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GWRRA GEORGIA

November 2006

Wind Down - More than fun



Couple Of the Year Selection

On the 4th of November, at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church auditorium in Macon, there will be more than food, fun and games going on. Three Chapter Couples Of the Year have made the commitment to pursue the distinguished title of Georgia District Couple Of the Year. This is not only a commitment to be ambassadors of GWRRA on the District level, but also to show their Chapter pride by representing their Chapters. This year, we have tried to make the selection process less stressful for the couples by adjusting the guidelines to make the process more fun. Couples will not present themselves before a panel of judges, which can be a real tense situation, and they don't have to dress like they are going to the prom. If they choose, they can wear their Chapter shirts, as long as they wear a vest. We want to put more fun in what may scare a lot of Chapter couples away from going through the process. We hope to see you there rooting for your favorite couple. Ladies, please don't forget to bring your favorite dessert.

Chartering Fees are Due

Each year, we must pay the required \$50.00 chartering fee. This fee is what is used to pay for the third party insurance for Officers. This

insurance covers scheduled Chapter events such as fun days and fund raisers you may have throughout the year. This year the chartering fees are due by 1 December. The District must write one check to send to the home office. So, when you come to Wind Down, that would be the perfect time to bring along a check and take care of this requirement.

Bank Signature Cards

There are still a lot of Chapters that have not made arrangements to have the bank account signature cards changed. All of the Chapters that have already had the signature cards changed have made arrangements with their bank to mail the signature cards to us and no personal visit was necessary. I have a letter requesting assistance from the bank in mailing the cards, so if that is what the bank requires, please let me know. This is something that needs to be taken care of if you have not already done so.

Officer Changes

Along with the end of the year, also comes the end of the tenure of some of the Chapter Officers. If there will be officer changes within your Chapter, please let us know as soon as possible in order to complete the required paperwork.

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

2006 CHAPTER

COUPLES OF THE YEAR

GA-A Phil & Joyce Piotrowski
 GA-A2 Kenny & Lynn Register
 GA-B2 Pete Hefele & Debra Ogle
 GA-C Buddy & Brenda Jones
 GA-C2 Larry & Teresa Urban
 GA-E Kelly & Laura Fleming
 GA-E2 Clarence & Pat Taylor
 GA-H John & Lynn Hyde
 GA-H2 Ray & Betty Kennedy
 GA-O John & Vivian Rountree
 GA-P Randy & Cindy McCaslin
 GA-Q Frank & Margie Ricigliano
 GA-S Ken & Traci Thrasher
 GA-T Mike & Linda Fields
 GA-V Charles & Loraine Holmes
 GA-X Mike & Jan Manley

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 4—Wind Down—Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Macon. Contact Bill and Betty Livingston, 229-889-1705

Nov. 18—GA-H2 Toy Run, PoJo's Truck Stop, Hwy 301S, Statesboro. Contact Curtis Gay, 912-687-1877

Jan. 13—Chilly Willy, Garden Patch Restaurant, Barnesville. New CDs and ACDs come at 9:00, all others come around 11:00. There will be a short officer's meeting after lunch. CDs, ACDs, Treasurers, and Ride Educators to attend. Contact Bill and Betty Livingston (229)889-1705.

Jan. 20-21—Horizons class. Comfort Inn in exit 136 in Perry. \$10 per person. Offered to any officer or any member that desires to hold an officer position. Contact Dave Aikens (478)953-4886.

Feb. 10—Horizons class if participation warrants.

GA Traveler's Plaque

On 14 October, Chapter C in Brunswick offered the Georgia District Travelers Plaque up for the taking. Not one member from another Chapter came to claim the plaque to bring to Wind Down to start out the 2007 plaque. So, Chapter C will bring the 2006 Travelers Plaque to Wind Down and start out the new year with the 2007 plaque.

November Meeting Changes

GA-V—Meeting will be held on the second Saturday, 11 Nov at the regularly scheduled time and location.

GA-C—Will not have a regularly scheduled meeting in November or December

If your Chapter will not have a meeting in December and you would like for us to post it in the December newsletter, please contact Bill and Betty Livingston at 229-889-1705.

Among Our Sick:

Dan Duffy Chapter GA-D

Tom Jeans GA-A –Recovering from surgery

Keith Burkingstock GA-P– Recovering from surgery.



Please keep the Mother of Jeff Puckett (GA-A2) (illness) and the granddaughter of Al and Frances Starley (GA-A2) (vehicle accident) in your thoughts and prayers.

Christian Sympathy is extended to....

Kenny and Lynn Register on the loss of Lynn's mother.



If you know of anyone that is ill, had surgery, or lost a loved one, please contact Bill and Betty Livingston.



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



CAN YOU STOP IN A CURVE . . . ?

Last month, I made the comment that a lot of folks would be riding in the mountains to observe one of Mother Nature's wonders, the changing of the leaves into their "Fall Colors". It is easy to look at the fall colors and forget you are in the mountains. And in the mountains, there are more than the fall colors, such as CURVES!! We probably don't practice stopping in curves enough, although it is covered in Experienced Rider Courses and in Parking Lot Practice exercises. So, as a quick refresher, let's see what we can do to safely stop in curves. (I am talking about moderate speeds, not zooming around a curve at 75-80 miles an hour)

Portions of the following are from the Rider Ed National Newsletter and a bit from the latest Wing World.

Sometimes it is necessary to stop in a curve. This procedure incorporates all of the principles of stopping or braking in a straight line, BUT incorporates 3 additional principles needed to stop in a curve. (We are talking about normal highway curves)

1. Straighten up the motorcycle: Reduce the lean angle of the motorcycle, i.e. bring the motorcycle up as straight as possible. And be aware of where you are. You do not need to be riding over curbs or onto the shoulder of the road.
2. Square the motorcycle: Square the handlebars, i.e. push the handgrip on the side opposite the direction of the turn.
3. Squeeze: Firmly and progressively apply the front brakes with decreasing pressure on the rear brake pedal. NEVER brake and swerve at the same time.

Simply put, you need to have your motorcycle in an upright, straight ahead position, BEFORE you apply the brakes. Attempting to stop in a curve with your front wheel turned and your motorcycle leaning, is going to cause your pride and joy to acquire unwanted scratches and dings. Occasionally it is a good idea to find a large, empty parking lot, and practice this. Keep your speed in the 10-20 mile an hour range.

And, speaking of curves, I have seen riders that brake in the curve (that is a no-no), and I have seen others who, although they brake before the curve, tend to "coast" through the curve. If you are riding with a group, and you "coast" through curves, you are creating a problem for the riders behind you, that increase their speed through curves. This may cause them to have to apply brakes IN the curve, thereby putting them in possible danger of either running into you, having to "lay it down" to miss you or worse yet, losing control and going over the edge. You must pay attention to countersteering. While riding through the turn, it will be important for the rider to INCREASE their speed by rolling-on the throttle. This gradual roll-on is necessary to stabilize the motorcycles' suspension. I am sure you have heard the term, "Power through the curve". By increasing the throttle, gently, going through the curve, you increase your motorcycles stability. In the mountains, some of the curves are often the tight "S" type turns, where rolling on the throttle may not be possible. In situations such as that, use your common sense and riding skills and slow down to safely ride through the "twisties".

Curves are fun to ride, but to ride them safely, it is important that you practice the "How To" part of stopping safely in curves.

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

RSHF,

Chuck and Anne Reed, Georgia Senior District Educators

From Your District Leadership Trainers

Dave and Sharon Aikens

Importance of Training in Recruiting & Retention

The enthusiasm level of new GWRRA members is quite high. They are excited about the new friends they have made and the variety of activities offered. These same new members are the ones that will tell their family and co-workers how much fun this new “bike club” is, and will encourage some to come and join in. Here’s where it can get sticky. Often new members, unless otherwise informed, are going to give the perception to their friends that they are joining a particular chapter and that it isn’t necessary to pay the “big bucks” to join the national association. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Case in point; I was recently informed that a chapter member (a member for several years) had informed a prospective new member that he didn’t have to join GWRRA – he could just come to chapter monthly gatherings at no cost other than the meal and the 50/50 drawing. Where did he get this idea? No one had ever told him anything different!

As Chapter Directors, it is necessary that you insure that new members fully understand what their membership entails and all that it includes. GWRRA training seminars will be made available with coordination through your respective Assistant District Director. In the meantime, every Chapter Director should encourage their members to take advantage of all training that is made available to them. Many of the seminars are geared to chapter officers; however, there are also many that are intended for the general membership.

Each chapter should have some type of orientation handout, or someone in the chapter to take on the responsibility to educate new members and thus avoid the above mentioned embarrassment. You will find a New Member Orientation pamphlet available for download on the GA Web page. There is also nothing to preclude the CD from taking a few minutes during their monthly gathering to explain some of the inner workings of GWRRA and the various divisions within the association. It is often said that we all learn something new everyday. Why not make the next learning experience about GWRRA.

Once our membership becomes more knowledgeable about GWRRA, they will have all the tools necessary to make them first class recruiters. The enthusiasm is there; perhaps we can help focus it to keep GWRRA the first class organization that it is.

Dave & Sharon

Membership Enhancement Coordinators

JJ and Marcia Etzle

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT—MORE THAN THE COUPLE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Even though the Couple Of the Year Program is the most recognized program in the Membership Enhancement Division, there are also other areas that are just as important and useful. The Membership Enhancement Division provides valuable information for the following programs:

- Membership Enhancement
- Couple Of the Year Program
- Recruitment and Retention Program
- Public Relations
- Fun Activities Program
- Communications
- Special Interest Groups

In future issues we will feature information for each of these programs. If you would like to learn more about any of these programs, please visit the National MED website at <http://www.gwrro.org/regional/med/index.html> .

JJ and Marcia Etzle, Assistant District Directors and MED/COY Coordinators