



Chapter IL-Z2 News

GWRRA REGION E • ILLINOIS DISTRICT • CHICAGOLAND WINGS

Our next meetings are on Sunday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Jan. 14, at the convenient Old Country Buffet on North Avenue, Northlake, Ill. Visit us on the Web: www.ilz2.com

Dec., 2006

Volume #9

Issue #12

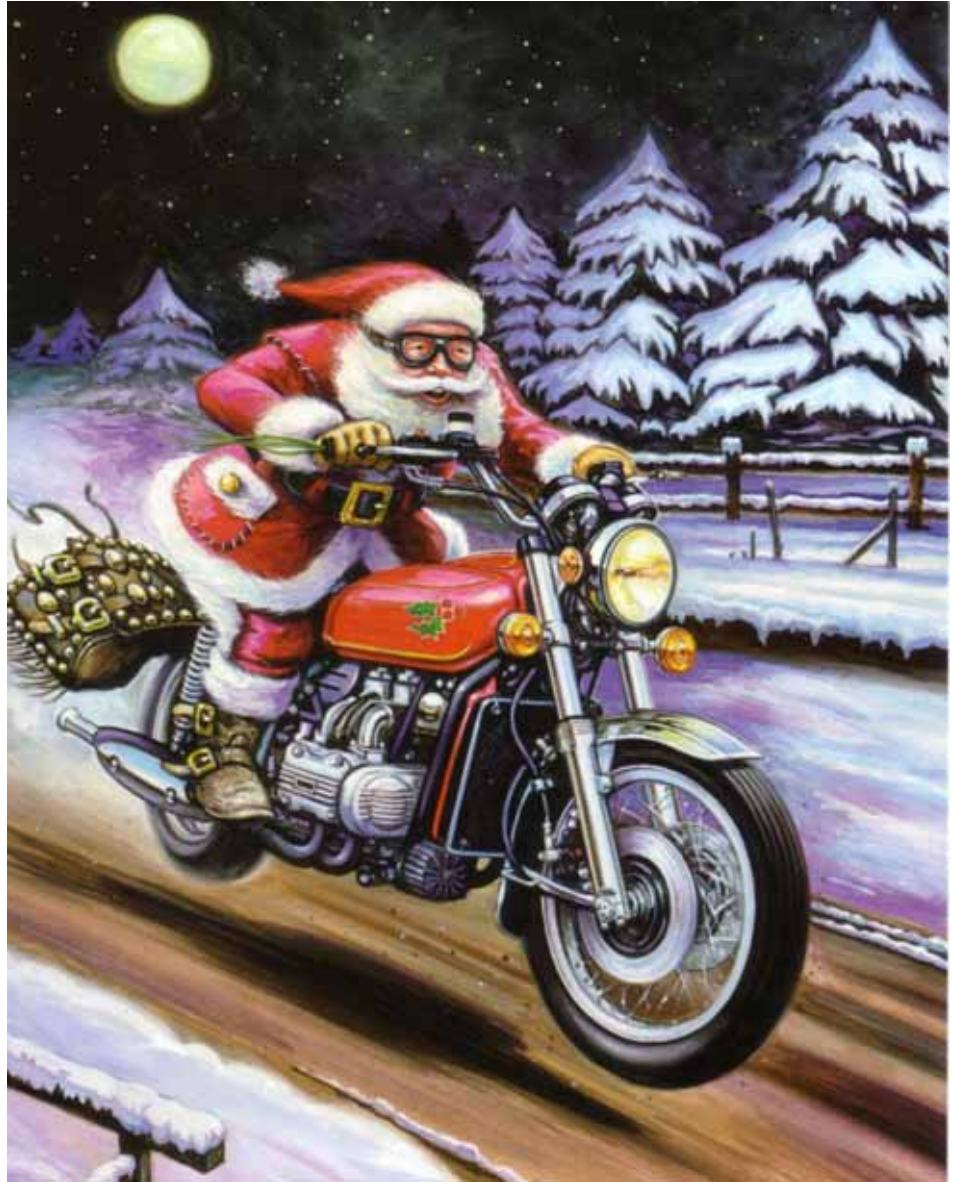
Chapter Directors *Jerry & Irene Ciesla*



As we sit back and reflect on the 2006 riding season, thoughts come to mind of all the fun rides, rallies, and events that Z2 members have attended. From your board members to the general membership pitching in and lending a hand, Z2 has once again come through as a truly "Members" Chapter. For all your efforts, we say "Thank You" and hope that the 2007 season will be equally rewarding.

As highlighted at our November meeting, Z2 and the Illinois District are looking to have an accident-free riding season for 2007. Hopefully, this will be achieved through increased motorist awareness and rider education. You, as members, will play a key role in reaching this goal by participating in many of GWRRA's Rider Education programs which are not only offered at our Chapter level but also at District and National events, as well.

A few upcoming events to remember are the **After-Holiday Party on Friday, January 12**, at Lido Banquets, 5504 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago starting at 7 PM. The annual Z2 event includes dinner, dancing, and our "White Elephant" gift exchange. Remember to bring a wrapped gift marked "male" or "female" that might be an item that you received during the holiday season (please turn to page 11)



Sale! Due to a stitching error, we have the following long sleeve denim shirts for sale at approximately a 40% discount:

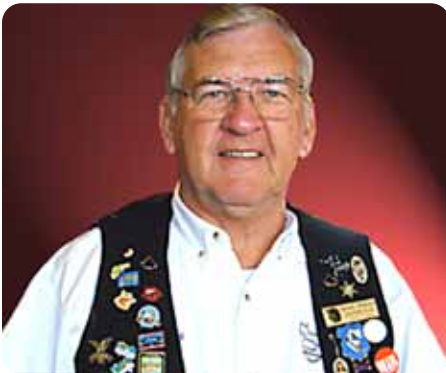
- 1 XL, Charcoal Grey 1500 bike - \$20.00 (normally 34.50)
- 1 XL, Blue 1500 bike - \$20.00 (normally 34.50)
- 1 2XXL, Black 1500 bike, \$22.00 (normally 36.70)
- 1 3XXXL, Blue 1500 bike, \$23.50 (normally 38.90)

Contact Danni (708) 429-5722 if interested.

Pick-up at December 10 meeting.



Chapter Educator & Motorcycle Safety Instructor *Dennis Wegener*



By the time you read this, most of us will have pickled and put our mighty steeds up for the winter.

If you are inclined to do so and have changed your own oil and filter, I hope you took a good, hard look at the tires and made a mental note of the possibility of new tires by next spring.

If not, then I'm sure that the reputable dealership that services your bike does so and will let you know if the time for replacement is getting close.

With this in mind, here's a blurb from Nick Hoppner at GWRRA: "Concern yourself less with choice of oil brands and more with oil change intervals."

Statistics: Recently I saw a note from The National Highway Traffic Institute pertaining to fatal vehicle crashes -- more specifically motorcycle crashes. Since 2004, we (us motorcyclists) have suffered a 13 percent increase in fatal crashes.

Reasons kinda broke down to — and not exactly in this order — re-entry riders (some of us), getting in over one's head (bike not suited to rider, size, weight, power), speed (yeah, we ALL are guilty of this), and, most importantly, alcohol.

Studies have shown that of those involved in crashes, almost half (47 percent), had alcohol or some other illicit drug in their system.

So, the bottom line is that maybe we

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should consider taking an ERC course, or even better yet, taking a beginner's course next spring. There's no shame in saying that one needs to re-learn or scrub off a winters' rust. Think about it!

Here are two clips from the American Motorcyclist magazine: "This just in: Americans are less likely to die riding motorcycles than driving cars.

That's the word from National Geographic magazine, which used stats from the National Safety Council to compare the odds of dying from all kinds of different causes, ranking them in order of likelihood.

First on the list was heart disease (1 in 5) followed by cancer (1 in 7), stroke (1 in 24), and motor vehicle accident (1 in 84). Tenth on the list was a motorcycle accident (1 in 1,020), which fell right behind drowning (1 in 1,008), and dying of fire and smoke (1 in 1,113). Yeah, we know: There are fewer motorcyclists than swimmers.

With gas prices being what they are, going to the pump can be a little unnerving. But there's another reason you should be particularly careful when you pull into the local fuel-o-mart. Yep, we're talking about all the slick stuff in front of the pumps.

Gasoline is bad enough, but spilled diesel fuel or oil is particularly slippery. That means you should always ride up to the pumps slowly, try to avoid the gunk on the ground, and come to a stop gently. Traction is your friend, but just remember, there may be a lot less of it next to the pump.

I hope that everyone had a rewarding and filling Thanksgiving Day with loved ones. And a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from Alyce and me. Be safe!!!!!!

Secretaries *Butch & Mary Thielenhouse*



The November meeting started at 9 AM with 40 members in attendance. Some topics discussed: Motorcycle safety was stressed for an accident-free 2007 riding season. Mike Kresch showed the membership his trophy from the Rt. 66 Festival in Springfield. Thanks went out to Mary Geurkink for setting up this year's fall color ride. The Chapter outing to Al's Char House was a good time. Thanks to Doug Koglin for setting up the event. Plans were announced for the After-Holiday Party January 12. Winter Warm-up was announced for February 2-3 in Bloomington. Alyce Wegener, Bobbie Siebert, and Robert Ullrich won the main 50/50 prizes. The meeting ended at 9:45 AM.



Events to Look Forward to:

Chapter Meetings are held at the Northlake Old Country Buffet.

Dec. 3 - Toys for Tots Ride

Dec. 10 - Z2 Meeting and 2007 Planning Meeting

Jan. 12, 2007 -- After-Holiday Party, Lido Banquets; 7PM Social Hour, 8PM Dinner; "White Elephant" Gifting; 9-12PM Music, Dancing; 5504 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 763-1408

Jan. 14 - Z2 Meeting

Jan. 27 - Earl Hobbs' Texas Hold 'Em Party. Space is limited. Sign up early.

Feb. 2-3, 2007 - Illinois District 2007 Winter Warm-Up Chateau Motel, Bloomington

Feb. 11 - Z2 Meeting, Rosemont Motorcycle Show Visit, Lunch/Dinner

July 4-7 - Wing Ding, Billings, Montana



Check out our great-fitting, great-looking new denim shirt embroidered with our updated new Chicagoland Wings logo in the color of your choice. Just ask Danni and Don Schwieger to show it to you...and you can also ask them to take your order.

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Special Events Coordinators *Ron Cotton & Betty Schultz*



The Last Ride of the Season... or One of Them, Anyway

It had been a great ride -- one of those "loner" rides where you go anywhere the road goes, follow impulse and whim, and get back home again. At 50 mph, the Valkyrie still had the hum of a B-52 bomber off in the distance, and I have grown to appreciate and listen for that sound. I was heading home.

The street where I live appeared, and I headed for the garage to put my machine away.

The big bike turned into the alley, and I let it prowl to the garage door. I parked it across the way on the apron of a nearby garage while I went in through my gate, into the garage, and hit the button opening the big door. The bike sat waiting for me outside, just as I had left it.

I admired it for a few seconds while I divested myself of helmet and gloves. Climbing aboard again, I fired it up and pulled it into the space in the garage. Grabbing a few things from the trunk, I closed the big door and prepared to go into the house. I looked back and the bike sat there, waiting for me like the faithful dog on the carpet that believes that I will return but

respects my command to "Stay!" The chrome was gleaming in the fading garage light.

What's wrong with this picture? It was weeks ago, that's what's wrong. I haven't returned to bring it back alive and, unless we get a warm weekend, it's going to sit there waiting for me all winter! I'm beginning to hate the prospect of snow and freezing weather. Did I ride the bike as much as I wanted to this year? No, I did not.

"Why not?", you ask. OK, let's pretend you asked. I didn't ride as much this year because... (pick one or more responses):

- 1) We didn't go on an extended motorcycle trip this year as we flew out to Oregon and drove a rental SUV around;
- 2) There were more family group things that Betty and I attended together and just didn't take the bike;
- 3) No excuses. I could have ridden more, but I just didn't!

Yeah, I may still get the bike out a few times and ride it around. We are going to have a couple 50- to 60-degree weekends before the freeze impacts the area, and I stand ready to run that last run of the year. But I am missing the rides I missed already. (I had to read that a couple times to make sure it made sense.)

Each time I go to the garage, there it is, on the kickstand, tilted so it looks like its head is cocked with a quizzical look to it, wondering why I haven't taken it out more often. Is this guilt on my part?

Well, I'm going to do better next year. The bike has been faithful to me, starting up every time, reliably running on both tires all year long, providing me with hours of pleasure. So now I need to be faithful to the bike by my care and on-going use of it. There are lots of miles left on it. I consider it a "middle-aged" bike and can easily visualize the many years of riding enjoyment it has yet to provide.

Warning! Don't go dwelling on whether or not your bike has human characteristics, as I tend to do. What's more, don't write about it so that everyone knows unless you

are prepared to be asked, "Do you really think it talks to you?" (I'm mentioning this from experience.) And yes, in its own way, I think it talks to me. Rationally, I realize that this is called "projection," the act of mentally projecting characteristics of one thing into some inanimate thing. Yes, I can tell the difference. But it feels good.

New Daylight Saving Time Rules!

Last month, President Bush signed a sweeping energy bill that will lengthen daylight-saving time by four weeks starting in 2007.

For most computer users, their computers will be updated with new software by then, or configured to connect to network time servers that will know the correct time. But because not everyone's computer is networked or updated, some glitches could occur—especially in consumer electronics devices that aren't designed to be reprogrammed.

Under the Bill, Americans in the 48 states that currently observe daylight-saving time (Arizona and Hawaii don't) would **move their clocks ahead by an hour starting on the second Sunday of March**, rather than the first Sunday of April. They would **set clocks back an hour on the first Sunday of November**, rather than the last Sunday of October. The changes would take effect beginning one year after the law's enactment or March 1, 2007, whichever date comes later.

The government's reasoning behind daylight saving time is that people will use less electricity for lighting if they have extra daylight later in the evening. The practice first took hold during World Wars I and II but quickly became optional for individual states during peacetime. Only with the Uniform Time Act of 1966 did the government establish a single time-change pattern for the whole country. Before this year's bill, that pattern had not changed since 1987.

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

February 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	1	2	3

January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31		2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 After-Holiday Party, Lido Banquets, 7PM	13
14 Z2 Mtg. & Ride, Weather Permitting	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Earl's Texas Hold 'Em Party; space is limited; sign up ASAP.
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

November 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
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26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Z2 Events

January 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 Toys for Tots Ride, 6AM	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Z2 Meeting; 2007 Planning Meeting Afterward	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Chairman, GWRRA *Paul Hildebrand*



Excerpted from December 2006 Wing World:

As of late, there have been a lot of changes that need to be discussed. As you know, our former Executive Director, Don Brock, and his wife, Cindy, have left this office and hit the road to become the vagabond spirits that they always were and didn't have time to be. It was a big surprise when Don first told me of his plans to retire, especially since his tenure had been so brief. The Arizona climate didn't agree with him or his wife and, truth be told, I don't think he really liked the desk part either. Additionally, he was disappointed that he had not achieved his personal growth numbers. He had goals, and he was surprised when he didn't fulfill them.

Now I had to make some interesting decisions. It occurred to me that part of the reason we are having growth issues is perhaps because the "founding fathers" are getting older and don't ride like they/we used to. The younger folks come in and see us riding to the Dairy Queen...and they want to ride till the tank is empty...just like we used to. So, off they go to do their "thing," and we miss out on their ideas, enthusiasm and fun.

I realize, of course, this may not be a significant reason to explain the slower growth issue, but as Star Trek's Mr. Spock would say, "It is logical." Anyway, going with that thought process, I pondered long and hard and tried to go outside of the box.

As you now know, I chose Melissa Nordeoff [to be our new Executive Director].

Now, before I talk about her in depth, remember this "history" aspect. Our Wing World magazine has a three-month lead time, so here I am writing in the past, for you in the future. Did that make sense?

It is still amazing to me how GWRRA has affected so many of our lives and continues to do so, even after 30 years. A long time ago, Don Farley was our Executive Director and his wife Dottie was a bookkeeper. In those early days, we really needed a bookkeeper, and Dottie was one of the best, so when we asked her to join our small group, she waded in and never looked back. That was in 1978, I think. In 1980, Don and Dottie had a daughter, Melissa. She was born during Wing Ding, and her father proudly signed her up as his second associate. He announced at WD's closing ceremonies that he had "recruited" the youngest member of GW that very day. I also remember Dottie bringing Missy to our home/office (literally) and putting her in a playpen while she taught our small staff the rudiments of proper bookkeeping.

Somewhere around 1984, Dot and Don separated, though she continued to do our books. She was always professional, competent, friendly and worked very hard. We were friends and colleagues for a long time. Those early years took a great toll on Shirley and me, eventually leading to our own process of going different ways, though we continued to work together, as we do to this day. In any case, Dottie and I were married in '87 when and Missy was seven years old. I watched her mother raise her with the same work ethic she herself so diligently pursued. So it seemed quite natural, indeed, even prudent, to give Missy a job when she turned of age...plus, we needed the help. I always found it easier to hire a deserving someone I knew than a complete stranger.

Melissa started as a Customer Service Trainee and picked it up so well and quickly that, after a year, she was doing the training and managing the night staff. For almost 10 years now, she has shown the same work ethic as her mother. She is dedicated, works hard, is committed, loves GWRRA (of

course), is enthusiastic, positive and passionate about her job—all qualities that are needed by GWRRA, indeed, by any organization. She knows its strengths and, she thinks, its weaknesses.

As the Operations Director of the all-important Customer Service Division, she has shined. She knows the computer system (not an easy task), the mail process, the purchasing and warehouse and the officer network, the event management group, and the publishing aspect of GWRRA.

There will be some who will say this process of thought and action is only nepotism. I say, it is well deserved. And even though I prefer hiring a "known entity," that individual must still perform to the Members' expectations. That is a time-honored tradition that all Execs try to fulfill. If this works, we'll all be the better for it. If it doesn't, then we'll try something else. You, the Members are—as always—the Judge and the Jury. If you like her, tell her. If you don't, tell me.

Melissa has some very interesting ideas that she believes will give us a "shot in the arm"...and [will be] lots of fun! She is a firm advocate of the Members and so, naturally, she thought of a "Chapter of the Year" concept. She wants to assemble a National Council, to relax the Tenure Policy in favor of a Performance Policy, she is trying to find us new membership cards, new benefits, and is considering bringing back a revised Life Member Program.

In the WW January edition, she will say her official "Hi" to everyone here in Wing World and introduce her ideas more fully. I'm looking forward to seeing what she brings to the "picnic." Jim Hodge and I (and others) will do all we can to help her and share our many years of knowledge of GWRRA's people and history. I hope you will give her a chance to lead GWRRA into the next level of accomplishment and progress. I am very proud of GWRRA...and I am very proud of Melissa. I recommend her highly. I think all of you will make a great team. (As Melissa says, "Enjoy the ride!!")

Chapter Directors

(from page one)

that you would like to “re-gift.” It could be motorcycle-related or not. Use your imagination, but please be kind to your fellow members.

Saturday, January 27, is Earl Hobbs' second annual Texas Hold 'Em party at his house starting at 6 PM. Sign-ups are limited, so make sure to attend the meeting this month to avoid disappointment.

Friday and Saturday, February 2-3, are the dates for the Illinois District Winter Warm-up at the Chateau Hotel and Convention Center in Bloomington, Illinois. The theme for 2007's event is “The Silver Ball,” commemorating the Illinois Districts' 25th anniversary in GWRRA. Sign up in the Chapter book for a fun weekend. Pre-registration forms and hotel information will be at our monthly meeting.

One week later, on Sunday, February 11, we'll be going to the motorcycle show at the Rosemont Convention Center following our regular monthly meeting. We'll go out for a lunch/dinner after the show.

That's about all for now as we wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. See you soon.

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WingWorld Magazine-- www.wingworldmag.com

GWRRA National -- www.gwrra.org

Des Plaines Honda -- www.dsphonda.com

Zone Honda -- www.motorcyclezone.net

IL-Z2 monitors CB Channel 2

GWRRA Chapter IL-Z2 meets at the Old Country Buffet restaurant in Northlake, IL (708) 836-9966 on the second Sunday of every month. Breakfast: 8 a.m.; Meeting: 9 a.m. We ride after the meeting!

The Old Country Buffet is located just east of I-294 and I-290 at the North Avenue exit.

Look for us between Sam's Club and the Wal-Mart in this large shopping center/parking lot.

Our next meetings will be Sunday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Jan. 14. Please join us!