



INSIGHT



Cheri Walloch, Editor

October 2019

TEAM GWRRA

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Wing Ding In My Backyard !

Ask the question, where and when we should hold a Wing Ding and get ready for many different opinions.



Most of the time we see this kind of discussion on social media. Recently I saw where someone felt Wing Ding should be held in March or October when the temperatures were cooler. Naturally, those in the Northern part of the United States and Canada felt quite differently as cold weather and snow may be an issue for them.

When we moved from a July date to the end of August, those Members involved with school activity were greatly affected. When Springfield, Missouri, was announced as our 2020 Wing Ding location, comments were made that it is too hot in July and should have stayed in August. In reality, August is a hotter month than July in Missouri and many other states as well.

Sometimes it feels like everyone would like a Wing Ding within 25 miles of their home, average temperature of 70-75 degrees, and perfect weather. While many would like to see a Wing Ding on the West Coast, 15% of the U.S. population resides there. Compare that to 36% of the population residing along the East Coast area. East of the Mississippi represents approximately 58% of the U.S. population.

As Officers, we all have our own opinions as well. However, we should be prepared to make some logical points when engaged in this type of conversation. As with any event that an organization runs, there are certain fixed expenses regardless of the attendance. It is easy for us to say hold a Wing Ding East and a Wing Ding West. Again, in reality, the fixed expenses cannot justify holding two Wing Dings. The attendance is just not there. Due to population and distances, the further West we go, the attendance numbers drop drastically. When planning a Wing Ding based on location and time of year, consideration has to be given to where the majority of our Membership resides. Besides, as motorcyclists, distance should be less of a factor. Distance should be part of the enjoyment of riding.

Wing Ding can be a wonderful reunion, and there is ample time to plan for your exciting trip regardless of where or when it is held. If riding does not work out for your time schedule, we would love to see you regardless of your mode of transportation. Our suggestion to all is focus on the joy of planning and the joy of the trip. See you in Springfield, MO.

As an FYI, Gold Book updates are due in the Home Office by October 31, 2019.

Ride safe; be well. And, as always, remember that fun shall be the last word—so HAVE FUN!

Jere & Sherry Goodman

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Thank you

We are starting with a big thank you! Again at Wing Ding this year we had lots of fun and saw friends and made new ones. It is so nice seeing so many people helping and it is so appreciated. A lot of hard work goes into Wing Ding and it's so nice to see so many members chipping in. Again, thank you for making our Wing Ding so much fun. We enjoy seeing so many people together. Can't wait for Wing Ding 42!

Now onto some riding...

We have people saying they're running out of ideas for rides. They visited their area over and over. Yes, we understand we can't always leave for a weekend or a week trip. Let us share a short story that happened over the past week.

We had to go to a small town not too far from our home (5 hours away) for an overnight at a friend's place to give them a hand. We decided to ride our motorcycles since it was nice out. On our way there we stopped at a little restaurant for lunch. When we got there, we saw four of our chapter members having lunch also. They were going to an event in that area. We continued our ride with our friends since we were going in the same direction. On our way we saw two more members that were riding up to the event also.

Wow! This is cool, but it got us wondering why no one said anything about riding to the event. We asked them why no one said anything about riding. Is it because you wanted to ride by yourselves? (*It does happen - we like to have a nice quiet ride sometimes.*) But the answer was that they did not want to announce it because they already went there so often in a year that they assumed no one would come.

WHAT - you assumed! Well this was a lesson learned - never assume. By the end of the day we ended up with eight motorcycles, one car, and 14 of us from the same chapter. Besides us there were 12 others all going to the same event.

So never assume that others do not want to ride where you're going. Let the chapter know, post it in Group Works, Facebook, etc. Plan the ride for you, what you want, and if others join in, great! It's just more friends to share your ride with, and if no one shows up it doesn't matter. You are still riding and having fun.

So let everyone know you are riding. Get your chapter involved in everything - you never know who wants to go somewhere.

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Tony Lasher **Assistant Director Motorist Awareness**



Wing Ding 41 is over and I am trying to get back to normal (whatever that is). Wing Ding (MAP) was a big success. Thank you to the many MAPC's and others that brought in various items to place on our MAP table. These various items included yard signs, trifold, lip balm, fans, and many more. After the five days of handouts, there was nothing left. THANK you GWRRA attendees.

Another thank you goes out to our MAP Directors (Mike & Barri Critzman) for bringing a big screen TV and DVD player so we could show the best training video around, "**A Second Look**" produced in Washington State. This video was played over and over and over. GWRRA attendees stopped, watched, and commented how good it was. If you want this video for your presentations, contact one of the MAP team members. We have the release so it can be shown. Mike and I have seen it so many times now that we have the lines memorized. The best line is, "Are you stupid or something, I'm sorry, I didn't see your bike."

Another shout out goes to the staff of the Gaylord Resort. Thank you for your quick response to a medical emergency for one of our own MAP Directors. THANK YOU GAYLORD EMT's. Until next year at Wing Ding 42 in Springfield, Missouri, we hope to see you all there.

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We have a spiffy new website now for the MEP Program! You can reach it through the usual links on the GWRRA website, or directly at: <https://gwrramep.org>. We would appreciate any suggestions for additions (or bug notifications!). In particular we would love some additions for our **Fun Activities Guide** – with pictures if at all possible!

Note: Some of the **Couple of the Year forms** – especially deadlines - are currently being updated. Most dates are being changed due to the change in dates for Wing Ding 42 next year. Links for them will be added as they are updated. If you require a certain form immediately, please contact Mary Costello at mepad.icoy@gmail.com, or ourselves at mepgwrra@gmail.com.

We are exploring some possibilities for fun new activities at Wing Ding 42. Some suggestions thus far are **Chapter Feud** (like Family Feud), **Wingo** (bingo), and the **Not So New Newlywed Game** (married over 10 years). What are your ideas?? NOT so much tilted toward contests or awards, just something to sit down with some friends and have fun!

District Couple of the Year Selections: Please, *please* email us with the results of your selections! It would also be awesome if you could send a great hi-res picture of the new COY. (You did have a designated photographer at the selection, yes?) It is very hit-and-miss dredging these out of Facebook posts and District Newsletters, and we much prefer to get the announcement first-hand from the District Director, District MEC, or District COY Coordinator. That way we can promptly be sure the new Couple is bragged about on our MEP Facebook page to everyone! (But to everyone who does inform us, thank you!)

There is no longer a separate Couple of the Year Handbook, so that link has been removed from the MEP website. It has been merged into the **Officer's Handbook** (OHB), along with other Program handbooks, and should be published soon. We will link to the new OHB when it is ready for prime time. NOTE that all COY forms, including deadlines, will be available separately on the MEP website.

We've now done a complete run-through of our revised **International Couple of the Year** selection, and it seems to be a resounding success! Kudos to Ron and Bev Clark for their work in creating the new ICOY Program, and thanks to everyone who helped make it work – from Chapter and District Teams, to our volunteer judges and MEP Team members – especially Mary and Dan Costello - and, of course, the Couples themselves!

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Chuck Jacobs Rider Education Program Assistant



October's Insight article was authored by Chuck Jacobs, GWRRA RE Program Assistant and Indiana District Educator. The information shared is an important reminder and relevant for every Officer and Member.

Do you carry a First Aid kit on your bike? If so, when is the last time you looked inside? Many riders carry kits which were purchased to meet a perceived safety requirement, but if you don't know what your First Aid kit contains, you may be unpleasantly surprised if you ever need to use it.

What passes for a First Aid kit from sources such as discount stores and auto supply shops may be woefully short of what is needed in case of a motorcycle accident.

Your First Aid kit needs to have a good pair of scissors in it to cut away (thick) clothing. If you can't see the injured area, it's hard to figure out what is best to do.

Every rider should carry a pair (several pairs is best) of latex gloves to be used in case of an accident where blood is spilled. Having them on your bike may allow persons who want to assist you to make that decision without fear of contamination, as well as being available to you to help someone else.

A good First Aid kit should have several triangle bandages in it, which can be easily made from inexpensive muslin purchased at any fabric or discount department store. These pieces should be large enough that you can make a sling from them or fold them to use as a pressure-point type bandage or put them on a head injury to hold other bandages in place. Carrying a minimum of three triangle bandages would be a good idea.

I've also seen very few kits that have anything like enough sterile gauze pads. If you need to put pressure on a bleeding wound, you'll go through these items fast and will want enough to add another clean one often. NOTE: **Place a new gauze patch on top of an existing blood-soaked patch** in order to prevent tearing any existing clotting that has begun and reopening a wound.

Those who haven't taken a CPR or First Aid class in a while might be interested to know that the American Heart Association guidelines on CPR have been gradually changing. All these courses strongly recommend that a person who is going to administer CPR have a barrier available to protect them from the bodily fluids of the injured party. This may be a plastic gadget that looks like a kitchen gripper with a hole in it for a breathing tube, or a more sophisticated mask that can keep a rescuer's face and lips away from the injured party while he or she breathes for the person who's down. These items are inexpensive and are available at medical supply shops.

Most simple First Aid kits contain antiseptic ointment or cream. These can be useful for minor sunburns or insect bites, but they should usually NOT be used on a serious injury. When the medical folks start working on a wound, they don't want to wonder what has already been applied to it.

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Lorrie Thomas
University Assistant

Introducing our newest University Assistant...
Norm Vandame

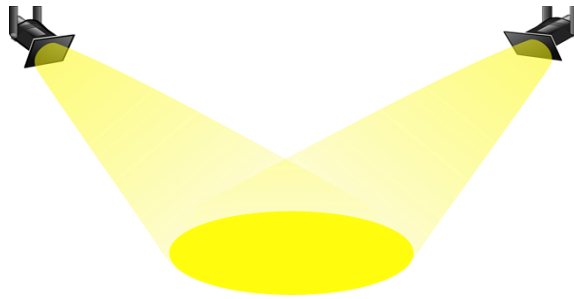


Margaret (Maggie) and I have been married for 50 years with three grown children, two boys and a girl, and six grandchildren, all girls. We first got started in motorcycles after my son, riding a 500, dropped it and his wife informed him it was time to go. So, I had a chance. We bought it and after six months decided it was too small and went to a Kawasaki 1500. We joined GWRRA in 2003 and after a little goading by the members, decided it was time for our move up to a Gold Wing. We purchased a used 2002 Illusion Red. Boy what a great bike!

After joining GWRRA, like most new members, we found ourselves totally involved with the Chapter; starting out as Assistant Chapter Directors and progressing up to Chapter Directors for six years. We have served as the Chapter Ride Educator and then Ride Coordinators. Maggie now serves as our Chapter's Sunshine Lady and Jokester. On the District level we started as the District Leadership Trainers, which went into University Coordinator. We are now Senior University Coordinators within the District and I am an ITCP Instructor Trainer. We are Level Four Master Tour Riders and I am a Medic First Aid and CPR Instructor as well.

Training has always been, and continues to be, one of my most important backgrounds. I firmly believe that without training we become stagnant and stop growing within our motorcycle habits and ourselves as well.

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SPOTLIGHT

The University started a project several years ago to produce instructions on a number of topics. A few of them have been available on the University website under the **"HOW TO"** tab. Recently quite a few topics have been added. These step-by-step guides are available to all Members. They can be utilized as aids to event planning, offered to Team Members during Officer Conferences, or simply added to the Chapter library for reference. They also make great mini training topics. They can supplement the information in the Handbook as well.

If you have any suggestions for topics, please let us know.

Another new tab has been added that will offer help for new Officers and refresh information for the more experienced Officer. The tab is **"Resources for Officers."** These brief descriptions will guide the new Officer, starting at the beginning of their appointments, and offer resources that will serve them well during their time in office. Making them available as soon as the Officer is sworn in will assist with the transition.

These guides can also be used when discussing positions with potential new Officers.

The University is asking that you share these additions with your Chapter and District Directors. They have access to both tabs and are encouraged to take advantage of this information.

2019 Presidential Award



President Anita Alkire presenting University Assistant Mike Coral a 2019 Presidential Award.

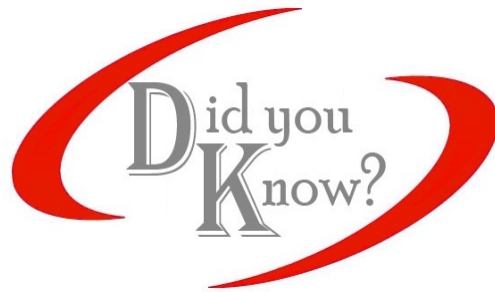
Need an idea for classes this month?

We suggest getting a head start on preparing your Teams for the upcoming year by hosting **GWRRA Workshop 206-01 Horizon**, a Team building event that is fun and fundamental to serving our Members well.

GWRRA Workshop 207-01 Promoting Teams ~ Lead Like You Ride is a daylong workshop taught by a specially certified Instructor that focuses on a skill set strongly suggested for leaders. Contact Clara Boldt, Director of the University, for more information.

Instructor Training and Certification Program (ITCP) classes are still being offered where needed. Wisconsin, Michigan, Texas, Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Maryland/Delaware are in need of instructors.

If you are interested in becoming a GWRRA University Instructor, be current in your Levels and Membership, and contact Clara Boldt at toledotriker@gmail.com.



...that contacting our Director, Clara, is NEVER a bother. Email or phone - please feel free to reach out to her.

...that Clara Boldt – Director of the GWRRA University - has assigned a University Assistant to be your first point of contact with questions or problems. Beginning in October, these Assistants will conduct the monthly DUC calls.

...that should you or your Instructors experience problems accessing or downloading files from the GWRRA University Website "gwrradot.com", that you should contact Clara directly at toledotriker@gmail.com.

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