

California District Gold



Golden State Gems December 2008

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays, Noel and definitely Joy to the World! I love December, the weather change, the holidays, JR's birthday, our anniversary and more celebrations in our family, it's a great time of year! We wish you the very best in this blessed holiday season!



Well, we rode the Wing in Kauai, Hawaii! I didn't think the weather was going to cooperate, but on Friday the weather God was with us and gave us a beautiful day. We picked up the Wing at the Harley Davidson shop, the only rental GoldWing on the island (we did see a guy riding a 1200) and it was a 2007 metallic black. I kept trying to pull my arm rest in, they didn't exist, and JR kept trying to plug his cord in. The helmets looked like they were used for bowling balls when not rented out, glad we brought our helmet liners, but that didn't matter, we had a ball!!! We rode the Wing to

Waimea Canyon and it was gorgeous. We continued up past the canyon to the end of the road where we were honored to get to see the Na Pali coast before the fog consumed it. The day ended way too soon but we'd do it again! It was a fabulous trip with many adventures, but by far my most favorite was ziplining across 9 canyons, the longest was 725'! It was awesome and as soon as I decided that I was going to come in butt first at the other end, I relaxed and enjoyed the ride. We stayed on the North Shore of Kauai in a beautiful condo and listened to the surf pound the cliffs since we had a weather front coming through for most of our stay. Due to the high surf we didn't get any snorkeling in but that didn't keep us from enjoying our trip!

When we got home we had time to unpack, repack, and head to Phoenix the next weekend for the Region F meeting. It was a very informative meeting. Bill and Rene Johnson, Assistant District Directors joined JR and I at the meeting. It was our first visit, to the home office and you even get a pin to state that you have been there when you sign the guest book. The office is in an industrial area in a very nice building and spacious floor plan. We started at 8AM (Arizona time) with reports from the Region. Melissa Eason, National Executive Director is our acting Region Director and many of the National Directors are acting Region F Directors in other divisions. They are looking to fill the Region F positions so if you have an interest, contact me or Melissa.

National's motto about the members is "They don't need us. We need to make them want us!" With that in mind, National has decided to reach out to the membership directly so it could be possible for you to receive an email directly from National with some questions or

announcements. They will limit the direct contact but it is something that they want to try. They will start with the Chapter Officers and go from there.

We also discussed reaching out to new membership. An area that we have probably overlooked is those folks buying used Wings. We should check the classifieds, Craigs list, etc and contact those selling the bike and talk with them about GWRRA and ask them to include a hanger or newsletter with the sale of the bike along with a local contact number of the closest chapter(s). Cool idea!

Also for WingDing next year, if 10 people register from your chapter, that means sending in all 10 registrations in 1(one) envelope you can take \$5.00 off each registration. It is something that they are trying to get chapters to get a group together and plan a great ride to Tulsa, that's half the fun! So get together guys and let's have a great showing from California in Tulsa, OK!

I want to thank Jerry Borge for putting together the Rider Education Instructor Certification course to train some of our members to be ARC Instructors. Hank Herrera gave his time to train these folks and earned his Master Instructor level, congratulations Hank that is awesome! Through the class we graduated TRC (Trike Rider course) Instructors, Jerry Borge, 2N; Dennis Kunter, 2N; James Williams, 1N; Ray Russell, 1K and from Washington state, Nelson Wagner and ARC (Advanced Rider Course) Instructors Jerry Borge, 2N; Dennis Kunter, 2N; Jerry Cowan, 1M; Richard Mason, 1I; Keith Shirley, 1L; Tim Roberts, 1F and from Las Vegas Harvey Hunter. Congratulations to all our new Instructors!

I know that I said I would announce the winner of the District Ride of Fame game last month and I failed to do so. Many of you turned in your score sheets and it appears that you had some fun visiting the chapters. It seemed that those chapters who really got into it got the most out of it with new friends and new adventures and that is really why we play the games. With that said.....CONGRATULATIONS CA1D, YOU DID IT GUYS!!! Great job Tim in rallying your group to head out and visit and your chapters involvement and participation is really up and that is a credit to your leadership and attitude toward FUN! Keep up the great work and it's obvious "who let the dogs out" ☺!!!

So Wingers, have a fantastic holiday, share time with family, friends and your special someone and be happy and safe. Spread the hugs, enjoy your chapter holiday events and know that JR and I are sending good wishes to each of you. Happy New Year!



Anita and JR
California District Directors

Southwest
Region F
The Official
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GWRRA
California
District



Random Ramblings John Maguire

Lessons from 2008

It's December and, in addition to making and filling Christmas lists and sharing our home with friends and relatives for the holidays, it's also when I like to recall lessons learned the past twelve months.

The first lesson I learned is that leaving your old home for a new one in a new location is not all that difficult. Leaving long-time friends is a painful, sometimes lonely situation. The Great Damp North is a marvelous part of the country and though we have met many fine, warm, generous people, there is a hole in our lives that was once filled by other warm, generous, loving people.

I learned early on that in a small town populated with "elderly drivers" the most dangerous place for a motorcycle or trike rider is often the Wal-Mart or Costco parking lot. Venturing into one of these "war zones" on two or three wheels is the very essence of severe danger. White lines, stop signs and speed bumps have about as much impact on senior citizen parking lot driving as a mailbox along an interstate. Come to think of it, there aren't any mailboxes standing alongside the roads leading into or out of those parking lots.

One of my friends has a flock of chickens that have free access to her entire property. I learned from those chickens some valuable lessons as well. For instance, turn over a large rock or move something in the chicken's yard and they all dive in to see if there is something yummy living under the just-moved object. From that, I learned that investigating each new opportunity that comes our way often pays off handsomely.

One day I noticed that after a hen had laid an egg she would stand proudly and announce to the world her accomplishment with loud clucks and other chicken noises and then strut away proudly. From this I learned that we should be proud of all our accomplishments, however small.

Another day I arrived to find none of the flock of chickens in sight. Later that morning I later learned from my friend that an eagle had been flying over the property earlier and when that happens, the roosters will make a certain sound which alerts the hens to duck for cover until the danger is gone. Thus I learned that we should all listen to that little voice that sometimes tells us that being extra careful or stopping what we are doing just might be a better idea for a while.

There is one special hen in the flock. Black and white and a bit more plump than most of the other hens, "Penny" is easy for me to pick out of the flock. All the other hens and roosters pay me little attention but Penny makes a point of staying near me no matter what I am doing. I could be hammering nails, sawing wood or digging a hole and if I look behind me Penny will be there, staying close to me, watching everything I do. The flock will scatter whenever my work causes loud noises, but not Penny. She simply wants to stay near me no matter what I'm doing. She has laid eggs for me while I am working and more than once Penny has jumped into my truck trying to go home with me. In short, I truly believe she is quite enamored with me. Penny has taught me something very valuable. She has shown me that in this world and in these difficult times it's important that we respect and support each other no matter what our differences may seem to be.

And after thinking about this for a while, isn't that what the Christmas holidays all about?

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from Debi, Lady, (the Wonderdog), Henny Penny and I to each and every one of you, and may 2009 be the very best year ever for all of us.

Green Lights and Open Highways to everyone

jemaguire@wavecable.com



Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

No contribution this month.

Keep the rubber side down!

Pat

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

Tis' The Season



My first inclination is to say Merry Christmas but to be correct and include all faiths I would like to say Happy Holidays to all of you. As I sit here thinking of what to write for this newsletter I begin reflecting on the past year and experiences. John's article made me begin to ponder...what lessons have I learned this year. I've learned that life is way too short to worry about the little stuff. That pretty much says it all without going into boring details.

I do love this time of year, this is when I get to take time to bake! I love the smell of fresh baked cookies floating through the house. I also love getting the tree and having that wonderful smell of pine hitting my nose every time I open the front door of the house. My daughter is home this year so we will decorate the tree together; it brings back so many fond memories of when my children were younger.

This time of year always brings me back to my "happy place" and reminds me of all the good things in life. I've decided to do my best in the coming year to not get caught up in the daily struggles but to remember the big picture. I will remember to put a little fun in every day so I can look back on 2009 and smile because I've allowed myself to enjoy every moment. We may face struggles but it is how we handle those struggles that is important.

My wish for you this holiday season is that you remember your "happy place" and allow yourself to go there on a daily basis.

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!”**

December 2008

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	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		

January 2009

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