

Home of  
WING FLING  
2011

Clown'n Around  
Gold Wing Style

# GWRRA - Georgia

March 2011

## *I am a Motorcyclist*



By Roy Degler—District Motorist Awareness Coordinator

There have been past articles written along these same thought processes, but I wanted to share my views for better or worse. These views strictly represent my personal opinions and in no way reflect or represent the values and ideals of GWRRA.

Motorcyclists come in many different shapes and sizes as well as ages, colors and religions. We might be your Family Dentist, Doctor, Mailperson, Grocer, School Teacher, Lawyer, Neighbor, Brother, Sister, Father or Mother....I believe that you can see my point. We could be almost anyone. We might ride on two wheels or maybe three. If on three wheels, there may be two in front or two in the rear. It does not matter to us as long as we have the opportunity to swing a leg over the seat and go for a ride.

Motorcyclists are drawn to the adventure of the wind in our faces, the freedom of being outdoors, the sights and smells. Some might call it a hobby or a sport, but most of us who ride call it a passion!

Many of us are very eager to improve our riding skills so that we can be safer on the road. We do this by taking seminars and attending riding courses. It requires over 2500 different skills to safely operate a motorcycle. This is twice as many as required to operate a four or more wheeled vehicle. (Approximately 1200 skills) Routinely we recertify every two to three years. When was the last time you, yes you in the four or more wheeled vehicles, took a driving course? High school during Driver Education? How many years ago was that?

I do not fear the four or more wheeled vehicles that outweigh me by thousands of pounds, but I do respect them. I also understand that they are just machines and that it takes an operator/driver to control them. It is that driver's ability to control said vehicle and combine that with their knowledge and respect for his or her road traveling companions that just might cause my stomach to do a few little somersaults. I wish I could say that my fellow drivers, who I "Share the Road" with, would offer me the same respect I freely give them, but I cannot!

This is not a blanket condemnation of all who do not ride, because there are quite a few that are Kings and Queens on the road! They display patience and courtesy and a true respect for those on the highway with them. It is also true that there are those who ride motorcycles that do not represent us in a positive way. I would like to believe that there are more of us trying to do the right thing than the other way around.

Unfortunately in this day and age of mass communication, cell phones, smart phones, I Pads, IPods, 24 hour stores, the internet, and cable TV.....we are losing sight of the fact we all share the same space. I call it Informational Overload. (IO) Instead of making us all come together, it is actually causing isolation. Creating a singular rather than plural society. This Informational Overload carries over into everything we do including or shall I say especially driving! When on the road, each driver feels that only they matter. Everyone has seemed to have forgotten that driving and riding are a privilege, not a right! That with driving and riding comes responsibility for ones actions. It appears to me that there are more incursions between motorist and cyclist or for that matter motorist and motorist than ever before. Correct me if I am wrong!

Let me just share a few of my interactions with my fellow road sharing brethren.

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### DISTRICT TEAM

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# GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 17-19 - Florida District Convention:** "Old Fashion Rendezvous"; Kissimmee, FL.

**March 24-26 - GA-A2 Irish Get Away:** Sportsman Club, Dublin, GA. For more information, contact Chuck or BJ Hohman at 478-279-1678.

**March 31 - April 2 - Alabama District Convention:** "Tribute to American Heroes"; Huntsville, AL.

**April 28 - 30 - South Carolina District Convention:** "Fiesta of Wings"; North Charleston, SC.

**May 21 - GA-A Fun Day:** At Steve and Dottie's place! Visit the District website for a flyer or call Steve or Dottie Fagan at 770-957-4322.

**May 21 - GA-D Motorist Awareness Event:** Cumming, GA. Contact Ron Ciccarone at 678-316-0473

**June 16-18 - Georgia District Convention & Rally:** "Clown'n Around Gold Wing Style"; Marriott Hotel, Duluth, GA. Ask any District Team Member for more information or visit the District website at [www.gwrri-ga.com](http://www.gwrri-ga.com).

**July 6-9 - Wing Ding:** Knoxville, TN.

**September 15 - 17 - Region A Convention:** Lakepoint Resort Lodge, Eufaula, AL.

**October 13 - 15 - Mississippi District Convention:** "Wings Over Tupelo - Hillbilly Style", Tupelo, MS

## 2011 Chapter Couples of the Year

GA-A Dick & Peg Hopkins	GA-A2 Butch & Bonnie Jeskey	
GA-B2 Ed Badarzyinski & Mary Catherine Koscinski		GA-C2 Alan & Jane Moore
GA-D Charlie & Kathy Stevens	GA-E John & Peg Wildes	GA-E2 Don & Bea Boren
GA-F2 John & Alice Keeley	GA-H Floyd & Janie Weaver	GA-I2 Ronnie & Karen Lewis
GA-J Bob & Kathy Hill	GA-K Jesse & Brenda Tuten	GA-L Dave & Bennie Cole
GA-Q Bill & Barbara Schleicher	GA-S George & Donna Roman	GA-T Willie & Phyllis Barnett
GA-X Kelvin & Rhonda Harris		

### Region A Wanderer

Chapter FL1-A will offer the Wanderer on Saturday, March 12, 2011, at Frontier Steak Cattle Company, 8602 E. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL. Eat at 5:30pm, meet at 7:00pm.

### GA Traveler's Plaque

Chapter GA-T captured the plaque from GA-B2. They will announce the date, time and location of its offering soon.

## Meeting Changes

Please visit the Chapter Info page of the District website to check for changes. Also, remember, it is always a good idea to call the Chapter Director to confirm their gathering particulars.

### Heartfelt Sympathy To:

- Vicki & Marvin Seritt on the passing of Vicki's mother
- Dave & Betty Andrade on the passing of Dave's mother



### Among Our Sick:

- Bonnie & Sam Bender



## From your District Leadership Trainers *Alan & Denise Head*

### Let's Train Together

What allows GWRRA to maintain its **Not For Profit** status? Those of you who have attended Horizons, Officer's Conference or OCP know the answer – Rider Education. Rider Education and Motorist Awareness are what allows GWRRA to maintain the **Not For Profit Status**. As many of you know, Leadership Training offers classes and so does Rider Education. Georgia is beginning a new phase in training. Leadership Training and Rider Education can offer combined sessions when a facilitator is available. Both Alan and Denise are Rider Education facilitators; Roy is also a Leadership Training instructor and there are many others we can draw from, so you don't get tired of seeing our faces! To offer you both will add to the Fun, Knowledge and Safety of all.

At the end of a Horizon's class in Fayetteville, Roy Degler offered two Rider Education classes. The membership liked the combination. Since then, Alan, Tommy, Roy and Carlos have talked about the possibility of doing this on a regular basis if the members want both. We agreed this is a Team effort to offer the Georgia members the most we can. We'll begin offering the combination sessions as soon as members want them. You, as a Member or Chapter Director or Chapter Ride Educator, just need to call or send an e-mail to request it.

The purpose of the Georgia District Team is to serve the members of Georgia GWRRA. LTP and Rider Education believe that offering combined training, at training seminars, Rider Ed training days and at Horizons classes will be beneficial to our new members. What better time than the beginning of a member's experience with GWRRA to be exposed to Rider's Education? Team Riding, Co-Riders, Crash Scene Response.....there are many Rider's Education modules that are extremely beneficial to a new member. The combination isn't limited to Horizons. We want to be available to do a variety of Leadership Training modules with Rider's Education. We cannot combine them all the time but we can when requested and planned

If you're interested in having a little of both, contact Alan Head, Georgia District Trainer, E-Mail: [alanhead@bellsouth.net](mailto:alanhead@bellsouth.net); cell: 770-289-1341; home: 770-257-7211.

Or, contact your Georgia District Educators; Tommy Martin at [martintv@bellsouth.net](mailto:martintv@bellsouth.net) or Roy Degler at [degler224@charter.net](mailto:degler224@charter.net)



## From your District Educators *Tommy & Vicky Martin*



The Rider Education break-out at the Officer's Conference went very well. The enthusiasm and interest of everyone was very exciting. I think everyone took something home that will help to improve them as Educators. The monthly report has started to flow in and as you know, this helps us to stay in compliance with our 501-C4 status.

The Raffle Tickets for the Escapade Trailer have been distributed to the Chapter Educators or Chapter Directors. This is a great prize and we need everyone's help to sell these tickets. The funds raised from this raffle will help support the Rider Education Program here in Georgia. Remember the seller of the winning ticket wins \$50.00.

There was an ARC course scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> and the class room portion was completed on that date, however the Range portion had to be postponed due to unsafe conditions. The asphalt at the training location had been resurfaced and then it rained. Well, the rain mixed with the oil of the newly resurfaced asphalt became very slick. Safety, being the main objective of Rider Education, the Instructors cancelled the range portion for that day. GOOD CALL Guy's!! The range portion was rescheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> where Marvin Davis, Tom Jeans, Roy Degler, Jeanna Phillips, Alan Phillips John Anagnost, Gean Taylor, Dave Andrade & Tommy Martin completed the ARC course. A special thanks goes to Steven Hollingsworth & Gregg Dempsey for Instructing the course, also to Chuck Reed & Roy Fosnight Jr. for support and help in laying out the course.

## From your District Event Coordinators *Phillip & Terri Kozlowski*

Wing Fling is only a 107 days away, which means you need to prepare for all the FUN competitions we will have for you. This year we have 3 ways for your chapter to show how it communicates to the Chapter members and the community in the following contests: the chapter banner, chapter newsletter, and website competitions.

**The Chapter Banner:** Does your Chapter have a banner...well then show it off by participating in this contest. The rules are simple; the judges will determine if the criteria exists on the banner, it is easily viewable, in good condition and if it is appealing to the eye. Judging will be based on having the following in each category: GWRRA, Chapter, District and Region designation, does it have the GWRRA motto "Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge", the GWRRA logo with registered mark and the banner's overall appeal.

**The Chapter Newsletter:** Newsletters for the months of March, April and May of 2011 must be submitted. Newsletters should be submitted in the same format as they are distributed to Chapter Participants (color and/or black & white). Special editions for judging purposes will not be accepted. A single month (March, April, or May) will be randomly selected prior to judging. **Newsletters must be submitted by mail (not email) to: Sid and Donna Cohen at 575 Forest Heights Drive, Athens, GA 30606.** Two categories will be judged; color and black & white. A first and second place winner will be chosen in each category. All newsletters from the selected month will be judged at the District Rally using the scoring criteria on the District website. Winners of District Competition will compete for the Region title. Remember that the sole purpose of publishing a newsletter is to communicate and keep the members informed and involved! Show off how your Chapter communicates to its members!

**The Chapter Website:** The Georgia District encourages all Chapters to keep the communication flowing with their members. In recognition of the time, effort and expense put forward by its Chapters in the development and maintenance of their websites, Georgia offers its Chapters the opportunity for formal recognition of their sites. All Georgia Chapter websites with links from the Georgia District Website will be evaluated. Check your link to make sure it is valid. Websites will be reviewed during the months of April and May 2011. Advance notice of viewing times will not be announced - Reviews will be random. Judging criteria are based on use of logos; GWRRA, Chapter, District and Region designation; contact information, links, navigational ease, and overall appeal.

All 15 different and FUN competitions and their associated rules that will be held at the 2011 Georgia Wing Fling on June 16-18<sup>th</sup> are on the District Website for you to download and review. So be certain to look it up so you don't miss out on any of the FUN!

*(I am a Motorcyclist - Continued from page 1)*

- When you made your left turn directly in front of me and I had to take evasive action, all you could do was shrug your shoulders and raise your hands.
- When riding within a group on a busy Interstate you cut right in between us, which is basically saying to us we just do not matter. You are more important than us.
- When you swerve from two lanes out to make an exit ramp, once again causing me to take evasive action, you do not even acknowledge me.
- When I am in a school zone with flashing yellow lights and a 25mph speed limit, you ride so close to my bike that I cannot even see your bumper in my mirrors....top this off by passing me in this zone, across a double yellow line and then jumping into the turn lane to drop your kids off at school. That school zone is to protect YOUR children. What kind of example are you setting for them?
- When you look me straight in the eye and pull out anyway.
- When you were texting and drifted into my lane.
- When you try to occupy the same lane as me, do you stop to think I might need to maneuver around a pot hole or road obstacle? It is not a big deal in a four or more wheeled vehicle, but to me it could mean the difference between life or death.

I have a list that could fill pages; these are but a few of the "lowlights"! The common thread that ties them all together is, as Aretha Franklin put it: R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

Remember you are not the only one on the road. In other words: "Share the Road!"