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GWRRRA GEORGIA

Volume 2, Issue 4

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AND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING



Florida got the rally season off to a great start. Bob and Nan had a good variety of things for the guests to do, and except for the trip down, the weather co-operated.



Georgia received the Largest Attendance Out of District award thanks to all of you who went down and supported the rally. I missed closing ceremonies and don't know how many of our members won the contests they entered, but I thank all of you for pitching in to have a good time and helped make the Florida rally successful.

Early in March we had our first Horizons seminar of the year. And what a seminar it was! Linda and Gary made arrangements for us to go to a new location in Thomaston. We were pleasantly surprised to have one of the largest turnouts for the meeting we can remember. Even though the room was a bit cramped, everyone had a lot of fun and maybe even learned something that will help in Chapter life. We were so encouraged by the response we had, we are already looking forward to having another one in August. Remember, this is NOT JUST FOR OFFICERS, but for anyone who is interested in learning more about GWRRRA and how it works. If you are interested, please contact Gary and Linda Feaselman.



Wing Fling is only three months away

and we are getting more excited by the day about the rally. Your District Staff is working hard to make this rally one to really remember. Also, bring your lawn chair to the dinner Thursday night for the movie under the stars. Because of the agreement we have made with the movie company, I can not advertise the movie, but I can tell you it is a first run movie this year. And Dolly is closing in on the band that will keep you hopping during the Friday night party.



Bob and Karla Greer have been talking with the merchants in Hiawassee and the surrounding area, and have arranged for some special discounts for Wing Fling participants. I'm getting so excited about the rally, I think I will go up for a weekend trip just to get a head start. If you have not registered yet, what are you waiting on??

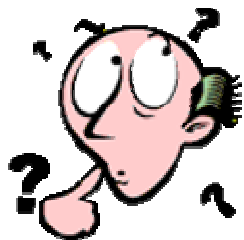


The Grand Prize is getting better all the time. Last month, I told you about all the accessories that were on the Bushtec Turbo 2; now, I am pleased to tell you that Dave Aikens, GA-Q, has sweetened the deal by donating a garment bag, cover and air pump. The Grand Prize is now valued at over \$3,000.

Now it is time to start packing for the Alabama Rally. I'll be leaving EARLY Thursday morning; so, if you see a green streak go by...it's just me!

COMMUNICATIONS

Ahhh, there is that word. Communications. Communications is very viable to the success of any program, group or association. A recent television commercial talked about bad communications. A Santa suit was ordered and a Panda suit was delivered. It just shows how words can get changed between the beginning and the end. The meaning of what is being explained can be turned into something that could be damaging. As Rider Educators, we need to make sure all information we are passing on to others is explained so all understand.



We teach, in group riding, to ride to the level of the LEAST experienced rider. How many chapters have members with only a year or less of group riding experience? Do we become complacent? Are we using acronyms too much? Do we explain what they mean when we use them? Do we know what they all mean, or do we occasionally “parrot” them? When you were a new member, did someone explain all this to you, or did they assume you knew what Level I meant, or what a staggered formation was? I know when we were new to GWRRA, there was little information passed on to us concerning some of the things mentioned above. We tried to watch and learn from others, so as to what they were doing, and follow along as best we could. This, of course, can be a dangerous approach to use. Not knowing what a particular term, or statement means, could easily lead to disaster. We must always be aware that as Rider Educators, we must communicate to get the “education” part across to others. If we get set in our ways, get complacent and overlook the fact that not everyone knows what we mean, we are not doing our job as Educators. For example, I always “sign off” my emails or newsletter articles with “R.S.H.F.”. Many of you know what that means. Many of you do NOT know what that means. So, just for the record, it means “Ride Safe Have Fun”



We all need to do our position properly. If you need help in writing articles for the Chapter Newsletter, or in getting seminars, or giving Chapter talks or seeking information to any part of Rider Education, contact the District Educator Staff. We will be delighted to help in any way we can. You can use information from many places, but remember to give credit to those when you use their information. Be careful about “copy write” material. It is important to know how to give a Chapter talk, but it is just as important to be prepared to do so.

And as always, always be watchful for the unwatchful

RSHF,

Chuck and Anne Reed, GA District Educators

(Portions of the above were taken from the National Rider Ed Newsletter)

Georgia Couple Of the Year Program



Who would have ever guessed that **more than half** of our Georgia Chapters would have selected a Chapter Couple Of the Year? We could sit around a huge conference table and brainstorm about this monumental success to determine who should receive credit. The answer is without any doubt, the Chapter Directors.

The Chapter Directors, in some instances, were once Chapter Couples Of the Year or maybe a District Couple Of the Year. If they have not served as a Couple Of the Year, they have seen the rewards of recognizing a couple within their Chapter that has shown commitment and involvement in their Chapter. They may have realized that even though there may be several couples in the Chapter that have contributed time and energy that has resulted in the success of the Chapter, there is one couple that stands out. One couple that always volunteers and is always willing to help the Chapter in any way they can. That 's the couple that Chapter Directors know they can always call on to help with Chapter gatherings, rides or special events. Those couples that stand out, the ones that the Chapter can always depend on to help support the Chapter are the couples that should be recognized.



Sometimes the Chapter participants have recognized and selected their Chapter Directors as their Couple Of the Year. Those that have ever been selected as a Chapter Couple Of the Year can attest to the honor and pride they felt by being recognized for their involvement and will gladly share their experiences of meeting other Chapter Couples Of the Year and making new friends. Once thought to be a dying program, the Georgia GWRRA Chapter Directors have shown by the large number of Georgia Chapter Couples Of the Year that the program is definitely going strong in Georgia. If you don 't have a Chapter Couple Of the Year, it 's not too late. Recognize that deserving couple by selecting them as your Chapter Couple. Chapter Couples Of the Year are not required to participate in the Georgia District Couple Of the Year selection process, but wouldn 't it be great to have bragging rights that the District Couple Of the Year came from your Chapter?

If you have any questions concerning selecting a Chapter Couple Of the Year, or if you have already selected a couple and have not let us know who they are, please contact us.

Bill and Betty Livingston

Georgia District Membership Enhancement

Couple Of the Year Coordinators

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, flowers, and cards during the recent hospitalization of Ron. Prayers were answered and we are home and doing great. We appreciate each and every one of the contacts made. *Ron & Susan*



Georgia Travelers Plaque

The Hawkinsville River Rats, GA-V, have the plaque and are giving it away Saturday, April 9, at the First Annual Wings Over Gum Swamp Extravaganza. For more info about the event, see the Upcoming Events page.

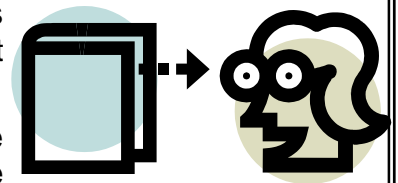
GWRRA-GA.COM On line and On time!



How many times have you wondered what events were coming up in the next month or even the next weekend? Did you know that you can pull up that information anytime by going to the Events page on the Georgia District Website? That's right, you can find information regarding upcoming events, as well as information on upcoming chapter meetings get-togethers and other exciting information. You can even print out a calendar that lists events and chapter meetings just so you can plan your activities for the coming months.

The Georgia website also brings you fun pictures of events across the district, including mystery pictures you can have fun trying to identify. Our Gallery will grow as the year goes by and more events take place. Be sure to check it regularly to see what's new.

Speaking of What's New, how many times have you visited a website and wondered just what new stuff had been added since the last time you visited. The Georgia website keeps a chronological listing of all changes made to the site. Simply click on the "What's New" link on the main page to check out the latest on the website.



And that's not all, you'll find links to other chapters, District Newsletter, Rider Education information, Couple of the Year information, and don't forget our newest division – the MAD page. This page is constantly growing and changing as new documentation and other materials are added.



Another great benefit of the Georgia website is the Rally information that is listed, including an extensive listing of lodging available in the area. Very soon you'll be able to get details on the events that will be held, including rules for the bike show and other contests. A rally schedule will be posted so you can plan your days for the rally. No

more missing events because you didn't know ahead of time when they would be held.

So be sure to check in on the Georgia website on a regular basis. The address for the Georgia site is: <http://www.gwr-ra-ga.com>

Membership Cards – A Valuable Asset!

Has anyone ever asked to see your membership card and after you have spent ten minutes digging through your purse or wallet you cannot find it? Or worse, you do find it, but learn that it was your old, expired card and realize you had cut up the new card by mistake! During the past couple of rallies, we've asked folks to show us their membership cards and have been amazed to find out that most folks either don't carry one; left it in their bike or at home, or that the member had let his/her membership expire without their knowledge. Membership cards have some good information on them, such as:

Membership Number * Expiration Date * GWRRA Home Office toll free number
* Toll free 24 hour emergency road service number

Your membership card...don't leave home without it! See you at the Rally.

GRAND PRIZE FOR '05 WING FLING

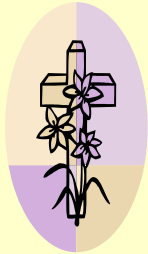


Bushtec Turbo+II Motorcycle Trailer with lots of accessories including a garment bag, cover, and air pump (these items donated by Dave Aikens.)

Tickets may be purchased with your rally registration or throughout the upcoming months from the District Director and Asst. District Directors. You **do not have to be present** at closing to win.

Christian Sympathy is extended to...

Dan & Joan Tillirson, GA-A, on the death of his brother, Ed.



Brian & Cindy Allen, GA-A, on the death of his grandmother.

Rick & Rhonda Stephens, GA DD, on the death of his grandmother.

Cal & Erlene Hicks, GA-J, on the death of her mother.

Bob & Mary Jo Carson, GA-F2, on the death of his mom.

Ron & Sandy Thomas, GA-G, on the death of her sister.

Frank & Sara Halstead, GA-R, on the death of his brother.

Paul & Jeanne Dawley, GA-T, on the death of her grandmother.

Rick & Janice Hastings, GA-L, on the death of her mother.

Tim & Beth Jones, GA-L, on the death of her father.

2005 GA CHAPTER COUPLES OF THE YEAR

Brian & Cindy Allen, GA-A

Al & Frances Starley, GA-A2

Walt & Bev Thayer, GA-B2

Ray & Kathy Potter, GA-C

Larry & Teresa Urban, GA-C2

Ken & Vicki Watkins, GA-E

Buddy & Liz Vars, GA-E2

Rich & Sally Curtis, GA-G

Kary & Pat Porter, GA-H

George & Jan Danner, GA-J

Jeremy Clay & Courteney Holcombe, GA-L

Robert & Anna Tillman, GA-O

Joe & Bonnie Durning, GA-P

Phillip & Pat Denning, GA-Q

Sid & Donna Cohen, GA-S

Tommy & Vicky Martin, GA-T

Wayne & Nina Carlton, GA-V

Buck & Dianne Harden, GA-X

What a great group of Chapter volunteers who are being honored this year by being selected as their Chapter's Couple of the Year. Thanks to all for participating in the Program.

Among our sick:

Anita Schmidt, GA-Q

Brenda Jones, GA-C

Kathy Potter, GA-C

Tom Fuchs, GA-P

Bob Beltz, GA-W

Danny Mackey, ADD

Bill & Betty Livingston, MED/COY

Coordinators

Joyce McIntyre, GA-X

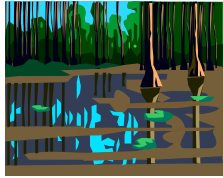


These are members that we knew of at press time. Please forgive if there are others omitted that we have not been told about.

As you can see by the lengthy list in the left-hand column, we have many members sick and many who are grieving. Let's keep these in our prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31—April 2—Alabama District Rally, Mobile, AL



April 8-9—GA-V's First Annual Wings Over Gum Swamp Extravaganza, Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Dept., Hwy 26W, Cochran. Camping/Motor home hookups available. For more info contact CD Angie Parkerson at (478) 934-0584.

April 16—GA-T's Spring Fling. Sandy Creek State Park, Hwy 441N, Clarke County. 10 a.m.—2 p.m. No registration fee. Contact CD Randy Simpson at (706) 546-5202.

April 30—GA-D Rummage Sale. Chestatee Community Building. For more info contact CD Sherrel Davis at 770-887-7938

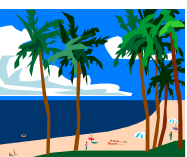
May 7—GA-D2 Fun Day, North Georgia Fairgrounds, Dalton. For more info contact CD Frank Cronan at (706) 277-1298.

May 5-7—South Carolina District Rally, Myrtle Beach

June 16-18—Georgia District Wing Fling, Lake Chatuge Lodge, Georgia Mtn. Fairgrounds, Hiawassee. Registration opens at 12 noon. Must have a registration number to book at the host Lodge. Check website www.gwr-ra.com for rally info or contact Rick Stephens at 770.562.3277. Vendors contact Ron Larsen at 478.971.4291.



August 13—GA-H Fun Day, Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds, 9:30—3:00, closing ceremonies 2 p.m. \$6 per person pre-registration, \$6.50 on site includes meal and 1 grand prize ticket. Contact CD Ken Stutely at 229.888.1341 for more info.



August 20—GA-C Fun Day, on Jekyll Island. Holiday Inn Beach Resort Registration is \$8 per person, \$10 after July 15. Meal, \$200 grand prize, treasure hunt, and games. For more info. Contact CD Buddy Jones at 912.264.0001

Sept. 5—GA-K Poker Run/Catfish Festival in Kingsland. \$10 registration fee. For more info. Contact CD Joe Yother at 912.729.6379



Sept. 17—GA-Q Dessert Auction and Burger Burn at the Museum of Aviation, Warner Robins. Fun starts at 11 a.m. For more info contact CD Dave Aikens at 478.953.4886

Sept. 24—GA-O Picnic in the Park, Fulwood Park, Tifton. More info to follow.

Oct. 1—GA-E2 Poker Run for Hospice, Contact JJ Etzle, Chapter Director, for more info at (912) 826-0912.

Oct. 22—GA-A Fall Harvest Fun Day, High Falls State Park, \$8 per person. For more info contact CD Bob Greer at (770) 473-1316.

Nov. 5—Wind Down. Location to be announced at later date.

Your Chapter event is not sanctioned by GWRRA without District approval. To confirm a date for your event, call Rick and Rhonda for verbal approval.

Once your date is approved, send your activity request form and event flyer to the District Director. If there are any changes or revisions, these requests should also be directed to the District Director.



A Chapter may not appear on the annual event schedule more than once at any one time. Chapters desiring to host more than one event in a year must wait until the first even has happened before requesting a second date.

2005 Georgia Wing Fling

A Pirate's Adventure

Set your sails for Hiawassee

for June 16—18

**And bring your wenches and maties!
(parrots not welcomed!)**

GWRRRA GA

460 Taylors Gin Road
Temple, GA 30179

770.562.3277

Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge



Gwrrra-ga.com

Newsletters Can Catch the Interest of Your Membership

Because we are not able to visit all the Chapters as much as we would like, Chapter newsletters are a vital link to help us know what is going on. A recent survey by the Home Office in Phoenix revealed that Chapter members list the Chapter newsletter as something they look forward to the most in GWRRRA. Unfortunately, some Chapters are not publishing any kind of a newsletter.

Publishing a newsletter is one of the very few things that a Chapter is requested to do. It does not have to be an elaborate work of art, but only a couple of pages to keep your members abreast of things going on in your Chapter and around the Region. In fact, some Chapters only have one page of their Chapter news and sends that with a copy of the District newsletter to their members.

Let me encourage you to send a monthly newsletter to your regularly attending members and then, once a quarter, randomly send your newsletter to other members in your area that do not attend. This just may prick the interest of people in your area and they may just surprise you by attending your meeting just to see who you are and what you are doing. Just think about it, new members coming to see what is going on, they like what they find, they become regular attendees, the Chapter gets “new blood” with new ideas, the Chapter gets more active and grows, old members keep up with what is going on around the state and become more active, and start having more fun; all because of a newsletter. Who knows? Yours could be the next “most active Chapter” in Region A.