

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**

**CHAPTER G
NORTHERN KENTUCKY
GOLD WING RIDERS**



"We Love To Ride"

**MEMBER
HANDBOOK**

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INTRODUCTION

The **Gold Wing Road Riders Association** (GWRRA) is the world's largest single-marque social organization for owners of Honda Gold Wing and Valkarie motorcycles-and some would say, the world's largest family. Dedicated to our motto, *Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge*, GWRRA members enjoy the freedom of belonging to a non-profit, non-religious and non-political organization.

Founded in 1977, GWRRA has grown to more than 65,000 U.S., Canadian and international members in 48 countries. More than 900 active Chapters are managed by volunteer officers **working with members** to foster safe, enjoyable riding while also working to improve the public image of motorcycling.

Chapter G is proud of its association with the GWRRA family. Organized in March of 1987, Chapter G is one of 13 Chapters in the *Kentucky District*. GWRRA's network of affiliate member groups is divided into National, Regional, District and then Chapter organizations. The *Kentucky District* is part of Region N, which is comprised of the North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky Districts. Region N in turn is one of nine regional organizations in the continental United States. A Director and Staff administers each District and Region. A list of these directors and key staff members appears on the inside back cover of this handbook.

This book is intended to help old and new members of the Chapter G family better understand "how it all works". This book was originally published in 1999, and updated by the author.

John Harris
2008

ORGANIZATION

Chapter G is organized and operates using time-proven policies set forth by GWRRA. These policies adhere to the idea that each GWRRA chapter is a local, social unit solely for the enjoyment and education of its members.

Chapter G members gather each month in an informal relaxed setting. At these get-togethers, as they are known, members have dinner, and spend time socializing with fellow wingers. The Chapter Director and each member of the Chapter Staff report on chapter activities, plans for future chapter-sponsored functions and any information that might be of interest to the membership. Those new to the GWRRA chapter structure will find it strange just how informal the monthly get-togethers are. There is no parliamentary order to the proceedings, and since the chapter is less “democratic” than most organizations of its kind, there are **no motions, no minutes, no open debates, and no votes taken**. The purpose of the monthly get-together is fun, fellowship, and as the name implies, a chance to simply get together.

Each month the Chapter Director, Chapter officers and coordinators meet approximately one week prior to the monthly get-together. This gathering (Coordinators’ Meeting) gives the Chapter Director, and staff, the opportunity to discuss anything that may have come up since the last get-together, discuss ideas and suggestions voiced by Chapter participants, and formulate an agenda for the next get-together. This important meeting insures that the lines of communication remain open between the Chapter Director, Officers, Staff and the rest of the Chapter participants.

The following is a brief explanation of the duties of each officer and staff member:

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

The **Chapter Director** is appointed by the District Director, and serves on his staff. The CD has organizational and administrative control of the chapter and is the communication link between the Membership and the District. The CD is responsible for appointing an Assistant Chapter Director, Treasurer, Chapter Educator, and additional staff as he or she feels is needed to effectively coordinate chapter activities. The CD presides at chapter get-togethers and is always available to discuss any ideas or suggestions voiced by the Membership.

ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTOR

As the name implies, the **Assistant Chapter Director** assists the CD in his or her efforts in administering the chapter. It could be said that the ACD is actually a Chapter Director in training, and in most cases, is prepared to assume the Chapter Director position when the CD's tenure ends. The Assistant CD presides over a portion of each chapter get-together, and assumes the duties of the CD when he or she is absent.

CHAPTER EDUCATOR

The **Chapter Educator** is responsible for promoting GWRRA's Rider Education Program, and coordinating educational opportunities for the Membership. These opportunities might include available motorcycle safety courses, CPR and First Aid classes, leadership training, Road Captain courses, and any additional opportunities he or she feels would be of value. While not a primary responsibility, the Chapter Educator usually writes a safety or education related article in each monthly newsletter.

TREASURER

The **Treasurer** obviously is in charge of chapter finances! The Treasurer writes checks for expenses as directed by the Chapter Director. He or she keeps a record of all finances, and makes them available to all interested parties at all chapter meetings. The Treasurer assists the Chapter Director in establishing and maintaining prudent, reasonable and fair fiscal policies. The Treasurer cannot be related to or live in the same household with the Chapter Director or the Assistant Chapter Director.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The **Newsletter Editor** is in charge of compiling and editing the chapter newsletter, and distributing it to Chapter participants and other interested parties. As a rule, the newsletter is sent to everyone who attends the monthly chapter get-together, and others as determined by the Chapter Director. Chapter G's newsletter editor encourages everyone to submit articles for publication. Any participant whose article is published will be awarded a free 50-50 raffle ticket at the next get-together.

RIDE COORDINATOR

The **Ride Coordinator** works with the Chapter Director to establish an annual ride schedule. The Membership is encouraged to suggest destinations and routes for rides on the schedule. Regularly scheduled rides include a weekly ice cream ride, a monthly dinner ride, and a weekend ride at least once a month. Monthly rides, overnight rides, and group rides to special events are organized and directed by the Ride Coordinator. This includes the designation of Road Captains and Group Leaders.

SOCIAL SECRETARY

The **Social Secretary** might also be called the Chapter “Feel Good Coordinator.” He or she is responsible for making sure all the “good things” about Chapter G’s participants are remembered and recognized. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, and anything else that deserves recognition! The Social Secretary is the person to notify should anyone know of a member of the chapter family that is ill or in need special help. The Social Secretary also coordinates the Chapter’s participation in charitable activities. In the past, the Chapter has contributed to needy families during the holidays, helped ill or injured chapter participants and their families, and contributed to other worthwhile community charities. As with any chapter activity, participation in charitable causes is completely voluntary.

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

The **Technical Coordinator** is responsible for keeping the Chapter informed on the latest Gold Wing and Valkarie maintenance procedures, new products and tips on keeping every member’s “baby” running and looking its best! The Technical Coordinator is usually available to answer technical questions or give sound advice.

HISTORIAN

The Chapter **Historian** keeps a running documentary of Chapter Events and Happenings. The historian maintains historic records as well as a scrapbook of pictures and articles contributed by members. All participants are encouraged to furnish photos and other material for the book. It has been said that in order to insure a rich and successful future, we must remember our past!

AWARDS

Each year Chapter G awards its participants for high mileage, and for participation in chapter activities. An award is given to the top three individuals who amass the most miles for the preceding calendar year. An award is also presented to the members who participated in the most chapter activities.

The **Awards Coordinator** is in charge of keeping the records needed to determine the winners of these awards. Chapter activities that count toward the participation award include get-togethers, rides, rallies and any other chapter or GWRRA activity. High mileage calculations are reached by comparing ending mileage from the current year with that of the prior year. Each member is responsible for notifying the Awards Coordinator of his or her ending mileage at the end of each calendar year.

50/50 COORDINATORS

The **50/50 Coordinator** is in charge of selling raffle tickets at each get-together. At the close of the evening, the 50/50 Coordinator, with the help of the Treasurer, divides the proceeds from the sale of tickets, and holds a drawing to award cash prizes. A separate raffle is held for those participants who are wearing a shirt, vest or other article identified with the Chapter G or GWRRA logo. After the cash awards have been given, additional drawings are held for door prizes that have been donated by chapter members. Proceeds from the sale of tickets go into the Chapter treasury and are used to cover the cost of any number of chapter activities.

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

The **Special Events Coordinator** makes sure the Chapter stays busy! His or her responsibility is to plan and coordinate any activity that he or she feels will be entertaining to the chapter. These activities might include working with the Ride Coordinator to plan the monthly dinner ride, monthly dinner outings during the winter months, holiday parties, trips to interesting places around the area, get-togethers at rallies, and the chapter picnic. The Special Events Coordinator also acts as the Phone Tree Coordinator.

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COORDINATOR

Also known as the **Greeter**, this person has the responsibility of making sure all Members, prospective Members and guests feel welcome at get-togethers or other chapter events. He or she should make sure that prospective Members complete a member information sheet, and introduce them to the chapter during his or her report.

WEBMASTER

The **Webmaster** is responsible for designing and maintaining the Chapter G Webpage. He or she insures that this, the Chapter's communication with the "world," contains the latest Chapter Newsletter, updated ride schedule, and any additional information that might be of interest to present as well as prospective Members. The webmaster can also publish pictures of recent events as well as pictures and names of current members. The webpage also contains links to GWRRA Region, District and National web pages as well as other motorcycle related websites.

COUPLE OF THE YEAR

The Couple of the Year (COY) program was established in 1988 to honor those couples who best typify the GWRRA image of *fun, safety and knowledge*. Each year couples are selected as Chapter, District, Region and International COY's.

At the local level a couple that is active and enthusiastic about GWRRA, and is willing to represent the Chapter, can be selected as the Chapter Couple of the Year. Couple of the Year is the single highest honor the chapter can bestow on two of its members. Along with the honor goes the responsibility of being the chapter's representatives at GWRRA activities and the chapter's ambassadors at functions in the community.

After being selected Chapter COY, the couple has the opportunity to move on to the next step and vie for the honor of District Couple of the Year. If they decide to go on in the process, they will compete with other Chapter COY's at the Kentucky District Rally *Bluegrass Blast*.

The couple chosen to represent the Kentucky District will then participate in competition with District COY's from North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia for the honor of Region N Couple of the Year! The Region N COY competition is held each year at the Region N Rally.

The couple that is honored as Region N Couple of the Year will then compete with couples from each GWRRA Region for the unique honor of being named International Couple of the Year! The International COY selection is held at Wing Ding, GWRRA's annual Rally.

ACTIVITIES

In addition to the monthly get-together's, the Chapter sponsors a number of riding activities throughout the season.

Each week, chapter members and guests gather and take an evening ride. *Ice Cream Ride* is the name given to this event because the evening usually ends at an area Dairy Queen for ice cream! It should be mentioned at this point that Dairy Queen is the unofficial, official gathering place of GWRRA groups throughout the United States. This ride is usually held on Wednesday, and covers 50 to 100 miles.

On Saturday following the monthly get-together, the chapter gathers for a dinner ride. This ride usually starts late in the afternoon, covers approximately 50 miles and ends at an outstanding restaurant. The dinner "ride" is a year-round activity. During the winter months or in cases of inclement weather, chapter members drive their cars to the restaurant.

During the riding season, the second weekend after each get-together is the time for the monthly "Weekend Day Ride." This ride takes most of the day and can cover as much as 300 miles. Again, the group will usually stop for lunch, and sometimes dinner at an excellent restaurant along the route.

Several times each year Chapter participants get away for overnight or weekend trips. These overnights give the membership a chance to spend time getting to know each other better, enjoy out of the ordinary destinations as well as beautiful rides. These weekend getaways are organized by the Ride Coordinator. Members are encouraged to submit ideas on weekend rides.

RALLIES

The beginning of riding season each year also marks the start of Rally Season! Many Gold Wingers consider rallies the most enjoyable aspect of Gold Wing riding! These two or three day events are organized by Chapters, Districts and Regions, and are an excellent chance for members to gather for fun and fellowship.

Most rallies offer lots of fun activities including bike shows, tours, poker runs, light parades, and motorcycle safety seminars. At the heart of each rally (and oft-times a gauge of its success) are the Vendors! Vendors are a group of “nomadic” merchants that follow the rally circuit selling and installing everything from chrome accessories and custom seats, to tires and trailers. If there’s an accessory available, chances are one or more of the vendors at a rally will have it!

Many Gold Wing friends meet at the same rally each year, and may not see each other again until that same rally the following year. Many rallies are held in beautiful parts of the country and give participants the chance to use the rally as a base of operation while enjoying the beauty of the surrounding area. Wings Over the Smokey’s is a case in point. The rally is held each fall near the Great Smokey Mountains at Fletcher, North Carolina. Rally goers can enjoy the rally one day, and ride famous U.S. 129 through Deal’s Gap or the beautiful Cherochala Skyway the next.

A must attend event each year is the Kentucky District Rally in August. Known as the “Bluegrass Blast,” the event draws GWRRA members from throughout Kentucky and adjoining states. Most Chapter G members make a point of being at “the Blast” and all, as the name implies, truly have a blast!

WING DING

Wing Ding is GWRRA's Annual National Rally! It is held over the July 4th holiday in various locations throughout the country, and is the "Mother" of ALL Gold Wing rallies! Lasting five days, Wing Ding is everything a district or region rally is, but on a much grander scale. The event is usually held at a large convention center with hundreds of vendors and painters under one roof.

The five days are packed with any number of activities for riders and co-riders alike. The educational opportunities at Wing Ding are almost endless. There are seminars covering every Gold Wing related subject, and even classes on subjects of general interest. There are seminars on how to pack a Gold Wing for a trip, how to pull a trailer, how to strap a Gold Wing to a trailer. There are seminars on how best to wash and wax a Wing including how to care for the windshield, and even how to pick up a Gold Wing when its down. Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes are available as well as classes in CPR and First Aid. In addition there are seminars on non-motorcycle subjects such as leadership, communications, and any number of other subjects.

Riders from around the country come to Wing Ding to compete in individual and tandem field events. These riders practice throughout the year in hopes of taking home the coveted Top Gun Championship Trophy. It's unbelievable how these skilled riders can make their big touring motorcycles do the things they do!

All rallies are fun and informative activities, but every Gold Wing enthusiast should experience Wing Ding at least once.

OTHER RALLIES

We are fortunate to be located within a few hours ride of Knoxville, Tennessee and the home of Honda Hoot. Honda Hoot is the annual rally of the Honda Riders Club of America. Each year several thousand Honda enthusiasts gather in Knoxville to enjoy three days of vendors, exhibitions and scenic rides around the beautiful East Tennessee area. Activities include a picnic at historic Norris Dam State Park as well as rides in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

Honda Hoot weekend is also the weekend neighboring Oak Ridge, Tennessee celebrates its Secret City Festival. This celebration centers on Oak Ridge's contributions to the Manhattan Project and development of the Atomic Bomb in World War II. The Secret City Festival would be an outstanding day trip while in Knoxville for the Hoot.

Each May Niehaus Cycle Sales in Litchfield, Illinois celebrates its Customer Appreciation Days. This four-day gathering is attended by several thousand Gold Wing riders from around the Midwest. Niehaus specializes in all things Gold Wing, and carries a full line of Gold Wing parts and accessories. A large number of vendors attend Customer Appreciation Days. Niehaus is located on old Route 66 allowing riders to enjoy existing parts of the "Mother Road" while visiting beautiful cities like St. Louis with its Gateway Arch as well as the Illinois Capitol of Springfield. Springfield was the home of Kentucky-born Abraham Lincoln. There are a number of historic destinations in Springfield that honor our 16th President's life. All Kentuckians should take the opportunity to visit these special places. While in Litchfield a visit to the Ariston Café is a must. The Ariston, located two blocks from Niehaus, is the oldest operating restaurant on Old Route 66.

RIDER EDUCATION

As motorcycle riders, we accept the risk inherent with our favorite activity. To minimize this risk, we must accept the responsibility for being well-trained, knowledgeable riders. According to Motorcycle Safety Foundation statistics, over 90% of the motorcycle riders involved in accidents were self-taught or learned from family or friends. MSF courses are available locally.

GWRRRA's Rider Education Program (REP) has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate, showing the commitment of our Association members to be the safest, best-prepared highway users in the nation. The following is an overview of the four levels in the REP, condensed from the Rider Education Handbook. Chapter G's Educator has complete information on the Rider Education Program and other rider education opportunities.

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL I: SAFETY BY COMMITMENT

Rider and Co-rider Requirements: This program is a commitment to ride safe. A promise between you and your fellow riders. There is no minimum number of accident free miles or any fee to join.

Insignia: "Safe Miles" patch, Rider or Co-Rider rocker patch, safe miles pin may be purchased for \$6.

Renewal: None

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL II SAFETY BY EDUCATION

Rider Requirements: Level I REP membership; have ridden 5000 safe miles; maintain a current motorcycle license endorsement; have completed an MSF rider course within the past three years; submit form verified by a GWRRA Officer.

Co-Rider Requirements: Maintain Level I REP membership and have 5000 safe miles; have completed a Two-Up rider course within the past three years or have attended a GWRRA Co-Rider seminar within the past three years; submit form verified by a GWRRA Officer.

Insignia: Rider (Co-Rider) Education “triangle” patch may be purchased for \$5 each.

Renewal: None

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL III: SAFETY BY PREPAREDNESS

Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I & II REP membership; current first aid or CPR certifications (first aid certification period is normally three years, CPR certification is two years); carry first aid kit on motorcycle; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Co-Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I & II REP membership; maintain current first aid or CPR certifications. Submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Insignia: Certified Tour Rider or Certified Co-Rider rocker may be purchased for \$4 each.

Renewal: None

**RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL IV:
SAFETY BY ENHANCED COMMITMENT AND
PREPAREDNESS (MASTER TOUR RIDER/CO-RIDER)**

Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I, II and III REP membership; have maintained Level III for one year minimum; have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles; current in both first aid and CPR certifications; have completed an MSF rider course in the past three years; commit to wear proper riding attire. Have a written recommendation by ANY GWRRA OFFICER.

Co-Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I, II and III REP membership; have maintained Level III for one year minimum; have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles; current in both first aid and CPR certifications; commit to wear proper riding attire.

Insignia: Numbered Master Tour Rider or Master Co-Rider Patch.

Initial Fee: \$35

Renewal: None

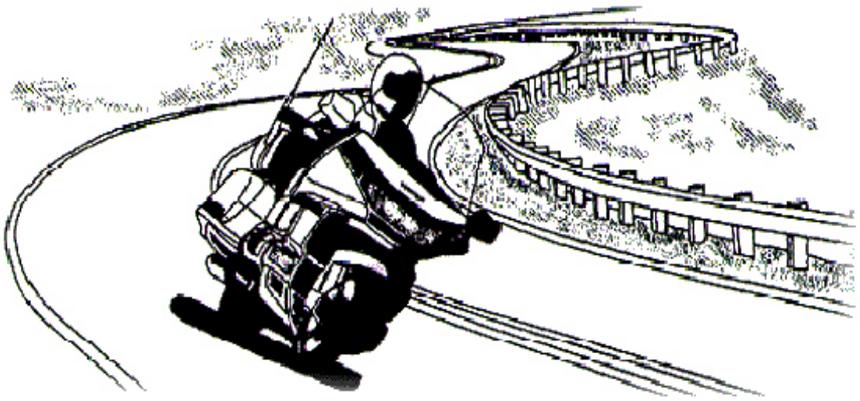
RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM: HIGH MILEAGE

Member Requirements: Have ridden a cumulative total of 50,000 miles on any motorcycle; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Associate Requirements: Have ridden a cumulative total of 50,000 miles on any motorcycle; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Insignia: Mileage Award pin with successive hangers for additional 50,000 mile increments.

Renewal: None Required.

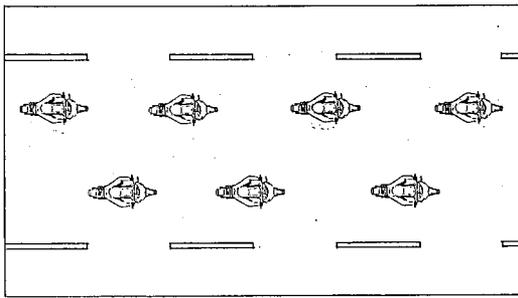


GROUP RIDING

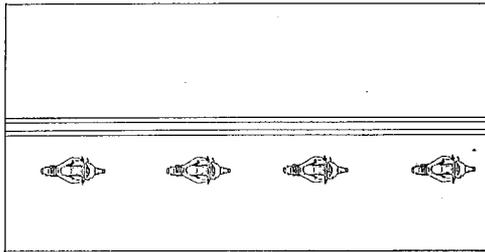
Most of the riding during chapter activities will be done as a group. Group riding is entertaining and adds a new dimension to reaching a destination, but it presents its own set of conditions that are not present when riding alone. Here are some “rules” for group riding:

- Arrive with a full tank of fuel.
- Each bike should ride in staggered formation within an automobile lane; the leader rides in the left tire track; the next rider, the right tire track, etc. On curves, individual riders should pick their own track, then reform in staggered formation after the curve.
- When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, all bikes pull up, two abreast, directly behind the bike they are following.
- When starting, the leader moves out first, accelerating slowly enough for all bikes to move out in turn. No one should accelerate even with, or pass another bike.
- Allow a minimum of two or three seconds stopping distance between following bikes, one or two second stopping distance between staggered bikes. Do not allow too much space to develop between, however.
- Don't just follow. Be sure to check the traffic before lane changes or other maneuvers.
- If someone in the group pulls to the shoulder of the road and stops, do not follow. The tail bike should be designated by the leader to stop and give assistance.
- When passing other vehicles on a two-lane highway each bike should pass in order and in turn. The leader should accelerate far enough ahead for the rest of the group to pass, and the tail bike should inform the leader when the whole group has passed and is back in formation.

- Groups should have a leader and rear tail (sometimes called drag) equipped with CB radios when possible. The lead bike leads the group, the tail or drag bike controls the group. Expect ride suggestions from the tail gunner and accept suggestions to improve the group's riding performance.
- All riders and co-riders should wear proper riding apparel.
- Enjoy the ride, and remember, getting there is half the fun!



STAGGERED FORMATION



SINGLE FILE
NOTICE LANE POSITION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I join the Chapter? You don't join a Chapter, you join the Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA), and you participate in the Chapter or Chapters of your choice. So the question could be asked, "How do I become a Chapter Participant?" You do nothing more than attend a Chapter Get-together, ride or event. There is no cost or formal application needed to participate in a GWRRA Chapter, since a local Chapter is one of the benefits of belonging to GWRRA.

What are the different classes of membership in GWRRA?

For the Gold Wing/Valkarie owner a family or individual membership is available. The non-Gold Wing/Valkarie owner can join the Association as an Associate member (both family and individual Associate memberships are available).

What are all those pins on peoples' vests? Those are ride or event pins. The pins are basically souvenirs that are fun to look at and remember the event they represent.

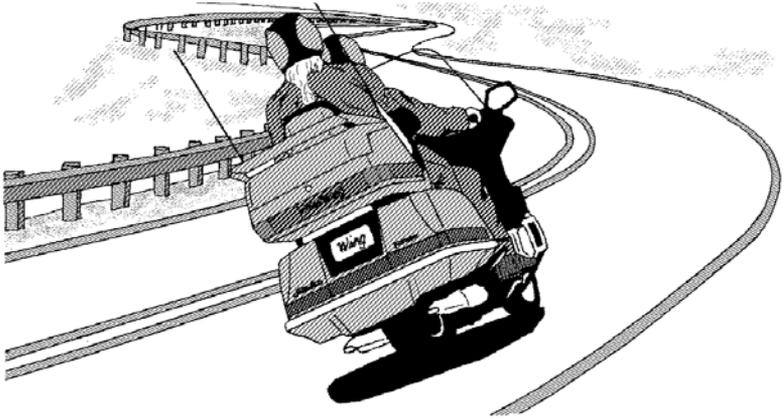
Do I have to buy a vest? No! Vests are optional for participants. Many wear vests to display the GWRRA logo, and their many pins and awards. Chapter patches, GWRRA logo patches and others can be purchased from the Pins and Patches Coordinators at any get-together.

What do you use chapter money for? The Chapter Director uses the Chapter funds to cover operating expenses of the chapter. These expenses include the cost of printing the newsletter, postage, chapter chartering fee, and Chapter special events.

SUMMARY

We hope you have found this book to be an easy source of information about Chapter G and GWRRA. Both GWRRA and Chapter G are unique in their structure and mode of operation. As such, the way things are done may be difficult for some to understand, and in some cases even agree with. This book is intended to help you better understand how the chapter operates. If you have questions or concerns not covered in the book, please don't hesitate to talk with the Chapter Director or a member of the staff.

The single reason for Chapter G's existence is for YOU to have fun riding your motorcycle with US!



-- GWRRA --

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From the office of the Executive Director

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
21423 North 11th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85027

Dear Members of Kentucky Chapter G:

Welcome to our GWRRA family. We are excited you have chosen to join us!

Joining Chapter G will truly enhance your riding experience by having friends who share your love for riding and who do it safely. Whether it's riding on a short trip to Dairy Queen, taking a weekend day ride, or going on an entire weekend trip, you're sure to find the kind of ride you enjoy. Best of all, it takes place with a great bunch - your new family of riders from Kentucky's Chapter G!

Join in the fun and adventure of riding to the Chapter, District, and Region Rallies which hold plenty of fun-filled activities such as; bike shows, Rider Education classes, poker runs, light parades, and much more. And don't forget Wing Ding where every year thousands of GWRRA Members gather to meet for the fun and festivities of our national rally!

Your friends in Kentucky G are here to assure you an enjoyable and satisfying experience as a Member of GWRRA. There are plenty of activities to choose from and all done with safety in mind. So get involved. Remember - the more you participate, the more fun you'll have!

Enjoy the ride.

Melissa Eason
GWRRA Executive Director