

# Georgia Chapter "S"

Winder, GA

*The Motorcickle Capital of the World*

GWRRA REGION A

MARCH, 2017



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GWRRA



Region A



Georgia District



Chapter S

Chapter Gathering: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7:00 PM, Golden Corral, Winder, Georgia  
 Next Chapter Gathering: Tuesday Apr 4, 2017

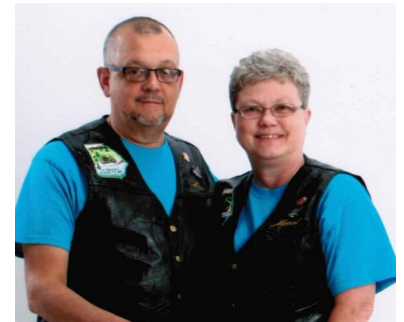
## CD's Corner

Where I came from up north, we always said 'if March comes in like a lion (meaning bad weather) then March goes out like a lamb (spring has arrived)'. Well, I am not sure how that applies to Georgia but it seems like March will come in like a lamb. The weatherman did say that February broke the record held for the warmest month in history of GA. I hope that many of you were riding and enjoying the sights and sounds that Mother Nature offered this past month. I know Joe and I were on the Bermuda Pearl every chance we had.

Our chapter was really busy in February and our Fun Day went on without a hitch. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Many thanks for the set up/clean up teams and the kitchen staff that made quick work for the event. We received positive feedback and everyone left in good spirits. The riding year has begun in full swing and I hope that many of you are making plans and reservations to attend Rallies, Chapter Rides, overnight rides and dinner rides. Remember to check our webpage for updated information and hotel accommodations. It is never too early to reserve a room! Hopefully, Joe and I will see some of you at the Florida Rally in March.

Recently, Chapter S has had some new members join our fun! A big welcome to Stephen Vanzo, Danny White and his wife, Judy, and Ron Ahlstedt and his wife Donna. It's great to have new members to share all the fun and excitement that comes with GWRRA. Hopefully, they will be able to join us on our rides and trips in the near future.

Ride safe and Ride often.  
 Janel Piper, Chapter Director  
 GA District COY



**Joe & Janel Piper**  
 Chapter S Chapter Directors  
 goldwing.janel.joe@gmail.com  
 770-963-0565



**Larry & Jean Bernius**  
 2017 Chapter S  
 Couple of the Year



**Glenn Wisdom**  
 2017 Chapter S  
 Individual  
 of the Year

## 2016 Chapter S Officers & Staff

<b>Janel &amp; Joe Piper</b> goldwing.janel.joe@gmail.com (678) 640-7469	<b>Chapter Directors</b>
<b>Sandy &amp; Mike Burns</b> flh87@aol.com (678) 425-9337	<b>Assistant Chapter Directors</b>
<b>Larry &amp; Jean Bernius</b>	<b>2017 Couple of the Year</b>
<b>Glenn Wisdom</b>	<b>2017 Individual of the Year</b>
<b>Jimmy &amp; Winona Atkinson</b> goldwingchaptersedu@gmail.com (678) 696-8245	<b>Chapter Educators</b>
<b>Jean Bernius</b> dadbernius@windstream.net (770) 867-6423	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Ken &amp; Traci Thrasher</b> kenneth_thrasher@gmail.com (706) 310-1041	<b>Membership Enhancement Coordinators</b>
<b>Glenn &amp; Sherry Wisdom</b> jglennwisdom@bellsouth.net (678) 777-3266	<b>Ride Coordinators, Webmasters</b>
<b>Barbara &amp; Bob Ragonese</b> valkyriebabs@gmail.com (631) 880-9879	<b>Motorist Awareness Coordinators</b>
<b>Vance &amp; Fern Oakes</b> goldwingnut@windstream.net (678) 219-0257	<b>Newsletter Editors</b>
<b>Joyce Argo</b> (706) 549-8232	<b>Door Prizes</b>
<b>Gloria &amp; Jack Farabaugh</b> gwingjack@comcast.net (770) 962-5564	<b>Hospitality Coordinator</b>



## 2016 District Officers & Staff

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<b>Frank &amp; Melinda Brothers</b> gadistrictridered@gmail.com (706) 356-4966	<b>Rider Educators</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>Leadership Trainer</b>
<b>Norman &amp; Wendy Morton</b> norwen@att.net (404) 761-3775	<b>Membership Enhancement Coordinators</b>
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<b>Carlos Lozano</b> carlos@cmlozano.com (864) 908-8199	<b>Webmaster</b>
<b>Joe &amp; Janel Piper</b> goldwing.janel.joe@gmail.com (678) 640-7469	<b>2017 District Couple of the Year</b>
<b>Jim &amp; Sue Jackson</b> regiondirector@gwrra-regiona.org	<b>Region A Directors</b>
<b>Bob &amp; Nan Shrader</b>	<b>Deputy Directors</b>
<b>Ray &amp; Sandy Garris</b>	<b>GWRRR Directors</b>

# Rides & Events

Fun  
Day



## Birthdays



- 3/9 Sherry Wisdom
- 3/16 Pat Whitehouse
- 3/26 Jack Farabaugh
- 3/30 Shirl Verhulst



- 3/12 Sandy Burns
- 3/17 Patty Reed
- 3/29 Faith Hayes

## Anniversaries

No Anniversaries in March

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event
3/7	Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
3/11	Chapter Ride, Chop House, Madison
3/16	Dinner Ride, Milo's, Monroe
3/23—25	Florida District Rally, Altamonte Springs
4/1	CPR/First Aid Class, Winder
4/3	Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder



## Rider Education:

GWRRA: WingStuff.com

GWRRA's World Class Educational Program has many avenues to educate both our motorcycle community and the general driving public. The GWRRA Rider Education Program (REP) is intended to make the motorcycle riding environment safer by reducing injuries and fatalities and increasing motorcyclist skills and awareness. The REP does not propose to have all the answers.

However, our close-working relationship with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), as well as additional GWRRA programs and studies, has provided a wealth of information for use in establishing a comprehensive Rider Education Program. Through Commitment,

Education and Application, we can reduce our accident rate significantly.

Both the motorcycle and motorist community are already realizing many positive benefits from the GWRRA Rider Education Program. Through the efforts of the Rider Education Officers and volunteers throughout the world, we will reach our goal of establishing the safest motorcycle environment possible.

GWRRA Rider Education has traditionally encouraged members to obtain and maintain certifications in First Aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation). These basic skills are easily learned, but may make the difference between life and death in the critical minutes before professional help can arrive. There are a number of fine provid-

ers of this type of training available, including familiar names such as the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association. GWRRA is a recognized corporate provider of the MEDIC FIRST AID international program.



Whatever your preferred provider, we strongly encourage you to get trained and stay current in your certification. The next Medic First Aid class will be held on April 1, 2017 and the class is now open to other chapters to attend.

Jimmy and Winona Atkinson  
Rider Educators

## Membership Enhancement:

If you could go anywhere on your motorcycle, where would it be? To the mountains or to the coast? Maybe you dream of riding north to Nova Scotia or out west to take Highway 1 up the Pacific coast? Maybe you're more of a homebody and would like to stick closer to home and ride the back roads of the Georgia mountains? Have you run across a great restaurant in your travels and thought that it would be fun to share will your fellow Southern Wing-ers? Is there a special event coming up that would make for a terrific destination ride?

If any of these things strike your interest, talk to chapter leadership and let them know about your idea. Chance are some of these can be worked into our schedule in the future. This is your chapter, so let us know where you would like to go!

Ken & Traci Thrasher  
Membership Enhancement Coordinator



## Motorist Awareness:

What is motorist awareness?

According to the dictionary, a motorist is someone who drives an automobile. So why is that so important to a motorcycle rider? Considering that most motorcycle riders are also operators of automobiles it is then easy to understand that the two are linked.

I am sure that we have all experienced, when driving our automobiles, the occasional laps of concentration when our minds drift away to another

place, something else we need to do, an appointment later in the day. Then consider, many automobile drivers don't see us on our bikes in the first place, and it becomes easier to understand the importance of MOTORIST AWARENESS.

Keeping all of the above in mind it needs to be remembered that when we are on our bikes we must be constantly vigilant. We must drive and think not only for ourselves but for all of the drivers around us. Anticipate, consider all the possibilities, always be courteous and use

hand signals along with your bike's directional signals.

Enjoy the ride, "IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD".



Bob and Barbara Ragonese  
Motorist Awareness Coordinators

## Goofy's Scorecard—2017

**Jan: Vance**—for putting the wrong MEC article in the newsletter

**Feb: Gary**—for going to the wrong meeting place for the New Year's Day Ride

*Look who I've  
been playing  
with!!*



*"I Love to  
Ride"*

## Goofy's Adventures

Goofy went on strike this month and decided not to write an article on his adventures with Gary.

Hopefully, the Goofy column will return next month.



## Tidbits from the Brok...en Bit Shop – An Opinion on Suspensions and Things

Not too long ago I purchased a new set of front spring / shock units and a new pair of rear shocks for my aging 2004 Ford F-150 pickup truck in an attempt to cash-in before my friend Lynn at the local parts house decided to quit the auto parts business and focus on his hardware line. I had first noticed the original shocks were really starting to give up at about 80-90,000 miles, but had also managed to put off both the job and the expense until the truck had accumulated 120,000 miles and the original units were totally shot. That's when I finally bought the new parts from Lynn and made plans to install them right away, but plans and good intentions do not always result in things getting done. The longer story is that I wallowed and swayed on down the road for three more months before finally doing the work, and toward the end it was almost like the truck had no shocks at all.

Then one morning I finally mustered the ambition to do the installation, and my what a difference it made! Suddenly, the ole F-150 felt like new again and the contrast was amazing. Were the new units (Monroe's finest) better than the originals? Maybe, or maybe not, but they certainly hadn't been run 50,000 miles past their useful life expectancy either, and I suspect that was the real reason I noticed such a dramatic improvement. So what is my point? Well, motorcycles have springs and shocks too, and the suspensions on the late model flagship bikes like our Gold Wings are really quite good if they are maintained well.

Opinions may differ of course, but to be quite honest I was favorably impressed with the quality of the ride and handling of my 1800 the instant I first swung a leg over it. Compared to my old 1986 SEI, the 1800's suspension performance was a real joy to behold, and still is. Similar contrasts were also apparent regarding the braking system, engine power, electronics, and so forth. Technology marches on, and our modern Gold Wings are indeed highly refined and excellent performing touring machines straight out of the box.

So why is it we hear so many complaints about 1800 suspension components and so many folks opt to "update" with aftermarket components like those offered by Traxxion, Progressive Suspension and others? Well, many will say the aftermarket stuff is far superior to the stock units, and who is to say they aren't? Certainly, not me, but I must admit a new 1800 works so well I personally think it is hard to complain about Honda's original stuff if it is maintained well. Are the Traxxion or Progressive Suspension engineering departments really superior to the mighty Honda organization and those of the original equipment manufacturers whose components they use? I think not. I also believe the real reason many folks experience what they describe as major improvements after installing after market suspension components is because their old units were worn out, just as my truck shocks were.

Am I being purposefully argumentative here? Well, I hope not. Let's just say I think the Honda stuff works so well that someone will have to show me some hard data before I change my mind. Let's be honest now. Have any disinterested third parties out there actually done a controlled comparison between new Honda units and new aftermarket units? If so, I'd sure like to see the data. I just haven't seen any solid experimental results, especially those tabulated by folks not involved in selling either stock Honda or aftermarket components. Got the picture????

I don't have any hard data, but I can say I'm very satisfied with the way the Black Diamond's suspension felt on day one and I still am. Like they say, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?" I've heard the stories about Honda's spongy hydraulic lines, that the original rear shocks are throw away types that can't be rebuilt, that the springs are of poor quality and so forth. If that is all true, why is it they seem to work so well when new? Is it that I am just stupid? Perhaps, but maybe there is also a message in my story about the old F-150 that may help to explain everything. That message is a simple one. New shocks and springs outperform old shocks and springs and that applies to both stock Honda and aftermarket units alike.

But why are some folks experiencing rather catastrophic suspension failures? I 'think' (that's what people say when they don't actually 'know' something) there may be two reasons. The first is the problem my truck had. The design and quality of the original components were fine, but I just wore them out. The second reason that applies specifically to our Gold Wings is that we simply overload them. The very same reason we hear so many stories about catastrophic tire failure or premature tire wear (also encouraged by under inflation).

Here is my opinion: There may well be better components out there than the original Honda pieces, but when trying to decide what you want or need, maybe the best advice is to follow the old tire rule. Listen to the salesman as much as you want, but sometimes the truth can best be found by reading the standardized test results branded on the sidewalls. In the case of suspension components you may have to look elsewhere for solid data, but why not do that before putting cash on the line?

As always, everyone has a different set of conditions, likes and desires and I'll be happy to hear and accept your opinions as well. Meanwhile, it is not true that Honda shocks cannot be rebuilt, and I'll leave you with a quote from Stu Oltman's Workbench column in the March, 2012 Issue of Wing World: "I haven't had the opportunity to sample a GL 1800 equipped with Traxxion's rear suspension components, so I couldn't offer a valid comparison between that and original components". Ditto for me.

OK, I've said my piece and have my flack jacket on. The floor is open for discussion and I'd love to hear what you have to say and promise to stand corrected if you show me the data.





# Just for Fun - Test Your Skills

**Sunday 12th, February 2017**

freedailycrosswords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Copier
- 5 Malcolm X's faith
- 10 "Nasty" Nastase
- 14 Snooze
- 15 Most populous African city
- 16 Fawcett's replacement Angel
- 17 Reformer of public education
- 19 "Smile" singer Allen
- 20 Kerouac's "The \_\_\_ Bums"
- 21 Things that give form
- 23 Certain wetlands
- 25 Paula of CBS News
- 26 Selects a jury

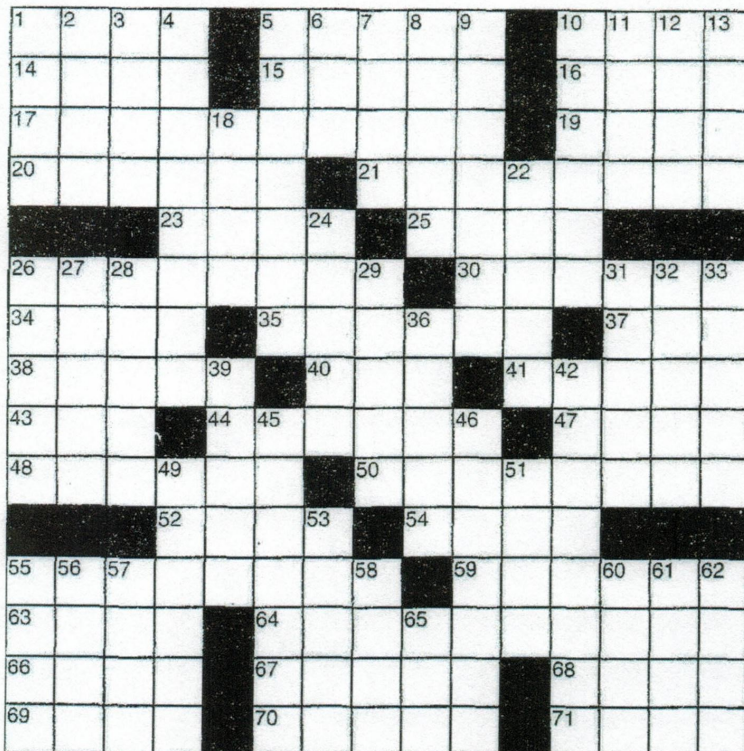
- 30 Snap, crackle, and pop, e.g.
- 34 Former airline of England: abbr.
- 35 Bald rocker O'Connor
- 37 Athina's granddad
- 38 Bring forth
- 40 Some MIT alums
- 41 Despise
- 43 Bother
- 44 Didn't exist
- 47 HQ staffer
- 48 Outspoken feline
- 50 Worked to return from an injury
- 52 Au or Co: abbr.
- 54 Seductive
- 55 Like lamé
- 59 Fix shoes
- 63 "How are you?" reply

- 64 Alert
- 66 Cat's sunning spot
- 67 Author Marsh
- 68 Kingdom east of Babylonia
- 69 Alternative to Le Bourget
- 70 The Heights of Syrian indignation
- 71 Section of glass

- 7 Neeson of "Nell"
- 8 The Desi of Desilu
- 9 It borders Saskatchewan
- 10 Fighting \_\_\_ (Big 10 team)
- 11 Nonclerical
- 12 Vain
- 13 Premium ice cream brand
- 18 Wheedler's contraction
- 22 "\_\_\_ Fleming" (George Meredith novel)
- 24 Not as naive
- 26 Certain girder
- 27 Multiplex offering
- 28 Connor of "Gossip Girl"
- 29 Mean mien
- 31 Indian title of respect
- 32 Wear away
- 33 Parented
- 36 Olden laborers
- 39 Tom of "The Seven Year Itch"
- 42 Tot's movement
- 45 Pretty soon
- 46 Right after
- 49 Faintly
- 51 Choppers
- 53 Norman who created Neuman
- 55 Soybean-based soup
- 56 Turkish official
- 57 Trestle tax
- 58 Scuttle's contents
- 60 Town near Limerick
- 61 Order to the butcher
- 62 Macabre story by Saki
- 65 Days of Kwanzaa that celebrates purpose

**DOWN**

- 1 Controversial kid disorder
- 2 \_\_\_ Bah (pompous person)
- 3 Jewish priest of Babylon
- 4 React with anger or fright, as a horse
- 5 Periods of glaciation
- 6 Director Raimi







# Advertiser Page

We want to thank those advertisers, who in the past have helped out so generously in aiding us to set up and keep our web site running. If you would like to be an advertiser, please contact Pat Whitehouse at chopbev47@comcast.net.

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**Welcome to GWRRA**

...the world's largest single-marque social organization for owners and riders of Honda Gold Wing & Valkyrie motorcycles...

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions for more information...



### 2017 Schedule of Events

- 4/1 CPR/First Aid Class
- 4/4 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 4/6—7 Beach Boys Concert, Franklin, NC
- 4/8 Chapter T Fun Day, Commerce
- 4/12 Dinner Ride, Blazer's, Statham
- 4/20—22 TN District Rally, Pigeon Forge
- 4/29 Fragile Children Family Fun Ride, Milledgeville
- 5/2 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 5/6—7 SC District Rally, Beaufort
- 5/11 Dinner Ride, El Centinela, Winder
- 5/18—20 AL District Rally, Mobile
- 5/27—29 Memorial Day Ride, Okefenokee Swamp
- 6/6 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 6/17 Breakfast Ride, Yesterday Café, Rutledge
- 6/22—24 GA District Rally, Dalton
- 6/29 Dinner Ride, Oyster Bay, Lawrenceville
- 7/6 Dinner Ride, Visit Chapter T, Ryan's, Athens
- 7/11** Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 7/22 Chapter Ride, Buckeye's, Jersey
- 8/1 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 8/12 Breakfast Ride, Fender's Diner, Cornelia
- 8/17 Dinner Ride, Blind Pig Tavern, Athens
- 8/21 Solar Eclipse Ride, Northeast GA
- 8/30—9/3 Wing Ding, Grapevine, TX
- 9/5 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 9/16 Lunch Ride, Whistle Stop Café, Juliette
- 9/21 Dinner Ride, Hot Rods Diner, Social Circle
- 9/28—30 NC District Rally, Waynesville, NC
- 9/30 Chapter A Fun Day, Stockbridge
- 10/3 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 10/10 Dinner Ride, Fatz, Winder
- 10/20—22 Fall Leaf Ride, Little Switzerland, NC
- 10/26—28 Region A Rally, Eufaula, AL
- 11/7 Chapter Gathering, Golden Corral, Winder
- 11/16 Dinner Ride, Bone Island Grill, Athens
- Note: No Chapter Gathering in December**
- 12/2 Salvation Army Toy Ride, Cycle World, Athens
- 12/9 Christmas Party, Winder Woman's Club

### District News

Chapter B-2 captured the Plaque from Chapter S. Chapter I-2 captured it from B-2 and will offer it on March 18.

Chapter E-2 gave the Hot Potato to F-2, who took it to I-2. I-2 then took it to B-2.

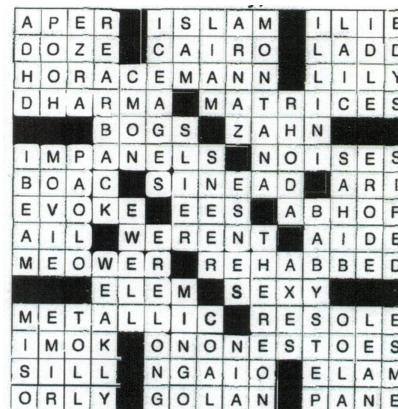
Here is a link to a medical information card you can print out and carry with you:

<http://www.medids.com/free-id.php#.VsnDEfHnWi4>

### GWRRA Anniversaries

Grady & Rita Riner have been members of GWRRA for 30 years

Joanna Self has been a member for 10 years



### **Just a few quick notes:**

A quick reminder about door prizes. As a member, the chapter depends on you to donate door prizes the month of your birthday and the month of your anniversary. This helps to supplement the few door prizes that the chapter purchases. Your door prize contribution is very much appreciated.

If you have gone on any fun rides please send pictures and/or articles to Vance via email and we will include in our monthly Newsletter and/or our website.