure to mention GWRRA to get the special rate.

**This is the Host Hotel and the location
for the vendors and all activities to include
the Talent Show and Closing**

Additional Host Hotels

The following hotels are each part of
SMOKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS

Reservations for any one of them can be made by calling
their reservation center at 1-800-523-3919.

COUNTRY CASCADES

204 Sharon Drive

Rates starting at \$95.00 per night

CREEKSTONE INN

4034 River Road S.

Rates starting at \$88.00 per night

Be sure to mention GWRRA to get the special rate.

Registration Please Print Clearly

Rider _____ State _____ Chapter _____
GWRRA # _____ Exp. Date _____ Age _____
Position _____ Is this your first TN District Rally? Y N
Circle all that apply: Male Female 1UP 2UP Bike Trike Sidecar Other

Co-Rider _____ State _____ Chapter _____
GWRRA # _____ Exp. Date _____ Age _____
Position _____ Is this your first TN District Rally? Y N
Circle all that apply: Male Female 1UP 2UP Bike Trike Sidecar Other

Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Distance to Rally (one way) _____

Liability Release

All Registrants Must Sign

We agree to hold harmless GWRRA, the co-sponsoring organization,
and any property owners for any loss or injury to self or property by
any reason by participating in this rally.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

*Must be pre-registered for Master's Breakfast: tickets will not be sold on-site

** 1 Grand Prize ticket included with Pre-Registration

Day pass will be available on site for \$15.00 Per Day.

Note: All refunds are subject to \$15 handling fee. No refunds after April 15,
2020, without the District Director's approval.

← **Early Bird Deadline March 2, 2020** →

Early Bird prize is \$100.00 by DRAWING

First Grand Prize is \$1,000.00 second Grand Prize is \$500.00

All Pre-registration forms must be received by

April 1, 2020



38th Annual

Tennessee District "Spring Fling"

April 30 May 1&2, 2020
Pigeon Forge, TN

Hillbilly Hoe Down



All full registrations will increase by \$5.00 after April 10, 2020

GWRRA Members	\$30 x _____	= \$ _____
Life Members	\$25 x _____	= \$ _____
Non-Members	\$35 x _____	= \$ _____
13-15 Year Olds	\$10 x _____	= \$ _____
12 Years Old and under	FREE with a paying Adult	
Master's Breakfast*	\$15 x _____	= \$ _____
Grand Prize Tickets**	\$1 ea or 6 for \$5.00 x _____	= \$ _____

Registration total \$ _____

Shirt Orders

SS Tee S, M, L, XL - \$16 / 2XL & up - \$19
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____

LS Tee S, M, L, XL - \$20 / 2XL & up - \$23
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____

SS Golf S, M, L, XL - \$27 / 2XL & up - \$29
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____
Size _____ Quantity _____ Amount \$ _____

Shirt Total \$ _____

After closing Dinner Show \$39.50 X _____ = \$ _____

Soul of Motown

The Grand Majestic Theater

2330 Parkway, Pigeon Forge TN

The show is after Closing Saturday 8:15 PM. There will be an all you can eat buffet
before the show at 7:15 PM. Cost is \$39.50 per person.

You must Pre-register on this registration. Tickets will be in your packets.

Grand Total \$ _____

Please make payment to TN GWRRA

Mail Entire Page with Check or Money Order (no cash) to:

Bob Mack
1470 River Road
Kingston, TN 37763

The Iron Clad Wings



WING DING 42

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI / JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2020



Register today! Simply mail or fax your completed form.

GWRRA Member Services

P.O. Box 42450, Phoenix, AZ 85080-2450

Call: 1-800-843-9460 or 623-581-2500 (Local)

Fax: 877-348-9416

Register online at: www.wing-ding.org

FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Access to 'Pre-Event Day' activities! - **Tuesday 6/30**
- Wing Ding Welcome Party - **Tuesday 6/30**
- 4-day pass to indoor Trade Show - **Opens 7/1**
- 4-day pass to Demo Rides on all participating manufacturers' bikes (subject to availability)
- Access to Seminars and Parades
- Access to Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Access to free Evening Entertainment Event
- Optional dinner and priority seating prior to free 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 great prizes!
- Precision Drill Team Exhibitions and other performances
- Optional Rider Education Safety Courses, CPR Classes and more

Please visit www.wing-ding.org or text WingDing to 555-888 for the latest news, updates, and special offers!

The Iron Clad Wings

BEST WING DING 42 PACKAGES!

PREMIER PACKAGE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE
1 Full Registration
1 Both Dinners
10 Gold Wing Tickets
3 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
1 Event Shirt - Size: _____
TOTAL: \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE
2 Full Registrations
2 Both Dinners
20 Gold Wing Tickets
7 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
2 Event Shirts - Size: _____ / _____
TOTAL: \$225 |
|--|--|

GOLD WING NIGHT PACKAGE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE
1 Full Registration
1 Gold Wing Night Dinner
10 Gold Wing Tickets
3 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
1 Event Shirt - Size: _____
TOTAL: \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE
2 Full Registrations
2 Gold Wing Night Dinners
20 Gold Wing Tickets
7 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
2 Event Shirts - Size: _____ / _____
TOTAL: \$179 |
|---|---|

STANDARD PACKAGE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE (NO DINNER)
1 Full Registration
10 Gold Wing Tickets
3 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
1 Event Shirt - Size: _____
TOTAL: \$69 | <input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE (NO DINNER)
2 Full Registrations
20 Gold Wing Tickets
7 Yards 50/20/15/10/5 Tickets
2 Event Shirts - Size: _____ / _____
TOTAL: \$129 |
|---|--|

BUFFET 1: SPONSOR NIGHT

Tossed salad w/ 2 dressings
Grilled chicken w/ signature sauce
Roasted potato
Green beans
Plated cookie
Beverage service
\$24.00 per person

BUFFET 2: GOLD WING NIGHT

Pulled pork
Potato salad
BBQ sauce
Baked beans
Kaiser roll
Plated brownie
Beverage service
\$24.00 per person

RIDER'S NAME: _____ GWRRA MEMBER # _____

CO-RIDER'S NAME: _____ GWRRA MEMBER # _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ ALTERNATIVE PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ENCLOSED: CHECK MONEY ORDER

Please send check or money order in equivalent U.S. funds. All other funds will be returned to sender for adjustment. Please do not send cash.

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Split payments over two consecutive months. (Credit Card payments only)

CHARGE MY: M/C VISA AMEX DISCOVER CARD # _____

EXP. DATE: _____ / _____ SIGNATURE: _____

The Iron Clad Wings

Why You Don't 'See' Motorcycles on the Road

As illustrated by the SUV driver who nearly ran me over.



BY **JACK BARUTH** FEB 26, 2016

<https://www.roadandtrack.com/car-culture/a28306/why-you-dont-see-motorcycles-on-the-road/#sidepanel>



The late-model Ford Escape and I arrived at the intersection in my neighborhood at about the same time. I recognized the driver, a nice guy whose kids play with mine. I brought my Honda CB1100 to a stop and waited. So did he. Which was unusual, because he didn't have a stop sign. No, wait—he's stopped to talk to another one of our neighbors. I gave him about 30 seconds to change his mind and go forward. When he gave no sign of ending his conversation, I let the clutch out and started crossing the intersection.

Naturally, about half a second later, my neighbor started driving forward, still looking back at the person to whom he'd been speaking. I beeped the horn and twisted the throttle at the same time. He came to a sheepish halt about where my right leg would have been had I not accelerated out of the way and waved apologetically.

Continued next page...

The Iron Clad Wings

Think about that for a minute. Although my neighbor hadn't looked ahead for more than half a minute, he naturally assumed that the road ahead of him was clear. Sounds crazy, right? In fact, his behavior was less crazy than it might sound, and chances are that we've all done the same thing ourselves, for reasons that are both inherently biological and completely normal.

**IF YOU COULD SEE A RAW
FEED OF THE IMAGE SENT TO
YOUR BRAIN BY YOUR EYE
AT ANY GIVEN TIME, YOU'D
BE HORRIFIED.**

The first thing to understand is that our eyes don't see very much. We tend to think of eyes as cameras, but in reality they are biological devices with considerable limitations. If you could see a raw feed of the image sent to your brain by your eye at any given time, you'd be horrified.

It's mostly blurry, it has a blind spot near the middle, and it's upside down.

Luckily for us, our eyes are constantly in motion, even when we think we are looking straight ahead. They send several pictures every second to the brain, which then assembles the best and sharpest parts from each picture into a mental image. That's what we see. When you read the print on this page or screen, your eyes are flicking all over that page or screen, assembling a complete picture that you can then read.

Think of an old-school radar screen. There's a bright green line that tells you what the radar is seeing at that very moment, and it sweeps in a circle, continually refreshing the screen. Compared with the human eye, the line is the small area it can focus and see at any given time, and the whole screen is the image we have in our minds.

The human eye isn't really that great when compared to other outstanding eyes in the animal kingdom, such as the ones attached to eagles, some grazing animals, and (wait for it) sharks. But when it's combined with the human brain as an evolved system for hunting deer and the like, it's not bad. The problems start when things happen faster than the eye-brain system can "see." Since the eye is only looking at a very small area at any given time, it's possible that an alien or hugely advanced predator of some type, could actually hide in plain sight by moving quickly enough to avoid the eyeball's motion. (This is part of the plot of *Blindsight* by Peter Watts, a great book that I can't recommend enough to all of you.)

Luckily for us, the eyeball-tracking aliens haven't arrived—or they have arrived, and they are simply content to sit around and harmlessly make fun of us for being so blind. I can't say for sure, because I wouldn't be able to see them. But there *are* things that move quickly enough, and are small enough, that we don't necessarily "see" them even when they are right in front of us.

As you might guess, motorcycles fall into that category of things that we don't always perceive even if they are right in our field of vision. A motorcycle approaching head-on from a distance occupies a very small part of a driver's vision. If it's going quickly, it's possible that the eye simply won't get around to looking at it enough to make it "stick" in the brain before it arrives in the driver's immediate vicinity. That part is important because the brain can really only see things that it understands.

Continued next page...

The Iron Clad Wings

Your brain has a sort of visual shorthand for objects. For instance, chances are that you aren't really seeing everything around you right now, especially if you are in a familiar environment. You're just seeing the shortcuts that your brain is placing there to conserve processing power and attention. That's why people become fatigued more easily in foreign countries or really unfamiliar terrain; their brain is working overtime trying to account for all the things that it doesn't normally see. For this same reason, if you don't expect to see a motorcycle or pedestrian during a certain part of your morning commute, your brain will often ignore a motorcycle or pedestrian right in front of you, particularly if they aren't moving sideways across your field of vision.

Alright. Let's take a typical case. A driver is preparing to turn left from a side road onto a main road. There's a GSXR-1000 flying down that main road because what's the point of having something that fast if you don't wind it out, right? So our driver looks left and doesn't see the Gixxer because it's pretty far away. He looks right. Now he looks left again. The bike is much closer, almost on him, but because he didn't see it last time—and this is important—his brain simply *discards* the Gixxer as a result of his brain not expecting to see it. His brain is already busy doing this discarding for everything from his blind spot to various floaters in his vision to his own eyelashes. What's the harm in adding just one more object?

So the driver pulls out and *BAM* it's a GSXR-1000 in the door and at least one person who will wind up either dead or crippled. And the driver will tell the cop, "I didn't see him." And the cop will chalk it up to the Suzuki simply moving too quickly or to the driver being inattentive. But there truly is that third possibility: The driver looked right at the Suzuki but failed to truly "see" him.

This sort of thing happens with bicycles and pedestrians as well, of course, but it doesn't happen nearly as often because bikes and people tend to move slowly compared to a motorcycle. It happens even more often when people are stressed or frightened, because these emotions tend to freeze up the muscles, including the muscles of the eyes. When that happens, you get tunnel vision, which is simply the eye refusing to do its normal tracking deal and the brain helpfully filling in all the areas away from the eye's fixed center focus with plain black.

Tunnel vision is why I work very hard to keep my novice track day students from being next to another car on track. They literally won't see the car next to them because their eyes won't move enough to pick up that visual information and add it to their visual map. The same is true, of course, for people who are learning how to drive on the street for the first time. The field of vision for those drivers is very small.

So, let's go back to my neighbor. He hadn't looked forward in more than 30 seconds, but his brain was telling him that nothing was likely to change. Sure, it had been a while since he looked forward, but he probably wasn't consciously aware of just how long it had been. He might have even *thought* that he had looked forward prior to driving forward, because his mental map of the intersection was so strong. Of course, the information was outdated, and there was 800 pounds of motorcycle and rider directly in front of him. But it's okay. I expect stuff like that to happen, and as a result I still have both of my legs. Woo-hoo!

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The Iron Clad Wings

MAKE AN EFFORT TO LOOK AROUND, EVEN AT THINGS THAT DON'T SEEM IMPORTANT.

Can we improve the way we see on the road (and track) just by understanding our vision better? Yes, we can. Make an effort to look around, even at things that don't seem important like the side of the road or, if you're an SUV driver, your rear-view mirror. The more you consciously look around while driving, the better and more varied the visual information your brain receives will be, which will lead to a much higher-quality mental picture.

In short, you'll learn how to see things that are invisible to you right now. That's like a super power, right? So use it for good, and not evil. Unless you're a club racer. In which case you should absolutely use it for evil. I certainly do. But no matter how you use your new super power, do me a favor and look out for the old guy on the big black Honda bike, okay? Especially if you're my neighbor.

The Iron Clad Wings

Battery Charger!

Submitted by Dave Hunter, VA-L

I have one word today - Battery Charger! 😊

If you are like me, you have several items of need of battery attention this time of year. Motorcycles, mowers and maybe an old car that's sitting in the garage. We all know uncharged batteries don't like sitting around. They try to recharge themselves chemically, this leads to sulfating internal plates and battery death. So, get out there and put a charger on what needs attention. If your battery is low on charge you may want to use a car type charger to get its little molecules warmed up. Depending on the size battery you are dealing with it's important not to overcharge it with a larger charger. Most car batteries can handle an overnight charge at 4-6 amps. A cycle or mower battery should only need 1/2 to 1 hour 4-6-amp charge to get them going. Once they are warmed up a battery maintainer is a great way to keep the battery in tip top shape for spring. I don't like to keep a maintainer on anything all the time. I prefer to move my maintainer from one battery to another every several days or if you only have one battery to worry about, leave it on for several days and leave it off for a week.



Happiest of New Year!

Dave Hunter

The Iron Clad Wings

SNAPSHOTS

A look at what Chapter-L's Been Up To



NCE2 Christmas Parade December 7, 2019



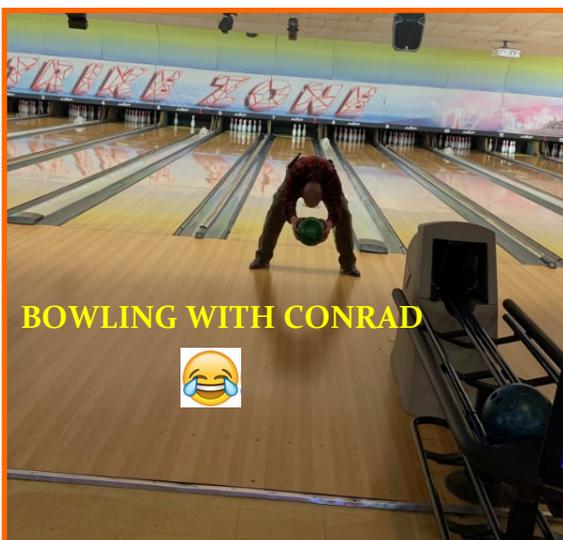
The Iron Clad Wings

SNAPSHOTS

A look at what Chapter-L's Been Up To



Chapter-L Bowling December 8, 2019



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SNAPSHOTS



Chapter-L Christmas Party December 14, 2019



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SNAPSHOTS



Chapter-L Christmas Party December 14, 2019



Candy Cane Game Winners



Ugly Sweater Contest Winners

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SNAPSHOTS



Chapter-L Christmas Party December 14, 2019



Santa is in the House...HO HO HO



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SNAPSHOTS



New Year's Day Ride
Coinjock Marina
January 1, 2020

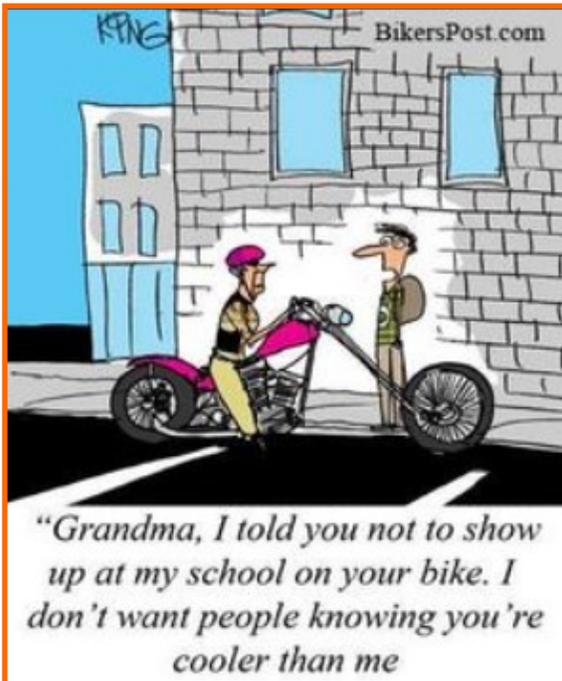
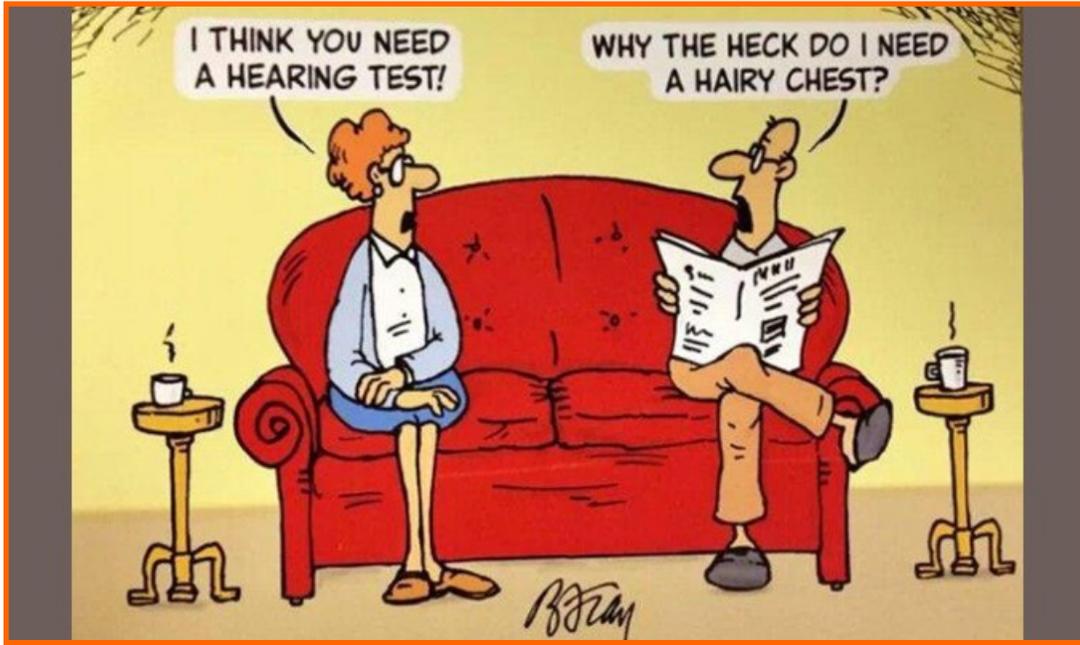


Conrad on a Goldwing-will he get one?



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Chapter-L Funnies



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Please come and join us!

Other local gatherings

- **Chapter C-Hampton/Newport News:** 2nd Sunday each month, 5pm. Angelo's Steak House at 755 J Clyde Morris Blvd in Newport News
- **Chapter O-Williamsburg:** 4th Sunday each month, 4pm. Denny's Restaurant at 409 Bypass Rd in Williamsburg
- **Chapter NC-E2-Elizabeth City, NC:** 3rd Thursday each month, 7pm. Golden Corral at 406 Halstead Ave in Elizabeth City, NC



The Iron Clad Wings

Chapter	Area / Location	Chapter Director	Phone Number & Email	Monthly Gatherings
VA-A	Burke	Mary O'Connor (11/09)	703-635-6775 maryoc4429@aim.com	2nd Wed. 7:30 pm The Ponds Community Center, 9837 Burke Pond Lane, Burke, VA. 22015
VA-C	Hampton/Newport News,	Dave & Donna Huey (01/18)	757-719-0668 dhuey1800@verizon.net	2nd Sun. 4:pm Anglo's Steak House 755 J. Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News
VA-D	Richmond	Fritz Sassine & Iris Guillet (01/18)	804-938-9183 fritz.sassine@gmail.com	4th Wed. 6:pm Candelas Pizzeria & Ristorante Italiano, 14235 Midlthoian Tnpk., Richmond
VA-E	Fredericksburg	Claude Revely (01/19)	540-207-7646 Knightwing263507@gmail.com www.battlefieldwings.com	3rd Wed. 6:pm Great American Buffet. 1780 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg Central Park Shopping Center, exit 130 off I95
VA-F	Winchester	Stephanie Davis (08/14)	540-664-6430 davis.stephanie80@yahoo.com	4th Sun. 8:am Golden Corral, 120 Costello Dr., Winchester
VA-H	Abingdon	Paul & Dorothy Baker (11/01)	276-628-6047 09nellie@comcast.net	2nd Tue. 7:pm Abingdon Moose Lodge US19, Porterfield Hwy, Abingdon
VA-I	Manassas	David & Robin Hotaling (1/20)	646-406-1200 Rah889195@yahoo.com	2nd Sun. 9:am Great American Buffet 8365 Sudley Rd, Manassas
VA-K	Roanoke	Jim Dailey & Susan Stuppiello (1/20)	540-230-0511 DaileyENT@yahoo.com	2nd Mon. 6:pm Great 611 Steak Co., 3830 Franklin Rd., Roanoke
VA-L	Chesapeake	Dan Clark & Lorrie Thomas (1/20)	757-343-1783 Wingernut93@aol.com	4th Tue. 6:pm Pops Diner 1432 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake
VA-O	Williamsburg	Ray & Tammie Pierce (04/14)	757-268-6286 gwravaochapterdirector@cox.net	4th Sun. 4:pm Denny's Restaurant 409 Bypass Rd. Williamsburg
VA-R	Harrisonburg	Gary Hoover hooov@shentel.net (01/18)	540-742-1751 Judy Russell tiggerly13@hotmail.com	1st Sun Location to be Announced
VA-V	Bedford	Jonathan Whitworth (04/17)	540-425-0028 OtterRideVAV@gmail.com	3rd Sun. 2:pm NO FOOD Bedford Church of God 212 E Main St, Bedford
VA-W	Chester	Sheila Hazan (06/18)	804-396-9088 gwravaw@gmail.com	2nd Tue. 6:pm The Patron Cantina 12211 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Chester
VA-X	Salem	Larry Stanton (01/15)	304-922-1401 Larry250222@gmail.com	1st Sat. 3:pm Evangelical Methodist Church, 1920 Lucas Street, Salem

The Iron Clad Wings

Chapter Team Members

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