

Welcome!
To Chapter FL2D
Melbourne, FL

GWRRA
Region A—Florida



Welcome to GWRRA

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association began in June of 1977 with the prime purpose of organizing a Gold Wing association that:



is free from regulatory entanglements; gives maximum membership benefits; enables its members to have fun; is a family type association and that offers an opportunity to gain new friends with a common interest. The members would learn about their Gold Wings; learn to survive through safety, knowledge and proper riding technique; and

share knowledge of general interest. Thus, our motto, **“Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.”**

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and it is safe to retake the right lane.

11. Groups should have a leader and a tail bike equipped with a CB radio whenever 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 group’s riding performance.
12. All riders should wear proper riding apparel, including helmets. This is not mandatory, but is strongly recommended for your own safety.
13. Relax and enjoy the ride and remember, getting there is the fun!

When and how should I use my CB?

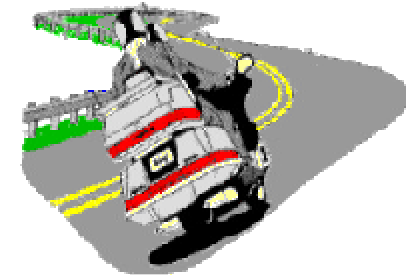
We use a predetermined CB channel for communicating directions, turns, safety hazards, lane changes and other pertinent traffic information to the group. Chapter FL2D uses channel 1, which is also the GWRRA nationally established channel.

CB chatter can make a ride more enjoyable, but limiting idle chatter is particularly critical during departures and arrivals. There is a tendency for riders to be tense at departure and lax at arrival. Experience has shown that these are the times that unfortunate incidents tend to occur. Be Alert! If you wish to converse with another rider, call that rider by name.

Closing

We hope the information contained in this booklet has answered some, if not all, of your questions.

We hope you join us and enjoy *“Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.”*



Group Riding

As the name implies, it is riding in a group. Most of our organized Chapter rides are in a group format. Some tips on group riding follow:

1. Arrive with a full tank of gas.
2. Limit groups to 4 to 6 bikes.
3. CB channels should be established prior to departure. The group should not switch channels until all riders have been informed.
4. Each bike should ride in staggered formation with an automobile lane; the leader rides in the left track, the next rider in the right track, etc. On curves, individual riders should pick their own track based on their level of riding comfort and then reform in staggered formation after exiting the curve.
5. When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, all bikes pull up two abreast, directly behind the bike they were following.
6. 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.
7. Allow a minimum of two to three seconds stopping distance between following bikes and one to two second stopping distances between staggered bikes. Do not allow too much space to develop between bikes, however.
8. Don't just follow. Be sure to check the traffic before lane changes or other maneuvers.
9. 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.
10. 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

The Chapter

Of all the benefits of GWRRA, the Chapter is the greatest single benefit. Through the chapter concept, you are offered a non-political environment to meet new friends, enhance your motorcycle skills and knowledge, join with us in improving motorcycle imagery and expand your enjoyment of biking through a wide variety of activities. Many have had their whole lives changed by joining. Because of the emotional tie, there is a family bond, which defies explanation but can be a most rewarding experience for you, the member.

First, as a member of the GWRRA organization, you are a member of all or any chapters you wish to participate with. Only the Chapter Director, Assistant Chapter Directors and Chapter Educator are designated to a chapter.

About Chapter FL2D

Meetings

Chapter FL2D meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM at Dottie's Restaurant in Palm Bay (corner of Babcock St and Malabar Rd.). In addition, the Chapter staff meets on monthly at the discretion of the Director to plan the coming activities. This is not a closed meeting – all members of the Chapter are welcome. Contact the Director to determine time and place of the staff meeting. We welcome input from all members on ideas and suggestions for rides and events.

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter is published and distributed to members via email. Articles from members are always welcome and encouraged. We are proud of our publication, which is a joint effort of many members.

Chapter Dinners

Chapter members meet for weekly “Kicktires” at various restaurants in the area after work (for those who have not yet joined the leisure class!) to unwind and share a meal with friends. This is a casual, come when you’re available, bring friends or family type of occasion. The restaurants will be listed on the monthly calendar in the newsletter and advised via the weekly email. Please feel free to join us at any and all possible times.

Charity Events

Each December, Chapter FL2D participates in the Abate/Shriners Brevard County Toy Run. Some 20,000 bikers participate in this event, which collects toys that are distributed to children in the Shriners Children’s Hospitals at Christmas. This is one event that should not be missed!

Staff

As staff changes from time to time, please refer to the monthly newsletter for current officers of the Chapter. Should you wish to volunteer for any position on the staff, please make your desires known to the Chapter Director.

Introduction/FAQs

This Chapter FL2D 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.

Any of the staff members of FL2D will gladly help you understand the functions of the GWRRA and help you feel welcome into our family. Hopefully, this booklet will help answer most of your questions.

What is a Poker Run?

A poker run serves as a fundraising activity. There is usually a charge for each poker hand, which serves as a donation. Each poker run may differ in one way or another, but are basically as follows: you sign in and get a set of directions to a “checkpoint.” When you arrive at the first checkpoint you draw a playing card. You then continue on to the second and subsequent checkpoints, receiving a card at each, until you reach the final point. The high poker hand will win a prize or share in the funds collected for the event. Some organizations have observation runs in which you may have to answer questions about sights along the route. If it all seems a little confusing at first, don’t worry, just ask some “old hand” for help.

What is a District and/or Regional Rally?

Individual districts or regions may have a two to three day event for the purpose of providing a fun, social environment for the participants and to raise funds for the district or region. Typical events at the rallies include: Bike judging contests, rider education seminars, Top Gun (riding skills) contests, motorcycle light shows, evening entertainment and more. Vendors are there with plenty of “safety chrome” and other items to sell. These rallies are usually held annually at various locations throughout the District or Region.

What is Wing Ding?

This is the National rally put on for all members of GWRRA and other interested motorcyclists. It is held once a year around the Fourth of July Holiday at various locations throughout the country. Wing Ding has all the same events and activities found at District or Regional rallies, but on a much, much larger scale.



Chapter Staff Meeting, so be ready to provide input to the Chapter Director or Ride Coordinator. Impromptu rides during the week for those able to participate can occur at any time. Check your email regularly if you would be available to participate.

Chapter Meetings

Once a month on the first Tuesday at 7PM we have a Chapter meeting. This get-together can include: speakers, ride planning, event scheduling and rider education. It can also include FOOD! If you would like to break bread with other Chapter members, come early (around 6PM). These are not business meetings in any formal sense. There is no voting, minutes or formal reports. The Chapter Director makes decisions regarding the Chapter with input from staff and members as needed.

What is the Chapter money used for?

Money is used to cover the operational expenses of the Chapter. These expenses include the cost to publish a newsletter, staff training meetings, postage, phone calls, supplies, etc. Each year, the Chapter Director submits a financial statement to the District Director.

What are all those pins and patches on peoples' vests?

Pins are worn to commemorate participation in rides and events, such as the Brevard County Toy Run. Patches can be to show which Chapter the person belongs to, or may be to designate rider education levels attained. Hint: lots of pins and patches = an "old hand" you may want to ask question of!

Commemorative pins, GWRRA logo patches and Chapter patches are available for a price from the Chapter. Ask the Chapter Director for what you need. Rider education level patches are awarded from the GWRRA as the member attains the various levels. See the Chapter Educator for details on these.

How do I join a Chapter?

You don't join a chapter; you join the GWRRA and you participate in 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 meeting, ride or event. The first time you attend, you are considered 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" the first time I attend a meeting?

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

Do I have to wait until the second meeting to become a Chapter participant?

No, you don't. Just let the Chapter Director that you would like to participate, to receive the Chapter Newsletter and be added to the email/phone list for the ride schedule. Meeting schedules for other Florida Chapters are also available on request.

What are the different classes of membership in GWRRA?

A full member is an owner/operator of a Gold Wing or Valkyrie motorcycle or his/her family. An associate member is a non-Gold Wing/Valkyrie owner/operator or his/her family. Both types of membership enjoy the many benefits of participation in the GWRRA.

What do I get for my membership in GWRRA?

Aside from being able to participate in the many and varied Chapter activities and events, there are some unique benefits to membership:

Wing World Magazine

This beautiful, glossy monthly publication is packed with Gold Wing and Valkyrie touring stories, Honda OEM and after market products, technical advice from Honda technicians and Honda accessory advertisements. Every issue also includes reader classifieds, rider education information, and an up-to-date listing of all international, national, regional and local GWRRA events. It also contains a directory of GWRRA officers you can contact for information.

The Gold Book

The Gold Book is an 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.

Is there more?

Yes, members enjoy discounts on parts and accessories. They can avail themselves of the Towbusters program (towing insurance). Insurance discounts are available for membership from some carriers and participation in rider education courses can mean even more insurance discounts. In addition, members receive information cards to carry on their motorcycle in the event of an accident, safety decals, membership pins, GWRRA logo patches and decals, etc.

What is the organizational structure of GWRRA?

There are essentially four levels of structure to the GWRRA:

International/National, Regional, District and Local. All officers are appointed. There is no voting or elections held in GWRRA. The officers and communication goes as follows:

National Executive Director
Regional Director
District Director
Chapter Director

Each Director appoints his or her own staff of assistants, educators, treasurers, coordinators and supporting staff. The Chapter Director has operational responsibility for the Chapter and obtains input from staff and Chapter participants in reaching decisions regarding Chapter activities.

What are they talking about?

50/50 tickets

The Chapter receives no money from the National organization. So to help pay the Chapter expenses, we sell tickets at each Chapter meeting. A ticket is drawn and we give away half of the raffle proceeds. The remaining half goes into Chapter funds. Hence, 50/50. This is a voluntary donation and you are not obligated to purchase tickets.

The Chapter also conducts/participates in other limited fundraising activities, such as our 5 Chapter Breakfast, to supplement the money collected in the 50/50 raffles.

Chapter Rides

Most Chapters have scheduled rides. These rides leave from a designated location or ride point. The time of departure varies so check your weekly email or ask the Chapter Director or the Ride Coordinator. If you have any special roads or parks that you would like to share, make sure to let the Director or Ride Coordinator know. Many rides start early to mid morning and run until late afternoon and nearly always involve a stop for eating and socializing – Ride to Eat, Eat to Ride! Occasionally, the Chapter may conduct an overnight or longer trip. All activities are discussed and planned at the