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GWRRA - Georgia

February 2009



Support Your Local GWRRA

Let's Visit Our Friends

The buzz word going around is "Support". For the past couple of years, your Georgia District Staff has been promoting support of your fellow Chapters. What we mean by support is to do something to help other Chapters in Georgia or Chapters in other Districts that are close by. An easy way to support your fellow Chapters is to visit them at their monthly gatherings or take a ride to their fun day or special event. When we visit other Chapters, we support them by showing that we care about them and we enjoy gathering with our friends. We can buy tickets and participate in games and contests that help develop the Chapter treasury. Visiting gives us an opportunity to ride our bikes, to visit old friends, and to have the opportunity to meet new friends. We can steal fun ideas that other Chapters use to put fun in their Chapter gatherings/events and incorporate them in our own Chapter gatherings, we get to eat some great food, and it is always great fun getting together with other members. Also, if you visit them, they will visit you. We have developed some life-long friendships being members of this wonderful organization. We take every opportunity we can to get out and visit as many Chapters as we can. We get to share the experience of riding the best luxury touring motorcycle in production and we get to share it with

the most wonderful people we have ever met. Please get out and visit other Chapters. We guarantee you will create memorable experiences that you will cherish forever.

IRS Form 990N Filing Requirement

Beginning in 2009, all Chapters are required to file a form 990N with the IRS. This can be accomplished via the internet at <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html>. Just go to the site and follow the instructions. If your EIN is not recognized or if you cannot file for any other reason, please contact John Andrews at andrewsj@mchsi.com. Each Chapter must file by 15 May 2009.

Wing Fling



Yippy Aye Yay!
It's gettin' purty near time for that thar' Georgia Wing Fling. Why, there ain't nuthin that ken hold a candle to the fun

them Gold Wingers have and the fun's bound to be double this year 'cause we're a headed back to Hiawassee. There'll be a whole heap o' stuff for everyone to do, so skedaddle down to the mail box and git that registration in the mail. Don't fergit the date – June 11, 12, and 13th. See you in the mountains, pardner!

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7-8 - Horizon Leadership Training Program: Pooler, GA; Visit the District Website at www.gwr-ra-ga.com for more information or contact Dave Aikens at 478-953-4886.

February 14 - GA-S Sweetheart Poker Run: 10am to 2pm; Midway Christian Church, 1406 Hog Mountain Road (Hwy 53), Winder, GA, 30680. For more information, contact Ken & Traci Thrasher at 706-310-1041. ***** New Location *****

February 28 - Chapter Skills Training Program: Dawsonville, GA; Visit the District Website at www.gwr-ra-ga.com for more information or contact Dave Aikens at 478-953-4886.

March 7 - Chapter Skills Training Program: Perry, GA; Visit the District Website at www.gwr-ra-ga.com for more information or contact Dave Aikens at 478-953-4886

March 12-14 - Florida District Rally: "Under the Sea"; Kissimmee, FL

March 20-21 - GA-A2 Irish Getaway: Civitan Club Fairgrounds, 2503 Hwy 257, Dublin, GA, 310210. For more information, contact Gene & Pat Whiddon at 478-986-5678.

March 26-28 - Alabama District Rally: "Southern Hospitality Alabama Style"; Pelham, AL

March 28 - GA-X Cherry Blossom Pedal: Doors open at 10am, Tours start at 1pm. Howard Community Club, 5645 Forsyth Rd., Macon, GA 31210. For more information call John Zimmer at 478-474-8821.

April 4 - GA-T Spring Fling: Tuckston United Methodist Church, 4175 Lexington Road, Athens, GA; 10am - 2pm. For more information, contact Tommy Martin at 678-725-1632.

April 30 - May 2 - South Carolina District Rally: "Masquerade"; Myrtle Beach, SC

May 16 - GA-H Fun Day: Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds, 810 S. Westover Blvd., Albany, GA. 11am - 2pm. For more information, contact Jeff Verner at 229-883-5598

June 11-13 - Georgia Wing Fling: A Journey Thru Time to the Old West - "Goldwing Style"; Hiawassee, GA. Visit the Georgia website at www.gwr-ra-ga.com for more information, or, ask any member of the Georgia District Staff.

July 2-5 - Wing Ding 31: Tulsa Expo Square, Tulsa, OK

August 16 - GA-Z Bowling Challenge: Fayette Fun Bowl, 124 N. Highway 85 in Fayetteville, GA. Festivities begin at 12pm. More information to be coming soon.

Region A Wanderer

FL1-T is in possession of the Region A Wanderer. The plaque will be available for capture on Saturday, February 14, at the Sweetheart Rally in Inverness. Closing ceremonies begin at approximately 2:00pm.

Heartfelt Sympathy To:

- Tommy & Vicki Martin on the passing of Tommy's mother, Carolyn
- Swain & Carlton families on the passing of Joanne's & Nina's mother, Ruth Kirkpatrick



Meeting Changes

- **GA-W:** New meeting location beginning February 7; County Cottage Family Restaurant, 9740 Main St., Suite 298, Woodstock, GA 30188. They eat at 9am and meet at 10am.

GA Traveler's Plaque

Chapter GA-S will offer the Traveler's Plaque on February 14, 2009 at their Sweetheart Poker Run at the Midway Christian Church, 1406 Hog Mountain Road, Winder, GA 30680. Festivities begin at 10:00am; closing ceremonies begin at 2:00pm.

Among Our Sick:

- Mike Broadway - Pancreatitis
- Gary Verhulst - Surgery
- Roger McGaha - Head Injury from Fall
- Nelson Ault - Heart Attack
- Bill Baker - Injuries from Collision with a Deer
- Marian Hopkinson (Marcia Etzle's mother) - Pneumonia
- Marilyn Morgan - Broken Leg
- Ron Bryant - Heart Problems
- Barbara Schleicher - Rotator Cuff Surgery





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



Cold Weather Reminders . . .

Dressing properly for cold weather was discussed recently. The weather has certainly been cold enough that I hope everyone is taking the proper precautions to stay warm. And, as you are all aware, dressing properly for the cold is just as important off the Wing as well as on it.

Just remember to "layer" your clothing. If you haven't tried it, do so; you will notice the difference. Know and recognize the signs and symptoms of frost bite. Frost bite, you say? Well, if you haven't protected your face and hands, and you are riding in 25-35 degree weather, once you figure out the wind chill factor, frost bite becomes a reality.

Air pressure also becomes a problem. Cold weather does have an effect on tire pressure. Make sure you check your tires every time you ride. This is, of course, an important item in any weather; but as a reminder, check your tire pressure.

Spring is somewhere out there! And, it will eventually arrive. So, in the meantime, throw another log on the fire and enjoy the moment. You might even go out and start the Wing and let it warm up some also.

RSHF

Chuck and Anne Reed

Georgia Senior District Educators

From your District Motorist Awareness Coordinators

Dave & Betty Andrade

ARE WE REALLY DYING TO BE SEEN?

"BEING SEEN" is a topic I wrote about a few months ago; but, because of its importance, this topic warrants to be repeated. And, since repetition is an effective tool to help us learn, I hope it will be effective in conveying principles of Motorist Awareness.

Policemen at accidents where motorcycles were involved were not surprised to hear the motorist who caused the accident say: "But officer, I didn't see him". So what do we do to ensure we are seen?

We don ourselves with colorful riding apparel, we install bells and whistles, we cover our bikes with more and more lights, lighting it up like a Christmas tree. With all these additions, you would think motorists would have no difficulty seeing us. But, this is still not enough.

As part of our Rider Education program, we educated ourselves on safe riding practices and techniques. We participate in Parking Lot Practices, ERCs, ARCs, Road Captain Courses, and CPR & First Aid training. These are all effective methods of preparing ourselves. But, we still haven't addressed the issue of "being seen" by the four, six and eighteen wheel motorists that we share the road with.

We have talked the talk, now let's walk the walk. We must inform and educate motorists that motorcycles are on the roads, and increasing in numbers daily. We must make an effort to hand out awareness material at events and motorcycle shows, and to speak in one on one conversations with friends and neighbors. We must do our part to raise the awareness of motorists to be cognizant of the fact that motorcyclists are everywhere and that their recognition of this fact could prevent injury and/or loss of life. Hopefully, in the future we will not hear someone say: "I DIDN'T SEE HIM."

DAVE & BETTY ANDRADE

Assistant District Educators

District Motorist Awareness Coordinators

From your District Leadership Trainers
Dave & Sharon Aikens

I want to provide a reminder about the various training programs and classes we have scheduled for February and March.

Horizon Program	Feb 7-8	Pooler, GA
Chapter Skills Program	Feb 28	Dawsonville, GA
Chapter Skills Program	Mar 7	Perry, GA

It isn't too late to register for any of these classes. Download the Training Registration Form from the GWRRA-GA website, fill it out, and forward to me. If that doesn't work, then just put all the required info into an email and send it. It's never too late to learn something new.

From your District Membership Enhancement Coordinator
Sid & Donna Cohen

**Every Chapter Can Use A
Membership Enhancement Coordinator**

Throughout our District, several new Chapter Directors are in place as we begin 2009. At Chilly Willy, Donna and I were unable to get around and meet all of the new CDs; so at this time, we would like to extend our congratulations to all. This is going to be an exciting year as they explore new ideas and techniques to bring the fun into your Chapter Gatherings.

A Chapter Director does not and should not have to go it alone. Having a staff to assist with key duties is essential to maintain efficient operation of a Chapter. One position that Donna and I encourage every Chapter Director to fill is that of Membership Enhancement Coordinator (MEC). It is an extremely important and fun position; one that will assist the Chapter Director in many ways. A MEC can be instrumental in helping the CD keep gatherings fun, keeping members involved, and letting members know that they are important.

A MEC can be responsible for the Chapter sign-in sheet at each Chapter Gathering. Doing so will allow them the time to talk to each participant and guest. This task affords the MEC an opportunity to keep watch on the membership expiration dates. The MEC should pay particular attention to all new visitors, never allowing them to sit alone. Encourage other chapter members to sit with them; helping visitors to feel welcome and understand aspects of the gathering; such as ticket sales.

Another important MEC task could be to call participants who miss a gathering, letting them know they were missed. The MEC could also be responsible for calling members on the 'New Members' and 'Expiring and Expired Members' lists that Donna and I distribute each month to every Chapter Director; encouraging members to attend Chapter gatherings and events. Still another potential MEC task could be to fill out an information sheet on the new participants, ensuring needed information is collected to add them to the chapter roster, calling tree, birthday list, etc.

It is up to each Chapter Director to "adjust" the specifics of the tasks they assign to their MEC. But, as you can see, there are plenty of tasks that a MEC can be responsible for.

As your District MEC, Donna and I are here to help. We look forward to staying on the road, visiting as many Chapters as we can in 2009. Please feel free to call us with any questions, concerns, comments, or just to chat. We'd love to hear from you!

Ride safe and often, Sid and Donna Cohen; District Membership Enhancement Coordinators