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# GWRRA Georgia

April 2008



## The Countdown Is On

### We're Gearing Up for Wing Fling

With only a short couple of months left before Wing Fling, your Georgia District Staff are busy putting plans into motion to bring you the greatest toga party in history. If you haven't had a chance to go by the Holiday Inn in Athens yet, and are not familiar with the hotel, you should swing by and take a look at the wonderful facilities. We are going to change our layout of activities from past rallies and have all the games and door prizes, hospitality area, registration and shirt pick-up in one area. The vendors will be directly across the street with plenty of room and only one entry/exit. Tommy and Vicky Martin, Chapter Directors of Chapter T in Athens will have several rides that we are sure will satisfy your riding desires. We hope to have a member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau on hand to provide any information you may want about the events and sites in the local area. The city of Athens and the staff at the Holiday Inn have gone above and beyond hospitality to welcome our guests and fill your free time with exciting attractions and a variety of dining choices. We are working with Cycle World of Athens to arrange some special activities for members that are registered for the rally. The rooms at the Holiday Inn are going fast, so please get your registration mailed so

you can get a room right where everything is happening. Come to Athens and enjoy a Rally of Mythological Proportions with us.

### Get Ready for Wing Fling

I hope everyone has their togas ready for June 12-14<sup>th</sup>! We're looking forward to a great rally with lots of fun activities. Our bar-b-que, toga party and dance will be on Thursday night. You need to make sure you're there on Friday night for our big "It Happened on the Way to the Forum" talent show. In addition to the competing acts, we also have some other exciting things in store for our audience. After the talent show, sit back and watch the lighted bike show while you enjoy ice cream served up by your district staff. Saturday will be a full day with the bike show, scrapbook judging, chapter collage contest, outdoor Olympic games, banner contest, goody contest judging and, of course, Georgia's famous (or is that infamous) Chapter Challenge! This year's challenge is a chariot race which promises to be even better than our outhouse race. Don't forget all of the seminars that will be going on all 3 days – everything from Rider Ed seminars to a seminar on how to show your bike. And of course, we have Plato's Poker Run put together by Athens' own Chapter T. There should be plenty for everyone to do, so.....**SEE YOU AT THE RALLY!**

*Vicki Watkins*

# GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar 29 - Irish Get-A-Way: GA-A2:** National Guard Armory, Dublin, GA. 905 Telfair St, Dublin. For more information, contact Gene and Pat Whid-don at 478-731-4223.

**Apr 3-5 - Alabama District Rally:** Mobile, Al. For more information, check the Georgia District web site at <http://gwr-ra-ga.com/>

**Apr 5 - GA-X:** Cherry Blossom Pedal, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Macon. For more information, contact John and Linda Zimmer at 478-474-8821

**Apr 12 - GA-T:** Spring Fling Street Party, Cycle World of Athens, 4225 Atlanta Hwy, Bogart, GA. For more information, contact Tommy and Vicky Martin at 706-342-7279.

**May 1-3 - SC District Rally:** Light It Up In The Electric City - Knights Inn, 3025 N. Main St., Anderson, SC.

**May 17 - GA-H:** Fun Day - 11:00am-2:00pm, Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds, 810 South West-over Blvd., Albany, GA. For more information, contact Jeff Verner at 229-883-5598.

**June 12-14 - Georgia Wing Fling 2008:** A Rally of Mythological Proportions - Holiday Inn, 197 E. Broad St., Athens, GA. For more information, contact any District Staff Member.

**June 21: KCI & Bikers BBQ** - Sponsored by GA-B2, 4pm-8pm, Earl Duncan Park, 724 Paulding Meadows Dr., Dallas, GA

**July 3-5 - Wing Ding 30:** Carolina First Center, One Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC. For more information check the Georgia District web site at <http://gwr-ra-ga.com>

## GA Traveler's Plaque

Chapter GA-S of Winder captured the District Traveler's Plaque from Chapter B2. Chapter S will give the plaque away at GA-T's Spring Fling Street Party at Cycle World of Athens, 4225 Atlanta Hwy., Bogart, GA. Activities begin at 10am.

## Region A Wanderer

Chapter FL1-H of Daytona, FL is offering the Region A Wanderer for capture on Saturday, April 13, at the Walker's Cycle World Daytona, 2900 Bellevue Ave., Daytona Beach, FL. Activities begin at 1pm.

## Meeting Changes

- **GA-V;** For their April 5 meeting, they will eat at 7am and meet at 8am
- **GA-T;** New meeting location is Ryan's Steak House, 1021 Dowdy Road Athens, GA.
- **GA-H2;** Meets on the 4th Tuesday at RJ's in Statesboro. They will eat at 6pm, meet at 7pm.
- **GA-W;** April's meeting will be on the 12th instead of the 5th (2nd Saturday instead of the 1st). This change is only for April.

## Heartfelt Sympathy To:

- Buck & Diane Harden on the loss of Buck's brother
- Gunter family on the loss of Rev. Jim Gunter



## Among Our Sick:

- BJ Kirkpatrick - Broken Hip
- Susan Poirier - Foot Surgery
- Owen - Sonny & Sandy Owenby's 4 yr old grandson - Seizures
- Ron Thomas - Recovering from Surgery
- Betty Andrade - Recovering from Surgery



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

2008  
 Chapter  
 Couples of  
 the Year

GA-J Terry & Annie Kintz  
 GA-L Al & Peggy Rogers  
 GA-P John & Peggy Osse  
 GA-Q Pat & Beverly Schell  
 GA-S Carlos & Dee Lozano  
 GA-T Ronnie & Margaret Vaughn  
 GA-V Jame Cochran & Mary Christopher  
 GA-X Jerry & Melody Watson



## From your Senior District Ride Educators *Chuck and Anne Reed*



### You Do the Math . . . .

The issue of wearing or not wearing a helmet is a controversial one. I, of course, have my own opinion about this subject. However, I do respect the "freedom of choice" that riders express as to whether they wear a helmet or not. Georgia law requires ALL motorcycle riders to wear an approved DOT helmet. South Carolina law requires riders under 21 to wear a helmet and for those 21 and over, they are not required to wear one. (Riders includes passengers)

With this being said, I ran across some interesting figures published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. You are free to draw your own conclusions as to whether you want to wear a helmet or not.

	GEORGIA		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	Deaths	No Helmet	Deaths	No Helmet
2005	144	10.4%	106	75%
2006	154	14.4%	109	74.3%
2007	Not Yet Available		121	76%

Motorcyclists can make arguments for and against wearing helmets. Look at the figures above and you do the math . . . . .

## From your District Trainers *Dave and Sharon Aikens*

### Another Great Year for Leadership Training

So far in 2008 we have had over 300 members participate in Leadership Training classes, and we're not finished yet! We even have some new instructors who will make it easier to provide you the training opportunities you have been asking for. Some of our instructors may also have an opportunity to present some seminars at this year's Wing Ding in Greenville.

Now I'm getting ahead of myself. I need to be writing about what's going to be happening at this year's Wing Fling in Athens. I understand that Wal-Mart has already experienced a run on their bed sheets (pronounced "Toe-guh"). It's difficult at times to comprehend some of the things we do to ourselves in the name of FUN! To add our part to this fun-fest, we will be presenting two seminars at our rally. First of all, we'll have a Newcomer Orientation. This isn't just for new members; it is open to any members who want to learn a little bit about our fine organization. The second seminar is for all the members who enjoy showing off their favorite ride. It's called "How To Show Your Bike." Folks are always wondering and asking questions about what the judges are really looking for. Well, this seminar is where you'll get the answers. Not only will you learn what you need to do to win in a GWRRA bike show, it will be presented by a guest instructor who has taken First Place in both District and Wing Ding bike shows. Even if you don't show your bike, you will get a real education about what they are really looking at.

In August we will wind up this year's training schedule with the Advanced Leadership Skills Program, and possibly our last Instructor Development and Certification Program. After all, how many Certified Instructors do we need? When the dust settles and the smoke clears we will end up with close to 20 Certified Leadership Training Instructors! The Advanced Leadership Skills Program is for those members who have completed the Horizon, Knowledge Enhancement, and Intermediate Leadership Skills Programs. This is the "top of the ladder" as far as Leadership Training goes, and we'll have about 20 members taking this class.

I guess it's about time to head over to Wal-Mart.

## From your District Trike Representatives *Bill & Sandy Hatfield*

### Trike Passengers

We have not seen much written for the Trike passenger so since I am not a passenger I thought I would get Sandy to write this article for the co-riders so here is the word from my better half...

What is it like being a passenger on a trike? If you and your #1 are considering triking, here are some tips for you.

On the back you are going to get more wind than on a two-wheeler due to the fenders deflecting the air upward. This is fine in the summer, however, winter can be an issue. I sometimes even take a small lap blanket on particularly cold days, as the upper legs seem to receive the bulk of the air. You might want to check into Baker Trike Wings (this is not an official endorsement, just my personal experience) as they do help. That is the only down-side to being a passenger on a trike, and it is not that much of a downer.

Can you have as much fun in the twisties as a two-wheeler? Oh, yeah! You won't have to worry about that dreaded sound of the foot peg scraping the asphalt. You will learn quickly that you won't lean into the curve, because you will slide in your seat, but you will strengthen your leg muscles by pushing down with your left foot going into a right curve, and pushing with your right going into a left curve. See the benefit?

You can point out scenery, great looking houses, points of interest, signs, etc., and your driver can actually look where you point since the trike does not go where the driver looks, quite as readily as a two-wheeler.

I can move around, shift positions, stand up and stretch without worrying about incurring the wrath of my driver! And...you are not going to fall over or drop the bike. As a result I can travel much longer without having to take a break, much to the joy of my driver.

The driver is also much more relaxed with the ability to take in some of the otherwise missed views without the additional worries of gravel and rough roads and other two-wheel hazards. In fact, he/she may be so relaxed that when you reach your destination, your #1 may even want to take you dancing!!

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

Spring is upon us and the weather is turning warm, which makes for great riding! Take advantage of this time and represent your Chapters as Couple of the Year by going out and visiting with other Chapters at their meetings and events.

There are several opportunities over the next couple of months for you to get out and meet the GWRRA members. The Chapter A-2, Irish Get A Way in Dublin is a one-day event on March 29th in Dublin, followed by Chapter X and it's Cherry Blossom Pedal in Macon on April 5th. Also, you don't want to miss Chapter T's Spring Fling on 12<sup>th</sup> in Athens. These are just a few opportunities to go out and meet people and to help spread the word about the Couple of the Year Program. You are the best there is when it comes to promoting this wonderful program, because you are one!

It's not too early to start working on putting together your resume for District Couple of the Year. Each of you would represent the District well and we would be proud to see you shoot for that goal and make it.

Each Couple of the Year should attend the Georgia District Rally in Athens. Come show us how you wear a toga because JJ and I haven't figured that out yet. I can't wait to see him as an MC in a toga.

We are proud of each of you and now that you will represent your Chapter and the District well as you travel around. If you see us before we see you, please come over and say hello.