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If you are interested in filling a staff position in Chapter H, please contact any of the Chapter Staff listed above.

GWRRA GEORGIA CHAPTER H February 2014



RIDING SEASON IS HERE

The past few weeks of cold and rainy, even a couple of days of snow and ice have brought the perfect weather to go out to the garage and knock the dust off the Wing and do the maintenance things to make sure our iron horse is up for the ride. In addition to doing the T Clock check on our Wings, we also need to do a check of our riding skills to make sure we are mentally and physically ready to hit the road. No, I don't mean to literally hit the road but if we don't prepare ourselves, that is a possibility. To prepare ourselves for the riding season, there are a few things we can do to make sure we are ready to ride. One way we could prepare ourselves is to check our riding gear. Check those coats and gloves to make sure we are adequately warm for those chilly mornings and evenings and not so hot that we start considering shedding the protective clothing. This is the season for rapidly changing temperatures, so make sure you have a change of clothing to accommodate the changes. Also, don't forget to check that helmet to make sure it still fits and there is no damage. After we are physically ready to ride, we need to make sure we are mentally focused on riding safely. Rich and I are Parking Lot Practice facilitators and are always willing to provide a Parking Lot Practice to refresh your riding skills. Even if you don't have the time or desire to take a structured riding course, you can find

a large parking lot and practice some of the maneuvers you may need to make in normal riding conditions in parking lots or on the road. The Georgia District Ride Educator is providing an Advanced Riders Course right here in your back yard this Saturday. The course is designed to improve your riding skills in a variety of situations that you may not encounter every day. Having taken several experienced riders courses, I can guarantee you will leave the course with a lot more confidence in riding your motorcycle. If you want to learn more about riding your motorcycle, this is the perfect opportunity. Another safety consideration is maintenance. The time for maintenance is not just at the beginning of the riding season. You can check your service manual to see what types of maintenance is required and at what intervals. Proper maintenance will keep your Wing in a good operating condition and just might identify a potential problem that may cause a failure while on the road. The Gold Wing is the most reliable motorcycle on the road, but even Gold Wings need a little tender loving care to stay that way. If you need help in going over your bike to get ready for the riding season, there are a lot of members in Chapter H that will be glad to help. All you have to do is ask, we are always willing to help.

Bill and Betty



Practice Makes Perfect

Cold weather isn't the best riding weather even with heated clothing. Most of us tend to take four wheels instead of 3 or 2 and the bike stays nice and warm in the garage. When we don't ride regularly we tend to get rusty. Stops aren't smooth and tight turns are a bit rough. We need to get the feel of the brakes again and the clutch friction zone. I have a suggestion or two.

Athletes do warm up exercises before they participate in their various sports and we can do the same. All that is needed is your bike and an empty parking lot, church, school, business after hours, etc. Start off by just riding around the perimeter of the lot, 1st or 2nd gear and 5 to 10 MPH. Take a few laps. Then pick a point somewhere in the middle and start riding in a circle around the point. Remember the bike goes where you are looking. Keep the head turned and focus on your center point. Slowly tighten up your circle. Shift your weight in the seat to counter balance the bike. You know the Wing will make a real tight turn with controlled slow speed and counter balancing. After you have gotten as tight as you are comfortable with, repeat the process in the reverse direction.

Next pick some evenly spaced points in a line like parking lines. Ride in a straight line weaving left and right between the points. Sounds easy, but we tend to focus on the first point in front of us. We need to focus on the second point. Our brain already knows where the first point is and will automatically set us up to hit the mark on our swerves. Actually the best way to practice this is by setting out a line of cones. If you look 1 up you will hit a few, but 2 up and you should have a clean ride.

The last thing is braking. First ride in a straight line, pick a stopping point, down shift to 1st gear and apply smooth even pressure on both front and back brakes until you come to a smooth stop. After a few repetitions, ride in a large circle, pick a point to stop. At that point straighten the handlebars, down shift, apply even pressure to both front and rear until you come to a smooth stop.

We do these type activities in an PLP, ARC, or ERC so they shouldn't be new to us. So be an

athlete and do your exercises before you take on the open road after a winter break from riding.

Ride Safe – Rich Morgan

.Happy Birthday to:

Gary Sapp 24 Feb

Happy Anniversary to:

Bill Betty Livingston 27 Feb

Up Coming

Rides and Activities

Mar 8&9 Coffee Break I75 Tifton

Mar 13th Moultrie—Leave Moree's 6 PM

Mar 17th Tifton—Leave Enmark on Clark 6 PM

Mar 27 Chapter H monthly gathering



Rally Around GWRRA

See our website for flyers
chapterh.gwr-ra-ga.com

2014 Rallies of Interest

Florida	Mar 20-22	Kissimmee, FL
Alabama	Apr 3-5	Mobile, AL
South Carolina	May 1-3	Florence, SC
Georgia	Jun 12-14	Dillard, GA
Wing Ding	Jul 2-5	Madison WI
Region A	Sep 11-13	Eufaula, AL
Mississippi	Oct 16-18	Gulfport, MS