

# California District Gold



## Golden State Gems January 2009

Happy New Year Winger Family! We hope that all of you had a fantastic Christmas or Hanukkah, or possibly a great get together with family and friends. We are certain that awesome food was consumed and we now want to shed a few pounds from the holiday feasts ☺ We hope you celebrated wisely on New Year's Eve and rang in the year with hope and strong wishes for 2009!

We want to thank the chapters for their invitations to join them for their Christmas/holiday parties. We enjoyed attending each one and it kept us busy each weekend. It was so much fun to participate with the celebrations but I did begin to think that we need holiday vests so we have nametags on, we really look different all dressed up and the ladies without helmet hair! So thank you again for inviting us and we look forward to next year!

It did seem like Christmas came too soon and then left quickly this season. We had early Christmas with the kids and grandkids and then headed off to my Mom and Dad's for Christmas with the Ashmore clan. We had a very busy time and were glad to get to our quiet home for some recovery.

The New Year is starting to shape up for GWRRA here in California. We will have some new Officer's stepping up in Chapters and some additions to the District staff. We have added a couple of new staff already with the appointment of Del and Joanne Britton from CA1M to be COY/IOY Coordinators and we will have more to announce in the coming issues. It's always exciting and a bit anxious times as we face new leadership in our Chapters, so be certain that you are doing everything that you can to make that new leader feel welcome and supported.

As I was writing this I was also reflecting back on the last 2 years and thinking about this coming year as our last year as District Directors. It causes a bit of a cramp in my stomach to think about stepping down as we've had such a fabulous time but when I think of the great leadership to come I get excited. JR and I are looking at this year as a teaching year to the future leadership of California. With all GWRRA Officer positions, it's not official until you have the blessing of the Region, but we are looking at Bill and Rene Johnson, our current Assistant District Directors, as our replacements and they have accepted. This is an exciting prospect for California although it could be very wet, I'd start stocking up on squirt guns now if I were you☺ In announcing this we want to make it easier for Bill and Rene to start to talk with existing staff members to get a good understanding of their jobs and to also start recruiting their staff members so there can be some cross training leading to a very smooth transition with leadership. This is an unusually lengthy leadership transition but please be clear that we are still at the helm of the District until next year at this time. So with that said, we plan to make the "farewell" year our best and most memorable ever!

With that in mind, we are getting together all the requested dates for 2009 events and will be updating the District website soon, so please check out the website this month for a list of events. As mentioned last month, GWRRA is offering a \$5 off per registrant if you get 10 registrations together and send them all in the same envelope for Wing Ding. This means \$10 off/couple. I'd love to see a great showing from California in Tulsa this year. I'd ask the Chapter Directors to let me know how many from your chapter

register so we can do some planning. So as you are planning your travels to the events of 2009 please plan to support our local chapters first and then enjoy the out of state events. It's so important to each chapter to receive your support, its loads of fun at each event and exciting to see all our friends. So we'll kick off the chapter events with the Valentine Run on February 21st, 2009 (that flyer is already available and on the District website) and we look forward to seeing you there.

So here is to a safe, healthy, happy and fun 2009 and we'll see you soon!



Anita and JR  
California District Directors

Southwest  
Region F  
The Official  
Publication of  
GWRRA  
California  
District



## Random Ramblings John Maguire

### The Ultimate Gift

Well, we made it through the holidays; Yule logs, huge fattening dinners, family and friends coming together for fun and making new memories. The past November and December are always a great time for the Maguire family. And I'll bet that Santa brought some of you new lights and 'DMV suggested Safety Chrome' goodies to hang on your bike and there are, I am sure, a few very lucky people out there who found a nice, shiny new Gold Wing tucked under their tree too.

Reminiscing on Christmas' past, there is one that will live in my memory forever.

Finding the perfect gift for mom had been easy as a child. A hand-made card or picture was always accepted with a wide smile and a big 'Thank You Johnny.' But as I got older it became ever more difficult to decide what to get her. Mom had taught my sisters and I that the price of a gift wasn't important. The meaning and thought under the pretty papers and bows made a gift truly special and memorable. On the other hand, after we had matured into adults with our own families, it didn't hurt if the gift for Grandma was a bit more on the 'pricey' side.

This one particular year I wanted to do something really special. While I probably could have spent a considerable amount of money on Mom's gift it seemed to me that year I should make an extra effort to present her with a gift that would set the bar on Christmas gifts impossibly high. In order to do this I figured this Christmas gift would need to meet a few requirements:

- 1) The gift must be such that it will be used every day.
- 2) The gift must immediately remind her of who gave it to her each time she used it.
- 3) The gift must be truly useful.
- 4) The gift must make her life more comfortable.
- 5) And the gift must be completely unexpected.

I knew full well that I had, by setting these five requirements, made the finding of this mystery Christmas gift extremely difficult. Fortunately, I had come to this decision early enough in the year that I had plenty

of time to find the one perfect item to give her. It should be noted here that my wife and daughter were not privy to, nor involved in the search. This was to be my one grand, crowning moment to show my undying love for the woman who gave me life and raised me to adulthood.

My quest proved to be considerable. I thumbed through catalogs and magazines. I walked many miles through malls, shopping centers and gift shops. There were times when I was close to abandoning my search, but my goal had been set and I was not going to give up until I found it.

Then one day, as I walked through a store looking for something completely unrelated, I found it! It met all five of my requirements: Mom would use it each and every day for many years. I was very sure Mom would think of me every time she used it. It was useful and it would most certainly make parts of her day quite comfortable. Finally, there was no way she would ever expect to receive one of these from me for Christmas. I was so happy and proud as I carried my new treasure to the checker, paid for it and took it home to wrap and save for Christmas day.

Christmas morning Mom arrived at our home early. She always enjoyed trying to guess what her gift from me would be each year. We had a little game we played where she would ask for hints on what was in store. I had made an extra effort to assure her that this year I had devoted a great deal of time deciding what to get her. I also told her that this would be the most memorable Christmas gift of her life. I also packed the gift in a very large box so when she shook it, (as she always did), she would hear it and become even more excited.

Wisely, we decided to eat dinner before opening the presents. I reveled in watching Mom glance at her gift repeatedly between hurried bites of turkey, ham and mashed potatoes. Finishing dinner she literally ran across the room and dropped to the floor next to her brightly decorated gift. She looked like a young child waiting for Santa to come down the chimney on Christmas Eve.

We couldn't hold her back. Smiling proudly, I nodded to her that she could open her gift and bring forth the surprise I had hidden from everyone. The bow, ribbons and shredded scraps of brightly colored wrapping paper flew as if caught in a tornado. Her fingers clawed at the cardboard and tape to open the box and reveal the treasure held securely within. In record time she had the box open and pulled from its depth the long anticipated gift.....a brand new, luxuriously comfortable, padded toilet seat!

The happy glow on my mother's face melted instantly into a look of shock, surprise and disbelief!

My wife smiled... our young daughter, Bridget, giggled and clapped her little hands in glee. I sat in my favorite chair, proud, happy and confident. Mom sat silent, trembling slightly, not knowing what to say or do in the presence of her granddaughter and daughter-in-law. I may have felt happiness and pride at that moment, but Mom.... well, Mom was clearly very upset. Her face had turned beet red and her eyes were bulging somewhat, unblinking, as she stared at the large white ring laying on the floor at her feet. Her mouth was set in a way I had not seen since she stubbed her barefoot little toe on one of my Tonka trucks in the darkened hallway all those many years ago. I realized at that moment there was now the very real possibility that my wonderful new gift might soon be whizzing past my head. I was grateful at that moment that I had chosen a padded toilet seat but I still feared that my Christmas holiday might soon include an unexpected trip to the Emergency Room!

My relationship with my mother survived that Christmas more or less intact. As I walked her out to her car later that evening she made it very clear that she was VERY surprised by the gift and if I ever had any "bright ideas" for special gifts again it would be wise if I chose very, very carefully.

I did choose carefully each year after that....But each Christmas thereafter I also kept my motorcycle helmet nearby.....just in case!

Green Lights, Open Highways and Happy New Year to everyone.  
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# **Lady Riders**

by  
**Pat Bennett**

No article this month

Pat

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## **Trikes and Licenses**

By  
**Pat Singer**

I have been asked to discuss the requirements for driver's licenses, registration requirements and helmet requirements for trikes.

We start with the California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section which defines "motorcycle". Section 400 (a) defines a motorcycle as a vehicle with no more than three wheels touching the ground and which weighs less than 1500 pounds. These vehicles also would not have enclosures.

Sections 4000 and the following sections include the requirements for registration. Sections 4150.2 and 4850 relate to motorcycles. They require a special license plate for motorcycles and only require a single plate on the rear of the vehicle. Since there is no further definition of motorcycle in these sections, the single special rear plate is required for two wheel motorcycles and for trikes.

The helmet law found in sections 27802 and 27803 reads in a similar fashion. These sections require a DOT approved helmet to be worn by riders and passengers on all motorcycles. Since there is no further definition of motorcycle in these sections, helmets must be worn on motorcycles or trikes.

There is a difference in the sections dealing with driver's licenses. The basic section is 12500. This section requires a driver's license for any motor vehicle operated by a driver. Section 12804.9(b)(4) sets the requirements for a Class M endorsement. This section requires a Class M endorsement for any operator of a two wheeled motorcycle. Since the section specifically states a two wheeled motorcycle, there is no requirement for a Class M endorsement to operate a trike. However, the operator must have at least a standard Class C or higher license to operate the trike.

Taking all the code sections together, the bottom line for trike riders is a motorcycle registration, helmets, and a regular Class C driver's license. Obviously, you can operate a trike with a Class M endorsement but you don't need one!

Pat Singer, Chapter Educator  
CA1V  
California District COY 2008-2009

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## Editor's Comments by Crystal Rush



### Happy New Year ☺

Well, we've made it into 2009 and the beginning of a new year. The slate has been wiped clean and we are all given a fresh start so to speak. As Anita mentioned in her article, this is the final year for your current District staff and training of the new leadership begins now for a seamless transition in 2010. (Boy does that ever sound weird!)

Holding my current staff positions has given me a lot of insight to the workings of GWRRA and how so many different personalities inter-relate. There has been elation, turmoil, sorrow, regret, pride and a gamut of emotions....so similar to what you would find in any "family". We all have our moments but in the end I've found that we all really do care about each other. I guess what I'm really trying to do is remind everybody of how much we mean to each other, we may not be related by blood but we are still each others family.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the chapters out there that offered Anita, JR and me lodging to make our trips to your annual ride more affordable. Your hospitality made it possible for me to attend more rides than I have any other years and I appreciate your kindness.

I'm looking forward to what is planned for this year and am already getting excited. My calendar is already getting booked for several 3 day weekends (my clients aren't going to appreciate that) and we haven't planned more than 1/3 of the chapter rides so far! I do love being on that wonderful illusion blue machine of mine. If this year is anything like the past several, Wing Ding will be here tomorrow so I'm starting my planning now. My role in leadership training has taught me "how to have fun at..." involves planning – something I used to leave up to other people.

This time of year so many of us make New Year's Resolutions....instead of that I am making PLANS:

I plan to have fun in 2009  
I plan to have balance in 2009  
I plan to keep in contact with friends and family in 2009  
I plan to be a better friend in 2009

I think that's enough planning...my head is starting to hurt ☺ This year will bring a lot of change for many of us, hopefully all for the better. I look forward to seeing many of you in the new year and to the staff, I'll see you in a couple of weeks in Bakersfield!

Ride safe, appreciate your life and take care of yourselves.

See you on the road!

Crystal J. Rush  
CA Assistant District Director  
Newsletter Editor  
Leadership Training

*Remember: Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, coffee in the other, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO WHAT A RIDE!"*

# January 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 District Staff Meeting Bakersfield
18 District Staff Meeting Bakersfield	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# February 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 CA1-I Valentines Run
22	23	24	25	26	27	28