

Georgia District

NEWSLETTER

January 2012



Riding into 2012

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2012 Georgia Couple of the Year
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We are just a few days from Riding into the New Year. Many of the Chapters have planned a New Years Day Ride and/or Gathering to start the New Year Riding and Enjoying the Fellowship of their GWRRA Family and Friends. This is what GWRRA is all about FRIENDS for FUN, SAFETY and KNOWLEDGE. We are looking forward to a FUN filled year for Georgia in 2012 as the events unfold throughout the year. Including but not limited to the Officers Conference, Chapter Visitation, Plaque Attacks, Chapter Fun Days, Educational Events and the Georgia District Convention/Rally "RUMBLE in the JUNGLE". We plan to participate in as many events as we possibly can because, that's where the FUN's at "PARTICIPATING"!

The 2012 Guidelines are out for the Chapter of the Year Program. There have been some changes to the Chapter of the Year Program that has leveled the playing field for small Chapters as well as larger ones. The Chapter of the Year Program is a great program to participate in, if for no other reason than to use as a guide to grow a strong and healthy Chapter. If Chapter Directors will follow these guidelines we feel that it will offer noticeable returns in your Chapters participation and growth.

Remember, the **Georgia District Officers Conference** on **January 28th 2012** at the **Georgia Public Safety Training Center**, 1000 In-

dian Springs Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. We will start at **9:30 AM**. Please make plans for all of your Chapter Officers to attend the Conference where they will learn of any changes for the upcoming year that may affect their position. But you don't have to be an Officer to attend, all Members are welcome. If you need to stay overnight in the area, there is a Ramada Hotel (478) 994-5691 approximately 3 miles from the Training Center at 480 Holiday Circle, Forsyth, GA 31029.

Now, as we ride into the upcoming year and New Year's Resolutions are being made, we ask if you would consider joining us and add one thing to your list. "A POSITIVE OUTLOOK for 2012." If we will strive to display a positive attitude, are enthusiastic and believe in what we are doing. It will spread to others around us and continue to spread throughout the Chapters and Organization. GWRRA is the number one Motorcycle Organization in the World and we believe that the Positive Benefits of this organization by far outweighs any negatives.

Tommy & Vicky



Ready Or Not ...

The calendar informs us that it is January 2012. Is that even possible? Wasn't it just 2011? Do you remember playing hide-n-go seek and counting up to 100 and before you would begin your search you would yell out: "Ready or Not here I come!" Well I guess 2012 has done that to us. Do you feel like it has happened to you?

We must admit in finding some comfort in putting 2011 behind us. It was certainly not a year that we would want to repeat. Did we learn from it? Yes. Did we grow as individuals during it? We believe so. Were there happy memories? Again Yes, but it was also a year that included physical and emotional challenges as well as employment setbacks. Let's just stop right there. That is now history! We would like to learn from history, not repeat it!

So where were we? Ah yes, at this time of the year we are asked to make New Years Resolutions. Things like, lose weight, save money, be kind to your spouse.....ok maybe not that last one, but you get my point. What is the one thing we all know about New Years resolutions? That's right, we are going to break them! How long did it take this year? Don't get us wrong, we are all for making changes to better our lives. We just believe it can be done at any time, not just as a holiday tradition. Ultimately it comes down to personal convictions and beliefs.

Maybe we should try a different approach. What if we asked: "What are your goals for this year?" We can look at goals in different context. How about short term goals or long term goals? Let's use food as an example. (GWRRA, food, imagine that!) A short term goal might be: I want to eat ribs at Joe's barbeque. Once I have eaten at Joe's I have achieved my short term goal. How about a long term goal? Let's try this: I want to eat barbeque ribs at every restaurant that has Joe in its name in the USA. Does that make sense? Are you hungry for ribs?

To us a goal is a destination, a journey. It can be accomplished one step at a time and we can measure/assess our progress. When setting a goal we should determine not only where we want to go, but how are we going to get there. Here's one: *"I want to be a better motorcycle/trike rider or co-rider. This will make me a safer rider or co-rider."*

WOW! Imagine that, your goal is the same as ours! Better yet our goal is to help you accomplish your goal! Here is an acronym for you: TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More) I believe Mike Ditka, the former coach of the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints is credited with that acronym. It is a good one. As your District Educators Julie and I as well as Don and your Chapter Teams want to help you reach and accomplish your goal(s)!

Remember the Rider Education motto: **"Safety is for Life!"**

This year we will be offering GWRRA Riding Courses for both Trikes and 2-wheels across the state. We will also be offering MEDIC First Aid / CPR courses as well as 13 Rider Education Seminars. Let us not forget helping out Motorist Awareness! Helping educate the folks we share the road with can make it safer for all of us!

The Rider Education Program is the largest BENEFIT to being a GWRRA member. Here in Georgia, MEDIC and Rider Courses are absolutely FREE to Georgia GWRRA members! Take a few moments and ask your Chapter Educator for some information about the Rider Education Levels Program. The Levels program is your road map to reaching your ultimate goal(s).

We believe that everyone sets out to ride and be safe! Since our combined goal is to make us all better riders and co-riders let Rider Education become your partner in taking this important first step.

Come on Georgia, it is a new year with lots of potential ahead. Let each of us set our goals and strive to make it the best that we can!

Until next time: **Be Safe - We'll See You on the Road!**

Roy & Julie





**Julie & Roy
Degler
Ride Educator**

"To us a goal is a destination, a journey. It can be accomplished one step at a time and we can measure/assess our progress. When setting a goal we should determine not only where we want to go, but how we are going to get there."



Rider Education

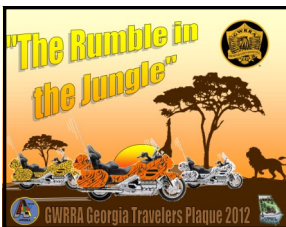
JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2 GA-G	3 GA-S	4	5	6	7 GA-E, F2, Z Wanderer Plaque
8	9 GA-T, Q	10	11	12 GA-K, M	13	14 GA-B, D, P
15	16 GA-O 	17	18	19 GA-D2	20	21 GA-A, B2, C2, I2, J Traveler's Plaque, New Member Or.
22	23	24 GA-R	25	26 GA-H, L	27	28 GA- E2 Officer Conference
29	30	31				

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

Georgia Traveler's Plaque: Chapter GA-A captured the Traveler from GA-S at Wind Down. The plaque will be given away on January 21st at the Golden Corral, 1755 Jonesboro Road, McDonough, GA. Eat at 8:00 AM, Meet at 9:30 AM.

Region A Wanderer: GA-B2 captured the Wanderer from SC-A. It will be given away on Saturday, January 7th at GA-Z's Gathering—IHOP, 630 Bullsboro Dr., Newnan, GA. Eat at 2:00, Meet at 3:00 PM.



GWRRA Motto "Friends for Fun, Safely and Knowledge"

From your COY Coordinators

Donna and I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday time. We are looking forward to seeing all the Chapter Directors, Assistant Chapter Directors, Treasures, Membership Enhancement Coordinator's and Ride Educator's at the officer's conference

January 28th in Forsyth Georgia. As a reminder everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the conference. The focus of Donna's and my presentation will be, understanding the Couple of the Year program, the advantages of how the

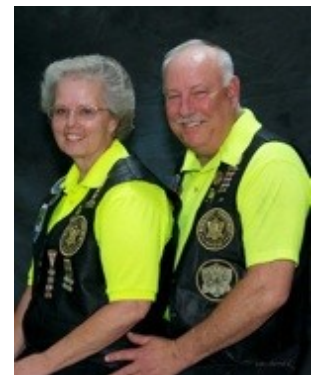
program can enhance your chapter and how the judging for the District Couple of the Year really works.

Ride safe and often,

Sid & Donna

Schedule of Events

- January 21, 2012—New Member Orientation, Heritage Bank, 440 N. Jeff Davis Drive, Fayetteville, GA. 1 – 4:30 PM
- January 28, 2012—Georgia District Annual Officer Conference, Georgia Safety Public Training Center, 1000 Indian Springs Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029.
- February 11, 2012—GA-S Sweetheart Fun Day. Midway Christian Church, 1406 Hog Mountain Rd., Winder, GA. Contact Pat Whitehouse 770-867-2649
- February 24-25, 2012 Horizons Class, First Baptist Church of Lavonia, 95 Bowman St., Lavonia, GA 30553.
- March 3, 2012—GA-D Rider Ed Fun Day, 2510 Mill Center Parkway, NE, Buford, GA, Suite 200 Parking Lot. Sessions start at 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM
- March 31—April 1, 2012—Officer Certification Program, Richard B. Russell Regional Airport, J.H. Towers Field 304, Russell Field Road, Roam, GA 30165. Classes start at 8:30 AM
- June 14-16, 2012—Georgia District Convention/Rally "The Rumble in the Jungle" The Dillard House, Dillard, GA.
- July 4-7, 2012—Wing Ding, Fort Wayne, IN.



**Donna & Sid Cohan
ADD & COY
Coordinators**

A little about our 2012 Georgia C.O.Y.



Dick and Peg Hopkins
2012 Georgia Couple of the Year

“Our goal’s are to visit all District Chapters ...increase our knowledge; make new friends; ride often; ride safe; assist the District Team and have a whole bunch of fun.”

Peg is a native of New River, VA and I a native of Abingdon, VA. Peg and I met in June of 1966 while I was home on leave before heading to South East Asia with the Air Force. After a lot of letter’s and audio tape’s, and a marriage proposal, we married the following June. We will celebrate our 45th anniversary in June 2012. We have lived in Rome, NY; Radford, VA; Covington, GA; West Kingston, RI; and now in Conyers, GA. We have two children, a son and daughter, and five grandchildren. Peg has worked in the medical administrative field, retail sales, teaching and is currently employed by an Orthodontist. Peg is a member of Beta Sigma Phi and spends her leisure time with her Sorority Sisters and our grand children. I am

retired from my Consulting practice after 36 years in the construction field.

In the summer of 2007 I decided it was time to ride again after a 40+ year absence. I attended Riders Edge and purchased a 2007 Honda VTX1300. We were introduced to GWRRA in late 2007. We joined GWRRA as Associate Members in February 2008. The first Chapter we visited was GA-A where we became Chapter Motorist Awareness Coordinators. In February 2009 we purchased our first Gold Wing, a 1996 GL1500SE with a CSC Kit. In June of 2009 we added an Escapade Trailer. We have put over 30,000 miles on the Trike. We have attend Wing Ding’s, GA District Convention’s, Region A

Convention’s, Wings Over the Smokies, Alabama Convention, PLP’s, TRC, Rider Education and Leadership training Program’s along with the majority of Chapter events and rides. I am currently Level IV, and have ridden over 30,000 safe miles. Peg is Level III and has ridden over 20,000 safe miles.

We are excited about our tenure as 2012 Georgia District Couple of The Year. Our goal’s are to visit all District Chapters; attend the Region A Convention; attend Wing Ding; participate in Chapter rides and events; increase our knowledge; make new friends; ride often; ride safe; assist the District Team and have a whole bunch of fun.

Dick & Peg

Congratulations to our New 2012 Couples of the Year!

Region A—Greg & Renee Dempsey

Georgia District—Dick & Peg Hopkins

GA-A—Larry & Pam Clemmer

GA-D—Don & Colleen Taylor

GA-H—Jimmie & Betty Strickland

GA-I2—Joel & Genie Deaton

GA-P—Frank & Laura Line

GA-S—Glen & Joyce Argo

GA-T—Jack & Carol Swanson

Missing your Chapter Couple of the year? Be sure to let Sid Cohan know so that we can add them to the list and honor them in next month’s newsletter!

Among our sick

Sheree Bryant, surgery, GA-A
Bob Greer, surgery, GA-A/Region Team
JJ Etzle, cancer/surgery, GA-E2
Bob Hill, surgery, GA-J

In Memory

Jo Whitlock, Wife of Woody Whitlock, GA-B2
James Cochran, GA-E
Jesse Sammons, SC District Rider Educator

