



Gold Wing Road Riders Association Georgia District Bulletin



December 2021

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Hi all

Hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

I know that there has not been a lot going on in Georgia with all the Chapters that have lost their meeting places. It has been hard to visit Chapters with this virus still hanging over our head.

Thanks to all the Chapters that have kept their members together this past year. We need to do all we can to keep our members and try to recruit new members. I know this is a hard thing to ask but we have to have members to survive. I am not telling you anything that you don't know already. I don't have the answer - I wish I did.

The New Year will bring new challenges for the Chapters to maintain and hold their Chapters together. It will take a lot of leadership from the Chapter Directors to keep the Chapter together. It is not like it used to be when the members knew when the meeting and the place was and would be there. It is more important now for you as Directors to give your members a call. Emails are good but they sometimes don't get to the members. A phone call is a lot more personal and will mean a lot more to the members if just to say hello and we missed you. Or to remind them where the next meeting or ride will be. Let them know at least a week ahead so they can make plans to participate. We all have things that we have to plan to do and a lot of times we have to work things in. That is why it is important to plan your rides and meetings in advance. I know that all the Directors will do all they can to keep the Chapter alive but it takes every member to participate for us to survive in this day and time.

I hope that 2022 will be a lot better year. Hoping we can start back doing some Rider Ed classes and other university classes. We have the instructors to do them we just need the Chapters to let us know what they need and find us a place to have the class. This has been a problem since the start of all this shut down. We need to look outside of the box for this. All the seminars can be taught anywhere. Like in someone's home, carport or basement. The road course will still need a parking lot big enough to lay out the course. The classroom part can be taught outside if we can get a place. It will take a little more help to get this to work but it can be done. Call me and we can discuss it more. If anyone has any ideas, please field free to contact me.

Thanks to all the Chapter Directors for getting your Charter fees in on time

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Frank & Melinda
District Directors



MAP – As We See It

The Georgia District Ride In is now one for the books, and a successful weekend it was, filled with food, fun and fellowship. The sprinkles and humidity did not dampen our spirits!

Thursday, September 16, as we were unloading the car, we both looked at each other and said out loud, “We forgot the kitchen sink!!” – just too funny when you both have the same thoughts. We set up a District MAP table to be able to freely distribute pamphlets and other material that we could share with our GWRRA friends – We had a poster board on an easel that had the pictures of the Chapters with the title “Motorist Awareness in Georgia”. When all tables were set up and ready for members to register and as they browsed, it was interesting watching the members looking at the photographs and smiled when they found their chapter. One visiting Chapter shared with us that they were promoting Motorist Awareness each month and we were glad to be able to help them out with enough material to share with the public. For a MAP fund raiser, we had a table with items donated for a raffle and items that were donated for sale. Also, we had custom GWRRA MAP vinyl Ribbon stickers made for sale that can be placed on a vehicle window or a motorcycle windshield. All the proceeds from the raffle and sales were turned in for the District MAP operating fund. Besides a table for the registration, there were tickets to be purchased for various raffles which included items from the Education Program, the Couple of the Year (COY) baskets, a table was set up for members to sell their motorcycle surplus. Not to be left out was George Murphy, who makes the custom District tee shirts, and Brenda, his wife who had a big selection of very nice jewelry. George also had delicious ice cream offered to all who had a ticket in their packet – ice cream could also be purchased. (It is to be noted that they have been very supportive of Georgia’s Ride In for the past three years.) There were “great rides” (as those who rode on Thursday, Friday and Saturday would comment to us as they passed us during mealtime.)

Friday, September 17, after the rides, and after the sales we had our Chili Cook-Off. So many delicious and tasty chili was made. Not sure how many crockpots we had, but surely it is safe to say that there was 18-20.

Saturday, September 18, after “Gourmet Hog Dog meal”, we had the Awards and recognition Program. Berry and Barbara Owens, Chapter Directors from Chapter 0 were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for Most Improved Chapter in GA. Woody and Carol Whitlock were announced as Couple of the Year for 2021-2022. Jim Stogden was presented a certificate for “Best In Class” Traditional Hot Chili. He was shocked to say the least !! We were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation as MAP Coordinators for GA District and GWRRA. There were members and visitors who were winners of door prizes that had been donated. ALSO...an impromptu auction for items yet left to be sold on the “For Sale” table – Everyone got into the fun of bidding.

Prior to the presentation of the MAP Award presentations, the two winners who had the winning raffle ticket for the Butler Cup (Brian Douglas of Chapter A) and the winning ticket for the Bike Cover (Carol Whitlock of Chapter B2), were called up front and given a “Motorcycle Bike Duckie.”

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The following Motorist Awareness Gold Award recipients that were able to be at the Ride In were:

Chapter B2: Woody & Carol Whitlock each received their year date hanger pin; Shirley Morris, Dean Watts, Mac, Deborah & Alex Strickland will each be presented their year date hanger pin at their next gathering. Congratulations and thank you.

Chapter T: Tommy & Vicky Martin, Jim & Sylvia Stogden each received their header pin; Header Pin to be presented at their next gathering will be Ralph & Debbie Stewart. Congratulations and thank you.

Thank you to the chapters who set up a MAP table on May 08, 2021—Motorist Awareness Day promoting safety of motorcycle and drivers. They set up tables with trifolds and other cards or pamphlets with safety information, poster boards were also set up for the public to browse through, candy and coloring books and crayons were given to children. Adventures of rides to and from were shared. Chapters who participated on that day were A, B-2, I2, O, S and T. These chapters and other active chapters have weekly rides, weekend rides or overnight trips. How fun is that.

As a final note, THANK YOU ALL FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR MAP AS A GWRRA CHAPTER IN SHARING SAFETY TIPS AND OTHER MOTORCYCLE INFORMATION. SHARING THE MANY BENEFITS OF BEING A GWRRA MEMBER. INVITING OTHER RIDERS TO ATTEND YOUR MONTHLY GATHERING. YOU ARE ENVIED WHEN YOU SHARE ABOUT YOUR BEAUTIFUL BIKE AND THE MANY TRAVELS YOU HAVE MADE AND PLAN TO MAKE. YOU MAKE MANY LIFETIME FRIENDS—we have, and we look forward to riding with them. We can share lots of wonderful and humorous stories.

May God touch you with His fingers of love and leave a finger print never to be erased !

Ride Safe and Stay Healthy.

God Bless

Jim & Sylvia

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Winter Riding

Murry Cail, District Rider Educator

Riding at high speeds during the winter is cold—like, *really* cold. A wintertime highway ride will chill you to the bone faster than you'd ever believe possible thanks to the brutal wind and the relative lack of full-body movement to warm you up. That means that [dangerous cold-weather conditions like hypothermia and frostbite](#) can come into play if you haven't insulated yourself properly.

The rubber in your tires will shrink, decreasing their ability to grip the road. Your tires will warm up as you ride, but it's not smart to rely on this (especially since they'll cool right back down if you stop moving). If your tires don't have enough tread, you'll have even less traction. Lack of traction also means longer stopping distances, both for you and for other vehicles on the road.

Weather conditions like snow and ice can make traction even worse and decrease visibility as well. Even if you're not planning to ride in these conditions, we all know that they can pop up when least expected.

You'll start to lose dexterity in your fingers and toes as your body rushes to conserve heat for your vital organs. That means less agility when you're working the brakes and throttle and slower reaction times when you need your reflexes to be at their quickest.

Put these things together and you'll get the picture: A bike is harder to control in the winter, and your body is less able to handle the conditions. The solution to these problems is a mixture of gearing up and adjusting your riding and mindset to the conditions.

Dressing for Winter Riding

"All the gear, all the time," as they say—and if your "all the time" includes riding in the winter, "all the gear" is often going to mean taking the extra steps to bundle up. When it comes to your winter riding outfit, the word is "insulation," and lots of it. The more insulation you can get around your body, the better protected you'll be from the cold.

Improve your tires' traction by getting them warmed up before you take a ride. Different riders recommend [different ways to warm up your tires](#), so try a few and choose the one that works for you—even if it's just taking a few laps around the neighborhood before getting on the road.

Increase the following distance that you give to other vehicles, since both they and you will likely have longer stopping distances in the winter.

Recognize that in winter weather conditions, drivers will be even more distracted and less able to see you than normal. By the same token, conditions like snow and sleet will seriously cut down your vision, too, so make sure to stay even more keenly aware of your blind spots.

Get familiar with some techniques for snow and ice riding. Riding on snow and ice is a whole different animal from typical winter riding and [has its own set of techniques](#) that borrows a lot from dirt skills. Even if you don't plan on seeking out snow and ice to ride on (and most people shouldn't), these skills can save your life if you get caught in a snowstorm or hit a patch of ice unexpectedly.

Resist the urge to panic if you find yourself in some wild weather. The smartest move you can make in adverse weather conditions is to acknowledge when you're out of your depth and ride calmly, slowly and carefully to the nearest place where you can get some shelter and wait out the storm.

Please keep Barry Owens and Carol Whitlock in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to battle with medical issues



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