



## Gold Wing Road Riders Association Georgia District Bulletin



July 2020

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The District Team has made the decision to pull the Traveler's Plaque out of competition due to the Covid 19 Virus. We will start it back up at the Ride In that we are holding in October and let it run until our next Ride In to be held in 2021. Thanks for all the support in moving the Plaque.

Also, the Home Office has asked that all Chapters please check your newsletters, websites and any other communication tools that may be using the GWRRA logo. There is a new logo out as appears on this Bulletin. You will know if you are using the new logo as the banner will read, "Friends, Fun, Safety, Knowledge." (They have added "Friends").

The Georgia Ride In is just 3 months away and we are still on go with our plans. Please be thinking of a "Cook Off" dinner dish that your Chapter could bring. If you are planning to camp, we only have 8 camp sites remaining so you need to make your reservations now!

Please keep Tracy Thrasher in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to recover from hip replacement surgery. The surgery was a huge success and she is recouping very nicely!

Thanks for all you do!

Ride Safe,  
Frank & Melinda Brothers  
Georgia District Directors



Hopefully we will all be able to get back to riding and meeting up with our friends soon. I am sure all of us have checked out our bikes and trikes to ensure they are up to the rides ahead. Also are we up to the ride? Since this Covid19, the people in charge say that the average person has gained 5 pounds. You may need to take short trips first to get your butt fit to ride the longer rides. Be sure to check your tires and lights to make sure they are fit to go. The members of GWRRA all get it, in that you guys and gals do practice safety. I applaud you for that. What I write about, most of you already know about because of the training you have received over the years. Find an empty parking lot and practice before taking off on a long ride.

These are some strange and trying times that we are living in. In an organization like GWRRA we are so social and enjoy spending time not only riding our motorcycles but enjoying riding our motorcycles with our closest friends and family. I know that Barbara and I are missing all the Chapter Gatherings that we attend and getting to spend time with our GW Family. Hang in there, before you know it we will be hitting the roads and the restaurants and going to Chapter Gatherings again.

I know that some of us have not been riding as much as we normally would have. Chapter events, rides, training courses have been cancelled. Some riding has been starting back up and it is important to make sure that your riding skills are sharp so that you can remain safe. Don't forget all of the GWRRA University on-line courses available to you. Chapter Director's please get the word out on them if you haven't already. The link to access the University courses is <https://gwrradot.com/>. There are several seminars being offered. Take advantage of staying at home and take some training. If any of you need help with "ZOOM", contact any of us on the District Team and we will be glad to help you.

More motorcycles are on the road and more of us are moving around. Things are opening up but of course we must still be careful. Some of our Chapters are also beginning to move around, which is good!

We are assuming that July will bring better days ahead and we can all get back to some type of normal activity with our GWRRA Friends.

Of course, the big thing we have been missing out on is our Monthly Gathering where we get together, visit with each other and find out what's coming up in the next few days, weeks, and/or months. So here's hoping that we will be able to get back to enjoying each other's company real soon. Riding season is upon us and pandemic or not, most of us will still get out there and ride...but riding with a group of friends is so much better than riding by yourself.

I urge you all to stay in touch with each other via social media and other ways available to us. Some of us may not be computer smart, so why not stay in touch with your friends the old fashioned way - "the telephone". A phone call is so much more personal. You never know when they may be feeling ill or maybe they just want to talk to a friend.

We are in regular contact with your Chapter Directors with any information we receive from National.

Stay safe, this too shall pass.  
We sure miss seeing all of you.

Barry & Barbara Owens  
Georgia Asst. District Directors



# What To Do About Traffic Signals That Ignore Motorcycles

Murry and Dawn Cail, Georgia Rider Educators

You wait. You wait. The light won't turn green.

Traffic signal sensors that don't detect motorcycles are one of the minor hassles of riding that most people in cars never become aware of. But here are a couple of tips for dealing with the problem, both immediately and in the long term.

## Traffic sensors and how they work

I'm amazed at how many people driving cars are utterly oblivious to the way most traffic signals work in the U.S. I just shake my head when I see an impatient car driver inching forward at a red light until he's so far forward he is no longer atop the sensor. His impatience costs him. Instead of getting a green left-turn arrow, the signal doesn't know he's there and he has to wait for on-coming traffic to pass.

Since you ride, and you're more exposed to the world around you, you probably know what I'm talking about. Those rectangular markings you see in the pavement at stop lights are actually sensors that let the signals know when someone is waiting. If someone is waiting to turn left, the signal gives a left-turn arrow. Otherwise, it's just a plain green light. In other cases, such as intersections that aren't very busy, through lanes have sensors and the side street light will remain red indefinitely, if no one is waiting to cross the busier main street.

That can be a problem for us and it's because of how the sensors work. Those lines you see in the pavement are where wires are buried two to four inches deep in the pavement. A current flows through the wires and changes in the electromagnetic field of the loop are caused when a vehicle passes over it or stops above it.

No problem with cars and trucks, but for motorcycles, which have less conductive material, the signal may not detect the motorcycle if the sensitivity, which is adjustable, is set too low. When that happens, you're stuck at a red light that may never change.

So what can you do?

Place your motorcycle atop or near the sensor loop in the pavement at a red light to trigger the sensor. First of all, stop your motorcycle with the wheels lined up with one of the cuts in the pavement. This puts the maximum possible amount of conductive material above the wire loop. If you stop in the center of the square, you're making the sensor's job more difficult.

If that doesn't work, it's time for additional measures. Many times, when I've been stuck at a light, if there's a car behind me I edge as far forward as possible and wave to the driver to move forward so the car's wheels are inside the sensor loop. Usually, the driver is clueless about what I'm doing, but some pointing at the pavement and the light sometimes cuts through the fog.

Some states have passed laws that allow a motorcyclist to pass through a red light in a safe manner if it fails to recognize your presence. Georgia is NOT one of those states—Governor Deal vetoed the bill.

As a longer term solution, if there's a light on your daily route that refuses to recognize your presence, to yourself and fellow riders a favor and try to get it adjusted. You may have to make a few

calls. Depending on where you live and whether it's a city street or a state highway, it could fall under the jurisdiction of either a local or state government. The Federal Highway Administration offers suggestions on which sensitivity levels should be used to detect motorcycles. You could also volunteer to meet the engineer at the site with your motorcycle for some real-world testing to make sure the sensor is set properly.

Can we buy our way out of this problem? After all, isn't that the American way? There's a product for everything, right?

You can buy magnets that you attach to the bottom of a motorcycle that will supposedly trip the sensor, when your motorcycle alone is not enough. These are sometimes packaged with far fancier descriptions, but basically they're magnets.

The magnets are not to be confused with the gray-market infrared emitters you may have heard of that promise to pave your way with a sea of green lights spreading before you. These devices, which mimic ones used by emergency vehicles, emit infrared signals to traffic lights so they change to green. If you're thinking of buying one, you should know two things: they're illegal, and only a tiny fraction of traffic lights are equipped to respond to those emitters, anyway.

It's not all bad.

Is there an upside to this? Of course. I can always find an upside to riding a motorcycle. Because we are aware of our surroundings, unlike many drivers who don't know sensors exist and think stop lights work by magic, we can use this knowledge to our advantage. This balances out the occasional inconvenience of a sensor that refuses to recognize us. Let me give you an example.

Near my home, on a busy, four-lane city street, there's a left-turn lane with a sensor set back where the *second* car in line would be waiting to turn left. I get no green arrow unless I trip that signal, and most of the day, heavy traffic makes a left turn difficult. So I just stop on top of the sensor, 15 feet back from the intersection, and get my own personal green arrow.

Sometimes people look at me strange for stopping back there. But then they already probably think I'm strange. After all, I'm on a motorcycle. Just the way I like it.



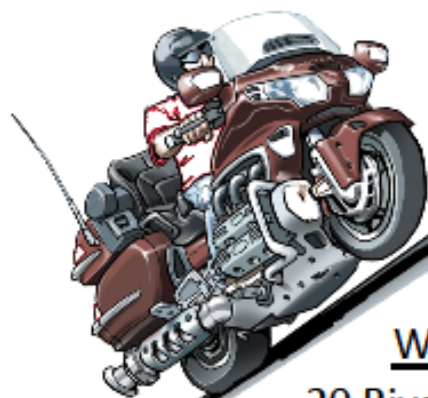


**GWRRA - Georgia District  
Presents our 2nd Annual**



# **"Come Ride With Us"**

## **A Riding Rally**



Where: River Vista Resort

20 River Vista Dr, Dillard, GA 30537

Call (706) 746-2722 for Campsite Reservations

(Ask for GWRRA rate; rates drop as more campsite are rented)

Hotel Rooms are available at Gateway Inn and Suites

64 White Oak Ln, Dillard, GA 30537 (rate not yet available)

Call (800) 204-1816 for Reservations (Use Group Code GWRRA)

When: October 8-10, 2020

Don't miss out on the **FUN!!!!**

- Advance Registration is only \$10 (Prior to 9/8/2020); \$15 On-Site
- Daily 50/25/25 Drawings
- FUN Outdoor Games
- Daily GUIDED Rides
- Self Guided Rides
- Friday Evening - Couple of the Year Selection
- Friday Cook-Off: (menu TBD) (open to all members); Judging at 4pm; Meal at 5pm (while the food lasts)
- Saturday Evening - GOURMET Sloppy Joe Dinner w/ coleslaw & desert (included with registration)
- Saturday Evening - MAP Awards
- Plus, lots more **FUN!**

# **“Come Ride With US” Pre-registration Form**

## **Registration Section**

*Liability Release: All Registrants Must Sign - We agree to hold harmless GWRRA, the co-sponsoring organization, and any property owners for any loss or injury to self or property by any reason by participating in this Event.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Registration: Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ticket Section**

Advance Purchase: \$5= 8 Tickets; \$10= 25 Tickets; \$20= 60 Tickets

(Onsite: \$5= 6 Tickets; \$10= 20 Tickets; \$20= 50 Tickets)

Thursday 50/25/25: \$ \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets

Friday 50/25/25: \$ \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets

Saturday 50/25/25: \$ \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets

Total Ticket Dollars: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: (Registration + Tickets): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email (or cell number) to send confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: GWRRA - Georgia

Send registration with check to: Traci Thrasher, GWRRA-Georgia  
1060 Peacock Drive  
Bishop, GA 30621

Preregistration Helps the Georgia District. We hope that you will consider preregistering!

Pre-registration Ends September 8, 2020