

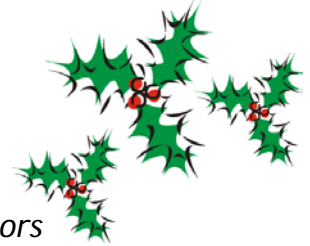


Connecting Colorado

December 2016

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Region F, Colorado District, www.coloradogwrra.com



The Past Year of 2016

By Jim & Barb Griffin, District Directors

December is upon us and as I write this, Mother Nature is doing her best to get me in the spirit of the holiday season- snow and bitter cold! "Ole' Red" is snuggled up in the garage with her festive electrical trickle cocktail. As I ponder the fragility that comes inevitably with age, my thoughts drift back over this past year, 2016. I fondly remember our trips (two and four wheeled) throughout Colorado...New Mexico...Arizona...Utah...Nevada...and California. Wonderful rallies...all!! Barb and I had fun representing you as we travelled and had fun at all these rallies. We definitely put a couple of miles on the Gold Wing and quadracycle to share good times with all our GWRRR friends. I drift to times further past, too! (After all, doing the obligatory bio piece is a necessary and expected requirement for your new District Directors! Therefore, don't expect a short article.)

I'm glad that I found that 1978 Gold Wing in Phoenix so long ago. I'm glad because it started a journey that I hope won't end anytime soon. The Vetter fairing and the luggage rack were my luxuries as I commuted to and from work and to places around AZ. I loved the three gauges on what I didn't know at that time was a false gas tank. I still remember pulling up to a stoplight in late May, 1987, and feeling my boots sink into the asphalt on Grand Avenue! Whoooooee, it was hot! There also was that certain audible sizzle and momentary wince when throwing the leg over the seat to

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head home on a sunny, hot day... I don't miss that at all! Then, there was a quick sale because we suddenly have three kids to move to Denver to a new job in a very short period. I had to have some cash for a red Ford station wagon.... three kids, remember? I really didn't realize yet what kind of motorcycle I had sold. It had two wheels and got me from here to there and back. During this life phase, Barb and I had no clue that there was a GWRRA, even though we lived within ten miles of its headquarters! We end the '80's, with a new job and in a new place, Littleton, but no motorcycle!

Let's pass the 90's quickly-no motorcycle-just other fun like work and family. Finally, the career is established in the new century. The house has been bought; the kids have grown and moved on. Suddenly, I am seeing motorcycles everywhere on the road, parked on the street, in yards and open garages in the neighborhood, in magazines and on television. Two wheels of any kind would get my heart thumping! Barb got so tired of me pointing out every single scoot. She knew what was coming. "Hey, there's a sale at Sun Honda! Let's go." I thought that I'd start small, maybe a 750cc. (A little of the back story-I had a dressed out for touring, red CB 750K2 back in the early '70s. The Vetter half fairing, CB radio and super bags made it happen for me. I put thousands of miles on that scoot. That bike took me and my Army issue from White Sands Missile Range to California and back for a long temporary duty assignment. Ahhh, to remember the joys of LA freeways on Friday afternoon on my weekend trips from Ft. Hunter-Liggett to El Cajon virtually every weekend.)

As we looked around the showroom, I thought, "Wow, there's some beautiful bikes being made now! You want WHAT for a 750?! What about that black bike silhouetted over there by the window?" The salesman said

something like, "It's a black 1998 GL1500 Gold Wing...a corporate bike...one with every option for that year on it...." My reply was a not so cautious, "What're you asking?" as I had already had made my mind up-that's a beautiful bike and it's going to be mine! It turns out the price was substantially lower than the new 750s! I really don't think whatever he said would have mattered at that point, it was sold on first sight! "Do the paperwork!" I bought a helmet and gloves to get home-all the gear, all the time (ATTGATT), even back then. After a short instruction on all the new stuff added since my first Gold Wing twenty years earlier, it was time to get this beast from Sun Honda to home. I remember it like it was yesterday! (Get the visual-a big boy on a BIG bike...) Down I-25 on a bright, hot Friday afternoon at 3 PM to home I went with Barb following as traffic would allow. My head was on a swivel and a whole lot of folks probably were saying under their breath, "Who's the idiot on the motorcycle doing the speed limit?!" Undoubtedly, a few other expletives were deleted! From that time on there was a lot of love lavished on "Black Beauty," my re-entry ride.

Barb and I were introduced to a new group, called the "Gold Wing Road Riders Association" by the Sun Honda salesman. Searches on the internet showed a couple of chapters relatively close by. We had fun exploring these new things called "Chapters." We felt drawn to Chapter J and Chinese food, but, geographically, we're assigned to Chapter A. Soon, boy-son has volunteered to be the biggest Rider Educator in Colorado! The re-entry was complete and many miles accumulated until that fateful day east of Fallon, Nevada. Enter "Mr. Flat Tire" at speed on Highway 50, "The Loneliest Road in the US." (By the way, yes, the tires were checked daily.) Thanking God, that it was not

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so lonely that day, as we were being followed by a pair of out of work EMT's-just a coincidence. A long, painful story made short: "Black Beauty" was history and the settlement fair.

They say when you get bucked off, get right back on. Well, after we returned home from Reno and the ribs recovered (me) and concussion (Barb) healed up. ATGATT always! The search for a "new" scooter began in earnest. We found a 1999 GL1500 red Aspencade with matching Escalade trailer for slightly more than the settlement. Done deal! We're riding again. This time we're ready to travel in style-we've got a trailer. "Ole' Red" saw us through many, many miles and so many fun locations...many sun burns and that tell-tale weird helmet tan. Having one Honda wasn't enough this time around. I fell in love with the flat six in a cruiser-my black 1998 Valkyrie Tourer. Should have bought the Interstate, but I was in a hurry to ride that day! The "Valk" became my commuter. "Ole Red" was the tripper. Many happy miles rolled by...

Darn Honda! They introduce the GL1800! I manage to resist until I see a red 2008. We sell what we have to and clear the garage. This time I go the luxury route and have the new "Ole' Red" delivered with all of six miles on it. That day was a proud day in the neighborhood! We got more involved with GWRRA as Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinators (MECs) and rediscovered the joy of service. Then, when Kraig and Linda White stepped down, we thought, "We can do this!" and took the plunge by becoming Chapter A Directors. Thanks to Tracy and Bill Wills for releasing us as MECs. We were Chapter Educators again for a short time. Thank you, Dave and Rena Michael for stepping up. Volunteers make GWRRA happen! Somewhere in all this time, Barb and I complete tours in Kuwait (me), Iraq, and Afghanistan as Department of Defense civilians, supporting

our troops. Our Troops are the greatest folks on earth-right up there with Gold Wingers! Retirement came and went for both of us. As most may have noticed, we have shared our affinity for Gold Wingers with our family!

With the recruitment of our previous District Directors, Andy and Sherry Smith, to Region service, Barb and I volunteered to be your Colorado District Directors. We've passed the Chapter A Director torch to Ron and Deann Fagler with great confidence and great appreciation. As we said last month, the Director's mantle is being passed from Andy and Sherry to us. I am so grateful to have the benefit of their experience and that of so many others as they begin to serve Region F.

I look across the room and think about a ton of maps, brochures and old ride books sitting in the plastic boxes just a few steps away. While my mind drifts to all the Region and District Rallies we enjoyed in 2016, I remember all the friends, the smiles, the hugs, the good food (ice cream) and wonderful sights we have seen this year-such fond memories! Yes, I smile at the past adventures. But, I realize that you can't just focus on what's past without looking forward. My heart looks to 2017, a NEW year. I start to get excited for what it will bring. The smile can't help but get even bigger as I begin to finalize our calendar of trips to attend gatherings across our fantastic state and rallies around this big, beautiful country.

Well, December is here with all its many holidays. Good food, good people and so many surprises! Please enjoy them all-safely. Make some memories with your family and your friends. Peace and safe miles to all from the other big fella on Ole' Red! Merry Christmas and a Happy Gold Wing New Year!

Ho, Ho, Ho!





Holiday Doping and Driving

By Nick Hoppner, Assist. District Director/MAD Coord. - West

Those of us motorcyclists who live in states where the sale and consumption of medical and recreational marijuana have been decriminalized realize that our safety on the highways has been doubly compromised. With that in mind, let me share here an article I found on the Internet, presented by an outfit calling itself “Leaf Science.” The website purports to take an objective position regarding use of the drug. Forgive me if I detect a positive editorial slant in the words below. Nevertheless, as much can be learned from reading between the lines of the following article as can be absorbed from the article itself. Read on, realizing that especially during the holidays when partying is widespread, you can never know just how impaired the driver of those oncoming headlights just might be.

[Be aware, this writer’s snarky comments are inserted in brackets!]

“...what effect does marijuana actually have...”

With more and more states legalizing marijuana, it’s time to take a hard look at driving while under the influence. Some states have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Others have passed laws allowing for limited use of medical marijuana. Still other states have laws that are even broader, such as Colorado and Washington. So how do these cannabis laws come into play when you’re driving under the influence? And, what effect does marijuana actually have on your driving skills? Get to know the laws in your state and, more importantly, understand how marijuana affects your ability to drive.

1. Marijuana slows your reaction time and ability to make decisions. Marijuana affects the part of the brain that controls body movement, balance and coordination. THC is also known to impair judgment and memory. Studies show that driving while under the influence of marijuana negatively impacts attentiveness, perception of time and speed. What’s more, your ability to draw from past driving experiences is compromised when you smoke weed. On the other hand, research suggests that THC causes more impairment in occasional users than it does for people who smoke regularly. Experts believe this may be due to the tolerance that frequent users of cannabis often develop. [That’s so encouraging! We’d all be safer if daily tokers were bus drivers instead of those silly first-timers!]

2. The higher you are, the more risks you take while driving. Studies show that drivers who smoke only a small amount of weed can feel the effects and often rate themselves as impaired — even when they’re not. In fact, research suggests that people with only a small amount of THC in their blood tend to be safer and more cautious



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drivers. For example, in simulated driving tests, they drive slower than they normally would and are less likely to overtake another vehicle. They also tend to allow for more space between their vehicle and others. [Let's see—impaired perception of time and speed as mentioned above equals improved driving?!] But driving high can still be dangerous. Problems seem to arise when larger doses of THC are present in the blood. These drivers tend to weave in and out of lanes more, react slower to traffic lights and unexpected obstacles and are less aware of their speed. Overall, studies have concluded that higher doses of marijuana tend to cause greater impairment when it comes to driving. [It took a study to confirm this?!]

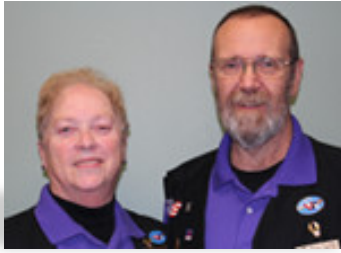
3. The effect of marijuana is strongest during the first hour. Research suggests that people who drive immediately after using marijuana may double their risk of getting into an accident. This is because the effects of THC on driving are strongest during the first hour. On the other hand, studies show that people who smoke a single joint of marijuana may be okay to drive 2-3 hours later. [Note the use of the indefinite verb "may" which also implies "maybe not."] But it's important to note that THC remains in the blood even after its effects have worn off. In addition, people will often metabolize THC at different rates, which means some may feel the effects for up to five hours later. In fact, people who only smoke weed occasionally can have traces of THC in their blood for up to seven days. Typically, law enforcement officers collect blood 90 minutes after an arrest and 3-4 hours after an accident. [Lucky you if you metabolize slowly. You'll fumble with your shoe laces for a week. 'Ossifer, can you tie my shoes for me?]

4. Drivers can be tested for THC after being pulled over. Just like drunk driving, driving under the influence of drugs is a crime — even if your impairment happened due to prescribed drugs such as medical marijuana. In the United States, law enforcement officers are trained to recognize signs of

driving under the influence of marijuana through bloodshot eyes and increased nervousness. To measure levels of THC, states conduct chemical screening tests by collecting blood, urine, and/or saliva. In Canada, the police use a standard sobriety test for marijuana that includes looking at a driver's eyes and asking the person to walk, turn and stand on one leg. Recently, police have been testing saliva-based roadside devices on suspected drug-impaired drivers. Two other devices, developed in Canada, test THC levels on a driver's breath, similar to a breathalyzer. But neither device has been adopted by law enforcement yet. Some states, such as Colorado and Washington, have established a legal limit for THC of 5 ng/ml. Other states are waiting for research that better defines THC and driving impairment before establishing a testing protocol. [Care to lose your driver's license by betting the judge won't believe the arresting officer can recognize your case of the giggles?]

5. Combining alcohol and marijuana is even more dangerous. Still, marijuana is the second most common drug used with alcohol. So, it's important to be aware of how dangerous this combination can be when driving. Alcohol is a depressant. It works by slowing down the central nervous system, which means that normal brain functions are delayed. It also impairs hand-eye coordination and how you process information. Now, combine those effects with the effects of THC and you get a recipe for disaster. Indeed, studies show that drivers who take alcohol and marijuana together experience greater impairment than drivers who use either substance on its own.

[My final observation: Let's face it—the availability of marijuana is widespread, and public opinion minimizes or denies its potential to sabotage motorists' abilities to drive safely. Might just be a darn good reason to stay off the streets and highways this New Year's Eve.]



We are New to This Job

By Fred & Linda Fisher, Assistant District Directors

Greetings from your newly appointed Assistant District Directors. Although we are not new to GWRRA, we are new to this job. We are finding our way around the District system and hope to carry over some of our experience of serving many years as Chapter Directors of Chapter L.

At the time of this writing, we don't have any specific duties as assistants laid out, but we will do whatever we can do to help Jim & Barb serve the District.

We would like you to know that you can feel free to ask for our help, and we will try to answer any questions you might have. If we don't have an answer, we will find you one.

I also want to remind all the Colorado Chapters that as the District Chapter of the Year Coordinator, I need your submissions turned into me by the January District meeting. I believe meeting is scheduled for January 28th.

We have a host of District-wide events planned for 2017 and look forward to seeing you throughout the year. I will put a plug in for the District-wide event in which I am involved. On Saturday, June 24, we will be doing a group ride up to Copper Mountain and a chairlift ride to the top of the mountain for lunch. We will be sharing all these District events with your Chapter Directors to add to your calendars.

Ride Safe.... Always!

"...Chapter of the Year...submissions...by the January District meeting..."





From the District Educators' Desk

By Mike & Dorie Werner, District Rider Educators

We will cover three topics this month: Stopping on Highway Shoulders, Winter Preparedness, and Medic First Aid/CPR



Stopping on Highway Shoulders

If at all possible avoid doing this. There is a severe risk involved; we bring ourselves and others an increased exposure to a crash. If you HAVE to stop on the shoulder, avoid parking on curves or on the downside of the road just over the crest. Also, if the shoulder is gravel, watch out for soft and/or rough gravel. If you must park on the shoulder of the road, get over as far as possible. Turn on your flashers, or at night, leave your lights on. Always walk on the shoulder side of your vehicle. Always face oncoming traffic, as you never know what they will do. If you have reflective clothing put it on, this will make you more visible. Always be careful when exiting the vehicle as some drivers will not move over to give you room.

Winter Preparedness (In our cars)



We as drivers understand that a lack of prep before we venture out can make the difference between a good trip and a bad one. Never is that more true than in the winter. From checking the tires for enough tread, the condition of the wiper blades and making sure the wiper fluid is full. The better we prepare, the safer the journey. Snow, ice and other adverse conditions are known for creating delays. We must be prepared for them.

Here are some simple travel tips to protect against winter hazards:

- Get plenty of rest. Don't let fatigue be a distraction
 - Plan your route and check weather conditions from start to end
 - Plan extra supplies, such as extra water and juices
 - Pack some food snacks, fruit, nuts, chips
 - Pack extra clothing such as sweaters, socks, jackets, hats, gloves and good winter boots or shoes
 - Have a blanket
 - Pack tools: small shovel, window scraper, kitty litter (for traction)
 - Have emergency equipment; flashlight, extra batteries, first aid kit
- While this list is not all inclusive, it can help if the need arises.

Please see Rider Ed on page 8

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Medic First Aid/CPR

The Medic First Aid/CPR program has recently undergone changes in order to integrate the American Heart Association's 2015 guidelines (science and treatment recommendations). The program that GWRRA uses has incorporated these new revised guidelines. So, what does this mean to you as a member? The next time that you take the MFA/CPR course through GWRRA, you will be learning from all new materials, including the student handbook and the educational DVD. See attached flyers for two classes that are already scheduled for 2017.

It is easy for us to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you, the Colorado District members, in 2016. We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years. May this Holiday Season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter.



**Safety Comes in Cans, I Can, You Can,
We All Can!!!**





Chapter Challenge

By Peter Keppler, Motorist Awareness Division - East

Our District and Region F Rider Educators, Mike and Dorie Werner, and new District Directors, Jim and Barb Griffin, have authorized the following Chapter Challenge for the Motorist Awareness Program.

- Each Chapter that hosts or presents a Motorist Awareness Presentation outside of GWRRA will receive a ticket in a drawing.
- At the end of the year, one ticket will be drawn.
- The winning ticket (Chapter) will have its charter fee paid by the Colorado District.

*"...Challenge starts
January 1, 2017..."*

Rules

- The Challenge starts January 1, 2017.
- Must notify Peter Keppler (303-870-7972 or petekeppler@aol.com) with the date and time of the planned event or presentation.
- Must have at least two Chapter members present for an event or presentation to a closed group (school class, Kiwanis, Lions Club, etc.).
- Must have at least four Chapter members present for a public event (car show, mall show, farmers market, county fair, etc.).
- Must send picture(s) of the event to Peter Keppler.

We hope this will encourage all Chapters to plan and organize MA presentations outside GWRRA to promote awareness among the driving public of motorcycles on the roads and highways. We need to go beyond "Preaching to the Choir" and get the word out to car drivers to watch for motorcycles and give them the same respect as other vehicles.

We understand changes are coming in the MA program, including new power point presentations. In the meantime, use the current presentations and brochures for your events. If you need more brochures or the current GWRRA MA power point presentations, contact me and I will get the materials to you.



Ride Like Your Life Depends on It!



New ITCP Training

By Bob & Jan Wills, District Trainers

Greetings Everyone,

In 2017, we will present the new ITCP training. The date has not been set yet, but watch your emails for it.

If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please go to GWRRA's website and then go to the Interim University page. There, you will find a link for ITCP training. After clicking that link, you will find a link to ITCP videos. Watch all four videos, and then go to the inquiry link and fill out the information which will go to Clara Boldt.

When you have filled out the inquiry link, please send Bob and me a note also at wingnjeep2@live.com. Then watch your email for a doodle from Clara to set up a time for your debrief.

Bob and I want to wish everyone a VERY **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

"...Send Bob and me a note also..."

Merry Christmas





COY/IOY Program is a Stepping Stone

By Rich & Linda Fuller, District COY/IOY Coordinators

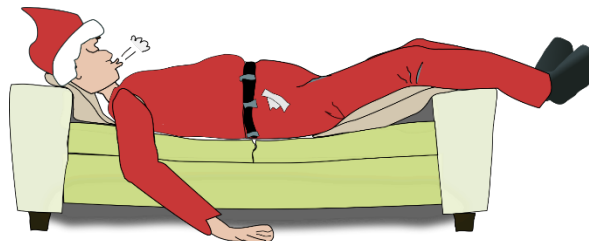
Christmas is only a few days away. OMG, Egads, Help, Oh No, and all the other expressions that go with not being ready! But it comes like an onrushing train regardless. And right on its heels is a new year and all the excitement of what is in store for Colorado in 2017.

We look forward to all the Chapters having selected their Couples and Individuals (hopefully by the time you read this) for the coming year. The COY/IOY Program has been a time-honored part of GWRRA for many years and it's amazing to see how many members have been a part of the program over the years. Many times, the program is a stepping stone on to other positions on the Chapter staff and above. One of the greatest thrills for us is to watch someone enter the program who may be a little shy or reserved, and then progress, come out of their shell, and suddenly become very outgoing and comfortable in their role. We have seen outstanding transformations that are so exciting.

When you are selected as your Chapter Couple or Individual for 2017, embrace your selection as an honor bestowed from your fellow Chapter members for your outstanding contributions to your Chapter. You are their representative for the coming year. Enjoy it to the utmost and be prepared to have a lot of fun.

From both of us, we wish a very **Merry Christmas** and **Happiest and Safe New Year** to all of you.

Whew!



*"...an honor bestowed
from you fellow
Chapter members..."*

District Calendar

Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Jan. 14, 2017: MFA/CPR training, Chapter I; see flyer

Jan. 28: District Officers' Meeting

Feb. 11, 2017: MAD/Co-Rider training, Chapter I; see flyer

Mar. 18, 2017: MFA/CPR training, Chapter G; see flyer

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Colorado District



Web: www.coloradogwrra.com

Colorado District Staff

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Jim & Barb Griffin

Assistant Directors

Nick & Ginny Hoppner

Fred & Linda Fisher

Treasurers/Store

Randall & Janet Drake

Rider Educators

Mike & Dorie Werner

Assistant Educator

Earl Edwards

Leadership Trainers

Bob & Jan Wills

Motorist Awareness-East

Peter Keppler

Motorist Awareness-West

Nick Hoppner

Membership Enhancement

Christine Howland

COY/IOY Coordinators

Rich & Linda Fuller

Chapter of the Year Coordinators

Fred & Linda Fisher

Webmasters

Jim & Janet Wohlford

Newsletter Editor

April Hansen-Keppler

Photographer

Donald Redline

2015-2016 Couple of the Year

Bryan & Emma Lape

2015-2016 Individual of the Year

Tom Houdek

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