



# Connecting Colorado

October 2017

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Region F, Colorado District, [www.coloradogwrra.com](http://www.coloradogwrra.com)



## Thanks to Jim and Barb

*By Bryan & Emma Lape, District Directors*

On behalf of the entire Colorado District Team and all our members throughout the District, we would like to thank Jim and Barb Griffin for all the time and commitment they gave to Colorado's members over the past year. The District Director's position requires dedication of time and effort to make it successful. Jim and Barb did a great job during their tenure, and we are grateful to them for everything they have done. We truly wish them the best as they move towards another chapter in their life as they become JAMs (Just Another Member). I'm sure it ain't gonna be a bad thing!

**Things Are a Changing.** Yesterday, Emma and I had the opportunity to get out on our bikes and take a nice ride. The sun was out, it was about 70 degrees as we headed east with little to no traffic. Many of the trees were actually changing colors down here so it was almost a perfect fall ride.

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Today, as I write, I am sitting inside looking out on our patio at six inches of snow with more falling! Welcome to Colorado, right? The only consoling part of this is that it will be back to the 70's in a couple of days and the opportunity to ride will once again be there. Change is good as it is an opportunity to move forward into another season!

Other changes that many of you are aware of are the changes happening to the organization structure within GWRRA. Effective January 1, 2018 all Regions, along with the Region positions, will be coming to an end as will some of the current programs.

As we are moving into the position of District Directors, this is a change for us

too. There are so many things changing right now, but that's a good thing! We just ask for a little grace and a lot of patience as we navigate our way ahead. We will all get through this together! While it's true that we thought we would simply be "JAMs" again as the Region MEC position came to an end, the reality is that we love this organization too much to sit quietly in the back and not pitch in to help when there is so much that needs to be done. We look forward to our new position and hope you will all join us in keeping it fun as we work our way through the changes ahead.

Be safe in your riding so you can go out and do it again!





## Leaf Peepers, Pumpkins and Wildlife

*By Nick Hoppner, Assistant District Director/  
Assistant Motorist Awareness Officer*

Those of us who preach the gospel of Motorist Awareness (and that should include all of us who ride motorcycles) should be aware of some of the added distractions our Sunday driving friends have during the lovely autumn season.

Those of us who live and ride where the seasons change from summer to autumn know about “Leaf Peepers.” These are the folks who head up into the mountains to enjoy the brilliant color changes of the maples, aspens, cottonwoods, sumacs, elms, and wildflowers.

Because these motorists’ attention is diverted to the gorgeous scenery, their full attention is less on their driving and more on the beauty surrounding them. Not only do they meander, allowing their vehicles’ speed to vary whenever a breathtaking vista appears, but they may also stray across the centerline or abruptly brake and pull off the road to capture a photographic opportunity.

Adding to the drivers’ distractions are the other occupants of the vehicle oo-ing and ah-ing at the colors they see and redirecting the driver’s attention: “Look over there to your left, John! Aren’t those colors gorgeous?”

Then there are the local produce shoppers whose enthusiasm for freshly harvested fruits and vegetables overwhelm their attention to their surroundings. Who hasn’t encountered a roadside farm produce stand with cars parked higgledy-piggledy along the roadside or partially pulled into a dirt or gravel parking lot. As Halloween approaches, fields full of pumpkins become as attractive as yard sales.

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*“...there are more than 1.5 million deer/vehicle crashes in the U.S. each year...”*

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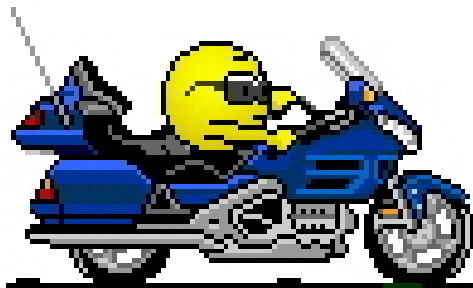
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And what would autumn be without the increased activity of deer, elk, moose, bears, and other animals? According to the Institute of Highway Safety, there are more than 1.5 million deer/vehicle crashes across the U.S. each year, accounting for 150 human deaths and tens of thousands of injuries. Fall is mating season for deer and elk. Males pursue mates more aggressively and single-mindedly with little heed of traffic. Add to this the pressure of hunting season and the end of daylight savings time exposing more vehicles to dawn and dusk driving, and the risk of collisions with animals increases

dramatically.

What does any of this have to do with us motorcyclists helping motorists to be more aware of our presence on the highways? Obviously, our risks escalate whenever drivers change their speed or direction abruptly. As autumn settles across the land, so does the potential for distracted driving and increased risk.

Share what you know about the risks of autumn. Let's all be alert and get home safely.






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*“...protect the parts of your body you wish to use...”*

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## Cold Weather Riding

*By Earl Edwards, District Rider Educator*

The colder months are coming soon and if you ride during the winter, you should be ready for a brisk weather change. To plan for a ride in frigid conditions, it's important to understand how your body deals with cold. The prime directive of your body's warmth-management system is to protect the brain and other vital organs. It will, therefore, direct warmth to those areas at the expense of other less critical parts, notably the extremities. If your hands and feet start to get cold, it may be because your body is using its resources to heat the more important components. On the other hand, if you make sure your head and torso are protected from wind and well-warmed, your hands are likely to stay warm with fewer layers. A wind-chill chart, such as this one from Cycle Fish, can give you some idea of what you are up against. You can see how dramatically the air moving over your skin sucks away your body's warmth. Therefore, you should make busting the breeze a prime consideration.

### **MOTORCYCLE WIND CHILL CHART**

Riding Speed (mph)	Air Temperature (°f)									
	15°	20°	25°	30°	35°	40°	45°	50°	55°	60°
25	-4°	3°	9°	16°	23°	29°	36°	43°	49°	56°
30	-5°	1°	8°	15°	22°	28°	35°	42°	49°	56°
35	-7°	0°	7°	14°	21°	28°	35°	41°	48°	55°
40	-8°	-1°	6°	13°	20°	27°	34°	41°	48°	55°
45	-9°	-2°	5°	12°	19°	26°	33°	40°	47°	54°
50	-10°	-3°	4°	12°	19°	26°	33°	40°	47°	54°
55	-11°	-3°	4°	11°	18°	25°	32°	40°	47°	54°
60	-11°	-4°	3°	10°	17°	25°	32°	39°	46°	54°
65	-12°	-5°	2°	10°	17°	24°	32°	39°	46°	53°
70	-13°	-6°	2°	9°	16°	24°	31°	38°	46°	53°
75	-13°	-6°	1°	9°	16°	23°	31°	38°	46°	53°
80	-14°	-7°	1°	8°	16°	23°	30°	38°	45°	53°
85	-15°	-7°	0°	8°	15°	23°	30°	38°	45°	52°



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**What Is the Coldest Wind Chill ever recorded?** According to WikiAnswers, the coldest wind chill ever recorded on earth was -192 degrees Fahrenheit at a remote weather station in Vostok, Antarctica in 2005. The high temperature that day was -99 degrees, and wind gusts reached up to 113 MPH, resulting in the -192-degree wind chill. Try riding a motorcycle in that!

**Get Layered.** Layering will keep you insulated and warm. Start with a light base layer that's breathable; microfiber is a good choice. Your base layer should trap warm air next to your skin and wick away sweat. Make sure your top layer is made of tough, windproof material, such as leather or nylon. Be sure layering clothing hasn't restricted the movement you need to ride safely.

**Trap Body Heat.** Keeping your hands and head warm is crucial; most body heat escapes there. To seal the gap between jacket and gloves, invest in gauntlet-style gloves. Consider wearing a silk or microfiber layer under your gloves as well. In addition, invest in a neck warmer or balaclava to prevent cold air from entering your helmet.

**Don't Get Foggy.** Visor fogging can cause hazardous visibility problems during cold

weather. Wear a half-mask inside your helmet over a windproof balaclava. This combo allows your breath to escape without causing condensation inside the visor.

**Don't Get Fooled.** Hypothermia is insidious. If you ignore early symptoms, like uncontrolled shivering and numb fingers or toes, slow reaction times or fuzzy thinking, you could get into trouble, fast. Wind chill adds to the danger, so make sure you stop frequently, enjoy a hot beverage and allow your body to warm up.

**Ride on Down Electric Avenue.** Longer trips often require additional protection, such as electric vests and gloves. These accessories use your bike's electrical system to provide heat. A vest, electric or regular, is essential to keeping the torso warm. A warm torso prevents frostbite by allowing the heart to focus on pumping blood to the hands and feet. The other is to buy the heated grip option available on many touring bikes.

Ride safely and only protect the parts of your body you wish to use for the rest of your life.







## Mitigating Motorcycle Crashes

By Peter Kepler, Motorist Awareness Program Officer

This article is abstracted from a guest column in the AMA *American Motorcyclist Magazine*, September 2017 issue, by Tyler Dodson, an airline pilot and instructor. Most of the points in Mr. Dodson's article apply to riders and what we can do to prevent or mitigate a crash, but much of the following also applies to drivers needing to be aware of motorcycles on the road.

In any crash, there exists a chain of evidence that can be used to reconstruct the events that led to the mishap. This evidence provides insights into how the chain could have been broken to prevent the crash. The NHTSA publishes statistics that provide interesting facts, such as: In 2014, 42 % of motorcycle crashes were single-vehicle incidents. As motorcycle riders, we must continue to learn, whether by reading articles, listening to other's experiences, watching a how-to on YouTube, trying something new or taking a riding (ARC) class. We constantly have to improve our riding techniques to achieve the highest levels of competence.

The most important skill a rider must learn is **situational awareness** - the recognition of all environmental, internal and external factors that affect a certain situation. (A key aspect of our GWRRA Motorist Awareness Program is conveying to the driving public that they must watch for and be aware of motorcycles on the road and show them the same respect as other vehicles.) After comprehending these factors, one must react appropriately for a desired

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*"... We all have a responsibility..."*

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outcome. Basically, you need to know what's going on around you so you can make the correct choice about what to do next. An obvious example is when riding at night, never out-ride your headlight. If your headlight only allows you to see 150 feet in front of you, and you're riding at 60 mph, what happens when you suddenly see an obstacle in the road? You're traveling at 88 feet per second and if it takes you one second to brake, you've used up over half of the available stopping distance. Can you stop in the 62 feet that's left? Thinking about that ahead of time and slowing your speed would be considered good situational awareness. (Same applies when driving your car.)

When the NTSB investigates aircraft crashes, more often than not, pilot error is listed as a primary cause. Likewise, whether a single-vehicle motorcycle crash or a multiple-vehicle crash, most incidents have the element of human error. You can plan for external factors and know your bike, but that means nothing if you're not in physical or mental shape to make good

decisions while riding. Pilots and riders, alike, should be "fit for flight." Illness, fatigue and alcohol consumption all affect thinking, performance and reaction time. Always insure you are ready to ride (or drive).

By learning how to recognize perceived threats and risks before they become real, and trapping and correcting errors, we mitigate the chances of an undesirable outcome. Maintaining good situational awareness, knowing your machines limits, and your own limits are the keys.

*As noted, the objective of the GWRRA Motorists Awareness Program is to make drivers more aware of motorcycles and "share the road" in a respectful manner. We all have a responsibility to ride (and drive) in a safe manner that respects the rights of all users. Stay focused and set a good example! And talk up motorist awareness every chance you get!*

**Ride Like Your Life Depends on It!**







## November 11

*By Paula Campbell, District MEC*

If you've had a chance to look at your November edition of *Wing World* magazine, you'll see the source for the subject of my article this month, one that is very near to my heart.

Veteran's Day was initially known as Armistice Day to recognize the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, the day that the armistice with Germany went into effect, signifying the end of World War I. In 1954 it became Veteran's Day in order to honor all those who have served, not just those from the first World War. I understand that technically this is to recognize those who are no longer serving, but I hope you'll allow me some latitude for this article.

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*"...be sure you let them know you appreciate them...."*

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Our son and son-in-law are active duty members of the US Air Force, and my husband Dave's brother and fellow GWRRA member, Dan, is serving in the US Army. Our youngest daughter served in the Army, Dave is a veteran of the Army, my own brother is a veteran of the Air Force. You can see why this means so much to me.

When Dave and I first became involved in GWRRA, we were impressed at the degree of respect shown anytime the flag was presented at an event. At Wing Ding 39 in Grapevine, TX this year, our veterans, active duty military, and first responders were asked to stand to be recognized. (By far not the first time we've seen this done at a GWRRA event, by the way.) It's always humbling to be surrounded by so very many of the people who make it their business to protect us.

When you're at a GWRRA function, whether it's a Chapter gathering or Wing Ding, it seems you don't have to look very far to find the veterans and first responders. I know that our own Chapter B is heavily seasoned with them. Next time you come across one of these fine people, be sure to let them know you appreciate them. I'll use this as my opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you.

District Calendar

Nov. 4: Chapter G Turkey  
Bingo, see flyer

Upcoming Rallies

Oct. 27-29: Arizona District  
Rally, Lake Havasu, AZ

Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
Colorado District



Web: [www.coloradogwrra.com](http://www.coloradogwrra.com)

Colorado District Staff

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Assistant Directors

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Fred & Linda Fisher

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Randall & Janet Drake

Rider Educator

Earl Edwards

Motorist Awareness Program Officer

Peter Keppler

Assistant Motorist Awareness Officer

Nick Hoppner

Membership Enhancement

Paula Campbell

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Jim & Janet Wohlford

Newsletter Editor

April Hansen-Keppler

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2017-2018 Couple of the Year

Dave & Paula Campbell

2017-2018 Individual of the Year

Jacques Perron

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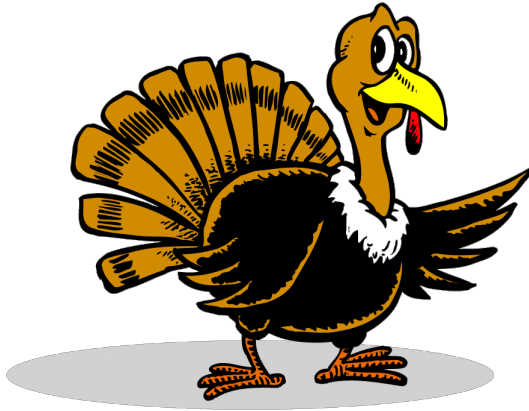


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# GWRRA CO-CHAPTER "G" FUNDRAISER



## TURKEY



**WHEN:** Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**TIME:** 11:00 am – 3:00 pm (eat at 12)

**WHERE:** Faith United Church of Christ  
1020 Walnut Street, Windsor, CO

**Directions:** Same place as previous years. Take I25 to exit 262, go east on Hwy 392 to Windsor (4 miles). After passing McDonald's and Bank of Colorado, take first or second driveway into the church parking lot.



Tickets: \$10.00 in advance,  
\$13.00 at the door

(Price includes meal and 1 BINGO Card per ticket)

Pot Luck Dinner: Chapter G will provide meat, potatoes, gravy, rolls, and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Faith United Church of Christ hosts the Weld County Food Bank. We encourage attendees to bring a food donation to help fill their shelves for the holidays. Canned goods, flour, sugar, coffee, frozen chickens, small frozen turkeys, cereals, etc., anything will help! *We will provide you with an additional BINGO Card for your generosity!*



50/50, Bake Sale,  
Silent Auction, and  
TURKEY BINGO!