

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



"Insight"

GWRRA News & Information
from the International Team

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2010



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WING DING 32

"Meet in the Middle"

June 30 - July 3, 2010

Iowa Events Center

Des Moines, Iowa

Seminars - Bike Show - Light Show - Field Events - Talent Show - Mascot Contest -
Statistical Awards - Crazy Hat Contest - Bar-B-Que

*** Vendors - Vendors - Vendors ***

International Couple of the Year Selection
View Region Couples of the Year: <http://med.gwrro.org/>

A New Communication Tool...

One of the most difficult things to accomplish, in an Association of our size, is having effective communications (keeping everyone on the same page and informed). For years we have had "Divisional" Newsletters. They were full of valuable information, which very few actually read or could even find. I can't tell you how many times I wrote educational articles that contained important information addressing current issues. I had limited success in getting the information out. I knew this was due to the amount of questions I continued to receive on the topic I addressed with my article. I'm sure the same holds true for the other program administrators.

Now that I'm Director of GWRRA, I have an opportunity to improve our communications. The International TEAM has come up with this new GWRRA Newsletter called the "Insight". It will combine informational articles from all three programs into one Newsletter. Additionally, the link to this Newsletter will reside on the Home Page of the GWRRA website, as well as a link from each Program's website. Also, we will send out email blasts to all of the Officers with a link to download it directly. Our goal is to get this information to the people that need it the most, our Chapter Officers. I would like to thank Rick and Madalena Buck, from Region A, for accepting the responsibility of being the editors of the "Insight".

While we're on the subject of communication, we have made another change to the Home Page of the GWRRA website. We have added a quick link button at the bottom of the page to reach our GWRRA Officer Connection webpage. This page contains valuable information that all Officers need to refer to. I'm amazed when I co-instruct an OCP, how many Officers have never visited or know where to find this very important information. It appears to be one of the best kept secrets of GWRRA. This new link on the main page will make it much easier to access the site.

Communication is a major key to our success. If anyone has additional ideas on how we can improve our efforts, please let us know. Communication is also a two-way street. I would love to see Directors, Educators, Trainers, and Membership Enhancement Coordinators send us information on your successes so we can share it with others. By sharing the wealth, we can improve Chapter Life for everyone. So send us your success stories.

This is a step in the right direction toward improving our Association and building on our success. Be a leader, and help us make this a communication resource that all can benefit from.

Thanks,
Mike Stiger
Director of GWRRA



<http://www.gwrro.org/oconnect/>

Rider Education Program



Behind the Scenes of Wing Ding

This is by far not the first Wing Ding for Betty and me. Over the years we waited with great anticipation for the announcement of where we would be attending our next Wing Ding. Somehow, we never thought about what it took to make an event this large successful. It just happened, and we were glad that it did, because they were FUN!

Well, this year we are finding out firsthand what it takes, and while it is a joy to be so involved, it is work. (It isn't work if you're having FUN though.) From the Rider Education side, we found that having a great TEAM of Educators certainly is easing our workload. When someone says "thank you" to the volunteers, it is for a purpose, as they are truly the backbone of an event like this.

With Rider Education, we are striving to serve as many Members as possible with first-class educational opportunities. First come the Riding Courses, which number a total of 16 courses, ERC, ARC, TRC, SRC, and TC, involving a minimum of 34 Instructors conducting classroom and range portions. Nearly 190 Members will take these classes, coming away with renewed skills due to the efforts of these Educators.

In addition to the formal Riding Courses, Members will have an opportunity to test their skills in the TOP GUN and AMAZING TEAM CHALLENGE. These are FUN courses that will test your riding ability, but you will be smiling the entire time. This year a new twist is available for those of you who want to try TOP GUN 2-up. Come on Co-Riders, I know you are a valuable part of the riding TEAM, so here is your chance to show it.

Every time Betty and I get a schedule for a convention, we immediately look to see if a Drill Team demonstration is slated. This year you are in for a real treat as there are three Drill Teams that will be performing at the conclusion of the Grand Parade in Downtown Urbandale. If that isn't enough to get the adrenalin flowing, there is a carnival taking place for the community celebration right afterward.

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Rider Education Program

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Wow, not tired yet? Well, come sit in on one of the 21 Rider Education Seminars being presented in air conditioned comfort. While you're at the Seminars, why not obtain a N.7 form and join the Rider Education Levels Program so we can give you credit in the database for your Educational Skills obtained. The cost is ZERO, and Rider Education will keep track of all of your Rider Education classes in the database. The N.7 can be obtained from any Seminar Presenter, Educator, or at the Rider Ed Booth.

Speaking of the Rider Education booth, come visit us. It is staffed by International and Region Educators who are more than willing and eager to answer all of your questions and guide you to the Levels Program.

Think we are done? Not yet, as Medic First Aid® is being made available for anyone who wishes to renew their certification or for the Member who wants to obtain an initial certification from our staff of highly motivated Instructors.

These are only the events and programs that YOUR Rider Education TEAM has made available for you. LTP and MEP along with the event's staff have worked hard to provide activities that are educational and FUN!

Betty and I, along with the dedicated TEAM of Educators, look forward to meeting you at Wing Ding, so come on by and say hello!

Our favorite saying is, "A stranger is a friend you just haven't met yet!" We'll see you at Wing Ding 32.

Gene and Betty Knutson
International Directors, Rider Education



<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/ridered/index.html>



"It's Not Hard To Make Decisions When You Know What Your Values Are"

We all make decisions every day; some good, some misguided. The trick, especially regarding motorcycle riding, is to give yourself the best chance of making good decisions all of the time. Good decisions come from identifying the pros and cons and choosing. The bad ones come from misinformation, or worse, no information at all.

Let's look at some information that may be helpful in rider training decisions. The two most famous motorcycle crash studies (The HURT Report and the M.A.I.D.S. study) tell us:

1. Some 90 percent of riders who crashed never had any formal rider training. They were either self-taught; or had a friend or relative who "taught them all they needed to know".
2. Even with formal training, the learning curve begins dropping after six-to-eight months and, without a review or refresher, is all but gone after a year or so.
3. In an emergency situation, we will do whatever we have been trained to do and what we have practiced doing. No surprise then that a huge percentage of riders who crashed failed to make any decision at all. This is, when faced with an emergency, they did nothing to try to avoid the crash.

You would think that having this information would be enough to encourage our Members to get as much formal training as possible. Sadly, that is not the case. "It's too expensive," some say or "I have to travel too far." They might have been right several years ago when formal 2-wheel training was limited and, sometimes, costly. No more.

GWRRA offers the ARC (Advanced Rider Course) which is held locally (no long-distance travel) and is cost effective due to a host of volunteers (including the Instructors) who make it happen.

Some Members have even refused to take the ARC because "it's too hard." Too hard for what? To become a better, safer, rider? There is no pass or fail. There is only trying and learning. But, that is a personal decision. Is it a good one?

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Rider Education Program

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So let's look at the ARC in the context of addressing the three reasons for crashes above. Just taking the ARC eliminates riders from the first group (no formal training).

In GWRRA item two is addressed in the course by giving students techniques and skills they can practice later, on almost every ride. So, if they apply those learned skills often, they automatically prevent or delay the learning curve drop.

To address item three, in the classroom students learn strategies for arriving at good decisions while riding and dealing with and preparing for most of the issues they may encounter on the street.

They learn to organize and manage actions and reactions to emergency situations so they will not fail to react -- i.e. become a statistic of doing "Nothing" to avoid a crash. Then on the range, they develop the skills required to control their Gold Wing in a variety of situations.

Making the right decisions all the time when riding is a learned skill that takes training and practice. The GWRRA ARC will help in that process. Taking it, is your decision. Make it a good one.

Bob Berry
International Director, Rider Course Programs

<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/ridered/index.html>

Display one of these signs in your yard or business. They are available through Motorist Awareness Program.

<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/mad/index.html>



Leadership Training Program

Hello Everyone,

We are excited about our new Newsletter format! This new format will provide comprehensive information from the International TEAM that will reach Members and Officers across our great Association. The Leadership Training TEAM will provide articles of interest and information about the Leadership Training Program and the achievements of the Trainers and Instructors who work tirelessly to serve our Members and provide assistance to our Officers. We will impart information and news to keep everyone up-to-date regarding changes in GWRRA. This is one of the new and exciting ways we will utilize to get the information directly to you.

Soon we will be “Meeting in the Middle” in Des Moines for our family reunion at Wing Ding 32. We look forward to catching up on news and information about each other and welcoming new Members to GWRRA. We are offering the OCP at Wing Ding, so if you are still considering participating, we invite you to contact us. Also, if you are attending Wing Ding, be sure to check the seminar schedule as there are many seminars covering every program in GWRRA. Make plans to take some time to learn more about our great Association and the programs that we offer.

We are proud to share information with you about the Officer Certification Program. Since we began teaching and training our Officers and Members in January, we have certified approximately 1700 Members and have delivered over 45 OCP events throughout the US and Canada. To date, we estimate our Officer Corps will have a participation rate of 96% by Wing Ding. This is the result of the hard work and dedication of the Officer Trainers across the continent. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and each Officer Trainer is congratulated for this tremendous achievement. We also recognize the dedicated Officers and Members across the Association who completed the OCP. We know that this has been a sacrifice of time, money, and energy and your service and dedication to the Members you serve is to be commended. We did this together, a true TEAM effort, and our Members will benefit greatly as a result.

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Together Everyone Achieves More

Leadership Training Program

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It is evident that 2010 is a year of change within GWRRA. Let us reflect on what this change represents. Change in and of itself is neither good nor bad. Our perception of what change represents is what determines our view of the change. While it is typical for us to resist change, especially as we are getting older, change is inevitable nevertheless. Nothing remains the same forever. Our world is changing, sometimes it seems at a frightening rate, and we are forced to adapt and change along with it. The alternative to not making change is to be left behind, become complacent, or wither away. While good and decent people sometimes disagree about the method of change, most agree that change is necessary, especially when it is needed to preserve a lifestyle or experience that is important to us.

In closing, we remind you that GWRRA is a multi-generational family of friends with different needs, wants, and desires. Being a Member offers us a family friendly lifestyle in a safe and fun environment. We can enjoy our motorcycles and the fellowship of people we care about and with whom we make memories to last a lifetime. GWRRA must adjust, change and adapt to meet the needs of all of our Members. It is worth the hard work and effort of meaningful change to preserve this social aspect of our lives. We live in an ever changing society, and we must preserve the future of this great Association. Please consider these thoughts as we move forward and work as your volunteer leaders to make effective and necessary change. We are working hard to make GWRRA the best it can be, and we are always open to your ideas and thoughts.

We look forward to seeing you at Wing Ding.

David & Kathy Orr

International Directors, Leadership Training

Officer Certification Program

will be offered at

Wing Ding in Des Moines

Monday, June 28 & Tuesday, June 29

Contact

David & Kathy Orr

LTD4U@comporium.net



Membership Enhancement Program

Recently in our local newspaper the headlines read, “Change, Change, Change”. It was referring to our local government and newly elected officials. Everywhere we turn in today’s society the news is about the changes that are taking place. Well, GWRRA is keeping up with today’s society with change. You all probably know by now that Mike and Lori Stiger are our new Directors of GWRRA. We have new Rider Education Directors, Gene and Betty Knutson. Linda and I are so excited to be a part of Mike and Lori’s “TEAM” along with Gene and Betty and David and Kathy Orr, Leadership Training Program Directors.



One of the first changes Mike made was to unite us as a “TEAM” by changing our Divisions to “Programs”. This will help the Members of GWRRA feel like a part of the Association rather than being divided by divisions. Our goal is to become as one, serving the Members of GWRRA through the Rider Education, Leadership Training and the Membership Enhancement Programs. Now that sounds like a lot, but in actuality it only strengthens our “TEAM” to better serve you, the Members.

As change takes place in our lives, the sound of it seems stronger than its true meaning. When we get in a rut we find ourselves complaining and criticizing about things we need to do; but as change comes about and we apply new programs, ideas and ways of doing things, we accomplish more and grow stronger in our Association.

Why are we resistant to change? Because it upsets our routine or what we are accustomed to doing. We should stop and consider how the change will improve us or how it will effect what we wish to accomplish. Another viewpoint is change will help us attain our goals. As we see changes in GWRRA, let’s all look at the positive effects rather than immediately saying this will never work. In the end we will all be winners, having more FUN riding and enjoying life.

Ed & Linda Johnson
International Directors, Membership Enhancement Program

International Couple of the Year Selection

Wing Ding 32

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

1:30 PM

Polk County Convention Complex

Check out all the Region Couples at:

<http://med.gwrra.org/coupleoftheyear.htm>

1st Quarter 2010
June Agee Memorial National Chapter Newsletter Winner

Congratulations to Chapter FL-1A, Tampa, Florida for winning the June Agee Memorial National Newsletter Award for the first quarter 2010. Peter and Darla Flynn are the directors of FL-1A and Darla is also their Newsletter Editor. Want to see their winning Newsletters? Visit the National MEP webpage where a link to their Newsletters is posted at <http://med.gwrra.org/>.

In our last article, we addressed why National, Region and District information is important in your Newsletter (just a side note, each of the top Newsletters all contained information from each of these areas). This month we'd like to discuss articles from TEAM Members and Chapter participants. While it isn't a requirement that each of your TEAM Members submit a Newsletter article, we ask why don't they? You've taken the time to choose a TEAM that you feel confident will enhance your Chapter, bring in more Members and share your views on what is needed to continue to be a successful Chapter, right? If you value their insight and opinions enough to ask them to become TEAM Members, why shouldn't they share their valuable thoughts in writing? Each TEAM Member contributes a unique insight into your Chapter's world and has a position that is all their own. Just as you value the Rider Educators' thoughts, you should value the Ride Coordinators thoughts. While you're valuing everyone's thoughts, why shouldn't the Chapter participants benefit as well? Asking your TEAM Members to express their thoughts each month on how their respective areas are doing is a great way to provoke thought and conversation among your Chapter participants.

Ok, Kristen and Dennis, you say, we have a small Chapter with only four TEAM Members and they're all writing articles already. What more do you want from us? How can we possibly write enough articles to keep up with the "big boys?" The answer: Chapter participants. We read all the Newsletters that are sent to us, and some of the best ones with the most information come from the little Chapters that could. One Chapter Newsletter that comes across our desk each month is from one of these smaller staffed Chapters, but you wouldn't know it from their article strength. It appears they have shared the importance of participation and their participants have responded. These articles, all geared toward motorcycling, GWRRRA and Chapter fun, discuss everything from maintenance day to what a great time they had on the dinner ride. They have demonstrated they understand the importance of participant input and, as an added bonus, always max out on allowable points for article submission for the National Newsletter competition.

Just some thoughts for you to consider.

Kristen & Dennis Weston
International Newsletter Award Coordinator

Membership Enhancement Program

2009 International Chapter of the Year



Florida Chapter FL1-H, Daytona Beach
(Race Wings)

Chapter Directors
Gerald & Grace Wells

Chapter of the Year Coordinators
Bill & Kathy Mann

<http://www.fl1-h.org/>

1st Quarter 2010 June Agee Memorial National Chapter Newsletter Winner

Florida Chapter FL1-A, Tampa
(A Team)

Chapter Directors
Peter & Darla Flynn

Newsletter Editor
Darla Flynn

<http://www.fl1a.org/>

Items of Interest



“Where Do I Fly My Flag?”

With the approach of Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the 4th of July, many have asked “what is the proper way to display the American Flag on our bikes?”

When the US Flag is flown alone, it should be at the “center” on the rear of the motorcycle, or its “marching right”. The “marching right” is on the right side of the motorcycle to the rider’s perspective when facing forward.



If the US Flag is on your bike with another, it should be to its “marching right”. This means displaying the flag with no other to its right.

If displayed with multiple flags, the US Flag should be centered and highest. The other flags should be arranged in alphabetical order and in decreasing importance. i.e. Nations first, states (in order of admittance) and territories second, military third (in order of establishment) and then any other flag.

High Mileage Program

The program began on April 1, 2010, and will run through October 31, 2010. It is just as it sounds. The Member who has driven the most number of miles on his or her motorcycle or trike between these dates will be honored as the winner of the first GWRRA High Mileage Contest.

It is an honor program, meaning that you are taken at your word and you provide the mileage in the database. This database is a website that is accessed from GWRRA's Home Page at <http://www.gwrra.org>.

There you will find a link to list your name, Member number and mileage driven for each month. The data will automatically update and put each rider in order of the highest mileage first, second, etc. The winner of the GWRRA High Mileage Contest will receive recognition on GWRRA's Home Page and in “Wingin It,” as well as a special certificate from the Home Office.

Some of the simple rules as mentioned previously are:

1. Open to current GWRRA Members only
2. Total miles driven must be given for your entries into the database
3. Mileage is to be calculated on a single bike or trike and not cumulative from multiple vehicles (no commercial vehicles are allowed)

This contest is for the pure fun and enjoyment of riding. It has seen very much success in other organizations, so let's have fun with it and, reMember, we are all on the honor system.

Items of Interest



GWRRRA is pleased to be participating in the “NO PHONE ZONE” Program as seen on the popular Oprah show. One of GWRRRA’s Chapter Rider Educators from Chapter D-2 in Indiana, Dave Williams, suggested we try to get as many GWRRRA Members, as well as non-Members, to sign the “NO PHONE ZONE” pledge.

The pledge merely states that you will not drive a vehicle while texting or use a cell phone and that you will encourage others to not talk on a cell phone or text while driving. Or, you will use a hands-free device while driving. It also states that if you must use a cell phone while driving you will safely pull over to the side of the road. Please remember to sign a pledge form only once!

This program will be run under the Rider Education Program, specifically the Motorist Awareness Program. Charles Mallett, MAP Director, will oversee the program and coordinate it through all our Rider Educators, as well as the other Programs.

GWRRRA’s goal is to get 100,000 pledges signed. This program has already kicked off and will have a table at Wing Ding 32 in Des Moines, Iowa. Please contact Charles Mallett at: rideaware@yahoo.com to sign up to help get pledges at your events. The more events that have the pledges for our Members and guests to sign, the faster we can reach our goal and maybe be on the Oprah Show representing GWRRRA!

Thank you Dave and Charles and the folks who are going to support this lifesaving program!





Oprah's No Phone Zone Pledge

I pledge to make my car a No Phone Zone. Beginning right now, I will do my part to help put an end to distracted driving by pledging the safest driving behavior. I commit to:

I will not text while I am driving.

I will not text while driving and will use only hands free calling if I need to speak on the phone while I am driving.

I will not text or use my phone while I am driving. If I need to use my phone, I will pull over to the side of the road.

I will ask other drivers I know to do their part to end distracted driving. I pledge to make a difference.

Signature _____ Date _____

Oprah's No Phone Zone Pledge

I pledge to make my car a No Phone Zone. Beginning right now, I will do my part to help put an end to distracted driving by pledging the safest driving behavior. I commit to:

I will not text while I am driving.

I will not text while driving and will use only hands free calling if I need to speak on the phone while I am driving.

I will not text or use my phone while I am driving. If I need to use my phone, I will pull over to the side of the road.

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I will ask other drivers I know to do their part to end distracted driving. I pledge to make a difference.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail all completed pledges to:

GWRRA, c/o Charles Mallett, 502 Sir Galahad St., DeSoto, IL 62924

2010 Events



Wing Ding 32 "Meet in the Middle"

June 30 - July 3, 2010

<http://www.wing-ding.org/>

Region K	July 22 - 24
Region L	July 29 - August 1
Region I	August 26 - 28
Region E	September 3 - 5
Region A	September 16 - 18
Region D	September 16 - 18

Wyoming District	June 17 - 19
Ohio District	June 17 - 19
Oregon District	June 17 - 19
West Virginia District	June 17 - 20
Wisconsin District	June 25 - 26
Washington District	July 15 - 17
Minnesota District	July 16 - 17
New England District	July 22 - 24
Michigan District	July 30 - 31
Kansas District	August 26 - 28
Colorado District	August 27 - 28
Idaho District	September 3 - 5
California District	September 3 - 5
New Mexico District	September 17 - 18
North Carolina District	September 23 - 25
Virginia District	October 7 - 9

Don't see your Region or District event listed?

Contact the International Directors of Membership Enhancement Program, Ed & Linda Johnson.

Email: MED4U@comcast.net