

# California District Gold



## Golden State Gems May 2009

So much is going on and so little time to do it all! That is certainly how we feel right now and we're sure you are feeling some of it as well. Rally in the Valley was as great as anticipated and they had a great turn out of approx. 275 Wingers! Great job to Chapter 1R and in particular, Cathy Diaz the event chairperson, CD's Tom and Vicki, ACD's Rick and CJ and to everyone else that helped to make it a great success. Multi-day events are a lot of work and the Chapter did a great job.

Then we had our multi-events weekend with CA1L and 1Y and the Region Rally. We want to thank Rene Johnson for being the District Representative at the Region Rally and to all those who helped her with the tasks. We want to congratulate CA1L for winning the Region website award, YEAH!!!! We want to let our California COY's, Pat and Bonnie Singer and IOY, Bud Budavari know how much we appreciate them and how proud we were to have them represent California in the competition for Region COY and IOY. Although they did not win (COY is from New Mexico and IOY from Arizona) we will always know that we really do have the best here in California! Thanks to all who went and supported the Region Rally.

As you were out in the desert, the rest of us were looking for Pirate treasure along the San Luis Obispo coast with CA1L. What a fantastic turn out and what a beautiful day, we couldn't have asked for more. During the fantastic bbq lunch, John and Joan Garrett, District Educator enlarged our staff by installing Keith and Susie Shirley as Assistant District Educators. We are getting such a great staff working all over the state that I know that we are making a difference one member at a time! As we left beautiful San Luis Obispo, Jeff Benda took us on a ride back to Lompoc. I hope that all of you from 1S, 1L and 1Y go out riding a lot as you have beautiful countryside to explore. We went to our traditional dinner at the Hitching Post in Casmalia and it was awesome! We woke to another beautiful day as we arrived at 1Y's Flower Ride. The flowers were out for us and the ride was excellent. The temperature was climbing a bit but the company was the best. For those of you who were there, you know that I won a baby ☺ and JR won tires, YEAH us!!! Penny insisted that I give the baby back but I believe I still have visitation. JJ, our youngest Winger is a beautiful baby girl that Jeff and Penny are adopting and we wish them well with their new family!

Coming up on the busy schedule will be the Lucy and Monte's dinner to benefit Ride for Kids on Sat. 4/25; Rendezvous with Q on Sunday 4/26; 2W's Cinco de Mayo event on 5/2; and then we get a break after riding the Malibu hills with 1K's Mother's Day ride on 5/9. Some of you who are newer to GWRRA may not understand why I promote the events and then support them. There are couple of great reasons: one is we get to visit with all of our great GWRRA friends that we don't live next door to so we don't get to see them often. If you are newer you haven't met all those great friends yet but all you have to do is to come to an event and you'll meet them, then you'll be an active part of the GWRRA family! The second reason is that this is the chapters fund raiser. This is how they make the money to continue what they offer at their local chapter and often times they also support a charity. We all have to do fund raisers, even the District with our District Rally on Sept.4-6, as there is no funding from National to run our Districts or our Chapters, we are self sufficient so these poker run/chapter and District events are

critical to our survival. So we urge your support, but more importantly come out for the fun and the friendships as those are priceless!

I want to introduce you to a new policy that has been adopted at GWRRA. This policy effects our Rider Education program so in fact it effects all of us. I believe most of you know that GWRRA has a not for profit status and that is achieved through our education goals with Rider Education. This is what sets us aside from other organizations is our commitment to assisting each other with better riding habits and then through riding skills with our ARC and TRC classes (Advanced Rider Class and Trike Rider Class). To that end GWRRA has revised it's Rider Education manual and also came up with a PLP (Parking Lot Practice) Facilitators program. This will be a phased in program in California and we have chosen Ralph Richardson to head up the Facilitators. I am going to conclude my article with John Garret's letter to all the Educators dated 3/27/09 so you will all become acquainted with our newest program.

We'll see you all at the next events and as always, be good to yourself, each other and give as many GWRRA happy hugs as you can, this will make a much happier world ☺

March 27, 2009

To: All California Chapter Educators, Chapter Directors, District Officers and Region F Educators.

From: John & Joan Garrett  
CAL. District Educator  
P. O. Box 887  
Sun City, CA 92586  
John's Cell: (951) 505-5335  
Home: (951) 679-4987  
Email: john@garrett.bz

Reference: GWRRA Rider Education Program Handbook, Ninth Edition, Dated March 2009, Sections H.2, H.2.1, H.2.2, and Sections I.2, I.2.1.1, I.2.1.2, I.2.2

Subject: GWRRA District California Parking Lot Practice (PLP) Facilitator Program startup letter.

Dear Members;

This letter hereby establishes the subject PLP Facilitator Program in the California District as it is defined in the Reference sections H.2, H.2.1. Section H.2.2 which defines Sanctioned PLP will not be used in California unless requested through the District Educator and approved by the Region Educator.

All chapters will continue to hold informal type PLP's with the following guidelines:

All PLP's including the informal type must be held using the directions and range exercises identified in the Motorcycle/Trike PLP Guides. The Guides are located in the Educator's Toolbox under PLP Facilitator Program and are printable. The web site address is

<http://www.gwrra.org/regional/ridered/officerpage.html>

Absolutely no teaching or coaching is allowed on the range.

PLP waiver forms must be filled out by all participants.

All incidents must be recorded using the PLP Accident/Incident Report.

PLP Student Evaluation forms need to be completed and sent to the District Educator.

On a temporary basis, we will continue to use the Chapter Educator, or a person that has been holding the PLP in the past, until Facilitators can be identified, trained and designated. The objective will be to have the people who are now giving the PLP's to become qualified Facilitators.

With the concurrence of the California District Educator, the California District Director and the Region F Educator, Ralph Richardson, California Assistant District Educator, has been selected to head up the PLP Facilitator Certification Program in accordance with the Reference sections I.2, I.2.1.1, I.2.1.2, I.2.2. He will be assisted by Gordon Flowers, Rick Kagamaster, and Mike Maury. After the three members of the

PLP Facilitator Qualification Team are grandfathered by GWRRA National and briefed by Ralph Richardson, they will be empowered to qualify PLP Facilitators.

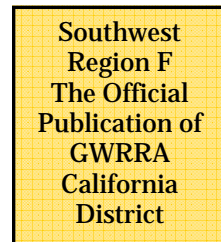
Ralph Richardson will prepare a program plan and schedule for the above activity as soon as is practical. This is being done to comply with the new requirements established by GWRRA Rider Education and to benefit and protect our membership. We appreciate your cooperation and if you have questions please contact me or Ralph Richardson at [GWCAPLPGUY@GWRRA-CA.ORG](mailto:GWCAPLPGUY@GWRRA-CA.ORG).

Best Regards,

John Garrett  
GWRRA California  
District Educator



Anita and JR  
California District Directors



## Random Ramblings John Maguire

### “Thank You Emil”

The last time I had seen them was six months ago. Ruth and Emil are an elderly couple living east of us a couple miles. They had called to have me come check their heater, which wasn't igniting properly. Though I had been unable to repair the recalcitrant fireplace, Emil, Ruth and I had a wonderful time sharing tales of motorcycle riding and touring the world. When I left their home that day I felt as though I had found a true friend in Emil.

Fast forward to last Monday. I had gotten a call from an unfamiliar sounding woman who explained that she was “Ruth's guardian” and that she needed some work done at the house. The name didn't ring a bell as I wrote down the information, but the address seemed familiar.

Driving to the house I realized I was on my way to the home of my friends Emil and Ruth. Excited at the prospect of renewing our acquaintance, I opened the front door to their house. Smiling, I said hello to the couple as they sat in their chairs. Ruth smiled back but Emil didn't. Could it be? Did he recognize his old motorcycle-riding friend? Apparently the answer was ‘NO’ as he angrily asked who I was and what was I doing in his house!

I noticed that there were oxygen hoses trailing from Emil to somewhere around the corner. A young caretaker softly explained that Emil wasn't himself anymore and that the doctors had found cancer throughout his body and probably didn't have long to live.

This news hit me like a runaway truck. My wonderful storyteller friend was gone. The man who had once regaled me with tales of a trusty old Indian and thousands of miles of adventures was now buried deep within the mind of a rapidly fading 91 year old man.

My eyes started to well up. Emil had been Ruth's caretaker and now he was lost somewhere in the maze of early Alzheimer's disease.

After trying my best to calm dear old Emil I went about my work with my friend seated next to me. He was confused and had trouble grasping why this, now slightly more familiar man, was fussing with drills, pencils and screwdrivers in his bathroom. He didn't say anything for a few moments as his mind tried to focus on what was happening around him. Putting away my tools, I asked Emil what he had done for a living. At this his eyes sparkled and he smiled widely. "I was a Marine for thirty years!" he said, his voice suddenly strong and vibrant. "I was with the landing force on Guadalcanal." His face turned sad and reflective and his voice trailed off into the distance, "I don't talk about it much." Lost for words for a moment, the only thing I could say was, "You probably lost a lot of friends....how sad."

I stood there for an instant, worried that I had brought back memories long buried and forgotten. He looked down and didn't move nor speak for several seconds.

Then, he seemed happier as better memories started coming back. Laughing, he told how he and his fellow Marines would trade coconuts from the island with civilians on the Navy ships for liquor and then resell the booze to the Seabees. And how when a truckload of paint disappeared and no one could find it, the mystery was finally solved when it was discovered that the local native's canoes suddenly sported colorful new red, white, gray, blue and olive drab paint jobs!

For a few moments my dear friend Emil was back from the fog. His smiling face and sparkling eyes brightened my day and put a bounce back in my step. As I opened the door to leave I turned back toward the living room. "Thank you Emil for all that you've done for us. You are a great man. God Speed and best wishes my friend". Emil stood tall in his walker and raised his right hand to wave goodbye, "God Speed to you too, John."

Do something good for someone special. Whenever you meet a veteran, especially an older World War II Vet, thank him or her for what they've done for our country. Buy them a cup of coffee or just shake their hand and smile. I guarantee you'll make their day.

Green Lights and Free Gold Wings for Everyone!  
[jemaguire@wavecable.com](mailto:jemaguire@wavecable.com)



No article this month

Pat

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## Lady Riders

by  
**Pat Bennett**



Greetings from Northern California,

First off, Rene & I would like to publically thank Anita for her incredible support of our prospective future role as California District Directors. If we are selected, we understand the importance of that role, and are honored to have the opportunity to serve. We just hope we can meet the high standards set by the former District Directors over the years.

We have been asked by many why we would be crazy enough to take the position, but the answer is simple. We joined GWRRA around 7 years ago, and our lives were immediately changed. We have been riding as a couple for the better part of 30 years, but now we ride as a family. The friendships continue to grow, and the fun never ends. I find myself feeling I must find a way to pay GWRRA back for all the fun times we have had since becoming members. What better way than to assume a role as an officer. As an Army Veteran myself having worked for the Military for over 35 years, volunteering to serve comes natural. I guess that's what makes GWRRA and America great.

Ok, enough of the formal stuff, we feel the need to help clarify a possible misconception about District Rally's. Since joining GWRRA we haven't missed a single one, nor can we imagine ever missing one in the future. The misconception came from a chapter member when asked if they will be attending the District Rally this year. Their response was "I thought it was just for Officers and Staff". Somehow they had confused the Officers Conference for the District Rally. For anyone that has actually attended a Rally, you understand that couldn't be further from the truth. For those of you that have never attended, do yourself a favor and plan on attending this year. I promise you won't be disappointed.

The District Rally provides a variety of opportunities to educate, socialize, and just plain have fun. From the bike show to the skills games to the vendors and chapter games, the Rally provides something for everyone. I mentioned the socializing part for a reason. If you enjoy the friendships you have gained by attending your local chapter meetings, just imagine how much fun bringing 23 chapters together in one venue. It's a great feeling to walk down the halls of a large hotel and know that everyone you see either works for the hotel, or is part of your GWRRA family.

As we travel around visiting chapters this year, we plan on doing everything we can to help Anita achieve her goal to host the largest California District Rally ever. It will be tough to beat the high water mark set by Joyce Elmore (aka, Queen Mum) where she joined forces with Rick Dyer (aka, "The Big Kahuna") at the joint District / Region Rally held in Lake Tahoe a few years back, but we are sure going to try. You can all do your part by signing up early, and encouraging everyone in your chapter to do the same. Remember, the District Rally is held each year exclusive for the members; the Officers and Staff are only there to help you have the best time possible. So is the District rally just for Officers? Heck no, it's just for you.

Until we see you then, "Hang on – we're going for a ride".

Bill & Rene Johnson  
GWRRA  
California Assistant Directors

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## A NOTE FROM YOUR CALIFORNIA AMBASSADORS

Hello from Flat Rock Illinois; a small town with a population of 450 not including the three of us. Our property (21 acres) is actually located approximately five miles outside of town. This area was once known as the Allison Prairie and there was also a Fort Allison here. This property, which consists of more than our 21 acres was once owned by Denny's grandfather and has been in the family for many years. In fact, the house that Denny's father was born in still stands and people still reside in the home.

Last year when we were here we purchased a used mobile home. The dimensions are 14 feet wide and 70 feet long. We have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a laundry area, the living room and a kitchen. It's just big enough for the three of us. We also had electricity, water and a septic tank installed last year. Once the mobile was put in place and the furniture and appliances delivered we were able to live in the mobile for one week before we had to return to Sacramento. In 2007 we had a road put in up to where we wanted the mobile placed permanently. It's a gravel road 250 yards back on the property in the woods. We have resident deer, a red fox, turkey vultures, wild turkeys, cotton tail rabbits and even turtles. Our property also has a creek and pond.

Neal and Denny are currently building a deck. The deck is 55 feet in front of the mobile and 26 feet at the end. It's not yet finished because of inclement weather. I'm talking about all day heavy down pours, lightening and thunder, and even a couple days of light snow. A barbeque has already been purchased, assembled and now on the part of the deck that is finished.



Our journey began on Tuesday, March 10th and we arrived here in Flat Rock on Thursday, March 19th. Neal drove the motorcycle and sidecar while Denny and I followed in our PT Cruiser. I did ride in the sidecar part of the way here. Someone made a heated seat for me for the sidecar and I had to try it out to make sure it worked. It was wonderful to feel the heat on my backside instead of just cold. We came here taking the Southern route and really didn't run into any bad weather until we reached Tucumcari, New Mexico. At this point Neal ran into some freezing fog. The windshield of the sidecar and motorcycle had at least a quarter inch of ice on them. We did

take pictures of the windshields. Neal then spent the next three hours riding in the rain until we took a break in Amarillo, Texas. The weather was great the rest of the trip here.

Our plans included a stay in Celina, Texas for a visit with a couple of Neal's nieces and their families and then another stop to visit Neal's brother in Williamsburg, Kansas who was not doing well health wise. From Kansas we forged our way to Illinois.

Once we arrived here we unloaded both vehicles, started putting things away, picked up the eight boxes we had shipped out in advance to our closest neighbor. Then we went grocery shopping so we wouldn't starve. At this point Neal settled in front of his laptop to find out when GWRRA Illinois chapters were meeting. Much to our dismay everyone had already met which meant that we would have to wait until April.

Well, April has arrived and have we been busy visiting!

Sunday, April 5th we drove to Effingham, which is approximately an hour and a half, one way, from us and attended Illinois Chapter D2's meeting. We had visited them last year and everyone was glad that we came to visit again. Their meetings are held in a restaurant inside an IGA store. Keith and Kathy Rentfro were chapter directors last year but have now stepped down and turned the chapter over to Dwaine Worthey. Dwaine conducted a good meeting. As Neal always does, he purchased \$20 of 50/50 tickets. Unfortunately, Neal didn't win the money but we did return home with six of their other prizes. Chapter D2 provided us with a list of upcoming ride and invited us to join them anytime we could.

On Tuesday, April 7th we drove the PT and Neal took the motorcycle to visit Illinois Chapter F which is located in Mt. Vernon. This is a two hour trip in each direction and most Illinois chapters meet at 6:00 P.M. for dinner with the meeting at 7:00 P.M. They meet at Ryan's Family Steakhouse. Greg Bridgewater still holds the office of chapter director. Last year their chapter was small in size and they were trying to rebuild the membership. The meeting had more members in attendance this year than last which we were happy to see and they were delighted that we made a return visit. They too extended an invitation to us to join them on some of their rides anytime we could. Neal again did his \$20 in 50/50 tickets. Again no money was won but we did return home with two of their prizes.

Thursday, April 9th we drove to Paris, which is between 45 minutes to an hour away from us to attend Illinois Chapter PI's meeting. After finding the restaurant location we learned that last month they had decided to not only move from this location to another but also changed the meeting date. So, we will try again on Thursday, April 23rd.

Our next chapter visit we had been waiting to attend for almost a year. This visit was to Illinois Chapter S in Olney. Judy Stoll was the chapters ACD last year and was conducting the meeting for their CD who was unable to attend because of his job. At that particular meeting Judy asked me if I'd ever seen one of Olney's famous white squirrels. I said "no I hadn't" so she promised to mail me one. Upon the squirrel's arrival it gave Neal and I an idea. We purchased two different white squirrels and passed one around to as many California chapters as we could before leaving. When we arrived at Judy's meeting, (she has been



CD since September 2008) I asked if I could make a presentation to her and the chapter. I wish all of you could have been there to see the reaction of not only Judy but the chapter as well. I started my presentation by showing the chapter the squirrel Judy had sent me. Then I presented her with the squirrel we had made up for her including our chapter shirt and logo patch along with chapter bars and other items that had been put on this squirrel from other California chapters. I told everyone about how the mascot program was started in California and how some of our chapters still steal one another's mascots but included that they were returned unharmed.

Then I presented to her another squirrel in hopes they could start a mascot program here in Illinois. Neal and I also presented her with a book Neal had put together to show what happens when a mascot is stolen by another chapter. Judy and the chapter were elated that we thought enough about them to go to all the trouble that we did to present them with a squirrel from California chapters and one for the chapter. They immediately decided that the second squirrel would become Chapter S's official mascot as Illinois chapters do not have mascots. We sincerely hope they will be able to start a mascot game in Illinois. Judy had 57 members in attendance at her monthly meeting. Neal again purchased another \$20 in 50/50 tickets and Denny and I purchased \$10 in tickets. I'm sorry to say that we didn't win the money again but Neal actually didn't win one prize. Denny won an Olney t-shirt.

We so enjoy visiting other chapters while were traveling. We have visited chapters in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana, and others during our travels cross country. Our plans are to visit Chapter D in Mattoon, Chapter U in Vandalia and Chapter PI in Paris. We've also located three GWRRA chapters in Indiana that we hope to visit. One is located in Terre Haute, one in Washington which is an Amish community and one in Evansville.



Until next time, this is your California Ambassadors saying good bye.

HUGS,  
Neal Graham  
Ginny and Denny Allison



## Editor's Comments by Crystal Rush

### It's Coming!

Can you feel it....have you started filming?! Are you looking for the fringe and zoot suits? What is your chapter scheming to do for a silent (or black & white) picture show?

This may feel premature BUT we only have 4 months left to show off our creative sides! District Rally is coming and will be here faster than you can blink an eye! I'm getting excited to see what the California chapters will do with our challenge to create a film representing the roaring 20's. I'm also anticipating the different costumes that are going to show up at the rally. You can bet your boopie I'm searching for just the right outfit (what woman isn't ☺).

We have a lot of fun planned for the rally – games, training, vendors, FOOD ..... FUN! The registration form is now on line, we will be updating the website once the schedule is finalized. So keep tabs on your district website [www.gwrra-ca.org](http://www.gwrra-ca.org) to find out what is coming your way!

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!**”*

# May 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
					1	2 <b>CA2W Poker Run</b>
3 <b>Ride 4 Kids Torrence</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>CA1K Mother's Day Ride</b>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# June 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
<b>Open Month No Rides Planned!</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				