

# Georgia District

NEWSLETTER

August 2014



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## It's a Family Thang'

July has been a quite a busy month for us, as we are sure it has been for you as well. We have been very busy working out the negotiations for the location of Wing Fling 2015 and we finally are able to share the news with everyone. The 2015 Georgia District Rally "Wing Fling" will be held in Dillard, Georgia at **The River Vista RV Resort**. The Host Hotel will be the Dillard Gateway Inn (formally known as the Holiday Inn Express). A detailed News Bulletin was sent out via email to all Directors within Region "A" on July 19<sup>th</sup> and is also posted on the District Website.

We have traveled over 2500 miles round trip to Wing Ding in Madison Wisconsin, and yeah we did do a little site seeing along the way. Along with our traveling buddies Ralph and Debbie Stewart, we visited the Arch in St. Louis, Mo., the "Home of the Throwned Rolls" (Lamberts Restaurant) in Sikeston, MO.—Couldn't pass that up—the House on the Rock in Spring Green, WI., and we took a little (2.5 hour) breakfast ride over to Minnesota one morning, just to add Minnesota to our map of travels. Overall, we had a great time at Wing Ding, but, I must say a big part of our fun was at the Ticket Sales Booth. A big THANK YOU to Dean & Candace Watts of GA-B2; Randy & Georgia Moore of GA-F2; Pat & Craig Whitehouse, Larry & Jean Bernius,

and Glen & Joyce Argo of GA-S; Ralph & Debbie Stewart of GA-T; Larry & Pam Clemmer of Georgia District for volunteering to help us at the ticket sales booth. We could not have done it without your help. The Word is out; Wing Ding 37 will be in Huntsville, AL. on September 3rd—September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Congratulations to Jon & Barb Pons of Region F for being selected as the 2014—2015 International Couple of the Year. (Yep you got it, Buddy and Kim Summers were robbed right there on the stage in front of the whole world. Just kidding!) Buddy and Kim did an outstanding job and has represented Region A well. If they had to come in second it couldn't have been to a better couple than Jon and Barb.

Phillip and Terri Kozlowski have been the Directors of Chapter D for several years. They have decided that it is time to step aside and let someone else take the reins and lead the Chapter. We appreciate all that Phillip and Terri have done over the years for Chapter D and the Membership. Now, please join us in welcoming Dennis (Buddy) and Deborah Bertram as the new Chapter Directors of Georgia Chapter-D.

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## SOMETIMES IT JUST COMES DOWN TO YOU!

This column is going to be a combination of Motorist Awareness and Rider Education with a few rants and opinions thrown in for good measure. Be prepared—it just might strike a nerve! (Actually hoping that it does!)

So there I was the other morning riding my Wing to work, going the same route I have been using for the past 8 years and along came the perfect storm scenario.

I had just crested a small hill approaching a four-way intersection that is signal light controlled. A Marathon Gas station to my immediate right, a Church's Chicken caddy corner an abandon Walgreens to my left and a Family Dollar across the intersection on my right. A late model Nissan was passing through the intersection and moved into the left turn lane (for the opposite direction), turn signal on, to cross right in front of me and enter the gas station. I immediately backed off the throttle and figured they had to see me, no way were they going to cut in front of me, but alas they began the turn across my bow. (Nautical term—think Titanic)

The reality is I would have nailed that vehicle right in

the middle of the passenger side front door. Put a bull's-eye on it; because that was where I was headed. Pure reaction put me into the swerve maneuver, first left and then right (press left, press right) and by the thickness of a few of the hairs I have left on my head; cleared the vehicle. At this point I turned to look at my aggressor, the demon that failed to grant me the right of way, which was lawfully mine and I had every intention of swinging into the gas station and ripping this jerk a new one—conviction and righteousness were mine! I held the moral high ground. So I swung my head around realizing that all of this played out in a matter of seconds.

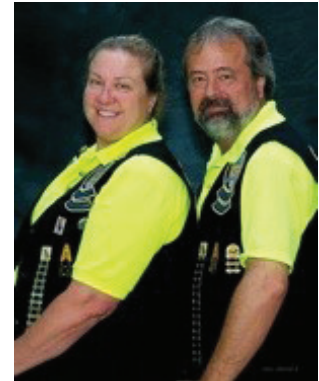
What vision greeted me was that of a very old man. Now at this point I realize all of us have a few years under our belts and I hate to use the “old” tag, but I am talking, in my humble opinion now, serious senior....fossil? I do not want to dive into the societal debate about when it is time to turn in the keys and surrender your independence, but that time should and will come for all of us. For him it had long since passed—he never looked, never saw me. Only if I had plowed into the side of his

car would he have known I was there. Absolutely oblivious! Hence the perfect storm scenario: driver turning left across the flow of traffic in front of a motorcyclist and then the familiar cry of: “But I never even saw them” would come out of their mouths. As if that is justification for the grievous, inexcusable offense. How many lives lost and serious injuries occur every year from exactly this situation?

At this point I realized there was nothing to gain by yelling at the guy. According to my daughter all of her friends are scared of me so I probably would have scared the heck out of this guy or worse and then I would have heard that “never saw me” line. (This would have fired me up even more!) No teachable moment here because his situation is not going to change. That was and is the true reality. I had survived. So I muttered a couple of not re-printable things and continued on to work. We in the motorcycling community need to have short memories so that we can keep our focus on the road. Distractions can be and are deadly!

A few columns ago I wrote about the number of registered motorcycles in the

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Julie & Roy  
Degler  
Ride Educator

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## SOMETIMES IT JUST COMES DOWN TO YOU!

(Continued from page 2)

US, including more than two wheels, and that number is somewhere around 10 million. Let's error on the high side and say between, family, friends or maybe undercounted motorcycles and corresponding motorcyclist, the number comes to 25 million people involved with or aware of our passion. In the US alone we have a population of approximately 300 million. Looking at it another way 275 million people in the US do not ride or for the most part even think about motorcyclist. The odds are not in our favor. Remember every time we swing a leg across the seat we are accepting a perceived risk. We need to maximize everything we can possibly do to minimize that risk, but the reality is: The risk is always there! Trust me there are many aspects to this. Accept and learn. Don't be an ostrich and stick your head in the sand!

I am still a firm believer in Motorist Awareness and educating the "folks" of this world about; **"Sharing the Road!"** Steve Fagan and I wrote an Eighth Grade Middle School seminar, tied it into Federal and State Eighth Grade Science curriculum requirements,

combining Motorist Awareness and Motorcycle Safety. It was, and still is, our heartfelt feeling that this important education needs to begin much earlier than the hormone driven, major distraction high school/driver education experience. (Do not get me wrong.....it is good, but could be better...as in; used as a refresher to previously learned lessons.) It is no longer on the approved MA list. Yes it required effort, but isn't anything worth doing worth the effort?

Ask yourself this: How many high schoolers wave at you when you ride by? Yeah that is what I thought. Now, how many small/young children turn, stare and wave? Fire education starts at a young age, so should Motorist Awareness and Motorcycle Safety. Ingrain it while they are young and receptive. Heck put it on Sesame Street. Do it before they move into chasing girls or boys, chasing the independence of a driver's license and of course, hormones. It will change their perceptions and hopefully have an impact on the roads that we all share! Also, if you think about it, it is another way, a different approach if you will, to deliver the message to their parents, siblings and any-

one else they interact with. Seriously, think about it! Does the argument possess merit?

Something as simple as allowing a young child to sit on our machines while interacting with them and their parents can make a lifelong impression. What are we talking about here? Five or ten minutes of our time? Is it time well spent? That one is hard to answer, but isn't it worth the possibility that it might be a life changing encounter? I challenge all of you to try it. What have you or for that matter the motorcycling community got to lose?



Now let's talk about Rider Education Riding Courses. I am sick to death of hearing: "I've been riding for 20 years (fill in the number that works for you) and never had an accident. So I don't need to take a course!" and "It would be a total waste of my time!" Here's the thing; Repetition is an excellent teacher, but only if the skill or training are done correctly. The scary thing is It can also reinforce bad, if not dangerous habits, skills and practices. Study after study, conducted both here in the US (Hurt Study) and

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***"The odds are not in our favor. Remember every time we swing a leg across the seat we are accepting a perceived risk. We need to maximize everything we can do to minimize that risk..."***



## SOMETIMES IT JUST COMES DOWN TO YOU!

(Continued from page 3)

in Europe (M.A.I.D.S), continues to state that the **“Motorcyclist failure to correctly; brake, corner and swerve”** was the major contributing cause for the majority of serious or fatal motorcycling accidents. When is the last time you did any of the above mentioned maneuvers? Ever heard of the expression: “Use it or lose it?” So I am asking; when was the last time you seriously practiced those skills? Be honest!

I need all of you to take a hard look in the mirror and put yourself in that scenario. Would you have avoided the collision or ran right into the side of the car? As a Certified Motorcycle Ride Course Instructor I can tell you a couple of things. We in GWRRA have a gift. It is called Rider Education and Motorist Awareness. World class programs to help all of us to ride safer and because of that, for as long as we desire. Here in Georgia the Riding Courses and CPR/First Aid Courses costs are covered by the District. Instructors go out of their way to volunteer their time and resources. Lately it seems like they are taken for granted. No one wants to invest in supporting Rider

Education or Motorist Awareness. Do not want to contribute to the fund raisers that make it possible or invest the time it takes to attend. What? Attend these potentially Life Saving Courses? “It’s too far away”, “It takes all day”, “I have been riding forever and never had an accident, there is absolutely nothing you can teach me”, “It’s too hot”, “It’s too cold”....I could go on and on, but I believe you see my point or then again; maybe not.

Look at it this way.... I will use a sporting analogy since quite a few of us are sports fans. Football players and teams have been playing for years, yet they practice all the time. So do baseball, hockey, soccer, lacrosse teams... the list goes on and on. Not a sports fan? How about music than? Musicians have been playing an instrument for years. Why do they need to practice? What could they possibly learn? Who could teach them anything new?

I firmly believe that: “Arrogance can be fatal!” Usually the accident is caused by exceeding the abilities of the rider, not the machine. Again my opinion, but studies do seem to concur.

Hopefully I have made

some of you mad! Excellent, everything else we have tried hasn’t gotten your attention. Let’s see if a full scale frontal assault on you, stirs the pot. We are throwing down the gauntlet and issuing this challenge; get serious, get motivated, decide to make a difference, come on out, attend some courses, get involved with Motorist Awareness, show us what you got! Those that know me know that I can and do admit when I am wrong. I do not believe I am!

In conclusion, let’s ask a question: Why are they called accidents? Because they are preventable! So honestly; how many of you would have plowed into the side of that car? Sometimes it just comes down to you, your skills, your preparedness and okay, some luck. Are you ready...or not? At the moment of truth it’s not the time to find out that your pride made assumptions it couldn’t back up!

Until next time: *Be Safe—  
We’ll See You On The Road!*

*Roy & Julie*



***“We in GWRRA have a gift. It is called Rider Education and Motorist Awareness. World class programs to help all of us ride safer...”***



# AUGUST 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 GA-E, F2
3	4	5 GA-S	9	7	8	9 GA-D
10	11 GA-Q, T	12	13	14 GA-K, M	15	16 GA-A, C2, I2, J
17	18 GA-O	19	20	21 GA-D2	22	GA-D Fun Day
24	25	26 GA-R	27	28 GA-H, L	29	23 GA-B2, E2
31					Weekend at the Opry	

See website for time and location of Chapter Gatherings. Please call before you visit to confirm date, time and location.

**Georgia Traveler's Plaque: Chapter GA-T** gave away the plaque on Saturday, July 26th in Madison. The new holder of the Traveler's Plaque is not known at press time. Please see the District website for the date, time and location it will be offered! Go to: [www.gwrra-ga.com](http://www.gwrra-ga.com)

**Region A Wanderer:** In the same way, the Wanderer was given away by **Chapter GA-T** on July 26th. You'll need to check the Region website for details on the date, time and location that it will be given away. See: [www.gwrra-regiona.org](http://www.gwrra-regiona.org)

## Schedule of Events

- August 16—GA-D Fun Day, Buford
- August 29 & 31—Weekend at the Opry, Nashville, TN
- September 11-13—Region A Convention/Rally, Eufaula, AL
- September 28—Advanced Leadership Program, Fayetteville
- October 4—GA-Q Dessert Auction & BBQ, Warner Robins
- October 16-18—Mississippi Convention/Rally, Gulfport
- October 25—GA-A's Fun Day, Forsyth
- March 19-21, 2015—Florida Convention/Rally, Kissimmee
- April 30-May 2, 2015—South Carolina District Convention/Rally, Florence
- May 14-16, 2015—Alabama District Convention/Rally, Eufaula
- June 18-20, 2015—Georgia District Convention/Rally—Gold Wing Dynasty

## It's a Family Thang'

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There is plenty going on within the District such as: District & Region A Plaque give-a-ways, training classes, chapter Fun Days and chapter rides for your to participate in. You can find most of this information on the Dis-

trict Website and/or other Chapter Websites. Don't forget to check out other chapter newsletters, which can also be found under the Chapter information on the District Website. If you can't find the information you are looking for on the District Website,

please give us or one of our District Staff Members a call. We want to help if you will only let us.

We hope to see you on the road soon,

*Tommy & Vicky*





**Sid and Donna Cohen**  
Assistant District  
Director/  
Couple of the Year  
Coordinator

*"...in August, lets  
try to get out and  
visit one chapter  
close to you and  
lets see what  
happens."*



**Jim & Kay Elrod**  
Assistant  
District Director  
Vendor  
Coordinator



## SUPPORTING OUR GEORGIA COUPLE OF THE YEAR

As the summer goes on we certainly hope everyday is a riding day for you. With Wing Fling behind us we are looking forward to the Georgia Rallyvention for 2015. As you know we are staying in Dillard, Georgia. This time we will be at the River Vista RV Resort.

After your Georgia team toured the River Vista to check the place out we made the remark why have we not found this or a place like this before? It is fantastic and we are really looking forward to planning a great time for

everyone. Register early and get your rooms. The theme is a Gold Wing Dynasty "A Family Thang".

Before our rallyvention we have the Region "A" rallyvention September 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> in Eufaula, Alabama at the beautiful Lake Point Lodge. Please come out and support Vance and Fern our District Couple of the Year during the Region Couple of the Year selection.

Take advantage of what a

rallyvention really has to offer. There is so much more than just seeing what the vendors have. There is plenty of good time, games, education, riding and fellowship.

Last for this article Wind Down is set for November 8<sup>th</sup>. At the time I wrote this the place has not been confirmed.

Ride safe and often,

*Sid & Donna*

## VISITATION CHALLENGE

Well Wing Ding is over and August is upon us. I hope that every one had a great July many precious memories to look back on.

So far I have visited several Chapters in July, but, believe it or not, I didn't see any guests or other Chapters there. I have been told on several occasion "we don't get any other Chapters to visit."

Why?

Well, have you thought about that you have not visited anywhere? You know it has to start somewhere.

People are funny if you don't show interest in them they will not show interest in you. So in August lets try and get out and visit one chapter close to you and lets see what

happens. One thing though, call ahead first and make sure they are going to be there. If we can be of any assistants, Please give us a call or shoot us an E-Mail.

Ride safe, have fun and enjoy the scenery.

*Jim & Kay*

## Among our sick

Judy Severs, GA-A  
Donald Taylor, GA-D  
Dawn Cail, GA-L  
Laura Sue Fleming

## In Memory

Edith Tugged, Mother of  
Bubba Roberts, GA-D  
John Peoples, Son of  
Billy & Robin Peoples, GA-E