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GWRRA Georgia

February 2008



A New Riding Season

Chilly Willy Notes

I don't think we could have asked for better weather than what we had for Chilly Willy. It was a beautiful day, the food was great, and the friendship could not have been any better. There were lots of bikes in the parking lot and lots of great food in the Garden Patch. With more than 260 members, representing 27 Chapters, coming out to see friends they may not have seen in a while, it was indeed a great day. We hope you heard something that will benefit you and make your membership even more enjoyable. We gave the Chapter Officers a lot of information in a short amount of time. We all learned a lot and hopefully the information will be passed along to all our members. The entire District Staff would like to thank you for coming out to spend the day with us and hope something we passed along will help you in some way.

Staff Changes

If you weren't able to make it to Chilly Willy, you may not have heard about the District Staff changes we announced. Assistant District Directors, Bob and Karla Greer, have been selected to serve the membership of Region A as the Region Membership Enhancement Coordinators. To take their Assistant District Director position, we have selected Kelles and Laura Sue Fleming. With all of the new programs under the Membership Enhancement Division, we have selected another familiar couple, Sid

and Donna Cohen as your Membership Enhancement Coordinators. They are very excited to serve you and we look forward to their contributions to Georgia GWRRA. You all know them as Georgia's 2006 District Couple of the Year; so please welcome them to their new positions when they come to visit your Chapters.

From Your District Event Coordinator

Time's getting closer for our Rally of Mythological Proportions. Have you sent in your registration yet? I sure hope so. We have something for everyone – games, seminars, friendly chapter competitions, poker runs, talent show – in general, lots of fun! And of course, don't forget about the door prizes (some of the best you'll find anywhere), the 50/25/25 and the two grand prizes of \$1,500 and \$500. Make your plans now to be in Athens, Georgia on June 12th-14th. See you at the rally!

Vicki Watkins, Event Coordinator

Financial Reports

Just a reminder that Chapter Financial Reports, along with the cover sheet and equipment lists are due. If you have not already submitted your report, please send them to the District Treasurer, John Andrews, at 3201 Pinyon Drive, Albany, GA, 31721.

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 26-27 - Horizons: Comfort Inn, Perry GA. For more information, contact Dave and Sharon Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

Feb 2 - Instructor Development & Certification: Verhulst Trikes-N-Bikes, 7875 Maysville Road, Maysville. For more information, please contact Dave and Sharon Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

Feb 9, 2008 - GA-S - Sweetheart Poker Run: Fort Yargo State Park, Winder, GA. For more information, contact Ken & Traci Thrasher at 706-310-1041

Feb 16-17 - Horizons: Courtyard by Marriott,

Dalton. For more information, contact Dave and Sharon Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

Feb 23 - Knowledge Enhancement: Verhulst Trikes-N-Bikes, Maysville, GA. For more information, contact Dave and Sharon Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net

Mar 13-15 - Florida District Rally: Old Time Rock and Roll Wing Gathering. For more information check the Georgia District web site at <http://gwr-ra-ga.com/>

April 12 - GA-T - Spring Fling Street Party: 10a to 2p at Cycle World of Athens. For more information, contact Tommy Martin at 706-342-7279.

GA-A Steve & Dottie Fagan
 GA-A2 Ben & Martha Maddox
 GA-B2 Mark & Cindy Nettke
 GA-C2 John & Joann Seward
 GA-E Rick & Faye Reece
 GA-E2 Chuck & Karen Cook
 GA-I Paul & Connie Jackson

2008
 Chapter
 Couples of
 the Year

GA-Q Pat & Beverly Schell
 GA-S Carlos & Dee Lozano
 GA-X Jerry & Melody Watson

(Additional Chapters and names of their couples will be added as they are received.)

GA Traveler's Plaque

Chapter GA-S of Winder captured the District Traveler's Plaque from Chapter A-2 in Dublin on the 19th of January. Chapter S will give the plaque away at their Sweetheart Poker Run on 9 February. For more information, contact Ken and Traci Thrasher at 706-310-1041.

Region A Wanderer

Chapter GA-P of Fayetteville, GA is offering the Region A Wanderer for capture on Saturday, 9 February, at the IHOP at 705 Jeff Davis Drive in Fayetteville. Eat at 6pm; meet at 7pm. For more information contact David Privet at 404-791-4326.

Among Our Sick:

- Lamar Harrison; GA-S
- Marcia Etzle; District Staff
- Billy Morris; GA-B2

If you know of any member that is ill, had surgery, or lost a loved one, contact Bill and Betty Livingston.



Meeting Changes

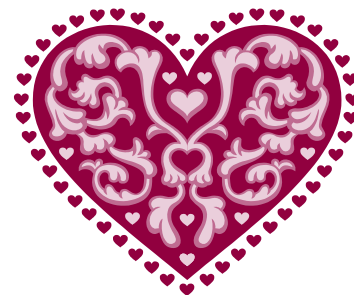
- GA-D; Now meeting at Ryan's in Dawsonville, 2nd Saturday of each month, 10:00am to eat, 11:00am to meet.

Heartfelt Sympathy To:

- Nina & Wayne Carlton and Joanne & Leon Swain on the passing of Nina & Joanne's brother, Wayne Kirkpatrick



Happy Valentine's Day





From your Senior District Ride Educators
Chuck and Anne Reed



SOME WINTER THOUGHTS

Although we do not get cold weather often, and we certainly do not get cold weather like they get up in the northern states, Georgia does have its winter months; probably more so in North Georgia than in the rest of the state. Still, we all experience cold weather. Luckily, it is not too cold for too long and Georgia riders can usually ride 12 months a year. However, for those who do not wish to ride during our “winter” months, there are a few things we can do for our trusty riding machine that will help prolong its’ life and serviceability.

The first thing to think about is the oil. If you do not plan to ride enough to accumulate the required miles between oil changes during the winter, you should change the oil and the filter. You really should not let dirty oil, with all of the contaminants it has accumulated and trapped, set in the engine over a long period of time. Install fresh oil and oil filter before putting the bike up for the winter. When it is time for you to start riding again, change the oil and filter again. This will help in removing harmful contaminants from your engine.

Next is the battery. If you use a trickle charger, as most of us do, and you do not have a sealed/maintenance free battery, keep a check on the water level. Water /acid will evaporate more quickly while being constantly charged during the long inactive time period. If you need to add water, use only distilled water.

Check your coolant level. Evaporation can also be a problem. If you need to add coolant, use only the type recommended for your engine.

Tires, as you know, should be constantly checked; even more so if you are not riding at all. You know how often you have to add air to your tires when you do ride often. Imagine how much air loss occurs when you do not ride it for extended periods of time.

And last, but not least, is your fuel. If you are truly not going to ride during the winter months, drain the gas from your tank and also the carburetors. Gas will evaporate and the residue and trash in the gas will cause problems when left in your gas tank for long periods of time. It is a whole lot cheaper to put a fresh 6 gallons of gas in your tank when you get ready to ride again, than it would be to have your fuel lines, gas tank and carburetors cleaned of all the harmful “crud” that will certainly have taken up residence there.

But, if you are like most GWRRA riders in the south, you will be riding most of the winter anyway. So, if that is the case, then may I remind you, that just because you are out riding, that does not mean you can forget it is cold; maybe even cold enough to have a wee bit of ice left in the shady corners as you go around the curves. And, let us not forget the ever present leaves that remain on the roads. It does not take much moisture under the leaves to make them just as slick and dangerous as ice. So, be careful out there; ride, have fun and above all, enjoy

And, as usual, always be watchful for the unwatchful

RSHF,

Chuck and Anne Reed

Georgia Senior District Educators



From your Couple of the Year Coordinators *JJ and Marcia Etzle*



It's January and we are off to an AWESOME start for the Couple of the Year Program for 2008. At Chilly Willy, we were able to report that we had paperwork in hand for 14 Couples of the Year. This is truly exciting and we can't wait to hear from the other Chapters with the names of their couples. We would like to have more than the 18 Couples we had last year!

We were able to meet with some of the Couples at Chilly Willy to answer their questions and to give them some of the history behind the Couple of the Year Program. We even signed up a couple as we were on the way out of Chilly Willy, who were on the fence after being selected by their Chapter Director.

Some things in the Couple of the Year Program have changed for the new year. Instead of being called COY, National prefers that the Couple of the Year be referred to as just that, Couple of the Year. Because the program places emphasis on representing GWRRA outside our Association, it is important to make sure that people not involved know what we are speaking about when we refer to the Couple of the Year. They also hope that vests and shirts will now say Couple of the Year, instead of COY, so that each special couple can be recognized for what they truly are; a very special couple who is active in their Chapter.

Another change is that a couple may not serve as Couple of the Year two consecutive years so that other deserving couples can be recognized.

Being selected as a Chapter's Couple of the Year is such an honor. The Couples are being recognized for their dedication to their Chapter and GWRRA and we hope that each couple will visit other Chapters and wear their title proudly.

Georgia District Website News

Have you visited the District website lately? If so, you already know that it is a great source for a wide variety of valuable GWRRA information. You can find a list of upcoming events, complete with dates, times, locations, and descriptions. You can find information relative to other Chapters; including meeting dates and times, Chapter Director contact information, and links to Chapter websites. Want copies of past District newsletters? They can be downloaded from the District website. Looking for some information relative to GWRRA's Couple of the Year program? You can find that on the website too. Are you interested in learning more about Rider Education, Leadership Training, Member Enhancement, Recruitment & Retention, or Motorist Awareness? Yes, the District website is packed with beneficial information for all of these topics too.

Now available on the District website is a classified page. Listing of motorcycle related items is free to all current GWRRA members. Rules and instructions to post an ad are available on the website. So, whether you're looking for something to buy, or, if you have an item to sell. Let the District website work for you.

Whatever your needs, make it a habit to visit the Georgia District website on a regular basis at:

www.gwrra-ga.com