



# Connecting Colorado

September 2017

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

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



## District Team is in Transition

*By Jim & Barb Griffin, District Directors*

The Colorado District leadership team is in transition. Those participating at the 2017 Colorado District Rally heard my announcement.

For the rest of you, who may not have heard the news, Barb and I are stepping down early. Many may remember my recent disclosure that I shared about a diagnosis of a "minor cognitive impairment." More simply put, I am having some memory problems. It's a very early stage of dementia, and it's progressive and irreversible. It manifests itself at unpredictable times: Dumb stuff, like forgetting the direction to a Chapter meeting (Think about entering a room and forgetting why you're there. It's that kind of feeling, but more often.) or being convinced that I've done something that I needed to do, but haven't done or vice versa.

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My neurologist was emphatic -- stress makes the condition worse and accelerates the process.

Barb and I discussed our options. It would not be fair to you, our beloved friends, to continue in a position of leadership. We made the decision to step down after discussing the situation with our Region F Directors, Andy & Sherry Smith. By the time you read this, we will be part of Colorado District history and a new District Director will be in place.

There are no words to convey the depth of our gratitude and appreciation to all those that came along beside us to make our District Rally a success and gave your support during our short tenure. You all have become a welcome and blessed part of our life. We'll still see you at Chapter meetings, but as a JAM -- "Just A Member!" Life rolls on; have fun and enjoy it all.





## Free Brochures – A Rally Benefit

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

Attending GWRRA rallies offers some of your best opportunities that rank-and-file members, as well as Chapter officers, to stock up on Motorist Awareness goodies.

At the Colorado District Rally held in Salida this year, I helped out our District Motorist Awareness Coordinator, Peter Keppler, by taking a turn at the Motorist Awareness table. Peter had a variety of GWRRA-produced brochures available for the taking, as well as a variety of “Start Seeing Motorcyclists” bumper stickers.

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*“...The importance  
of riding unimpaired  
by alcohol or other  
drugs...”*

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Seems to me that these are great items to give away when doing formal safety presentations to civic groups. They’re also good to have on hand at every regular Chapter meeting so that participants can keep a few in their Wing’s travel trunk. By being prepared to talk safety with the general public, all of us are equipped to act as Motorist Awareness spokesmen and women.

As is often the case, our Motorist Awareness table was positioned side-by-side with the Rider Education table that had lots of goodies to hand out. There were kick stand discs, key fobs, pens and patches, as well as a variety of other bumper stickers and brochures.

Among the brochures are two I found particularly useful. Both were produced by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). The first, *Quick Tips: Ten Things All Car and Truck Drivers Should Know About Motorcycles*, offers just enough information in its ten tips to get motorists thinking. For example:

### Tip Number Three

Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to

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judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.

Any of the ten Quick Tips could be used as the basis for a Motorist Awareness article in a Chapter or District newsletter. (You'll probably see me using them in the months ahead!)

The second of the two brochures I found helpful is called *Quick Tips: The Importance of Riding Unimpaired by Alcohol or Other Drugs*. In just a few paragraphs, this brochure counters the prevalent peer-pressure-driven biker mystique of "riding from bar to bar." In my opinion, there is probably no more pernicious attitude to spread among a group of motorcyclists than the "let's all drink some beers and go riding" culture favored by many bikers. Again, in my opinion, it's a culture that's way beyond stupid—it's borderline criminal.

Operating a motorcycle safely involves many more mental and physical decisions and actions than operating a car or truck. Even a little as 0.01 percent blood alcohol concentration (BAC) lessens a rider's judgment, reasoning, reaction times and alertness. Result: Having any alcohol in one's body increases the chance of crashing by five times!

To conclude this article, my recommendation for the month is: Take advantage of as many of the available freebie brochures as you can find. Grab them, read them, share them with others—both other riders and non-riders. Become alert to motorcycle related magazine and newspaper articles. Cut them out and save them to share.

We're all in this Motorist Awareness game together. We're all in the business of saving lives.





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*“...Autumn brings an increase in deer activity...”*

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## Fall Riding

*By Earl Edwards, District Rider Educator*

Fall is coming, the changing of the leaves, Oktoberfest, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. This reminds motorcyclists and motorists that wet leaves, fog, sun glare, and frost are a few driving hazards they will encounter this fall, but there are steps motorcyclists and motorists can take to help make their commutes safer.

As leaves begin to fall, wet leaves on the roadway can be as slippery as ice. They also can obscure traffic lines and other pavement markings, making driving in unfamiliar areas particularly difficult. Motorcyclists and motorists should slow down and use extra caution on leaf-covered roadways.

Other fall hazards for motorcyclists and motorists can be fog and sun glare. When driving in fog, motorcyclists and motorists should use low beam headlights since the high beam setting creates glare and reduces visibility. Headlights turned on enhances the visibility of your vehicle.

Sun glare can be most problematic during sunrise and sunset, which coincide with morning and evening rush hours. The intense glare from the sun on the horizon can blind a driver, causing an unexpected traffic slowdown. Drivers can prepare for the glare by wearing sunglasses.

Also, morning frost and icy spots on the road can cause problems as overnight temperatures drop toward freezing. Motorcyclists and motorists should pay particular attention

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to bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas on roadways where icy spots can form on the pavement.

#### Here are some tips for fall riding:

- Increase your following distance in severe weather, at dusk and dawn and when in an area with wet leaves. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.
- Check your motorcycle's headlights, taillights and turn signals to ensure they are working properly since darkness will be a part of many driver's morning and/or evening commutes. Make sure you turn on your headlights as the sunlight fades.

#### Fall Roadway Hazards Include Deer

Autumn brings an increase in deer activity, and drivers are reminded to watch carefully for deer darting across and along roadways.

#### Remember to:

- Slow down and use caution, particularly where deer crossing signs are posted and increase following distance between vehicle.
- Be especially watchful during morning and evening hours when wildlife is most active.
- Exercise caution when one deer crosses a roadway. Since deer often travel in small herds, one deer will usually be followed by others.

Be careful during the fall riding season in the mountains. Watch out for the frost and leaves on the road. Have a good ride and return home safe.





## Always Think and Be Aware

*By Peter Keppler, Motorist Awareness Program Officer*

Can we train ourselves and other drivers/riders to be more aware and responsive to various traffic situations? This is the main goal of the GWRRA Motorist Awareness Division - greater awareness and safety for all riders and drivers.

In order to achieve greater awareness and safety, all of us need to practice what we preach all the time. A good example is ATGATT: Riding with All The Gear All The Time. This is emphasized in all GWRRA training; every time we get on our bikes, we need to put on all the gear, from helmets to long sleeves and pants, to full finger gloves, and over the ankle footwear. We also are reminded to do the T-CLOCS inspections on our machines - tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis, and side stand. We should do a similar quick check when we get into our cars. Get in the right mind frame and focus on driving, not using the phone or programming the GPS or eating a sandwich.

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*“...think motorist awareness whenever we ride or drive...”*

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We all know a major cause of accidents today is distracted driving *and riding*. As our motorcycles now have more and more electronic devices and gadgets, we need to be mindful of keeping our attention focused on the task at hand. Riding a big touring bike or trike down the highway at 75 mph requires a high degree of mental focus and awareness. Responding to a phone call or trying to re-program a GPS can be deadly, even if it just takes a second. Taking our eyes off the road for a couple of

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seconds to look at a billboard or a scenic view can result in drifting out of our lane or something jumps in front of us that we hadn't seen. At that speed, we were moving at more than 80 feet per second and a lot can happen in that time and distance. As motorcycle riders and drivers, we constantly have to focus on our surroundings, traffic, road conditions, etc. and be prepared to react quickly to changing conditions.

When driving a car, most of us take a lot of things for granted. We become complacent and assume things will be as they were the day before when we drove to work or the store. We checked the tires and the oil last week and the car should run fine. No problem taking a phone call or sending a short text message; I know where I'm going and how the traffic will be today.

When you think about it, change is constant and nothing is exactly the same day after day. Driving takes

mental concentration and situation awareness all the time. Riding a motorcycle even more so.

So, let's all think motorist awareness whenever we drive or ride. As they say "Don't Text and Drive," and "It Can Wait." The same is true for taking or making a call, programming your GPS, and eating lunch while driving. Practice good, safe riding and driving habits all the time.

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!**





## An Eventful Couple of Weeks

*By Paula Campbell, District MEC*

Whew! What an eventful couple of weeks in late August, early September!

The Colorado District Rally was held in Salida August 23-25. The emphasis for this rally was on fun, and there was certainly a lot of that to be had. The theme this year was "Aloha," and we had a choice of three different colored Hawaiian shirts to choose from. The result was a happy sea of color.

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*"...Three programs are being discontinued at the International level..."*

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The tape measure race was great entertainment, even if you weren't an active participant. At one point, while high in the brackets, Nick Hoppner was asked what his secret was. He replied with a sly grin, "You just need a lot of luck."

The pineapple centerpiece challenge brought out the best creative talent in our Chapters. Of course, a big part of the challenge was in getting the centerpieces to the Rally intact. We had two Chapters brave enough to participate in the hula competition, and were they ever, well... entertaining. If you missed these dances, I'm pretty sure there are videos out there somewhere. The song "Tiny Bubbles" will bring back memories for a long time to come, and we now have a whole new way of looking at T-CLOCS!

Several of us went on to Grapevine, TX the following week for Wing Ding. Dave and I rode down by way of Lawton, OK to meet up with his brother and sister-in-law. They're new to GWRRA, having bought their first Gold Wing in May

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of this year. If you ever get a chance to experience the whole GWRRA family from a new person's point of view, it can be eye opening. This is as true in a Chapter gathering as it was for us at Wing Ding. It's always a good idea to occasionally step back and look at our group from a different perspective.

Some clarification was provided at Wing Ding regarding the structure reorganization from the Membership Enhancement Program perspective. The complete documentation will go to each Chapter Director, but there are two changes to take note of.

Three programs are being discontinued at the International level. These are Chapter of the Year, Newsletter of the Year, and MEC of

the Year. This doesn't mean that the programs can't be continued at the Chapter or District level, however. The International Couple of the Year Program will continue.

Nothing will change for Wing Ding 40, next year, but after that we will have Division Couples from the following Divisions: North, Central, East, West, Canada, and Overseas. Ron and Bev Clark have a detailed plan that is under final review at the home office.

Please note that this is just a thumbnail sketch of the changes in the works. Please refer to the documentation provided by the home office for more details.

Stay safe, and have fun!





## 2017-2018 COY and IOY

*By Rich & Linda Fuller, District COY/IOY Coordinators*

Congratulations to **DAVE & PAULA CAMPBELL**, the 2017-2018 District Couple of the Year, and to **JACQUES PERRON**, the 2017-2018 District Individual of the Year.

All three had a wonderful presentation at the District COY/IOY Program. We want to thank them for their participation in the program this year. We know you will see them out and about in the coming year throughout Colorado. Unfortunately, due to upcoming changes within GWRRA, there will not be a Region COY/IOY Program in 2018.

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*“...Wing Ding 40 in  
Knoxville, TN...”*

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Along with the coming changes most of you have heard about within the organization, there will also be some changes regarding the COY/IOY Program, although the news seems to be pretty tight-lipped.

What we do know is the Program will continue in 2018 just the same as it has been for the past 30 years. This year's Region Couples will participate in the International Program at Wing Ding 40 in Knoxville, TN. Rumor has it that there will be significant unknown changes to the program in 2019.

Stay tuned.



## 2017 Colorado District Rally

*By Donald Redline, District Photographer*



A great time was had by the 189 people from 13 states, including Hawaii, who attended the Colorado District Rally (Convention) in Salida August 24-26.



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*"... 189 people from  
13 states..."*

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During a quiet time, people enjoyed the movie "The World's Fastest Indian."

The Couple of the Year and Individual of the Year selection process was held. Dave & Paula Campbell of Chapter Q were selected as the 2017-2018 Couple of the Year and Jacques Perron of Chapter J was selected as the 2017-2018 Individual of the Year.

The photos on the following page show some of the fun enjoyed by all.



See you at the 2018 Rally!

District Calendar

Sept. 23: Ch. Q Fundraiser,  
see flyer

Upcoming Rallies

Sept. 22- 24: California  
District Rally, Mammoth Lakes,  
CA

Sept. 28-30: New Mexico  
District Rally, Ruidoso, NM

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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Jim & Barb Griffin

Assistant Directors

Nick & Ginny Hoppner

Fred & Linda Fisher

Treasurers/Store

Randall & Janet Drake

Rider Educator

Earl Edwards

Leadership Trainers

Vacant

Motorist Awareness Program Officer

Peter Keppler

Assistant Motorist Awareness Officer

Nick Hoppner

Membership Enhancement

Paula Campbell

COY/IOY Coordinators

Rich & Linda Fuller

Chapter of the Year Coordinators

Fred & Linda Fisher

Convention Coordinators

Jim & Olga Wyman

Tom Hodek

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Newsletter Editor

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Donald Redline

2017-2018 Couple of the Year

Dave & Paula Campbell

2017-2018 Individual of the Year

Jacques Perron

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**Colorado District Sponsors**



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# Chapter Q's "Fall" Fundraiser

Enjoy the Colorado colors of the picturesque

San Juan Mountains!

Saturday, September 23, 2017

11 a.m. till 3 p.m.



## Cerise Park

Shane's Way  
Montrose, Colorado



**\$13 in advance \$15 per person upon arrival  
(under 12 free)**

**for a day of fun including:**

**Chili Cook-Off**

**Indian Tacos lunch**

**Silent Auction (appreciate donations!)**

**Games with team competitions**

**Sign up for the "Pass the Pigs" competition!**



Stay with a Ch Q member!  
Call Bill & Nancy @ (970)-417-2774 or  
John @ (586)531-6891  
for availability.



