

GOOOOOD MORNING GOLD WINGERS!

Sharon and I would like to introduce ourselves as your Region I Directors. Our formal names are Don and Sharon Weber. We were appointed this position on August 8th, 2016. We are firm believers of the GWRRA motto: **Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.** Our never-ending commitment is educating our members. Our compassion is being respectful and listening to our members. Our goal is for every member to think 'safety' first before mounting your Gold Wing. ALL of this can be done while having fun within GWRRA.

We would like to invite everyone to the WA-A Chapter Gathering on Saturday, January 28th, 2017. It will be held at the Old Country Buffet located at 1816 S. 320th St., Federal Way, WA at 8:00a.m. WA-A is the oldest and most respected Chapter in Washington. They are in a bit of a slump and need all of us to give them a giant boost of positive enthusiasm to rekindle and ignite the spark of GWRRA.

Sharon and I had an Idaho Chapter who was having concerns of how to keep their chapter alive. Their solution was ingenious. Not only did it get the fire of GWRRA going it is today a steady flame of fun. Here is what they did. A member would take the Chapter Director position as to oversee the operation. At each gathering, a staff member volunteers to lead the chapter. The Rider Educator spoke also. During the summer months, the Rider Coordinator set up rides which would begin after the monthly gatherings. Organizing it this way allowed everyone to be able to schedule and come prepared to ride. Attendance for the rides grew. Friendships strengthened and new ones began. This chapter continues to grow is now a very strong leader for Idaho. Maybe something along this line will work for WA-A. The more members we have at the January gathering the better chance we have of helping pull up WA-A. They deserve it. This is what GWRRA is – helping, being there for each and every chapter and member.

Let's jump on the ride of education. GWRRA has the Horizon Class and Officer Certification program. Both are integral parts of the structure of GWRRA. Before GWRRA how many of us would jump on our bikes to ride as many miles as the sunny day would allow with no consideration of what our attire was? How many of us thought about refresher courses to keep us up on safety? Well, I can tell you and we see it every spring and summer people on bikes with shorts, tank tops, tennis shoes and even flip-flops. The mind boggler with this is those who don't wear a helmet! You can't have FUN without SAFETY and KNOWLEDGE of your Gold Wing. We Gold Wingers know to wear long sleeves, long pants, boots and HELMET. It is very important to keep up with our education in all of these topics. One never stops learning. One can never be too safe.

Let's give a hand up to Chapter WA-A in Washington by attending their Gathering Saturday, January 28th.

Happy Trails to You

DON AND SHARON WEBER

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Region I Directors

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Northwest