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2008 District Couple of the Year

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GWRRA Georgia

May 2008



Wing Fling Notes

Benefits of Pre-Registering for Wing Fling

Wing Fling is only six weeks away. The deadline for submitting your pre-registration is 1 June. If you haven't sent in your registration and you would like a chance at winning the \$100 pre-registration drawing, you need to send your registration form so that it is received no later than the deadline. Also, to qualify for any of the statistical awards we will be giving away on Friday night, you must be pre-registered. Remember to include your Chapter, age, miles to the rally, whether you are riding, if you are riding one or two up and if you are riding on two wheels or on a trike. All these categories are eligible for an award. There are still rooms available in the host hotel, but they are rapidly filling up. The cut off date for registering for a room at the special rally rate is 29 May. The only way to make your reservations at the Holiday Inn at the special rally rate is to pre-register for the rally. A 2008 Wing Fling Rally Pin will be guaranteed to the first 500 registered guests.

Wing Fling Rally Shirts are available

While we would love to see everyone enjoy the fun and games at Wing Fling, we are aware that not everyone can attend. But just because you cannot attend, that doesn't mean you shouldn't have the opportunity to get a

Wing Fling rally shirt. We have worked out a plan to give you the opportunity to purchase a rally shirt if you cannot come to the rally. If you would like to purchase a rally shirt at the rally price listed on the registration form, just fill out a rally registration form with your name, address, phone number and/or email address and indicate in the shirt order portion, the type shirt you would like. Send the form, along with a check made out to GWRRA Georgia for the total amount to Bill and Betty Livingston at 1742 Philema Road South, Albany, Georgia, 31701. We will ensure that either the Chapter Director or the Assistant District Director for your Chapter receives the shirts and brings them to your Chapter's monthly gathering or to a Chapter gathering in your area after Wing Fling so you can pick them up. If you would like to have the shirts mailed, postage will be added to the cost of the shirts. Shirts will not be ordered until payment is received. The cut off date for ordering shirts is 1 June.

Something New at Wing Fling

We are always trying to have new fun and exciting things for you to do at Wing Fling. We will offer you a rally that you will always remember giving you a reason to come back and visit us. We are sure we have something you will remember.

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Westover 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>

August 17 - GA-Z Bowling Challenge: Festivities begin at Noon at the Fayetteville Bowling Center in Fayetteville. Contact Alan Head at alanhead@bellsouth.net for more information.

October 25 - GA-A Halloween Fun Day: 10am to 3pm at High Falls State Park, Jackson, GA. For more information, contact Bob & Bonnie McCroskey at 770-954-1924

October 16-18 - MS District Rally: Stars on the Coast, Gulf Coast Convention Center, Biloxi, MS.

GA Traveler's Plaque

Chapter GA-L captured the Traveler's Plaque from GA-S at GA-T's Wing Fling and is offering the plaque for capture on May 10 at Western Siz-zlin, 801 Martha Berry Blvd. in Rome. They will eat at noon and eat at 1:00pm.

Region A Wanderer

Chapter FL1-V of Jacksonville, FL is offering the Region A Wanderer for capture on Saturday, May 10, at the Golden Corral, 14035 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, FL. Activities begin at 9am.

Meeting Changes

- **GA-E;** Beginning May 3, GA-E will eat at 4pm and meet at 5pm
- **GA-G2;** Temporary meeting location is Alfa Soda, 11760 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA. (This is a temporary location until a new permanent location can be found.)

Heartfelt Sympathy To:

- Nelson family on the loss of Stan



Among Our Sick:

- Brenda Munk - GA-B2; MC Accident
- Lamar Harrison - GA-S; Upcoming cancer surgery
- Frank Stamey - GA-S; Radiation treatments



From your District MA Coordinators
Dave and Betty Andrade

Being Seen “For Safety Sake”

A famous report based on motorcycle accidents in the late 70's offered some sage conclusions about motorcycle accidents and being seen; what they call "conspicuity". **Being conspicuous.** The logic from this is:

1. Most motorcycle accidents are caused by human factors, rather than environmental or vehicle factors.
2. The other vehicle's driver violating the right-of-way of the motorcycle most often causes multi-vehicle motorcycle accidents.
3. Therefore, increasing motorcycle conspicuity can decrease the risk of collisions.

That seems pretty open and shut. Other drivers tend to not see us, and then they are surprised when they run over us, right? So, is the answer high visibility gear, modulator headlights, air horns blasting? The Question is, when other drivers tromp on our right of way, is it because they really didn't see us, or saw us but didn't believe a motorcyclist had the same rights as other motorist? Did the errant driver swerve in front of the motorcyclist because he really didn't see the bike?

For example, allowing yourself to get boxed in behind a truck or bus makes it difficult for the other drivers to see you, and makes it harder for you to see what's happening ahead.

For the same reasons, don't expect other drivers to see you if you're in their blind spot, or peek out of alleyways or side streets. When in traffic, it should be a high priority to position yourself to give everyone else the best opportunity to see you.

Riding gear in brighter colors can make it easier for another motorist to better see us in traffic. The brain also makes assumptions about distance and importance based on color. For example, blue appears to be farther away while red appears closer. Yellow is a higher visibility color than red, which is why school zone signs and fire trucks are now coming out in high visibility yellow. Rain gear offers bright colors and reflective strips, including large reflective panels. Reflective belts, helmet bands and fabric all designed to make you more conspicuous at night.

If your motorcycle has enough charging capacity to keep extra lights glowing, you might think about modifying your lighting to increase conspicuity, I did. Check with your local law enforcement for lights and reflector regulations.

We might also surmise that today's larger touring bikes have a conspicuity advantage over cruisers and sport tourers. A bike with a huge fairing, wide headlights and taillights should be easier to notice in traffic. Secondly, a bike that's physically wider provides better clues about its actual approach speed. Third, a larger machine may appear to be closer than it actually is, encouraging other drivers to wait for it to pass rather than pulling out in front of it. You need to be more aware of your approach speed and how others perceive you.

In other words, the other driver must know where you are, if you are moving, the speed you are traveling, and the distance you are from him. By being conspicuous, you will hopefully avoid that predictable response: "Honest officer, I didn't see him".

Dave & Betty Andrade; Georgia District MA Coordinators

From your District Trike Representatives

Bill & Sandy Hatfield

Hi Trikers,

I am always looking for sources of information about Trikes; tips on riding, techniques on maintenance, or just idle chit-chat about Trikes. You never know when you might come across that tiny nugget of information that just might save you a lot of time or money or even your life. I have compiled a list of different websites that have Trike Forums and/or just general Trike information. Some are small but are still worth checking out. This list is definitely not complete and if anybody has a website I have not listed, please send it to me.

Again, these are just a few of the Trike discussions or forums on the web.

- <http://www.gl1800riders.com/forums/index.php>
- <http://www.triketalk.com/forum/>
- <http://forums.delphiforums.com/TheTrikeGroup/messages>
- <http://forums.delphiforums.com/3snocrowd/>
- <http://bbs.gwrro.org/scripts/board/discus.pl>
- <http://btw-trikers.org/uploads/home.php>
- <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/trikes/>
- <http://www.trisite.org/>

Remember "Outside, Inside, Outside"!



From your Senior District Ride Educators

Chuck and Anne Reed



“INTERESTING THINGS TO CONSIDER . . .”

Reading through the various Chapter Educator newsletter articles each month, it is always interesting because there are always some very interesting items that I think could, and should, be shared with all motorcyclists. Below are four items I would like to share with you, and my thanks to Mark Headley, Chapter Educator for Chapter P in Fayetteville, for allowing me to use them. I have used his basic theme for each subject, and paraphrased them to some extent.

- 1) Springtime comes with such nice things as allergies, pollen and sneezing; which is bearable, except when you are wearing a helmet! Most cold and allergy medicines have a warning "May Cause Drowsiness". Yes, they can and, if those medications cause you some discomfort, drink plenty of water. If you are not feeling alert, find a Waffle House and get a cup of coffee (I like Waffle House, ask those that ride with us). You do NOT want to be riding your motorcycle if you are feeling drowsy at any time, for any reason. And, getting sick while wearing a helmet could prove to be disastrous!
- 2) A recent article in Wing World discussed the use of hand signals in conjunction with all lights and turn signals on your bike. A study revealed that movements, as well as the lights, are easily detected by our eyes. Yes, we as motorcyclists really need all the visibility we can get on the highways and by-ways. While it would be difficult for the rider to use all the hand signals, the Co-Rider would be able to use the hand signals and that would certainly help with your "visibility". It always amazes me how many motorists do not use their turn signals. It is my experience that Wingers use their turn signals more than 4 wheelers do.
- 3) Use both brakes every time you make a stop. Whether you realize it or not, you are training your mind and reflexes to do things the same way every time. To miss this exercise is critical in a panic situation. How many times have you heard it explained while participating in a riding course, of one type or another, that the most effective way to stop is by using both the front and rear brakes by applying equal pressure simultaneously? There are riding exercises that address that very subject and it is stressed in these various riding courses.
- 4) Big trucks on the road right now are really feeling the pinch at the pump. Consequently, they are loaded to the gills with fuel. When you see them entering the interstates or by-ways from scales, on ramps, or secondary roads, move over into the left lane so they can build up the speed needed to merge. How very true, but to carry that thought just a bit further, moving over for any merging vehicle is a good idea. And for the big rigs, it is especially true because it does take them longer to get rolling at highway speeds.

Again, my thanks to all the Chapter Educators, everywhere, for the articles they write for their chapter newsletters. They are good, thoughtful and well written articles. Hats off to all . . .

And, as always, always be watchful for the unwatchful . . .

RSHF, Chuck and Anne Reed; Georgia Senior District Educators