



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA DISTRICT

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE



SOUTHEAST

REGION "A"

SEPTEMBER 2010

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Hello to one and all! Wow, here it is the beginning of the 9th month of the year! Of course you all know with September comes Region A Rally/Convention in Eufaula, AL the 16th -18th. Each District is responsible for certain duties at this event. Florida is responsible for Registration and Indoor Games throughout the Region A Rally/Convention. We will need 2-3 shifts of 10-12 workers each day starting Thursday the 16th. Thursday-2 shifts, Noon-2:30 and 2:30-5:00. Friday-3 shifts, 8-11 AM, 11 AM-2 PM, 2 PM-5 PM. Saturday-2 shifts, 8-10 AM and 10 AM-Noon. We will need 3-4 folks each shift for Registration and 7-8 folks each shift for Games. If you plan to attend the rally and can help out for a couple of hours please let us or your ADD know ASAP. We hope to see you there and, as always, we know our Florida folks will be following the #1 rule...Have FUN!

We are pleased to announce as of the end of August almost every current CD, ACD, and many other leaders in our Chapters who choose to attend an OCP class have done so. We have a few issues and they will be addressed in the near future. All future appointed Officers will have a probationary period in which to take the OCP class and become certified. For those of us who have been through the program our renewal will come at the yearly Chapter Conference (formerly known as the CD Conference). The Chapter Conference will be held at the Radisson WorldGate Resort in Kissimmee January 8-9. So please be sure to put it on your calendar and remember we start early on the 8th. You might want to arrive on the 7th. Just to let you know...we've already requested warmer weather than what we had at this year's conference!

We have been out and around the area and although it has been a normal Florida summer, people are gathering and having a great time! Soon our summer will give way to fall and with it will come lower temperatures and the return of our Northern visitors. Come on down! We've missed you. The rally/convention season will also start to go full speed ahead. Remember, if you want folks to attend and support your event, you must get out...visit and have FUN at your fellow GWRRA friends' events!

As of September 5th, it will have been 5 months since my bypass surgery. I am doing great and both Gina and I appreciate all of the "well wishes" we have received. We plan to see as many of you out at an event soon and, as always, the most important thing is to HAVE FUN!

Bill and Gina Berry
District Directors



Judy and I are excited about going to the upcoming Region A Convention on September the 16, 17 & 18th at the beautiful Lakepoint Lodge in Eufaula, AL. We've started getting a list of the things that we want and need to take with us. The Region is going all out to make it a FUN as well as an educational event with the pajama party and seminars a plenty, including a Trike Riders Course for those that need it. Judy and I will be at the Rider Ed table so come by and say "hi"; we'd love to see you.

I'm pleased to say that the sale of bike raffle tickets is going very well. In my travel around the District visiting with several Chapters, I'm hearing good things. So far three Chapters have sold all their tickets and are asking for more. I talked with a couple of Chapters that have sold over one thousand of their tickets. We are starting to get checks in for the tickets sold. Last month I talked about the TEAM concept (Together Everyone Achieves More) which leads me to believe that this concept works. I've talked with members that have sold tickets in California, Wyoming, North Dakota, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Ohio. Based on the reports that I've gotten and what I'm hearing all Chapters are doing a great job of selling their Bike Raffle Tickets. Keep up the good work!

The summer heat is still with us so keep reminding your Riders and Co-riders to hydrate before and during the ride. Your body loses a pint of water an hour while riding in these temperatures. Stay away from your caffeine drinks as they tend to speed up the dehydrating process. Water and sports drinks are the best for you. Remember A T G A T (All The Gear All The Time)

We look forward to seeing you in Eufaula.

So, till next we meet, keep the shiny side up and the rubber on the road!

Don and Judy Danbury
Senior Master Tour Riders
Florida District Educators

2010 FLORIDA GWRRA EVENTS

(Items in **red bold** have been recently added)

- Sep 11.....FL1-Q Zippity Doo Dah Funday, Milton
- Sep 16-18.....Region "A" Rally, Eufaula, AL
- Oct 2.....FL1-H Poker Run, Daytona
- Oct 9.....FL1-X Chapter Rally, Orange Park
- Oct 14-16.....Mississippi District Rally, Tupelo, MS
- Oct 23.....FL2-G Pancake Breakfast, Fort Myers
- Oct 30.....FL1-H2 Howl-O-Ween Harvest Picnic,
Orlando/Christmas
- Nov 6.....FL1-D Green Frog Getaway, Pensacola
- Nov 7.....Tampa Bay Area Ride For Kids,
Brandon
- Nov 13.....FL1-L2 Poker Run & Fun Day, Wesley
Chapel
- Nov 20.....Multi-Chapter Spaghetti Social, JAX**
- Dec 11.....FL1-S Mingle & Jingle, Zephyrhills

2011 FLORIDA GWRRA EVENTS

- Jan 15.....FL2-L Mardi Gras Rally, Lakeland
- Jan 22.....FL1-H MultiChapter Breakfast, Daytona**
- Mar 17-19.....Florida District Convention, Kissimmee**
- Apr 3.....FL1-E2 American Diabetes Poker Run
Ft Walton Bch**
- Apr 9.....FL1-B Road Rally, Seffner**
- Apr 16.....FL1-W Green Eggs & Ham, Orlando**
- May 14.....FL1-F2 Chapter Rally, Ocala**

Your Chapter event is not sanctioned by GWRRA without District approval. To confirm a date for your event, call Assistant District Directors, Bruce Griffing & Mary Haight, for verbal approval.

Once your date is verbally approved by Bruce and Mary, send your activity request form and event flyer to the District Directors with a copy to your ADD. If there are any changes or revisions, these requests should also be directed to the District Directors with a copy to your ADD. Event flyers need to be emailed in a PDF format.

A Chapter may not appear on the annual event schedule more than once at any one time. Chapters desiring to host more than one event in a year must wait until the first event has happened before requesting a second date.



By the time this newsletter article is posted, we will have completed the fifth Officer Certification Program prior to the August 31st date. We again would like to thank everyone that took the time to attend one of the programs. We feel based on our experience teaching and feedback received from the people who have attended, the OCP is a great course that has and will continue to help all of us.

As a reminder, new Officers such as Chapter Directors and Assistant Chapter Directors, appointed from this point forward still have the requirement to attend an OCP. The difference now is that a new Officer has six months to complete the OCP. This means that a new Officer must complete the OCP during the probation period as an Officer. The intent for the future is to hold two OCPs a year for new Officers and any other interested members.

On Saturday August 21st, three of the District's Leadership Training Instructors completed a "Training on Request" session. Chris Thacker (FL1-V Jacksonville Beach) and Gary & Terry Hartley (FL1-X Orange Park) presented the *Benefits of GWRRA, How I Can Participate in GWRRA* and *Chapter Structure & Organization* seminars. This session was specifically set-up for new Chapter Participants in the Chapters. They had a great turn out and it really helped to provide the new GWRRA Members with great information.

Chris Thacker also conducted another training session on August 29th for people interested in Rider Education. Chris presented the Leadership Training Seminar, *What is the Rider Ed Program*. What made this a unique opportunity is that in conjunction with the seminar, she also set-up for the Chapter Ride Educators from FL1-J (Jacksonville), FL1-X (Orange Park) and FL1-V (Jacksonville Beach) to attend. When the seminar was complete, the Ride Educators discussed in more details about ERCs & TRCs, Parking Lot Practice and the Levels Program.

We would like to thank Chris, Gary, Terry and the Ride Educators from each of the Chapters for providing this training to the new GWRRA Members. We would specifically like to thank Chris Thacker for setting up and leading both sessions.

On Saturday, October 2nd, there will be another Training on Request session. FL1-M (Clearwater) and FL1-L2 (Wesley Chapel) are co-hosting a training session. During this training, the following seminars will be presented: *Planning a Chapter Event, Chapter Structure and Organization, Chapter Finances, and Chapter Communications Plan*. For more details, contact us or check the details on the Florida District website under Leadership Training.

"Training on Request" is a great way for a Chapter or multiple Chapters to get training for their Chapter Participants. To set up training, it is as easy as going to the District website under the Leadership Training area where you can download and fill out the form. If you prefer, you can drop us an email or give us a call. We have Trainers throughout the District that are willing to provide training.

There has been a lot of discussion about some changes to some terminology within GWRRA. One of the big changes is using Convention instead of Rally. The word "Rally" alludes to a "Social function for the benefit of the Membership". "Convention" alludes to a large gathering of people with a common interest. In our case, it is a large gathering of Motorcyclists, promoting a positive image of Motorcycling, through educating the community in Motorcycle Safety and Motorist Awareness. The word Rally can still be used but in conjunction with Convention. Example of this could be Florida District Convention/Rally. This change in term has to do with helping to maintain our 504(c)4 Not-for-Profit status with the IRS but does not change any of the FUN we will still have.

Another item that is not a terminology change but a clarification is the terms Members and Participants. GWRRA has Members who pay an annual fee to GWRRA so that they can belong to the association. Since GWRRA Members can participate with as many Chapters as they desire, they are Chapter Participants. Since GWRRA is an association of Chapters not individual clubs, the association has Members and Chapters have Participants.

In closing, we would like to say that training, whether Leadership Training or Rider Education, is an ongoing process. We along with the Leadership Trainers in the District are standing by to assist. Remember, we are just a phone call or email away.

Until Next Month, Be Safe Out There!

Rick and Madelena Buck

District Leadership Trainers





Chapter FL1-T Inverness

Jan and I purchased our 2002 1800 Gold Wing soon after they became available. We read about a Gold Wing Chapter meeting in the area and decided to attend and check it out. We knew nothing

about GWRRA. or the local Chapter, FL1-T Inverness. What we found were some very friendly folks who made us feel welcome. Rich Broeker and Patti Pooch were the Chapter members who spoke to us and convinced us to give chapter life a try. We have always credited and thanked them for mentoring us back at the beginning of our great GWRRA journey.

Our first group ride ever was with Chapter T and it convinced us that this was the kind of safe and fun riding we were looking for. Rich and Patti eventually became Chapter Directors and asked us if we would take over the vacant Chapter Educator position. Since our background is in education, we said yes, and we haven't looked back since.

Flash forward to 2010. Rachel Harris is T's Chapter Director and is doing a yeoman's job. At the August 3rd Gathering Chapter T was in possession of the District Wanderer and about 60 Chapter Participants showed up for the giveaway. Chapter FL1-M Clearwater once again was the big winner and came away with the plaque. Chapter FL1-R was also present and vying for the prize.

Over the years we have been introduced to a cross section of Participants in Chapter T and other Chapters in our wonderful organization. These ranged from the dedicated to the disgruntled. Fortunately, most disgruntled participants realize that GWRRA and its philosophy of "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge" is not for them and they fade away. On the other hand, the dedicated Participants not only stay but become active as time goes by. In Chapter T you have the likes of Rachel and JR Harris Chapter Directors; Ken and Jackie Smith, Assistant Chapter Directors; Butch and Kathy Pomposelli, Chapter Educators; Mary Lyons and Donnie Briggs; Newsletter Editors; Sue and John Tress, Treasurers and Butch and Louise Brown the Historian/Charity Coordinators. These and others comprise what has been understood to be the 5-10% of most Chapters that take on the leadership roles. Thank goodness for them.

Chapter T is also rich in senior citizens who have been with the Chapter for many years. They have participants such as Betty Lee Jackson, who took up riding as a senior citizen and has ridden cross country on her beautiful yellow trike. Also, there is Dick Davidson who is a distant relative of Mr. Harley Davidson. Dick is also a Navy veteran who worked at the Naval shipyards in Maine.

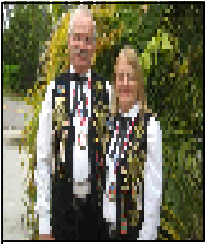
And then there is John Darbyson. John is a special person who has led a very interesting life. John served in the Navy during WWII and was on a ship off the coast of Iwo Jima during that bloody battle. He was on that same ship later in the war off the coast of Japan and saw with his own eyes the Enola Gay fly overhead and then witnessed the mushroom cloud as it formed over Hiroshima. There aren't many of our WWII heroes left to thank, but John is still with us and I make it a point to shake his hand and kiss him on the forehead every time I see him. That's my way of thanking a real American hero. By the way, all three of the above mentioned seniors are in their 80's. Now that's dedication!

Joe and Jan Mazza

FL Assistant District Director
Serving West Central Florida Chapters



"An Old Fashioned Rendezvous"
March 17-19 2011
Florida District Convention



Just a few weeks until our Region A Convention! We are excited about that; We have submitted our resume and are polishing our boots in anticipation of the competition. As we travel around the state we are so pleased at the response we are getting from chapters about the COY selection in Eufaula. It appears we are going to have a large cheering section.

In between visits from our children and Denis's grandson, we have still managed to continue our Chapter Visitations.

We rode up to Panama City the first week of August and had a great evening at Po Folks Restaurant socializing with everyone. Our visit was well timed as CD Rick Smith had the COY program as an agenda item that night. We took the opportunity to share how much fun we are having and what a great honor it is to be Couple of the Year at any level. We had dinner with Danny and Rebecca, Ft. Walton Beach CDs who invited us to stay with them next time we are in the area. Rick started something new that evening; "Taking a Member Home". He picked a couple and told at the Gathering that they would accompany them home after the meeting. This is just a little extra ride to finish off the evening. We went along and enjoyed a cooler evening ride.

The next day we rode to Wesley Chapel and got there about an hour and a half before the "Eat" part of the Gathering started. It was "Ladies Night" at Wesley Chapel. The meeting was conducted by Madalena Buck, Karen Taylor, Marilyn Thomas. Darla found out how difficult it is to juggle three balloons but she did manage to keep them in the air for nearly 7 Seconds which was enough to win a box of M&M's!

We stopped by the Cooper City Hall on the way home and visited FL2-R, Ft. Lauderdale, where we shared our adventures with the Chapter's newest Members. Darla's daughter accompanied us to our home Chapter Meeting on August 15th where we were pleased to welcome our newest GWRRA-FL2-E Members, Charles and Joyce Wood.

Now that the family visits are over, we are back on the road as we write this; visiting chapters in Cocoa and Daytona, attending Tampa's Pirate Feast and the Ride for Kids Bowling Event sponsored by Chapter FL1-M. We plan to visit at least five more chapters before heading to Eufaula next month. We hope to see you there!

Denis & Darla

Southernmost Couple of the Year
2010-2011 Florida District Couple of the Year



We're doing great with the Friendship Giving Plate as it continues to make the rounds from Chapter to Chapter.

On the 21st of August FL1-S, Zephyrhills took it filled with luscious pirate cookies to Tampa's Pirate Rally. Don't these look delicious?

Now FL1-A, Tampa, is charged with filling the plate with cookies again and taking it to another Chapter in an act of friendship and FUN. It has now passed through 14 Chapters, is yours next?



Millie Prince

District Administrative Assistant





September is here and time for cooler weather and more riding. It has been a very hot summer.

We attended the CPR/First Aid class put on by Rex and Tina Prince in Pensacola on June 26. We learned a lot we did not know from this class and they did an excellent job teaching it. We highly recommend this course to everyone.

On July 1-3, we attended Wing Ding in Des Moines, IA. We attended the Talent Show the night we got there where we sat with some participants from Florida. On Friday we shopped the vendors and socialized with old friends and that afternoon we were in a parade with 600 motorcycles. We went through several neighborhoods and there were lots of people out to watch us. We ended up at the Urbandale High School where the Drill Team was performing. Afterward, the Lions Club was having a July 4 Festival across the street at a park with a live band and rides for the kids and, of course, food.

On Saturday, we attended the Master's Breakfast where Danelle and I were given a Merit Award from Charles Mallett, the National Motorist Awareness Coordinator. We want to thank all of the Motorist Awareness Coordinators in the Florida District for their contributions. We could not have done it without you. Congratulations go to Ray Erickson for receiving the Region Motorist Awareness Coordinator of the Year award. Way to go, Ray!

Afterward, we helped sell 50/50 and Grand Prize tickets for a couple of hours. We attended the Closing Ceremony which had as entertainment a dance/drum group who did an excellent job. After closing, we attended an Ice Cream Social for the volunteers and then took a walking tour of the town. We missed all of the fireworks. We left for home on Sunday, July 4, and spent the night in Nashville, TN where we did manage to see the fireworks display from New York on TV.

The sun was hot but the wind blew most of the time and the only rain we saw was on the way home. The mornings and evenings were cool. It was a nice change from the heat in Panama City Beach.

On September 11, Milton is having their Fun Day at the Community Center in Baghdad, FL. We look forward to seeing you there.

Remember, September 16-18 is the Region A Convention in Eufaula, AL. Hope to see you all there and don't forget your pajamas!

Ride safe.

Nate and Danelle Kinion

Asst District Directors and
Motorist Awareness Coordinators
Serving: FL1-A2 Tallahassee; FL1-D Pensacola; FL1-E2 Ft Walton Beach; FL1-L Panama City; FL1-O DeFuniak Springs; FL1-Q Milton



"Old Fashioned Rendezvous"

(1825-1840)

**March 17-19, 2011
Kissimmee, FL**

Register now...it's not too early to register!