

California District Gold



Golden State Gems July 2009

May I introduce to all of you Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richardson! Yes, Ralph, our Assistant District Educator got married on June 13, 2009 to our Assistant District Director, Crystal Rush!!!! We couldn't be more pleased and excited for both of them. When Crystal called and told me he had asked her, the two of us got busy planning a wedding. Once a date was agreed upon, we had 6 weeks to put it all together. They got married on the Bahia Belle Sternwheeler Boat in Mission Bay and it was a picture book wedding. They both looked fabulous, the weather was perfect and the friends and family enjoyed each other and a cruise around the bay. Truly 2 sole mates united to share their lives together and we were privileged to stand beside them!

Saturday morning (6/27) we're off to Wing Ding. We are taking 2 weeks so we can spend a bit of time taking in the sights of our fantastic country. We're looking forward to seeing all of our CA friends in Tulsa along with all of our other GW friends. I want to thank the volunteers who stepped up to man the door prize booth; it was a great feeling when I realized that I didn't have to start voluntolding people, so I am grateful and appreciative! For those of you not going, plan a nice ride and enjoy the 4th of July, God Bless America!

When we get home we will be full steam ahead to put the finishing touches on the CA District Rally. Our theme, Roarin' 20's will be filled with fun games, great costumes and a fantastic dancing party at the poolside Speakeasy, where they specialize in ice cream. We hope to see lots of flapper dresses and zoot suits and tommy guns and I'd love to see some spats!

On the District web site we have posted the flyer to sign up for the Rider Education events. If you want to take an ARC or TRC class, or a full First Aid/CPR class or recert class, then you'll need to register as there are fees associated with these offerings.

Our vendors are starting to sign up and we're thrilled to have them. We are pleased this year to have our major vendor, Wing Stuff coming with chrome and clothes and other special things. Don't forget that with them you can order from their web site and they will bring it with them to the rally as long as you ask them to do so in the comments field. We will of course have stuff for the ladies and we have asked our vendors to supply us with their website addresses so we can post them to our website so you can plan your budget. Watch the District website, www.gwrra-ca.org for updates on the rally, the rally t-shirt, a list of vendors with links to their website where possible and the Rider Ed classes with descriptions.

Our banquet room should be quite a site with all of you dressed up, the chapter movies playing, the fantastic table decorations and all the recognition. Then it will be money time with a \$1000.00 grand prize, many grand prizes and then the 50/25/25. It should be quite the ending to a fantastic weekend.

We are excited to bring you the District Rally and thank all of you in advance for coming and spending a fun filled weekend with us.

As I was packing for Wing Ding and I started pulling out all of our patriotic shirts, I was reflecting on how great this country is. It's hard right now with the economy in an interesting state of affairs, the unemployment rate higher than ever to see the good in this country of ours but sometimes we have to look wider and bigger, look back and look forward to see all the opportunities that we have because we live in a

country where we are free to do as we will, say what we want, be who we want to be and share our lives with those we want to be with. Faith founded this country and it can heal this country as long as we will ask and then be patient as change always happens in its own time. So send good thoughts out to the universe, pray, get involved and let those who are running our country know how you feel, don't be the silent majority. Even more importantly, when you see those proud men and women in uniform, thank them for what they are doing for you, for our country, they are protecting our freedom every day, every minute and they need to know that we are there for them.

On this 4th of July, raise your voice with our National Anthem, or God Bless America or Lee Greenwood's, I'm proud to be an American, and let American pride rush all over you and get pumped up about this great land of ours. Share your time with friends, be good to yourselves and we'll be thinking of you as we are riding the great roads of this county. All aboard the American Spirit Train!



Anita and JR
California District Directors

Southwest
Region F
The Official
Publication of
GWRRA
California
District



Ralph & Crystal Richardson



A Note from our Assistant District Directors In Lancaster

Larry & Donna Pickens

Thanks to Anita and JR Alkire for asking us to visit and present Chapter Couple of the year and Individual of the year awards to the different chapters. This is always a fun process and gives us a chance to get out of the house (even if it is on 4 wheels) and meet and greet new and old members.

Many of you may or may not know prior to October 2005 we went everywhere having the best time of our lives with the many friends we have made over the years.

Now that Donna has a new shoulder and soon to be pain free, we look forward to riding more and visiting with chapters and having more FUN (OH, I missed the part where I retire 31 July 2009).

In June 2009 Wing World "A Word From your Executive Director" Melissa Eason goes into detail on What Our Chapter Gatherings Mean.

Me, I like to call gatherings "Chapter Socials" and I think FUN should be stressed with a big F. Think outside the box what can we do to make our get together more FUN?

Last but not least I would like to use a quote from a very dear friend and mentor; if you are having FUN:

"It doesn't get any better than this".

Stay safe & watch out for signs that jump in front of you.

Larry & Donna Pickens ADD



Random Ramblings

John Maguire

Small-town Fun

I was born and raised in southern California. As a young boy I never really went much further than 20 miles from home. That is until I got my first motorcycle...that 50cc Honda Super Cub introduced me to a bit more of the outside world.

Many years later, when I graduated to my first Gold Wing, I learned that there is one heck of a big world out there beyond the San Gabriel mountains. But I still didn't learn what life was like in a really small town. You see, although I was raised in a small city in the San Gabriel valley, twenty-some miles from the 'Big City' of Los Angeles, I never really experienced life in a place so small and remote from a major city that it becomes an experience all it's own.

Once outside the overwhelming, all encompassing exposure to a Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas or Seattle life takes on an entirely new set of rules, guidelines and reactions.

In the larger metropolitan areas the word 'excitement' could include Disneyland, casinos or 40 lane bowling alleys. In the tinier locales fun is a cup of coffee every morning with ten other guys wearing John Deere and Peterbilt baseball hats in the back room of McDonalds. Or it could be a semi-circle of chairs parked under the front canopy of the Kroger's grocery store. Each chair owned and operated by a woman who chats with the other chair-sitters knitting and doing what their husbands are doing at McDonalds....solving the world's problems with their friends....happily away from their spouses!

Small-town fun could also be a gaggle of youngsters clumped together on a street corner watching the local elk herd lazily devour a neighbor's prized rose garden knowing full-well that they are protected from harassment by the loudly protesting homeowner/gardener. (Elk and black-tail deer are also excellent apple tree cleaner-off'ers as well.)

Yes, life IS different away from the big city. The Gold Wing motorcycle is custom designed to introduce you to this kind of fun. Now it's up to you to get out there and find some new fun for yourself.

Green Lights and Free Gold Wings for Everyone!
jmaguire@wavecable.com



Lady Riders

By

Pat Bennett

By the time you read this, summer will well be on its course. Speaking of course, since Art retired June 2nd, he will be leaving July 13 for his "Retirement Ride." He will go all the way to Washington D.C, (fourth trip since 2003) and then pick me up at the airport in D.C. on August 3rd.

We'll visit our daughter and family, then ride 2-up to Lewiston Maine, back down through Vermont, New Hampshire and New York to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Four points of interest we hope to see are Tri

Chem (the fabric paint company I work with) in New Jersey, the Lighthouse Museum in Maine, Orange County Choppers and the Baseball Hall of Fame in New York. I'll fly home August 16th.

I mention this because packing for such a trip, and weather changes along the way, will be a challenge. Men don't seem to understand that we have a tendency to NEED more stuff than they do. Most of my stuff will go in the trailer, so when I fly, all I need is a small carry-on. We'll have different weight jackets, our Frog Toggs, and enough clothing to layer, according to temperatures. And we get to do it all over again when I retire, in about 3 ½ years! Only difference will be that I ride my bike for the whole trip.

Keep the rubber side down!

Pat



Editor's Comments

By

Crystal Richardson

Oh My Gosh

Ok, so Anita told you my big news so I guess I really don't have to repeat it. But, now you may understand why there wasn't a newsletter published in June...I was just a bit busy. So I'm sitting here on Friday night doing my best to get the July newsletter out before we head for Wing Ding tomorrow morning. I'm going to take this opportunity to piggy back on everybody's article this month.

First, the wedding was as Anita said; a fairytale wedding. Perfect weather, perfect venue, perfect groom ☺, dress, flowers, etc. I've been looking at pictures for a week now and realizing it really did happen, so much of that day is just a blur still. Thank you to everybody that has sent their well wishes, they are much appreciated.

Also, as Anita said; take a moment during this Independence Day celebration to actually celebrate all that this great country has given us. It isn't the greatest of times right now and we always seem to find things to complain about but think of how much we truly have. Not only do we have the best family around but we all share this great passion of freedom. Our freedom is on our bikes, but the freedom we celebrate every day has been won on the backs of young men and women since the formation of this wonderful country. I say my thanks every single day that I am allowed the freedom that I have. When you do see somebody in uniform, tell them thank you for offering their life to protect ours.

Now for John's article – small town life. I grew up in a small town, and I do mean a small town. (Well, more than 800 but less than 5,000.) I remember all the kids in the neighborhood getting together while most of the mom's sat in their coffee clutches talking about trivial stuff. I have lived in California for almost 24 years and I still miss the small town life I grew up with. I sometimes think of this GW family as my small town. Even though we span the United States, we still have that close family attitude. Thank you to my GW family for making me feel at home.

Finally, with respect to Pat's article...I still have quite a few years before I can think of retiring but that day will come. Being a lady rider it seems we have to doubly prepare for our rides. I must admit, I rarely go long distances by myself but it has taken many years of riding to program myself to think of those things we typically depend on the men in our lives to take care of. Did I do my t-clock inspection? How do I feel physically and mentally? Am I prepared for a possible problem on the road, first aide kit, tire pressure pump adaptable to the 1800, cell phone charger so I can "always" remain connected, etc. I know

these things seem trivial – oh and then there are the tools that need to be kept in the bike in case my bike happens to have some type of break down.

All that being said, I hope everybody has fun this Independence Day holiday and is thankful for all that life has delivered to our doors.

Crystal J. Richardson
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!**”*

July 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
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Wing Ding – Tulsa, OK						
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August 2009

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