



Patriot Guard Riders—Pennsylvania

Patriot Guard Riders Pennsylvania

SUMMER 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Growth for the Patriot Guard Riders in PA.
- Mission Safety.
- Region I Highlighted.
- Captain's Corner
- Diary of a Mission.

In this issue:

Growth for the Patriot Guard Riders in Pennsylvania |

Mission Safety |

Region Highlights 2

Captain's Corner 3

Growth for the Patriot Guard Riders in Pennsylvania

With the start of combat operations and the arrival in the public eye of protestors who targeted the funerals of our honored dead, membership rose in the PGR. As combat operations have lessened and the public has turned their thoughts to less important things, we have seen a decline in the number of people who come out and attend missions. There have been many meetings among the leadership and we have always come to the same



The PGR escorting Jesse Reed to his final rest

answer. "People don't care", Before National changed to a new web page our Pennsylvania membership role had in excess of 5000 names on it. Currently we have 705 registered members. Yes many have had difficulty in resetting their passwords but many have just not tried. If you know of anyone who is a member and has not reset their password coax them to do so, if they need help contact the State Captain.

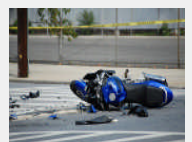
How can we increase membership? If you belong to a Legion or VFW, make them aware of the fact that we are out there. I recently did a funeral mission and the Honor Guard commented on how glad they were to see us but they didn't know who we were. Our Veterans are just as important as our KIA's. They both deserve honor and respect for their service to this great Country. Each of you has done amazing work standing the line for the families and buddies of our fallen. Your presence does make a difference.

Help us continue to do the honorable work that the Patriot Guard Riders of Pennsylvania does. Talk with your friends and make them aware, talk with your riding clubs. Membership is free and we do not have meetings.

"Because it's the right thing to do"

Mission Safety

Mission safety **MUST** be job one each time you suit up, When you attend a mission each of us must remember that every rider has a different level of expertise in riding. If you are the RCIC, you must ensure that the mission is completed in a safe manner. Remember that with funeral missions, by State law the funeral director is responsible for all vehicles in the procession. There **MUST** be a funeral home car leading the procession and all vehicles must have "funeral flags / cones" displayed and their four way flashers operating. **We are NOT allowed to block intersections or on / off ramps by State law**. As an organization we rely on our ride captains to monitor the mission and coordinate with other groups so that we do not cause the family and other hardships. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

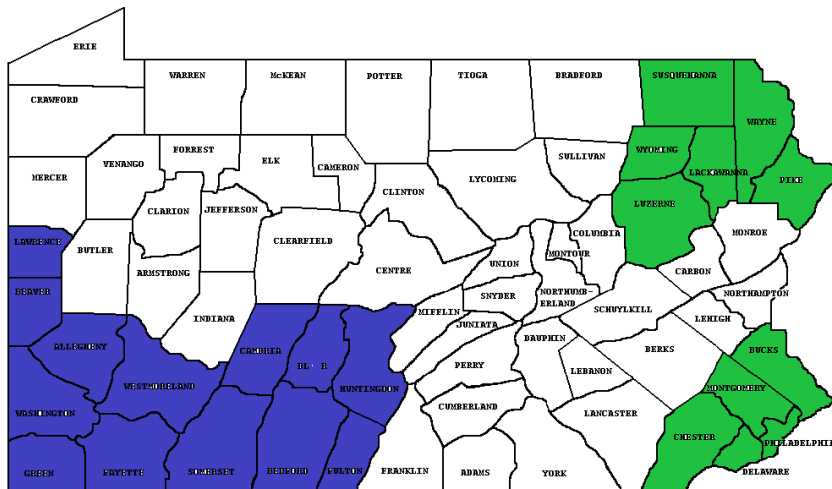




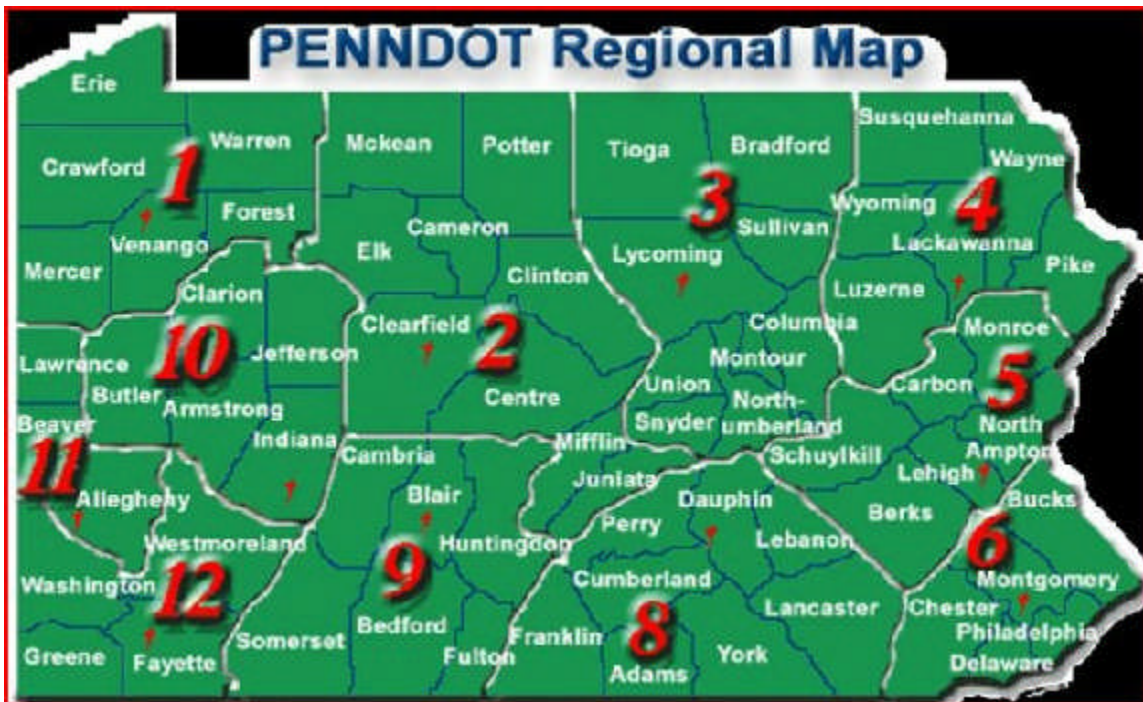
PGRPA NEEDS YOU !

SENIOR RIDE CAPTAINS NEEDED! REGIONS 9, 11 AQND 12

RIDE CAPTAINS NEEDED REGIONS 4, 6



Contact your Assistant State Captain to ask questions as far as responsibilities. Please step up.





Captain's Corner

Doc Kimbell

Good day all and thank you for all that you do to honor our military and their families.

On January 1, 2014 Barry Bioni stepped down as State Captain after many years of bringing us forward and making the PGRPA a stronger organization. We were fortunate to have Barry at the helm and with his mentorship I will continue to bring us forward. With change comes more changes. The leadership continues to look at what we do and how we do it and try to find ways to improve what we do. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of these issues that we have found and let you know what we are doing about it.

MEMBERSHIP

- Many have seen a decline in the numbers of riders who are showing up at missions. Why is this happening? It is our belief that we are seeing the results of the apathy that society today has towards our military. With the length of the current conflicts people "lost interest" unless it directly affected them. As previously stated, prior to the new National we page going on line Pennsylvania's membership was 5,000+. As of today it stands at 700+. Many people had difficulty getting the password reset to work and they gave up, some people were "paper tigers" who "joined" but never had any attention to show up at a mission. If you know someone who was attending missions speak with them and see if they can start coming out again.

MISSION NOTIFICATIONS

- I have heard directly from people that they are getting tired of all the email notifications of missions from other States. They state that they will not be traveling across the State to Ohio, Maryland or other States that are far away. Because of how the National email system is set up they can not separate parts of States out. For this reason the Patriot Guard Riders Pennsylvania are in the process of developing our own email system which will allow missions from other States to only be sent to those regions near by. You will continue to receive all Pennsylvania missions because we want to take the time to go to the National mission post and post condolences to the family. The families take great solace in the postings on the mission page.

WEB PAGE

- We will be launching a new web page very soon. Howard has done an excellent job keeping us all informed but the software that he was using was very limiting and made it difficult to keep the information flowing. Look for the new page very soon.



**Patriot Guard Riders –
Pennsylvania**

**BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT
THING TO DO**

[www.pgrpa.org]

DIARY OF A MISSION

HOOSICK FALLS NY, MEMORIAL FLAG

31 JULY, 2014

GETTYSBURG, ANTIETAM AND HARPERS FERRY



On 31 July 2014, Patriot Guard Riders from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia gathered at a hotel parking lot in Gettysburg. This was an unusual mission in as much as there were so many States represented at one time.

PGRNY has accepted the mission of getting the Hoosick Falls NY Memorial Flag to fly over Civil War Battlefields or Cemeteries to honor the Sons of Hoosick Falls who had fallen during the Civil War. This flag had already flown over the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery, Military Cemeteries in Europe and is scheduled to fly in VA, NC, SC, GA, LA and TX before being returned to Hoosick Falls.

We could not have asked for a better day. Clear blue skies and sunshine made the day more than special. PGRNY riders stood by at the Hotel while PGRPA led the

other riders to the Barlow's Knoll flag pole. We set a flag line and waited for the PGRNY riders to arrive.

After they arrived the flag was presented to your State Captain, Doc Kimbell and with PGRNY assistance it was raised over the battlefield and it flew for 10 minutes. It was taken down from the flag pole and folded. It was secured on my motorcycle and we left for Antietam MD National Cemetery.

The route we traveled was great, we traveled through a National Forest, many riders saying it reminded them of the Dragon Tail. A beautiful ride. We arrived at Antietam and I presented the flag to the Maryland PGR. With my assistance, the flag was raised over the cemetery and it flew for 5 minutes. After a short ceremony, the flag was again taken down, folded and Maryland PGR maintained possession and we headed out to Harpers Ferry.

After a short stop for cold drinks we continued on to Harpers Ferry,

WV did up right. We were met by a Union Soldier, he accepted the flag on behalf of VA and he escorted us to the flag pole along with the US Park Service and the Park Police.

Again the flag was raised, a small service was held and the flag was taken down. The flag was turned over to the VA Asst. State Capt. She was going to take the flag to two more battlefield that day.

We gathered for a post mission briefing, many new friends were made that day and we all headed in different directions.. I guided the NY contingent back to Gettysburg and I returned home.

This was a great example of Inter-State cooperation and proves we are one.

Because it's the right thing to do!

