

New Mexico District's Enchanted Wings Newsletter - *December 2011*

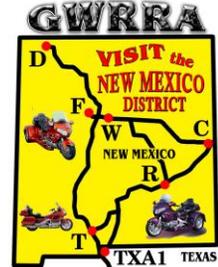
Gold Wing Road Riders Association -Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge



GWRR



REGION F



NM DISTRICT

District Directors

Keith & Teresa Morrison

Howdy NM District!

Hopefully all are having a great December. Things are a little slow with some Chapters not having meeting and instead celebrating the holidays.

Teresa and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!!

We can't wait to see you all next year. We will be starting our travels in February.

I don't know about you all, but my mileage was waaaaaaay down this year because of the shoulder surgery. Time to get back to riding in 2012!!!

Till next year...keep smilin'...:))) & ride safe!

Here's to good friends, good times, & Gold Wings!!!

Keith & Teresa



Happy New Year

Assistant District Directors

Doug & Chris Pettigrew

How are the [Wampanoag](#) Native Americans similar to GWRRA?

It occurred to me how thankful we are for GWRRA and the teachings they provide. Considering we just celebrated Thanksgiving, I thought we'd investigate the similarities between the two.

Wikipedia describes the history of Thanksgiving as follows: In the United States, the modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition traces its origins to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day [Massachusetts](#). There is also evidence for an earlier celebration on the continent by Spanish explorers in Texas at [San Elizario](#) in 1598, as well as thanksgiving feasts in the [Virginia Colony](#). The

initial thanksgiving observance at Virginia in 1619 was prompted by the colonists' leaders on the anniversary of the settlement. The 1621 Plymouth feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest. In later years, the tradition was continued by civil leaders such as [Governor Bradford](#) who planned a thanksgiving celebration and fast in 1623. While initially, the Plymouth colony did not have enough food to feed half of the 102 colonists, the [Wampanoag](#) Native



Americans helped the [Pilgrims](#) by providing seeds and teaching them to fish. The practice of holding an annual harvest festival like this did not become a regular affair in New England until the late 1660s.

When we first joined GWRRA we were also starving, not for food but for information. I started my riding career in 2002 with an '89 Goldwing. Boy I didn't have a clue what I was doing. We got off on the wrong foot listing to the wrong people, but eventually got on the right track when we took some riding classes with Rick Howell. We can honestly say we're thankful for all the education and fellowship we've received with our association with GWRRA. Like the Pilgrims we probably would not have survived without some help. We encourage everyone to take advantage of all the education programs available to you.

Happy Holidays!

Doug and Chris Pettigrew
Assistant District Directors
Chapter C Directors

Rider Education

Jerry & Becky Stillwagon

As we ride, our experience and training teach us to maintain our position on the road, watch our speed, look through the curves, scan the road in front of us, check our surrounding, watch the mirrors, and the list goes on. All of this is a process that can be called "situation awareness". According to the internet and Wikipedia, situation awareness involves being aware of what is happening around you to understand how information, events, and your own actions will impact your goals and objectives, both now and in the near future.

Most of us are familiar with Albuquerque, I-40 running east and west through town. I was riding west towards the intersection of I-25 and I-40, the Big I, to make the transition to north bound on I-25. The ramp has two lanes to the south and a single lane heading towards the north. I was in the right lane just entering the ramp when, as traffic was merging into I-25, someone stopped suddenly and without warning. As I was bringing my motorcycle to a quick stop I checked my rear view mirrors and noticed a very large, jacked-up 4X4 pickup truck behind me and it was NOT slowing down. I made a very quick decision to move out of the traffic lane, checked the right shoulder and pulled the bike up next to the car in front of me. The truck driver finally woke up and came to a stop about 3 feet from the bumper of the car that I was sitting next to.

GWRRA and MSF courses combined with the range practice teach us proper riding skills, assist us to correct our riding mistakes or bad habits, and how to do everything possible to prevent an accident. Our riding experience and possibly experiences of other, provides us with knowledge that enable us to handle those unexpected situations in the best way possible. I encourage you, if it's been a few years since your last course, to take a refresher course. Refreshing your riding skills is a great way to help prevent an accident.

If you have had a riding event that you think may help someone in the future please e-mail it to me. I would love to share it. As always, I will keep your name confidential if you prefer it not be used. Ride often and ride save.

Jerry and Becky Stillwagon
New Mexico Rider Educators
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Motor Awareness Coordinators

By Gene & Jeanie Wagner

You and potholes

Over the past year, I have written about your bike and the evil cars. This article is not about cars but it is about POTHOLEs. The government is the owner of the roads, however government employees don't all ride motorcycles, what may not seem dangerous to them but can be very dangerous to us.

1. The hole was a monster. It measured 4 ft x 3 ft by 10 inches deep.

2. The hole is behind a bump, on a curve, and while a car head lights would show it up, a single bike headlight, leaning into the curve, would not see until too late. So beware of potholes and keep those eyes constantly looking for road hazards. I know of riders who had to replace forks, tires and rims and a few broken bones from these types of hazards,
3. That item in the road, a 2x4 or a piece of metal, take time to stop, and pick it up. It is a little enough things to do for another biker who may not see it.
4. Ride safe and be aware.

From Jeanie and myself, have very HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS

MEDIC First Aid Coordinator

Gail Reynolds

Shock: First aid

Mayo Clinic Housecall [By Mayo Clinic staff](#)

Shock may result from trauma, heatstroke, blood loss, an allergic reaction, severe infection, poisoning, severe burns or other causes. When a person is in shock, his or her organs aren't getting enough blood or oxygen, which if untreated, can lead to permanent organ damage or death.

Various signs and symptoms appear in a person experiencing shock:

- **The skin is cool and clammy.** It may appear pale or gray.
- **The pulse is weak and rapid.** Breathing may be slow and shallow, or hyperventilation (rapid or deep breathing) may occur. Blood pressure is below normal.
- **The person may be nauseated.** He or she may vomit.
- **The eyes lack luster and may seem to stare.** Sometimes the pupils are dilated.
- **The person may be conscious or unconscious.** If conscious, the person may feel faint or be very weak or confused. Shock sometimes causes a person to become overly excited and anxious.

If you suspect shock, even if the person seems normal after an injury:

- **Call 911** or your local emergency number.
- **Have the person lie down** on his or her back with feet about a foot higher than the head. If raising the legs will cause pain or further injury, keep him or her flat. Keep the person still.
- **Check for signs of circulation** (breathing, coughing or movement). If absent, begin CPR.

- **Keep the person warm and comfortable.** Loosen belt and tight clothing and cover the person with a blanket. Even if the person complains of thirst, give nothing by mouth.
- **Turn the person on his or her side** to prevent choking if the person vomits or bleeds from the mouth.
- **Seek treatment for injuries**, such as bleeding or broken bones.

Membership Enhancement

Joe & Nancy Opuszenski

[Joining A Motorcycle Organization](#)

The following is an excerpt from the website Road Captain USA.com (<http://roadcaptainusa.com/>). If you don't know why you are a member of your chapter, or, why you should be a chapter member, this article will help explain it to you. The ideas expressed below are exactly what Nancy and I spoke to at our District Convention Membership Enhancement seminar.

“So you've taken the plunge and bought a motorcycle. You have instantly become a part of arguably the largest fraternity on earth – the brotherhood of bikers...or have you?



You cruise down the road and other motorcyclists drop you a “low two” or give you a nod in acknowledgment. People talk to you at gas stations about how cool your chrome looks, how many miles you get to the tank full, or how much they've always wanted to get a bike. But somehow you always seem to be riding alone.

Somehow these “brothers” seem more like random passers-by than people with whom you share a deep bond. But yet you see large groups of them riding together down the street, and there are all kinds of group insignia worn on the backs of the dudes at your local bike night. That, my friend, is where my story begins...

There are countless motorcycle organizations across the globe. Most are drawn together by some bond such as firefighters, law enforcement, military/veterans, races, religions, or even the brand of bike they ride. Some are family-oriented. Some worship leather, spikes, and tattoos. The beauty of it all is that there are so many motorcycling organizations out there that you are sure to find one that fits your niche.

Once you find a group that suits you, you are very likely to get much more than you bargained for when you joined. A riding organization or club can offer some of the deepest friendships you'll ever find, a support system for whatever tragedies life throws your way, and a wealth of information on places to ride, motorcycle safety, gear & accessories, getting through the inspection lanes at the DMV, and even the best insurance, [breakdown cover](#), and roadside assistance plans!





The best part of all is that when you are a member of a motorcycle riding organization, you will never have to ride alone again.”

Joe & Nancy Opuszenski
NM District Membership Coordinators

2010 – 2011 Couple of the Year

Ralph & Robynn French

Hello Everyone in the New Mexico District.

Ralph & I could not believe that the Christmas season approached so quickly this year. With that realization we also noticed that our time as your District couple is at an end. We would like to thank everyone in the NM District from the bottom of our hearts for all of your support, friendship, and the great time you provided us during the visitations to your chapters within the last 15 months. We have thoroughly enjoyed being your District couple of the Year.

Although we will not be the District Couple of the Year anymore, we will still be around. We will still be glad to see all of you at the various state and region events. Again, thank you for everything that you've done to make the District Couple of the Year position fun.

The NM District Convention will be held in September 2012, a new couple of the year will be determined. Ralph and I would like to personally invite all chapter Couples of the Year to compete for this Honored position, it is fun and you get to meet a lot of new people. Each Chapter should encourage the Couple to participate in the fun, but if your couple does not want to compete please support those who do. The fun and fellowship is great. The bonds established as Couples of the Year are strong and supportive.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the GWRRA Members in our District and throughout the Region.

Ralph and Robynn French
2010/2011 NM District Couple of the Year

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 NM-F Gathering
4 NM-R Gathering and Christmas Party	5	6	7	8	9	10 NM-C, NM- TX-A1 Christmas Parties NM-F Holiday Party
11 NM-T Holiday Party	12	13	14	15	16	17 NM-T Gathering NM-W Christmas Party
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 

LISTED BELOW ARE ALL THE CHAPTER GATHERING LOCATIONS AND TIMES

<p>“C” Clovis Smokin' Skillet 2018 Mabry Drive Clovis, NM</p>	<p>1st Sunday 8:00 am</p>	<p>“D” Farmington Golden Corral 1715 East Main St Farmington, NM</p>	<p>2nd Saturday 9:00am</p>
<p>“F” Albuquerque Golden Corral 2701 Coors Blvd, NW Albuquerque, NM</p>	<p>1st Saturday 7:30am Eat 8:30am Meet</p>	<p>“R” Roswell October 2 Golden Corral 2624 North Main Roswell, NM</p>	<p>1st Saturday Noon</p>
<p>“T” Las Cruces Furrs Fresh Buffet 2340 E Griggs Ave Las Cruces, NM</p>	<p>4th Saturday 11:30am Eat Noon Meet</p>	<p>Carlsbad November Best Western Steven's Inn 1829 S Canal Carlsbad, NM</p>	
<p>“A1” El Paso IHOP 1341 George Dieter El Paso, TX</p>	<p>2nd Thursday 5:30pm eat 7:00pm Meet</p>	<p>Hobbs September 4, December 4, Rancher Steakhouse 2022 N Turner Hobbs, NM</p>	
<p>“W” Albuquerque Golden Corral 10415 Central Ave, NE Albuquerque, NM</p>	<p>3rd Sunday 7:30am Eat 8:00am Meet</p>	<p>Queen August 7</p>	

Your Team - Proud to Serve

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