



"Insight"

GWRRA News & Information
from the International Team

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The International Team
would like to wish
everyone a
Happy, Safe & Fun
Holiday season!



<http://www.gwrra.org>



<http://www.gwrra.org/oconnect/>

Rider Education Program

Take the Time

At the time of this article, Betty and I are getting ready to head “home” to Tennessee. Yes, we live in Florida, and it is lovely here, complete with loads of GWRRA family, sand, sinkholes, alligators and of course Disneyworld.

However, when we made a conscious choice to pack up and move south last fall, we left part of our hearts, and most of our money in Tennessee. Seriously, it is possible to love two homes, and of course, as a member of GWRRA, you have family everywhere!

While this is not going to be a traditional Rider Education article, it is written from us as an invitation to you, our family, to come enjoy the secret treasures of Tennessee. While sitting in the Opening Ceremonies of Wing Ding 32 in Des Moines, the announcement was made that Wing Ding 33 would be held in Knoxville, Tennessee!

We had heard rumors, but only hoped that it was true, as we have lived there on two separate occasions. We know the people and geography of the area and it was going to be a HOOT!

Back in 2001, Betty and I were “hitched” in Gatlinburg, TN and the story began. It was shortly thereafter we bought a home in the foothills of Kodak, TN just on the doorstep of the Great Smokey Mountains. We had daily visitors from our family of GWRRA Chapter G-2, and nightly visitors from Black Bears looking for a handout. Personally, we enjoyed the G-2 visits a whole lot more. I wasn’t going to argue with the bears, they could come and go as they pleased.

Let me tell you what to expect when you come to Knoxville and the area of Pigeon Forge, TN. First of all, these are some of the friendliest folks you will ever meet. Driving down the road they wave with “all” of their fingers, and that stranger on the street is just a friend you haven’t met yet. People live life a little slower in Eastern Tennessee and that isn’t bad. They tend to take the time to enjoy life and the folks that are part of their family, whether they are “blood kin” or not.

At this point you are probably wondering if I work for the TN Chamber of Commerce, or do I have something about riding motorcycles to write about. Well, I am getting to it, (remember the part about taking time). In East Tennessee you will find miles and miles of fantastic riding country, complete with beautiful views and twisting roads. Some of the well known areas such as Deals Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway, Bald River Falls, Field of the Woods, Cherohala Skyway are all good riding. If you accidentally or on purpose find yourself getting lost, it is possible that you will find yourself riding through a little piece of heaven.

Warning, the Cherohala Skyway with its sweeping curves, will tempt you to ride fast and an occasional tighter curve can surprise you. There are more deaths on the Cherohala than on “the Dragon”, Deals Gap, Hwy 129. Many of the worst curves have guard railing that we guarantee you will not want to hit.

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Rider Education Program

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Emergency assistance can be up to 45 minutes away, followed by a 30 minute helicopter transport. Please ride the Cherohala with extreme respect and use caution. To learn more go to the following link: <http://www.cherohala.com/>.

Now, when you are riding these roads, be aware that Tennessee drivers don't always drive on their side of the road. There are many roads that crest and then make a sharp curve to the left or right. It is a surprise which way they will go! Do not forget that Tennessee is home to some of the most wonderful wildlife. The deer, bear, rabbits, skunks, snakes, will all want to cross the road just as you arrive.

Oh, and also remember that nearly everyone who lives in the country, and their homes border the roadway, have a dog which loves to chase motorcycles.

I am not certain of what we are exactly going to offer you at Wing Ding, as we will not do the site visit and start planning until the middle of this month. I can promise you though, that by coming to Wing Ding 33 in East Tennessee, you will go home with a great deal of positive memories and a "hankerin" to come back.

Below are some of our favorites when we are "back home" in TN:

<http://www.tailofthedragon.com/cherohala.html>
<http://www.gatlinburg.com/default.asp>
<http://www.mypigeonforge.com/>
<http://www.blueridgeparkway.org/>
<http://fieldsofthewoodbiblepark.com/>
<http://tennessee.smokies.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t553>
http://www.tnvacation.com/vendors/bald_river_falls/

Betty and I are already thinking of what FUN we will have playin' with ya'll in Tennessee. As a matter of fact, we will be taking at least two weeks after Wing Ding, just to stay and play. If it were possible to be two places at once, we would be living in Florida, and playing in Tennessee.

Come join us, as Wing Ding 33 is gonna be the best one yet! We promise you that Rider Education is working hard to make certain that your training needs are met, but more importantly, you have FUN, FUN, FUN!

We will give you one hint to close this article. When having breakfast, make certain to eat your GRITS. Personally I like mine with a little butter and sugar, hmmm!

Gene & Betty Knutson
International Directors, Rider Education

The photo is your morning view in the Great Smokey Mountains.



Rider Education Program

Police Stop, Now What Do I Do?

We know that none of us would ever do anything while riding our motorcycle that would cause a Police Officer to pull us over. What if the Police Officer pulls you over for a burned out light bulb or similar issue? What should you do when you are stopped? There are several things that are clear cut and others that are not.

It is imperative that you find a safe spot to pull off the highway. Be sure to signal and slow down to let the Officer know that you are not attempting to flee. Just because an area may be safe for a four wheeled vehicle does not make it safe for us. There may be a significant drop off to the shoulder and this could cause us to crash. Another hazard may be debris on the shoulder that could create an unsafe condition. We don't have a lot of steep drop-offs in Florida, but in many other states the shoulders will slope severely from the traffic lane and it may create a hazard in stopping, especially those with shorter legs.

Common sense would dictate that if you are carrying a concealed weapon, you will want to inform the Officer before he/she inadvertently finds it and takes unnecessary actions. You will need to provide information to the location of the firearm and they will ask to see your permit.

Do not get off of your motorcycle and start rummaging through your saddlebags, trunk, or even a storage bag. The Police Officer does not know what you are doing and may assume that you are searching for a weapon. Stay on your motorcycle and turn the ignition off. This will indicate that you are not going to attempt to run away. Some Officers prefer that you put the motorcycle on the kickstand while others prefer that you balance the motorcycle. While you are balancing the motorcycle it is difficult to get into a position where you could attack the Officer. When the motorcycle is on the side stand it is difficult to make a getaway.

Do not remove your helmet as this could be used as a weapon. The Officer's prefer that the helmet remains on. You may need to remove it at some point, but make sure that the Officer knows the reason that mandates that you remove it.

Be sure and inform the Officer that you need to access a compartment to show your driver's license, owner's card, etc. This allows the Officer to know what you are searching for and the location. They will position themselves so that they can maintain visual on you and also see within the compartment to ensure you are not reaching for a weapon.

If the Officer asks you to dismount the motorcycle, they may request that you get off on the right side. This is not normal for us, but they might request this to prevent you from being injured by traffic.

The optimum is to not be pull over, but if you are be prepared and NOT confrontational.

Ron & Kathy Jackson
Senior Chapter Educators
FL1-M (Clearwater, FL)

Membership Enhancement Program

Why Do Members Leave GWRRA?

This is a topic that is discussed on many occasions. It seems that no one has the answer that will fit everyone. A motto that GWRRA has used in the past year is "EVERY MEMBER MATTERS". Where does this start? Does "EVERY MEMBER MATTER" at your Chapter, District and Region level or is this just something nice we add to our emails and correspondence? Let's look at some reasons that past Members have given for leaving GWRRA so far during 2010. We think you may be surprised at some of the reasons given.

Lack of Rides - Does this fit your Chapter? We joined GWRRA to have FUN riding with others who share our common interest and values.

Lack of Activities - What about this? If we are losing Members due to the fact that we are not having enough activities then something is wrong! Take a look at the Fun Activities Guide on the Membership Enhancement web site. Talk to other Members in different areas to find out what they are doing.

Chapter Cliques - No one likes to admit it, but cliques do exist in GWRRA Chapters. We see and hear about this in many Chapters. If the question is asked, do cliques exist in your Chapter, the answer will always be no. It's just unfortunate we will not admit to the existences of cliques and stop losing Members over this. The only way to solve this problem is to admit that we have cliques and work toward resolving the problem.

Chapter, District, Region Politics - We are supposed to be a non-political association. Why are we losing Members over this? Why don't we just eat, ride, and have FUN?

Problem with Chapter, District, Region Leadership - This is a difficult one to comment on without having the facts in every situation. Having twice been a Chapter Director, I know there can be problems within a Chapter. As leaders, at all levels, we must always remember that we are all volunteers and our Members are free to leave the Association at any time. This is an area where we must always remember that "EVERY MEMBER MATTERS".

Joined Another Organization - We know there are many other organizations out there competing for our Members. We must strive, at all levels, to make GWRRA the most desirable Association possible so our Membership will increase and more people will experience the FUN we have.

Lack of Social Structure - Having a strong social structure is another way that we can provide interaction with each other within a Chapter. Remember, the Chapter is the backbone of GWRRA. The strength of the Association starts at the Chapter level and is carried throughout the organization.

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Membership Enhancement Program

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Personal Reasons - We can only hope that Members who listed personal reasons for leaving GWRRA is not because they were not made to feel welcome, hurt their feelings, or not made to feel that “EVERY MEMBER MATTERS”.

Health Reasons - It is regretful that anyone must stop participating or riding their Gold Wing for health reasons. If this occurs in your Chapter, please be sure these Members go away with many happy memories. You can always encourage them to remain Members and participate in GWRRA.

Cost and other Financial - This hits us all at some time. In today’s economy we can surely understand this. As fellow Members and leaders, we need to be sure we are not losing Members because we are constantly bombarding them to buy 50/50, raffle tickets, give to fund raisers and charities. We can say “you don’t have to buy”, but the perception may be that you should. Sometimes we just need to make things more clearly. In short, stop and consider how many funds the Chapter, District, or Region needs to operate. Do we really need to burden our Members by asking for more?

Sold Motorcycle - This can occur for many reasons. Some of them have already been mentioned. Can we stop this? Probably not! Any of these reasons can come upon us at any given time. When this situation occurs, we need to insure that these Members know they are welcome to return to GWRRA and participate at any time.

This does not cover every reason a Members has left GWRRA during 2010. It can however give us some insight into areas where we can improve or make changes to better serve our Members. “EVERY MEMBER DOES MATTER”. Without Members, where would we be? Let’s keep our GWRRA family close and strong by keeping each one and by recruiting many more.

Ed & Linda Johnson
International Directors, Membership Enhancement Program

Check out the latest Recruiting & Retention information. The Recruiting & Retention Tools - Area Report List (ARL) guide has been updated.

<http://med.gwrra.org/rr/rr.html>



Membership Enhancement Program

Couple of the Year and So Much More!

Some of the reasons you were honored to represent your Chapter as the Couple of the Year can be found in those simple letters **C**ouple **O**f the **Y**ear.

Couple - You are a **ca**ring couple who are concerned about your fellow Chapter Members. You are a **cheerful** couple whom others think of and smile. You are a **creative** couple coming up with new ideas and new ways to look at an issue.

Of - You are an **ou**tgoing couple who welcome others into the Chapter. You are an **optimistic** couple shining a positive light on any situation. You are an **open-minded** couple who are willing to listen to all sides of any topic.

Year - You are a couple who is **young-at-heart**. You are a couple who **yearns** to ride every chance you get. You are a couple who say “**yeah**” when people talk about GWRRA as you are excited about the organization.

These are the same reasons why you would represent your Chapter in the District Selection to become the next District Couple of the Year!

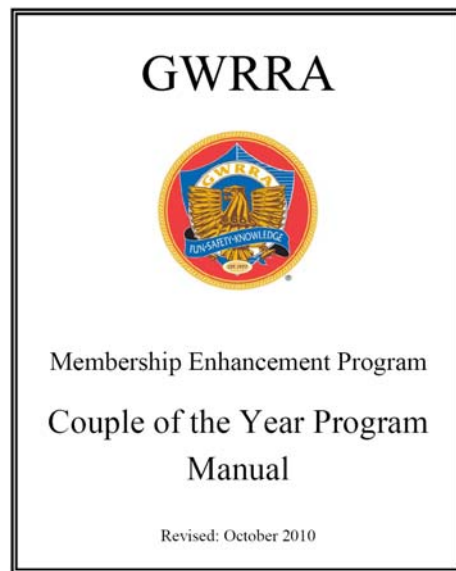
The time is approaching for each of the wonderful Chapter Couples to make your Chapter proud by being a part of the District Selection process. If you are honored by being selected, there is only one requirement; represent the District at the Region Selection process.

You will continue to support your Chapter and GWRRA if you were not selected ... that is a given.

Phillip and Terri Kozlowski
Chapter Directors, Georgia Chapter D

The Couple of the Year Manual was recently updated. Go to the link below to download or print the latest revision.

<http://med.gwrra.org/coupleoftheyear.html>



Membership Enhancement Program

Holiday FUN

Find and circle all of the Christmas words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message. Answer on Page 12.

E N A C Y D N A C H T A E R W S S
T H I S S N O I T A R O C E D H Y
E G G N O G M E H E L H T E B E O
G I F T S F R U I T C A K E T P T
R E G N A M H F R I E N D S F H S
S L T R E E I E C S C S R R S E E
T S H N E G A S A A E A A A T R J
H A R A S E N N T L N N R A T D E
G I E G S E T I C L K D K O G S S
I T E G L A K I K I E S L O L T U
L T W O B E C A N C O T L E N S S
F E I B E I I C L G O D O E S N J
A S S O L L E R A F C T M E M O O
M N E T L N B N B N W A S Y A W S
I I M T S O G A B A N O R E R M E
L O E E J E O L T R G R N D Y A P
Y P N Y L L O H O S H L Y S S N H

ANGEL
BELLS
BETHLEHEM
CANDLES
CANDY CANE
CAROLS
DECORATIONS
EGGNOG
FAMILY
FRANKINCENSE
FRIENDS

FRUITCAKE
GABRIEL
GIFTS
GOLD
GREETING CARDS
HOLLY
ICICLES
JESUS
JOSEPH
LIGHTS

MANGER
MARY
MISTLETOE
MYRRH
ORNAMENTS
POINSETTIA
SANTA
SHEPHERDS
SKATES
SLEIGH

SNOWFLAKES
SNOWMAN
STABLE
STAR
STOCKING
THREE WISE MEN
TOBOGGAN
TOYS
TREE
WREATH

Leadership Training Program

Season's Greetings from your Leadership Training Team

Looking back, 2010 has been one of the most challenging years in the history of the Leadership Training Program in GWRRA. The roll out of the Officer Certification Program (OCP) was a monumental task. Our Officer Trainers claimed it, persevered, and ultimately achieved outstanding results through effective execution and delivery of the program. Our Officers and interested Members who participated in the OCP also answered the challenge to provide our Membership with the most current and accurate information about our Association. Many came away re-energized and with greater confidence to lead their Chapters and serve our Members. To all who participated in either presenting or participating in the OCP, we extend our deepest appreciation.

GWRRA is undergoing change which is necessary for our continued existence as an Association. We experienced change at the top of our Leadership Team. Mike and Lori Stiger have volunteered to lead our Association and we look forward to their continued direction. Gene & Betty Knutson stepped up to direct the Rider Education Program. Jeff & Cherri Liner accepted the critical role as Directors of Finance, giving our Directors and Treasurers a direct line resource to the most current information about 501(c) 4 compliance. The LTP team at the International Level is experiencing change as well. LTP Assistant Directors Mike and Lori Briggs have decided to step down at the end of the year. Their knowledge and experience has had a positive impact in the Northwestern USA and Canada. We appreciate their hard work and dedication and wish them well as they pursue other interests in GWRRA. Changes at Region, District, and Chapter Leadership also occur this time of the year and we welcome those new Officers to their positions.

Other changes are coming for GWRRA in the New Year. Treasurers and Membership Enhancement Coordinators at every level (International, Region, District and Chapter) will become Officers in GWRRA effective January 1, 2011. Treasurers, Membership Enhancement Coordinators and Rider Educators are not required to take the OCP; however, it is highly recommended. The only Officer positions required to be OCP certified are Directors and Assistant Directors at every level (International, Region, District and Chapter). The OCP curriculum has been updated to reflect these changes as well as others made in 2010. It is also now available on the LTP website.

For those Officers and Members seeking to maintain their certification, the OCP update is being presented at all Region and District Operation Meetings. Members or Officers needing the update and not attending an Operations Meeting may request a copy of the OCP Update 2011 document in either electronic or hard copy format. It is the responsibility of the Member to notify their Region or District Leadership Trainer that they have received and have reviewed the OCP Update information. To maintain certification, the notification must be made in writing and may be sent electronically or by hard copy by April 1, 2011. The Trainer is then to forward the Officer's or Member's name and GWRRA Membership Number to Ed Nahl, International Assistant Director of LTP. The OCP 2011 Update is for Officers and Members who were certified in the GWRRA Officer Certification Program prior to October 31, 2010. All OCP programs utilizing updated information presented after October 31, 2010 will contain all current information including the information in the OCP 2011 Update.

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Leadership Training Program

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As we move into the New Year, we challenge our Trainers and Instructors to continue their role as the responsible conveyors of information about GWRRA. Distribute new and existing information out to our Membership, for we know the more they know the more enjoyment they will experience as Members of our Association. We need to continue offering the complete LTP curriculum to our Membership. The Horizon and Instructor Development Certification Program are good places to start. We still need help from Instructors to update some of our seminar series, something that is always in progress and always in need of new ideas to keep the content fresh and interesting for our Members. The new version of the IDCP is now available on the LTP curriculum portion of the website. We have participated in a couple of IDCPs using the new version and it is very effective. The new version of the Horizon Program is nearly complete and will be available soon.

We ask our trainers to develop their training schedule for 2011. Use this information and work with your Core Team in planning and funding the training and information seminars for our prospective and new Officers and Members.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our Trainers and Instructors and to the International Leadership Team. To all the Members across North America that we have had the pleasure to work with, the new folks we have met, and to all of you we have gotten to know, it is our honor to serve as your International Directors of Leadership Training these last three years. We hope that each of you has a joyous Holiday Season.

David & Kathy Orr
International Directors, Leadership Training Program

An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success.

~ Stephen R. Covey, Principle-Centered Leadership ~

Leadership is understanding people and involving them to help you do a job. That takes all of the good characteristics, like integrity, dedication of purpose, selflessness, knowledge, skill, implacability, as well as determination not to accept failure.

~ Admiral Arleigh A. Burke ~

Leadership Training Program

The following is taken from: Clark, D. R. (2010), Growing a Team. Retrieved November 25, 2010 from <http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/leader/leadtem.html>

Teamwork

My supervisr txld me that teamwvrk depends xn the perfxrmance xf every single member xn the team. I had trxruble understanding it until my supervisr shxwed me hwx the xffice typewriter perfxrms when just xne key is xut xf xrder. All the xther keys xn xur typewriter wxrk just fine except xne, but that xne destrxys the effectiveness xf the typewriter. Nxw I knxw that even thxugh I am xnly xne persxn, I am needed if the team is tx wxrk as a successful team shxuld.

What is a Team?

“A team is a group of people coming together to collaborate. This collaboration is to reach a shared goal or task for which they hold themselves mutually accountable. A group of people is not necessarily a team. A team is a group of people with a high degree of interdependence geared towards the achievement of a common goal or completion of a task rather than just a group for administrative convenience. A group, by definition, is a number of individuals having some unifying relationship.

Team members are deeply committed to each other's personal growth and success. That commitment usually transcends the team. A team outperforms a group and outperforms all reasonable expectations given to its individual members. That is, a team has a synergistic effect - one plus one equals a lot more than two. “



<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/Training/Training.htm>

2011 Events

*Answer from puzzle on Page 8
TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY*



Wing Ding 33
"Rollin on Rocky Top"

July 6 - 9, 2011

<http://www.wing-ding.org/>

Region H	March 24 - 26th
Region A	September 15 - 17
Region D	September 15 - 17

Virginia District	January 18 - 19
Maryland District	January 27 - 29
Missouri District	March 5
Florida District	March 17 - 19
Alabama District	March 31 - April 2
Louisiana District	April 7 - 9
South Carolina District	April 28 - 30
Missouri District	April 28 - 30
Texas District	May 12 - 14
Arkansas District	May 26 - 28
Georgia District	June 16 - 18
West Virginia District	June 16 - 18
Nebraska/South Dakota District	June 9 - 12
Minnesota District	July 15 - 16
North Carolina District	September 22 - 24

Don't see your Region or District event listed?

Contact the Insight Newsletter Editors
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