

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



**CHAPTER ORIENTATION
HANDBOOK
Missouri District/SW Territory**

CHAPTER HANDBOOK CONTENTS

	Located on Page
1. Local Chapter History and/or Welcome (Editable Page)	1
2. Introduction	2
3. What is the Chapter all about?	2
4. How do I join the Chapter?	2
5. Why am I a “Guest” at the first get-together?	3
6. Do I have to wait until the second get-together to become a Chapter participant?	3
7. What are the different classes of membership in GWRRA?	3
8. What do I get for my membership in GWRRA?	3
Wing World	4
Gold Book	
Towbusters	
And lots More!	
9. What is the staffing structure in GWRRA?	4
10. What are they talking about?	5
50/50 tickets	
Chapter Rides	
Get-Togethers	
11. What are all those pins on people’s vests?	5
12. How do I get a vest?	6
13. Do I have to do anything while I am a participant?	6
14. What is a Poker Run?	6

15.	What is a District Rally?	6
16.	What is Wing Ding?	7
17.	What is the Chapter money used for?	7
18.	Reasons for Rides	7
19.	Group Riding	7
20.	When and How to use my CB	7
21.	How do I ride in a Group	8
22.	Defensive Riding Practices	9
	Safety Riding Techniques	
	Lane Changing and Passing	10
	Intersections	
23	Rider Education Program Information	11
24.	Closing	11
25	Emergency Information Form	12
26	Chapter participant's Information form	13

This handbook is a guideline for Missouri Chapters within the GWRRA SW Territory, which consists of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California and Hawaii.

WELCOME TO MISSOURI CHAPTER “ ”

Missouri Chapter _____ was chartered in _____ and our first chapter meeting was held on _____ at _____, Missouri.

(add a little about your chapter.)

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

Our chapter’s “Get-Together” is held the _____ - of each month.
Our Chapter Website is _____.

Current Officers are:

- Chapter Director (s) –
- Assistant Chapter Director(s) –
- Treasurer –
- Membership Enhancement Coordinator
- Rider Educator/Ride Coordinator -
- University Coordinator(s) –

Our chapter “Couple of the Year” & “Individual of the Year” is:

(can list current year only or previous year COY/IOYs as well, include all titles they have held (Chapter, District, National))

If you are interested in being a participant of Chapter “ ”, please fill out the Participant’s Information Sheet provided in this handbook or the one given to you by the Chapter Directors/Assistant Chapter Directors, or Membership Coordinator and return it to them.

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter's participant's handbook is published to help the new or potential GWRRA member become acquainted with GWRRA and Chapter operations. Even the seasoned GWRRA member should find something of interest here. Getting involved in GWRRA Chapter activities will allow you to enjoy GWRRA to the fullest.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the Chapter Director, Assistant Chapter Director or staff members. They will gladly help you understand the functions of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association and help you feel welcome into our family. Hopefully this handbook will help answer most of your questions.

WHAT IS THE CHAPTER ALL ABOUT?

The Chapter is the single most important benefit of GWRRA because:

We make Friends

We ride our Gold Wings & Valkyries with our Friends

We promote safe riding to enhance our motorcycle experience

We learn skills and safety techniques for riding

Gold Wingers also love to eat

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE!!!

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 Chapters of your choice. So the questions could be asked, "How do I become a Chapter Participant?" You do nothing more than attend a Chapter Get-Together, ride or event. The first time you attend you are a "Guest". The second time you come you're a part of our Chapter's family. A local Chapter is one of the main benefits of belonging to our international association. There is no cost or formal application needed to participate in a GWRRA Chapter. The Gold Wing Road Riders Association has a network of Chapters worldwide, so you're never far from "home", even when you're on the road.

WHY AM I A "GUEST" AT THE FIRST

GET-TOGETHER?

This allows us to recognize you as a new person. It's our belief that nothing is worse than attending a get-together to have fun and seek out potential new friends, only to sit around ignored and bewildered. Sometimes in getting ready to conduct a "Get-Together", the Chapter Director and/or Assistant Chapter Director might forget to introduce themselves. If this happens, please seek them out and introduce yourself, as they truly want to meet you.

DO I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SECOND GET-TOGETHER TO BECOME A CHAPTER PARTICIPANT?

No you don't. Just tell the Chapter Director or Assistant Chapter Director that you would like to participate and want to start receiving the Chapter Newsletter and the ride schedule for the Chapter. Schedules for other Chapters in the state are also available on request.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN GWRRA?

A "Full Member" is the owner of a Gold Wing or Valkyrie motorcycle . We have individual or family memberships available. For non Gold Wing/Valkyrie owners there is now a classification of our membership titled Associate, which is also available as individual or family. The Associate member enjoys most of the benefits the same as a full member.

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY MEMBERSHIP IN GWRRA?

Wing World Magazine

A unique member benefit is the *Wing World* magazine. This beautiful, glossy monthly publication is packed with Gold Wing touring stories. Honda and after market products, technical advice from Honda technicians and Gold Wing accessory advertisements. Every issue also includes reader classifieds, rider education information, and an up-to-date listing of all national, National and local GWRRA events, as well as a directory of our officers you can contact for information.

Gold Book

The Gold Book is the exclusive GWRRA service directory, which lists participating GWRRA members' names, phone numbers and what they can share with you: help, information, tools, lodging, trip assistance, camping space and, of course, fellowship. (Maybe even FOOD) If you find yourself needing help on a lonely highway, you'll find a GWRRA friend nearby. Many members think the Gold Book is the best highway insurance of all! And it works best if kept on your motorcycle.

TowBusters

GWRRA, in association with Nation Safe Drivers, is proud to offer the Towbusters Emergency Roadside Assistance Program to its members and their families. As a paid member, coverage while on any motorcycle is included in your membership. As a member you may purchase the **Towbusters Gold Program** which covers all the registered members in your household while riding or driving in any non-commercial vehicle or motorcycle. This program even covers your motorcycle trailers!

(GWRRA members must have a Family membership to cover multiple drivers.)

Is there More?

A numbered key chain for safe return of lost keys, an enamel membership pin, an embroidered patch, safety decals, an embossed membership card-just to name a few.

WHAT IS THE STAFFING STRUCTURE IN GWRRA?

All officers are appointed. There is no voting or election held in GWRRA. The officers and communication goes as follows:

National Operations Director
Territory Director's
District Director
Chapter Director

Each Director then appoints his or her own staff of Assistants, Educators, Coordinators and other supporting staff. The Chapter Director has the operational responsibility for the Chapter and obtains input from his or her staff and the Chapter participants in reaching decisions regarding Chapter activities.

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

50/50 Tickets

The Chapter receives no money from the National business office, so to help the Chapter pay its expenses, we sell tickets during the Get-Togethers. A ticket is drawn and we give away half of the money from the ticket sale proceeds, hence 50/50. This is a voluntary donation and you are not obligated to purchase the tickets.

Chapter Rides

Most Chapters have scheduled rides. These rides leave from a designated location or ride point. The time of departure varies, so make sure to read your Chapter newsletter or ask the Chapter Director who will be more than happy to assist you. If you have any special roads and parks that you would like to share, make sure and let the Chapter Director know. Many of these rides will start from early to mid-morning and run until early evening. Sometime overnights might be a factor for a longer trip. All activities are discussed with the Chapter staff so be ready with your input to the Chapter Director, Assistant Director or staff.

Get-Togethers

Once a month we will have a “Get-Together”. This Get-Together can include speakers, videos, ride schedule planning and safety information, and of course,... can include a meal (probably does!) with plenty of socializing. These Get-Togethers are not business meetings. GWRRA does not operate in a “club” format. There are no voting, minutes, or Treasurer’s report. Decisions regarding the Chapter are made by the Chapter Director who is appointed by the District Director. The Chapter Director does, however, get input from Chapter Staff and participants regarding events which are of interest to the Chapter.

WHAT ARE ALL THOSE PINS ON PEOPLE’S VESTS?

Those are “ride” or “event” pins. Every time a Chapter puts on a poker run or other special events are held, like a District Rally, usually a ride pin is available, and are sometimes included in the cost of registration. The pins are basically souvenirs that are fun to look back on for the memories each represents. Hint: lots of pins = an “old hand” you may want to ask questions of.

HOW DO I GET A VEST or CHAPTER SHIRT?

See the Chapter Director or Assistant Director to find out the current arrangements. Usually they are a special order item. Vests & Shirts are optional for participants but many wear the vest to display their many pins and awards. Chapter patches, the 10" GWRRA logo and other patches can be purchased for your vest from your Chapter Director.

DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING WHILE I AM A PARTICIPANT?

Yes, have as much FUN as you can! That's why this Association and especially local Chapters exist: FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE! And, of course, you may have to eat a meal or two along the way!!

WHAT IS A POKER RUN?

A Poker Run serves as a fund raising activity. There is usually a charge for each poker hand, which serves as a donation to the Chapter/District. Each Poker Run may differ in one way or another, but are basically as follows: we sign-in and get a set of directions to a "check point". When we arrive at the first "check point" we draw a playing card. We continue on to the second and subsequent "check points", until we reach the final point. The high hand will win a prize or share in the funds collected for the event. Some organizations have observation runs in which you may have questions to answer about sights along the route. If it all seems a little confusing, don't worry, we were all confused at first. Just ask some "old hand" for the help you need.

WHAT IS A DISTRICT RALLY?

Individual districts may have a two or three day event of the expressed purpose of providing a fun, social environment for the participants and provide funding for the GWRRA District Director's Office. Bike judging, vendors, Rider Education seminars or videos, 50/50s, motorcycle light show, and much more is available at the rally. Missouri District holds two Rally's each year, one at Lake of the Ozarks in early March and one in Branson in early June. Other District rallies in the SW Territory are held annually and are located in different areas around their district.

WHAT IS WING DING?

This is our National Rally put on for all Gold Wing Road Riders Association members, Booster Supporters and other interested motorcyclists. It is held at various locations throughout the country. This rally has all the events you would find at the District Rally but on a much, much larger scale.

WHAT IS THE CHAPTER MONEY USED FOR?

The Chapter Director uses the Chapter funds to cover operation expenses of the Chapter. These expenses include the cost of the newsletter, staff and officer training meetings which may include gas, meals and motel, postage, telephone calls, the Chapter chartering fee, supplies, etc. which are necessary to run the Chapter. Annually the Chapter Director submits a financial statement to the District Director.

REASONS FOR “RIDES”

- a. Obviously, to move our group from point “A” to point “B”.
- b. To expand our social contacts while retaining the camaraderie of our meetings.
- c. Travel and sight-seeing. And sometimes to Eat!!!

GROUP RIDING

As the name implies, it is riding in a group. Most of our organized chapter movements (rides) will be in this type.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE MY CB

What Channel?

We use a predetermined CB channel for communicating directions, turns, lane changes and other pertinent traffic information and potential dangers to the group. Ask the Chapter Director what CB channel the Chapter uses. (Channel 1 is the GWRRA established channel nationally but may not necessarily be used by the local Chapter.)

CB Chatter

Limiting idle chatter is particularly critical during departures and arrivals. There is a

tendency for riders to be tense during take-off and somewhat lax during landings. Experience has shown that these are the times that unfortunate incidents tend to occur. Be Alert! If you wish to converse with a fellow rider, call that rider by name. CB “handles” are fun but unfortunately require other member to tax their memories. Why not try using real first names like “Hey Harry, this is Jack”.

HOW DO I RIDE IN A GROUP?

Arrive with full tank of gas.

Attempts should be made to limit the groups to 5 or 6 bikes.

CB channels should be established prior to any movement. The group should not switch to a different channel until all members have been informed.

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 the 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 were 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 of two second stopping distance between staggered bikes. Do not allow too much space to develop between bikes, however.

Don't just follow. Be sure to check the traffic before lane changes or other maneuvers.

If someone in your group pulls to the shoulder of the road and stops, do not follow. The rear 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 bike equipped with CB radios when possible. The lead bike leads the group, the rear bike controls the group. Expect ride suggestions from the rear bike and accept suggestions to improve the groups' riding performance.

All riders and co-riders should wear proper riding apparel. This is not mandatory but is strongly recommended for your safety.

Relax and enjoy the ride, and remember, getting there is the fun!

DEFENSIVE RIDING PRACTICES

Safety Riding Techniques

General

Headlights should be activated at all times during operation.

Never ride into a space that you cannot see your way clear to ride out of.

Never over ride your own or your motorcycle's limits.

Never be over confident.

Always wear leather gloves and safety glasses or face shield.

If (heaven forbid) you lose control of your motorcycle while halted and it begins to fall over, don't attempt to hold it up when it goes past center. It's better to hurt your machine than yourself.

Roadway Surface

Always look for grease, oil, water, sand, etc. on the roadway.

Avoid center of lanes particularly at intersections and left turn pockets because of oil and water accumulation, no avenue of escape if in center of lane, and more possibility of being rear ended.

Keep off lane lines as they are frequently made from rubber based paint and are slippery.

Avoid parking where vehicles have left oil/grease deposits.

If you encounter an object on the roadway that you cannot avoid, straighten the motorcycle up. Attempt to go over the object at a 90 degree angle and accelerate.

Braking

When following another, ride where you can see the driver in his rear view mirrors.

Practice using both hand and foot brake even though the “WINGS” are equipped with an integrated braking system. 70% of your stopping power is in your front brake.

Avoid braking sharply during turning movements.

In case of a flat, decelerate gradually. Avoid heavy braking and always clear the lane.

When forced to brake hard, always keep the front wheel straight. If the rear tire locks and begins to slide, don't release your foot brake. Your rear wheel will follow your front wheel; however, if you release your rear brake and the rear wheel is off center, your motorcycle will attempt to correct itself and will probably “high side” you.

Lane changing and passing

Use your mirrors consistently but never rely on them. Glance over your shoulder to confirm what you think your mirrors show you.

After making your lane change, always resume the same position you occupy in the group. The same rule applies when you are passing.

Curves

Slow down prior to entering the curve or turn.

Enter the curve on its outside staying within your lane. Then move into the center to allow room for correction if speed is too great or radius is misjudged. Be sure of the roadway's surface.

When not familiar with the road, Slow Down. Excessive speed and driver's error are leading causes of motorcycle accidents.

Intersections

When approaching one and if you observe a vehicle facing toward you and attempting to turn left, assume that driver does not see you and will turn directly into your path. Watch its front wheels even if the vehicle is halted. If the wheels start turning in your direction-Watch Out!

**I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE GWRRA RIDER
EDUCATION PROGRAM BUT WHERE DO I FIND**

OUT MORE?

GWRRA's Rider Education Program (REP) has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate, showing the commitment of Association members to be among the safest, best prepared highway users in the nation. For a complete understanding of the requirements for qualification at each level, contact your Chapter Educator. Sign-up forms are published periodically in *Wing World*.

Closing

We hope the information contained in this book has answered some, if not all of your questions. We hope you join us and enjoy the "FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE."

Websites:

National: <http://www.gwrra.org>

District: <http://www.mogwrra.mogwrra.org>

HAPPY AND SAFE RIDING

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Blood Type: _____ DOB _____ WT: _____

Medic Alert: _____ Drug Allergy _____

Allergies: _____

Medication: _____

Doctor: _____

Doctor's Phone _____

ORGAN DONOR Yes No LIVING WILL Yes No

Medical Insurance: _____

Client ID#: _____ Plan # _____

1st contact Religious Spouse Family Friend

Name: _____

Phone: _____

2nd contact Religious Spouse Family Friend

Name: _____

Phone: _____

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSISTANCE: 1-800-843-9460

GWRRA Membership Number: _____

CHAPTER PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION FORMName
_____Co-Rider's Name _____Children's names (if applicable) _____
_____Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____Home Telephone number _____ Work Number _____Cell phone number _____email address _____Rider's Birth date _____ Co-Rider's Birth date _____Anniversary _____