



GWRRR Region B NY District - Chapter D:

*"There are no wrong turns,
only "D" tours!"*



Website: www.gwrra-ny-d.org

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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DASH-FOR-CASH 2011

22 pts as of 12/1/11

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

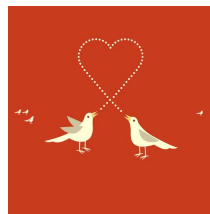
**Dec 8 - Chapter D Christmas Party; Euclid Hotel;
6:00PM**

**Jan 11 - Monthly Gathering @ Euclid Hotel; Dinner @
6PM (optional); Gathering @ 7PM**

Jan 14 - Game Night @ Euclid Hotel @ 6PM

Jan 21 - District Mtg @ No. Syr. Fire Dep't

**Jan 26 - Dinner Ride to Village Burger, Liverpool @
6:30PM**



ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

Dec 5 - Bill Spencer

Dec 5 - Jim Peterson

Dec 13 - Nick Lotito

Dec 13 - Maria Downey

 A black rectangular sign with the word "DETOUR" in white capital letters and a white arrow pointing to the right.

...to our Chapter Directors...

Greetings!

We hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends. As we reflect on the year about to pass, we have many things to be thankful for. We are thankful for all the help and cooperation we received during the year. We are especially thankful for the return of good health to several of our members including Shirley Hammond, Deb Hartley, and, Dick Lawton. We are thankful for the safe return of all of our members that participated in Chapter rides, Wing Ding, and other events. On another level, we are thankful for all of our military members and first responders whose dedication enables us to do what we do.

We are busy putting together a ride/event schedule for 2012. We received a lot of good ideas for rides next year and will get a preliminary schedule posted after the holidays. Coming up soon is a Pizza & Game Night at the Euclid Hotel on January 14 from 6PM to 9PM. More details will be provided when we finalize plans.

As we finish up this year and make plans for 2012, we would like to make everyone aware of a change in officers. Jim Tillotson has decided to step down as Treasurer at the end of this year. Jim has been involved with Chapter D at the staff/officer level for several years. We would like to thank Jim for his many years of volunteer service to Chapter D. Fortunately for Chapter D, Bill Nickal has agreed to take on the Treasurer's duties beginning in January. Bill brings with him plenty of experience for this position. We thank him for stepping up to volunteer and look forward to working with him.

At the beginning of 2011, we established some goals to guide our actions through the year. We would like to review these goals and our results.

1. Ensure continuity of Chapter D into 2012

Chapter D remains a viable and strong organization. We continue to have good participation in our events and most Gatherings draw 25-30 people. We have money in the treasury. We have an excellent, centrally located place to hold our monthly Gatherings. We have broad participation of our membership and we have folks that are willing to step forward when extra effort is needed. We have been able to replace an officer that decided to step down with a highly qualified candidate. We had very good participation in GWRRA events beyond our own chapter activities, including Wing Ding and the NY/NJ Convention.

2. Promote the values of GWRRA: fun, safety, and, knowledge

Fun: It is fair to say that any and all rides we had during 2011 were "fun." The Chili cookoff in February, the picnic at Bowman Lake, the Progressive Dinner ride (even though on a very rainy day), the many dinner rides, and the time we have to socialize over dinner at the Euclid before our gatherings were all "fun." For many of us, the "fun"

extended beyond our formal Chapter activities to time we spent with friends we made through our involvement with the Chapter.

Safety: Our chapter members participated in two parking lot practice (PLP) sessions facilitated by chapter members Rick Reardon and John Van Deusen, a CPR/First Aid class held at the N. Syracuse Firehouse, and monthly presentations in our newsletter and at our gatherings by our Rider Ed Directors, John and Pam Van Deusen.

Knowledge: Our chapter members took advantage of our many opportunities to enhance their knowledge. These opportunities included participating in our annual "Tech Day" held jointly with Chapter T; seminars at both Wing Ding and the NY/NJ Convention; and, our monthly technical presentations by our Technical Director, Bill Downey, appearing in the newsletter and during our gatherings.

3. Maximize participation of members and acknowledged people for their contributions.

We placed special emphasis on this goal during 2011. It is vital for the survival of an organization like ours to encourage member participation. This keeps the organization healthy and provides for future leadership. To this end, we did our best to acknowledge the contributions of others and feel it is appropriate to recognize individuals with small gifts for their special efforts. At our Gatherings, we typically have anywhere from 4 to as many as 8 people speak on various topics. We have had a variety of people act as Ride Captains and ride planners, although we would like to encourage more people to participate in this area.

4. Provide support to aid in the success of the District convention

The 2011 NY/NJ District Convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool this past August. The general consensus was that the convention was very successful. Our Chapter had a significant involvement in this event and received recognition from the District Director for our overall contributions. We had many of our folks contribute their time and talents to this event, and, we had some members that contributed "above and beyond" any reasonable expectations.

5. Promote and support at least one charitable organization/event

During 2011, Chapter D supported four charitable organizations. We had 12 members participate in the "Miracle Ride" on May 22nd. Our support for this event included donations by the individual participants and participating in the ride. We had 7 members participate in the "Ride For Kids" on July 17th. Again, our support was in the form of individual donations from Chapter members and participation in the ride. The third charitable organization we supported was the Rescue Mission in Syracuse. Support for this was in the form of individual monetary donations collected at a Chapter gathering. We will also be supporting the Phoenix Food Pantry with our canned goods donation gathered at the upcoming Christmas Party.

6. Investigate alternatives for website and newsletter formats that enable these to be relatively easily supported. (If someone is no longer able to do a particular job, someone can easily step in.)

During 2011, we did migrate the newsletter format to a different software platform. Since we began editing the newsletter a couple of years back, we used a product called “Swift Publisher” by Belight Software for preparing the newsletter. This was selected because of its compatibility with Apple Computer products that we use at home. During 2011, we upgraded our home computer equipment and decided to migrate the newsletter to “Pages,” a word processing/publishing product by Apple. Pages is used widely by those that have Apple products and has similar functionality to Microsoft Word. Documents created in Pages can be exported into Word format. As we do not have the Word software, we have not actually tested the conversion, however, we are confident that it will work and someone could continue publishing the existing newsletter format in Word, if they elected to do so.

We did spend some time looking into an alternate format for the website. After exploring Shutterfly, we did migrate Chapter D photos to a new Shutterfly photo website. It is very easy to use and does not require one to be a member of the website to view photos. Although we have no plans to do so, we discovered that the Shutterfly photo website could be easily developed into the Chapter’s main website. Shutterfly is very intuitive and user friendly and does not require the specialized language skills for most website development.

7. Maintain existing sponsors and add at least two new sponsors

As our practice has been in the past, we made an effort to patronize many of our sponsors during the year. Henry Jedra has done a very good job of connecting with our sponsors. As Chapter Directors, we had intended to connect individually with all of these folks, however, we did not accomplish this and need to refocus our efforts for 2012.

For new sponsors, we added Port Byron Diner and hope to have another new sponsor on board shortly. We recently had a good turnout at a dinner ride to the Port Byron Diner. The food was very good, the prices were very reasonable, and we are glad to have them as a sponsor.

8. Promote the Chapter and continue efforts to attract new participants

Our participation in Marcellus Olde Home Days was a specific effort to promote GWRRA, Chapter D, and, our values of knowledge, safety, and fun. This particular event was disappointing from a promotional standpoint. Despite our efforts to decorate and equip our booth and display some of our bikes, we had very little traffic due to the location and weather.

Our participation in “Wing Night” at CNY Power Sports in Cortland was more fruitful and it appears we attracted a couple of new members. We subsequently met with the owners to encourage this mutually beneficial relationship.

We also have picked up some new participants at events and gatherings through promotion by our individual members. We are optimistic that these folks will continue to participate with us.

Trish Thayer has done a fine job in her role as Chapter MEC. Included in her activities are connecting with folks at Chapter events, reviewing GWRRA data for new members within our geographic area, and making contact with new and prospective members.

9. Introduce some healthy activities into the Chapter

We had hoped to have some activities this year that would allow us to all get out and get some more exercise. Our intent was to combine some of our local rides with short hikes and walks. We had one weekday activity to the Genesee Country Museum that involved a great deal of walking. Beyond that, our results are rather disappointing and we need to make more effort during 2012.

The Christmas Party is coming up next week. We have included the particulars below. This event is always a great time and a good way to close out the year for our Chapter. Hope to see you there!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Bill & Julie

GWRRA NY Chapter D Christmas Party
Thursday, December 8, 2011 @ Euclid Restaurant 6:00PM

Price of \$12.00 per person includes:
Fried Chicken, Roast Beef, Au Gratin Potatoes, Bake Ziti, Chef Salad, Rolls and
Butter, Coffee, Tea

Entertainment: Dr. Paul

Please Bring:
One dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies and/or a food pantry item
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