

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



CHAPTER PARTICIPANT'S HANDBOOK

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Introduction

This Chapter participants' handbook has been prepared to help the new or potential GWRRA participants become acquainted with GWRRA and Chapter operations. Even the seasoned GWRRA member should find something of interest here. Getting involved in GWRRA and Chapter activities will bring you to the "heart" of the Chapter.

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

What is the Chapter all about?

Making Friends.

Riding our Gold Wings with our Friends.

Promoting safe riding, to enhance our Motorcycle experience.

Learning skills and safety techniques for riding.

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 the 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, as a local Chapter is one of the main benefits of belonging to our international association. 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.

Where are the current Minnesota Chapters located?

Chapter C	St. Peter
Chapter G	Northeast Twin Cities
Chapter I	Hibbing
Chapter K	Rochester
Chapter L	Luverne
Chapter N	South Twin Cities
Chapter O	North Twin Cities
Chapter Q	Northwest Twin Cities
Chapter R	Austin
Chapter S	Owatonna

For more complete information on staff, telephone numbers, ride point locations and meeting places please refer to your Minnesota Journal under the specific chapter page.

What are the different classes of membership in GWRRA?

An "Individual Membership" is the owner/operator of a Gold Wing or Valkyrie motorcycle. A "Family Membership" includes the spouse and/or dependents living in the same household. For non-Gold Wing/Valkyrie owners we have the Individual Associate Membership and the Family Associate Membership.

What do I receive for my membership?

A new member kit includes: 12 issues of *Wing World* Magazine, Decals, Association Pin, Patch, Membership Card, *Gold Book* Directory, Courtesy Cards and **Towbuster** Roadside Assistance for two motorcycles. The Associate membership includes: 12 issues of *Wing World* magazine, Associate Rocker Patch, Membership Card and Towbuster Roadside Assistance for two motorcycles.

What is the staffing structure in GWRRA?

All officers are appointed. There is no voting or elections held in GWRRA. The chain of command goes as follows:

Executive Director
Regional Director
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 Chapter participants in reaching decisions regarding Chapter activities.

Where is the GWRRA Internet Home Page?

For those Members who enjoy computers and using the Internet, there is a GWRRA Home Page you can access at "<http://www.gwrra.org>." A few of the services available from the Home Page are general information about GWRRA and upcoming events, such as Wing Ding, ability to address questions directly to the National Staff, access to Members' classified ads, as well as on-line ordering from the GWRRA Warehouse.

The Minnesota District Home Page is located at: <http://www.mngwrra.org/>

Our Chapter Q web page is located at: <http://r-hyde.home.comcast.net/chapterQ.htm>

How do I get the Minnesota GWRRA Journal?

As a member you will automatically be added to the mailing list. If you are a new member and want to expedite the process give your chapter director your name, address, membership number and expiration date. A yearly chapter activity calendar can be obtained from your chapter director or assistant chapter director.

What is the "Gold Book"?

The Gold Book is the exclusive GWRRA service directory, which lists GWRRA members' names, phone numbers and what they can share with you: help, information, tools, lodging, trip assistance, camping space and, of course fellowship. 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!

You receive an updated Gold Book annually. Associate memberships do not receive the Gold Book as part of their membership.

What is the Towbuster Program?

GWRRA in association with Nation Safe Drivers offers its Towbuster emergency roadside assistance program. As a paid Member, up to two of your motorcycles are automatically included under the Towbuster program. Additional coverage is available for all of your other motorcycles, motorcycle trailers (\$5.00) and even your vehicles. You can even pass the benefit on to a friend or family member. You must register with Towbuster to participate in this free program. An application form is on the back of your membership form or in *Wing World* magazine.

What are they talking about?

50/50 Tickets

As part of helping 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.

Evening Rides

Once a week (weather permitting) we have a ride set up. These rides always leave from a designated "staging" location or ride point. The time of departure varies, so make sure to read the Minnesota Journal, check our web page or ask the Chapter Director who will be more than happy to fill you in. A ride will not start if it is raining.

Week-end Rides

The Chapter tries to schedule a full day ride at least once a month. 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 late afternoon or early evening. Sometimes overnights might be a factor for a longer trip. All these are discussed with the Chapter so be ready with your input.

Get Together's/Socials

Once a month instead of our weekly ride we will have a "Get-Together". This Get-Together can include speakers, videos, ride schedule planning and safety information, and of course a meal with plenty of socializing. These Get-Togethers are not business meetings. GWRRA does not operate in a "club" format. There is 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 that are of interest to the chapter participants.

Ride Requirements

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association's Chapter Educator would like to stress the importance of wearing a helmet and other appropriate riding apparel. However, what you wear is your choice. See also "How do I ride in a Group" section of this handbook.

What are all those pins on people's vests?

Those are "ride" or "event" pins. The pins are basically souvenirs that are fun to look back on for the memories each represents. Hint: lots of pins = that "old hand" you may want to ask questions of!

Do I have to buy a vest?

No you don't. Vests are optional for participants. Many wear vests to display the GWRRA logo and their many pins and awards. Chapter officers are required to wear the 10" GWRRA backpatch. Chapter patches, the 10" GWRRA logo and other patches can be purchased from your Chapter Director.

Do I have to do anything while I am a participant?

Yes, learn and have as much FUN as you can! That's why this association and Chapters exist: FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE!

What is a District Rally?

Individual states or districts may have a two or three day event for 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 videos, 50/50's, motorcycle light show, and much more is available at the rally. District rallies are usually held annually and located in different areas around the district.

What's Wing Ding?

This is our National Rally put on for all Gold Wing Road Riders Association members. 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 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 basically, we sign-in, get a set of directions to a "check point". When we arrive at the first "check point" we'll draw a playing card. Then we will continue 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.

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.

When do I use my CB for communication?

We use a predetermined CB channel for communicating directions, turns, lane changes and other pertinent traffic dangers to the group. Limiting idle chatter is particularly critical during departures and arrivals. For lane changes on multiple lane highways we refer to lane 1 as the far left lane and progress to the right with lanes 2, 3, etc., not counting turning lanes.

Ask the Chapter Director what CB channel the Chapter uses. (Channel 1 is the GWRRA established channel nationally.)

What do you use the Chapter money for?

The Chapter Director uses the Chapter funds to cover operating expenses of the Chapter. These expenses include the cost of 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.

What is the Couple of the Year (COY) Program?

The COY program was started in 1988 as a way to recognize Members by selecting a couple that represents the best qualities and ideals of GWRRA and its Members. The program starts at the Chapter level with "Chapter COY", and then through a friendly "competition" process, COYs at the District, Region and National levels are selected and recognized. These COYs normally serve for one year. At the National level, the term "International COY" is used because the competition at that level includes Region COYs from both U.S. and Canada.

How do I ride in a Group?

1. Arrive with a full tank of gas.
2. 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.
3. When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, all bikes pull up, two abreast, directly behind the bike they were following.
4. 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.
5. Allow a minimum of two or three second's stopping distance between following bikes, one or two second stopping distance between staggered bikes. Do not allow too much space to develop between bikes, however.
6. Don't just follow. Be sure to check the traffic before lane changes or other maneuvers.
7. If someone in your 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.
8. 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.

9. Groups should have a leader and rear tail equipped with CB radios when possible. The lead bike leads the group; the tail bike controls the group. Expect ride suggestions from the tail gunner and accept suggestions to improve the groups' riding performance.

10. All riders and co-riders should wear proper riding apparel.

11. Relax and enjoy the ride, and remember, getting there is the fun.

Rider Education Program Information

I've heard about the GWRRA Rider Education Program but what are the requirements to qualify for and renew each level?

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. The following is an overview of the four levels in the REP, condensed from the Rider Education Handbook now in use in GWRRA. 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" and are available on our web page.

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL I: SAFETY BY COMMITMENT

Rider Requirements: Express your commitment to being a safe rider and submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Co-Rider Requirements: Express your commitment to being a safe rider and submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Insignia: "Safe Miles" patch, Rider or Co-Rider rocker, safe miles pin, safe miles rocker at 100,000 miles.

Renewal: No renewal necessary for paid-up GWRRA Member.

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL II: SAFETY BY EDUCATION

Rider Requirements: Maintain Level I REP membership; have a current motorcycle license endorsement (if required by your state), have completed an MSF rider course within the past two years; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Co-Rider Requirements: Maintain Level I REP membership; have completed an MSF rider course within the past two years or have attended a GWRRA Co-Rider seminar within the past two years; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Insignia: Rider (Co-Rider) Education "triangle" patch.

Renewal: Annual renewal necessary on January 1st.

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM LEVEL III: SAFETY BY PREPAREDNESS

Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I & II REP membership; maintain current first aid or CPR certifications (first aid certification period is normally three years, CPR certification is normally two years); wear protective clothing while riding; carry a first aid kit on the 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; wear protective clothing while riding; ride with a Level III Certified Tour Rider; submit form verified by a GWRRA officer.

Insignia: Certified Tour Rider or Certified Co-Rider rocker.

Renewal: Annual renewal necessary on January 1st.

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

Rider Requirements: Maintain current I, II, & 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 (first aid certification period is normally three years, CPR certification is normally two years); have completed an MSF rider course within two years; submit a recommendation from an officer.

Co-Rider Requirements: Maintain current Level I, II & 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 or GWRRA Co-Rider seminar within two years; submit a recommendation from an officer.

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

Initial Fee: \$35. Renewal Fee: \$10.

Renewal: Annual renewal necessary January 1st.

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.

Insignia: Mileage Award pin with successive hangers for additional 50,000-mile incremental mileage.

Renewal: None required.

