



Florida District

FUN in Florida is # 1



Southeast - Region A

<http://www.floridadistrict.com>

November 2011

March 22 - 24, 2012

**Come Find Me Treasure at the
33rd Annual Florida District
Gathering of the Wings**



November

Monthly Visitation Bonus Points

- FL1-L (Panama City)
- FL1-X (Orange Park)
- FL2-A (West Palm Beach)
- FL2-G (Ft Myers)

If your Chapter plans on visiting,
as a courtesy, please call or
send an email to the CD

November Events

Nov 12	Multi-Chapter Lunch	Clewiston
Nov 19	FL1-X Spaghetti Social	Jacksonville

Director of GWRRA
Mike Stiger

Region "A" Director
Bob & Nan Shrader

District Director
Bill & Gina Berry

Assistant District Director
Cliff Hotchkiss

Assistant District Directors
Bill & Cheryl Smith

Assistant District Directors
Motorist Awareness
Nate & Danelle Kinion

Assistant District Directors
Membership Enhancement
Bruce Griffing & Mary Haight

Assistant District Directors
Chapter of the Year Coordinator
Harry & Lynn Anderson

Assistant District Directors
Chapter Newsletter Judges
Joe & Jan Mazza

Assistant District Directors
Geno & Kathie Jette

District Leadership Trainers
2011 District Couple of the Year
Rick & Madalena Buck

District Treasurer
Jim & Rebecca Iverson

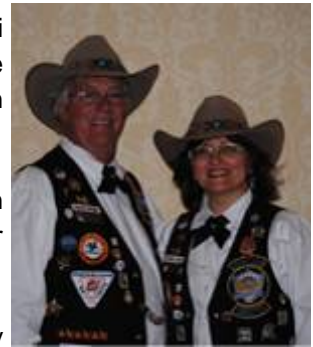
District Rider Educator
Don & Judy Danbury

Assistant District Rider Educator
Rick & Pam Northrop

Rider Ed Assistant Administrator
Mike & Bobbie Roy

District Webmaster
Howie Taylor

We just returned from the MS Rally/Convention. What a great event Bobby & Lori Bryant and the entire District Team put on! We didn't win the big prize but we believe everyone went away a winner at having FUN! This event wraps it up for the year in Region A.



Our Northern Wingers are beginning to arrive and they are a welcomed addition at this time of the year. We look forward to riding in the cooler weather with all of our GWRRA friends and having FUN!

If you haven't yet sent in your annual Chapter Charter Fee (\$50), please do so by the first of December. It is due! Please send your checks directly to Jim & Rebecca Iverson, District Treasurers. Also, the annual Chapter Conference will be here before we realize with the flurry of the Holidays upon us. January 7th & 8th are the dates for this conference and your room reservations can be made at the Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites, Lakeland, phone number: 863-647-3000, website: <http://www.imperialswanhotel.com>. Remember, this is an approved Chapter expense and as many of your Team that can should attend. We are planning to have the District Director's "Round Table" again. This time is set aside for any and all participants to be able to ask questions or give suggestions in a relaxed atmosphere.

GWRRA continues to struggle with membership numbers. We here in Florida are doing the same. We lost approximately 5% of our Members in the last reporting period. GWRRA is getting New Members all the time but we are losing more than we are gaining. Most of you always have new people in your area. We feel it is of the utmost importance that we contact these folks. Will they all join your Chapter? Probably not, but they will not have that choice unless they are invited! You have been asked to make at least 3 phone attempts to contact the New Members on the monthly Area Run List that you receive each month. Email is OK as long as the phone attempts have been made. I took a list of people from an area within our state that were listed as "not contacted" and made the phone calls myself. Out of the 8 contacts that needed to be made, one person was never at home or perhaps like me, they didn't recognize the number and wouldn't answer. The remaining people were talked to and all but one said they would at least check out the local Chapter. This endeavor was done over the course of 5 days and took approximately 30 minutes of my time. I feel this was very successful. Most Chapters only have 1 or 2, if any, New Members to contact each month. Just keep in mind the reason for making the contacts...to grow your Chapter, make new friends, and to have more FUN within your Chapter and GWRRA!

We at the District level are here to assist you in any way we can. All ADD's have been asked to make sure you receive any help requested. We can only help if you ask! In addition to the phone contacts, we are sending a letter to the New Members from the District with information on the local Chapters in their area. The only way for GWRRA to grow and prosper is to get people involved at the Chapter level. The only way for your Chapter to grow and survive is to offer the participants something to enjoy. This brings us full circle to the #1 Rule...Have FUN!

In closing, Gina and I would like to wish all of you "Happy Thanksgiving!" Whether it is with your blood family or your GWRRA family, ride safe, have FUN, and we hope to see you out and about!

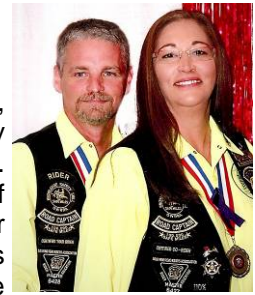
Bill & Gina Berry
District Directors

Florida's # 1 Rule
Have FUN!



Chapter Couple of the Year

Wow, it is hard to believe that the month of November is upon us. Later this month, the Holiday Season starts with Thanksgiving. Ok, maybe the season has started already because the other day we were in a few stores and they had out Christmas decorations. With the Holiday Season starting, we see this as the start of another special time of year. The season that Chapters should be considering who they will select as their Chapter Couple of the Year. We say this because as former Chapter Directors, this was the time of year when we started to consider which of the many couples in our Home Chapter we were considering for the honor.



Why is it important for a Chapter to select a Couple of the Year? The simple answer is...why would you not want to honor a couple that is actively involved in your Chapter? We believe that every Chapter in the District has at least one (if not multiple) couples that fall into this category! So yes, Chapter Directors, it is time to consider who will be your Chapter's Couple of the Year.

Now that you decided there are 1 or more couples that would make an outstanding Couple of the Year for your Chapter, you want to ensure they meet the requirements. The requirements are:

- Couple must consist of one male and one female.
- Both male and female must hold an Individual, Family, Associate Individual, or Associate Family Membership in GWRRA.
- Membership must be valid through the term of the Chapter Couple of the Year position (one year).
- The Couple must have completed at least one year of membership in GWRRA prior to being named Chapter Couple of the Year.
- In order to provide an opportunity for other deserving couples, the same Couple shall not be named as Chapter Couple of the Year for more than two consecutive years.

There you have it...just a few simple requirements.

What should you be looking for when it comes to selecting a Chapter Couple of the Year? The couple should be enthusiastic about GWRRA and the Chapter, actively involved in Chapter functions, positive about the Association, and eager to be of assistance wherever needed. There should be no consideration given as to whether or not they may or may not participate in the District selection process. Remember, the Chapter Couple of the Year is an award for the sole purpose of honoring a couple who has made significant contributions to the Chapter.

Now Chapter Director's, you don't have to make the selection all on your own. You may want to appoint a Couple of the Year Coordinator and/or Couple of the Year Committee to oversee the selection of the Chapter Couple of the Year. Many Chapters establish a committee to identify candidates, review their contributions, and make the selection. Possible committee members are current and past Chapter Couples of the Year, Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinator, and other Team members. If you choose this method, you should have the group submit possible selections for your decision.

Once you have determined who is going to be your Chapter Couple of the Year, make the announcement a "Big Deal"! Some Chapters make the announcement at their Christmas party, some at their monthly Chapter Gathering. This is completely up to you how you want to handle it. If you would like some ideas don't hesitate to contact us.

In closing, we have a challenge for each Chapter in the Florida District. We challenge each Chapter Director to select a Couple of the Year for your Chapter!

Rick & Madalena Buck
District Leadership Trainers
District Couple of the Year

Judy and I just returned from the Pancake Breakfast held by FL2-G (Ft Meyers). What a great time we had there visiting with many of the 140 Participants from 11 different Chapters. This is what makes GWRRA great...everyone getting together as one big happy family.



The event took place at Sun Sports Cycle & Marine Dealership who just happens to be the sponsor of the 2012 Gold Wing that we are raffling off next March at the District Convention. I was very impressed with the Dealership! Everyone was very friendly and helpful and they had anything that you may be looking for. I heard, but cannot confirm, that one of the Wauchula riders purchased a new motorcycle while he was there. Good for him! It's nice to support the sponsors that help us with our promotions over the years.

The weather is getting better for riding now and the safety courses are starting to pick up. The District currently has five riding courses plus one Medic First course taking place in November. I also have a request for more courses in December. This is the best time of year to do these because it is cooler.

Everyone should be aware of it, but as a reminder, you can take as many Rider Education courses or seminars for free! All you have to do is sign up and take part. The reason it is no coast to you as a GWRRA Member in Florida is due to the success of the Gold Wing Raffle each year. I must also point out that when you are ready to move up to become a Level IV (Master Tour Rider) that fee is also paid for by the Florida District Rider Education. In order to participate in this all you have to do is make a commitment to safe riding.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and now would be good time to purchase some of those motorcycle raffle tickets to give to friends and family. This will help support our educational courses and is a great return for your dollar.

Have a great holiday

Till Next We Meet, Keep the Rubber on the Road & the Shiny Side Up!

Don & Judy Danbury
Senior Master Tour Riders
Florida District Rider Educators



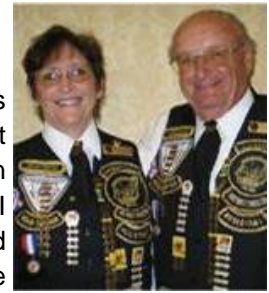
Gold Wing Raffle Tickets are available!

Sun Sports Cycle & Watercraft, Inc. of Ft. Myers, FL, along with the Florida District, have agreed to be the Sponsor of the Gold Wing Raffle Grand Prize give away

If you need tickets, contact your Chapter or District Rider Educator

Hello Again Everyone!

November 2011! Where has the time gone? It doesn't seem possible that 2011 is rapidly drawing to a close. September and October seemed to just fly by! We must have really been having FUN. We enjoyed the Region "A" Rally in September held in Eufaula, Alabama followed by the Mississippi Rally in Tupelo in October. In reality, I spent the times around these two events traveling back & forth between New York and Florida while Mary took care of cleaning out her Mother's house. It was good to see many of you all once again.



November starts the "Holiday Season" with Thanksgiving in November, followed by several holidays in December. This is sure to be a "busy" time for most of us. We will attempt to visit with as many of you as we can during this time.

After Thanksgiving, we will be attending the Region "A" Operations Meeting in December at the Lake Point Lodge in Eufaula. There we will be "prepped" for the upcoming 2012 GWRRA calendar and goals, as well as, any changes in policy and practices. The information gained there will be addressed at the Annual Chapter Conference in January.

After the Chapter Conference, we will be turning our attention to the 2012 Florida Wing Gathering in Kissimmee in March. Time is slipping by fast. Do don't let it fly by and find yourself without a room. Those of you who plan to attend should make your reservations now. March 1st will be here before you know it and then pre-registration will be closed. Save yourself some money. Register now! This year's theme is "A Pirate Parley." So get on your best Pirate outfit and come search for the treasure. This should prove to be an interesting presentation! We're sure the Worldgate will be Rockin!

Florida and Region "A" continue to struggle with membership retention. Each month we enjoy the many New Members recruited by you folks. They have come looking for you to show them the "FUN" which is the #1 rule in GWRRA Florida. That is why; if you have New Members on your monthly ARL you should make it a priority to contact them (by phone) and to ensure that they are welcomed into your Chapter family. Also, Chapters will be receiving full ARL's four times yearly (instead of twice) starting with October 2011. If you as the Chapter Director or Chapter MEC see a name on your Chapter ARL that you don't recognize or someone you haven't seen in a while, why not make the contact again and invite them back to join the "FUN". This doesn't have to be the responsibility of the CD alone; the entire Chapter Team can be involved. Let each Member of the Team take a section of the list and make an effort to keep your Members as a part of the Chapter. This would certainly aid in reducing the size of the expired memberships list that is published each month.

Mary & I want to wish all of our GWRRA friends in Florida and elsewhere a very Happy Thanksgiving. It's been great traveling around visiting the Southwest and other Chapters the past few months. We have enjoyed meeting so many new friends. Our thanks go to all of you for your hospitality and continued support of GWRRA.

We will attempt to keep you abreast of things that are happening in our area. Hope to see you all again soon!

Bruce Griffing & Mary Haight
Assistant District Directors, Southwest



Fall is here and it is a great time to ride with the cooler weather upon us. On October 13 - 15, we attended the Mississippi District Convention in Tupelo. Honda of Tupelo hosted a cookout on Thursday night where there was entertainment with dancing and prizes. On Friday, we attended the Mature Rider seminar and did some shopping at the vendors. That night we attended the Ice Cream Social and Talent Show. On Saturday we attended the Night Riding seminar and watched the Police practice their maneuvers. Closing Ceremonies was FUN. During closing, they announce that the Mississippi District Convention will be going "Back to the Beach" in 2012 to Biloxi. It was a good time seeing old friends and meeting new ones during the event.



During this trip, we rode 1,800 miles and covered seven states. We visited friends in Mississippi and Tennessee and relatives in South Carolina and Georgia. We had nice weather and the trees were beautiful with their fall colors.

Thanks to all the Rider Educators, Motorist Awareness Coordinators and Chapter Directors who submitted your N.6 Motorist Awareness Report for last quarter. Florida had 37 events with 2,678 participants.

Don't forget the Green Frog Getaway is October 29 at Bear Lake. Hope to see you at a Rally or Convention soon.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ride safe!

Nate & Danelle Kinion
Assistant District Director, Panhandle
District Motorist Awareness Coordinator



The Visitation program in Florida is going great and Chapters are getting out visiting others around the state. Because the point totals are so close, the decision was made not to publish the current standings in order to keep the Visitation Program fresh and FUN! The final numbers will be announced at the Chapter Conference in January. Keep up the good work and don't forget that the last quarterly submissions are due in to me by December 10th.



Registrations for the 2012 Rally/Convention are coming in very slowly. Please be sure to keep it in front of your Chapters at every opportunity. Early registrations help us to better plan on how many we can expect in March.

That's about it for this time. Stay safe and look out for one and other out there on the road.

Cliff Hotchkiss
Assistant District Director, Central
District Rally Coordinator

October was a wet month down here in the Southeast but that didn't deter us! On October 2nd, Ray Vega, the Rider Ed Coordinator for the area, put on an ERC in Miami and several folks from Chapter FL2-A, FL2-E, and FL2-R participated and learned a bunch. Yes, I took it also and always feel it is great to break old habits, practice skills and visit with friends. The next weekend several Members battled the threat of bad weather, and later the rain and wind, to go to the FL1-A Fall Festival. It was a FUN time and FL2-A presented them with the Hot Potato. In turn, FL1-A gave away the Region A Wanderer to Rome GA. The next weekend Cheryl and I went to Tupelo, MS for our first time attending the Mississippi District Convention/Rally! We had another FUN time and won the Longest Distance 2-up certificate! Bobbie & Lori Bryant, along with their Team showed us a bunch of old fashion Hillbilly Hospitality. The rest of the month we will be preparing for the A-R-E Multi-Chapter Luncheon Saluting Veterans!



Mark your calendar for November 12th because we A-R-E putting on one great luncheon at John Stretch Park in Clewiston FL. Check out our flyer on the District website Events page. Don't forget to enter the cookie contest! The rules are on the site also.

Now back to our story:

It is now the last week of August and our traveling companions are going to head home to Bemidji Minnesota. That is WAY up north where the Mississippi River starts! Cheryl and I decided to pack up and head south to the Colorado District Rally. We stopped for gas in Fairplay, CO and met the Colorado District Directors sister and her husband on their trike. We followed them into the Rally site which was at the county fairgrounds. They allowed us to camp there, along with others, so we set up camp after registering and buying tickets! Later that evening they had an Ice Cream Social at a local park. Upon arriving there we were surrounded by deer. The park is in a residential neighborhood and the deer moved to their front yards! The locals said it was typical sight. After ice cream (served by the local High School Band), they had a Lighted Bike Parade around the park. Later they had a 50/50 drawing and I won a part of it! We met several people and all were friendly and full of hospitality. But what else do you expect from GWRRA people!

The next day we went on a guided tour of the area. We went east along US-50 through Big Horn Canyon along the Arkansas River. Very scenic! After about 60 miles, we stopped at the Royal Gorge Bridge. It is the highest suspension bridge in the USA. After walking around and taking pictures, we rode across the bridge on a wood driving path. The rest of the bridge is metal suspension. You can look down through it, which is a little scary if you don't like heights. After lunch on the other side, we turned around and headed back making it just in time for Closing Ceremonies. Later that night it rained hard and I had to hold the side of our Bunkhouse against the wind for about a half hour. The next day we headed East. After battling side winds for 3 days on US-50 we made it to St. Louis, MO. We went just over the bridge to Illinois and got a room. We spent two days in St. Louis.

We'll tell you about them next month!

Bill & Cheryl Smith
Assistant District Directors, Southeast



We hope all is well for everyone and that all the Chapter Treasurers are keeping up with their Financial Report. We have been made aware of a new responsibility the Treasurers will have to undertake. It's an easy one and the best part is the Treasurer does not have to do anything. Chapter Treasurers will need to include in their year end paperwork a copy of the Chapters Rider Education N.6 Activity Report. In Florida Chapters are required to submit this report monthly. That means you need to have 12 reports (January - December) attached to your annual Financial Report paperwork. If your Chapter does not have a Ride Educator your Chapter Director will have the forms.



As the year is coming to a close, it's time to double check the things you need to provide in your year end report. The District website is a wonderful tool and has all the instructions and current paperwork you need to complete the year end fiscal reports. You will have to remember to put in your bank statement (December statement) and N.6's. Just go to the District website and click on the forms tab, it should have everything you need.

Remember to provide two full sets of signed paperwork at the Chapter Conference. If the Chapter Treasurer is not going to be in attendance at the Chapter Conference in January 2012, the Chapter Director should bring the year end reports (signed of course). If for some reason your Chapter is not going to be represented at the Conference, the documents need to be sent to the District Treasurers before the conference date (January 7th & 8th). This will enable us time to verify the reports and make any corrections or additions if necessary.

Sometimes surprise changes occur at the last minute and modifications need to be made.

If you would like, you are welcome to email everything to us in advance for a quick review. This might help us to locate anything that might be missing and make the process go quicker at the conference. Please feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have.

We hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and riding safely.

Jim & Rebecca Iverson
District Treasurers
District Couple of the Year Coordinators

Greetings from the Northeast

Can it be November already? The leaves are departing the trees here in the North and there is chill in the air. Both of these are a sure signs the season is changing to fall.



The FL1-X (Orange Park) Spaghetti Social is Saturday, November 19th in Jacksonville. This annual event has been a favorite for many GWRRA friends. The address is Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall, 5792 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida. From 3 - 5 pm.

Remember the Florida District Rally will be held March 22nd, 23rd & 24th in Kissimmee.

Hope to see you sooner than later

Geno & Kathie Jette
Assistant District Directors, Northeast



**33rd Annual Gathering of the Wings
22 - 24 March, 2012**

Phone Calls

One of the attributes of a responsible GWRRA Officer is his/her willingness to assist in the implementing of directives or procedures from the International Team which has the betterment of the organization as its purpose. Recently it has been recommended that Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinators (MEC) make every effort to make phone contact with New or Prospective Members listed on the Area Run List (ARL) for their Chapter. More success has been achieved by personal contact to New or Prospective Members via phone than by email. This makes sense since someone taking the time and effort to call and speak to you as opposed to just sending an impersonal email would make a better impression.



I understand that there are those who find it difficult to speak to strangers in person or on the phone without meeting them. If we take the creed of sociability and FUN, GWRRA espouses to heart, it makes sense that a friendly phone call explaining the benefits of joining one of our Chapters is so much more effective in achieving the contacts purpose.

As things are set-up, the Chapter MEC and Chapter Director receive the ARL each month. The ARL contains a tab with New Members, Prospective Members, Expiring Membership and Expired Memberships. MEC's and/or CD's are asked to contact (via phone) the New or Prospective Members on the ARL. This phone call is to welcome the New or Prospective Member to GWRRA and invite them to a Chapter Gathering or event and answer any questions they may have. Then, after the MEC or CD makes contact, they report back to the District. This is not a tough process and doesn't take a lot of time.

Unfortunately this process has not been happening on a regular basis. When the MEC or CD does not make the call, it then falls on the Assistant District Directors for their assigned Chapters to complete the process. Not that I mind contacting people but I cannot talk about your Chapter the way you can. Besides, these are New Members that may participate with your Chapter in the future...this mean new friends.

When we volunteer to become GWRRA Officers, we sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Part of the MOU states that you will uphold the position to the best of your ability. One of the responsibilities is to contact New or Prospective Members each month. Based on what I have seen, Chapters have no more than 2 people to contact a month. This probably is no more than 15 minutes a month. All I'm asking is that the Chapter MEC or Chapter Director take the time to contact these New or Prospective Members.

Folks, lately our District membership numbers are down 5%! We must make every effort, on every level, to maintain and recruit to the best of our abilities if the Florida District of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association is to remain a shining example of recruitment and retention. Let us all revisit our commitment to this great organization.

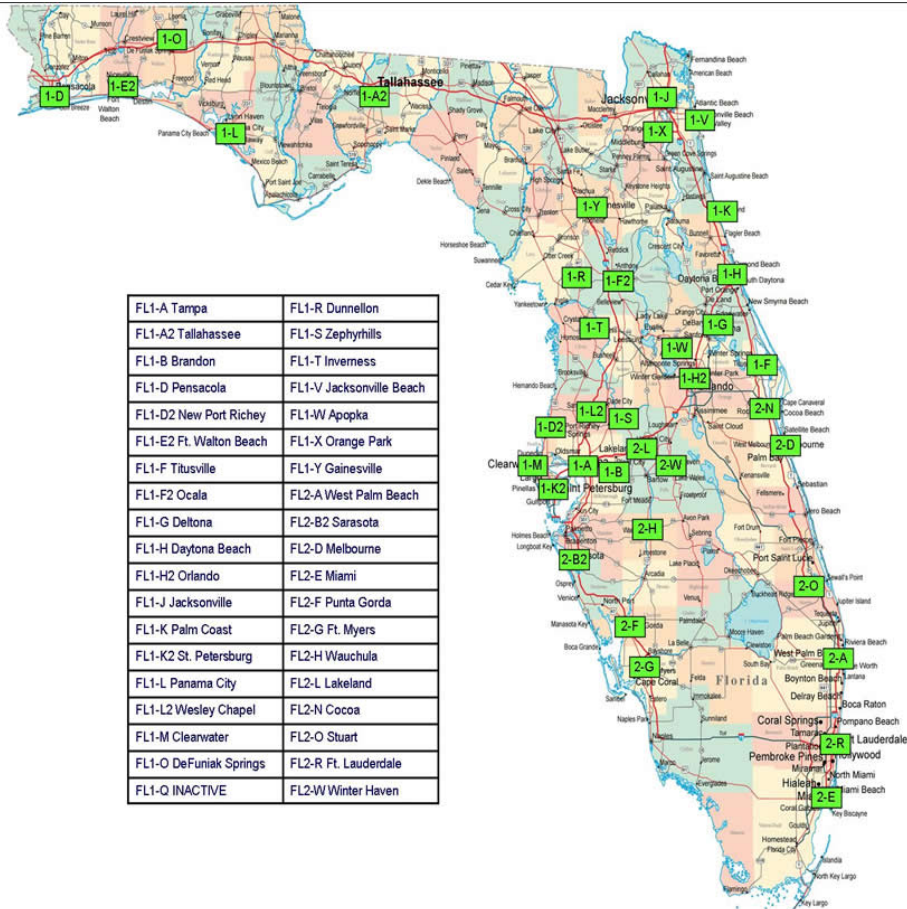
Ride Safe, Have Fun

Joe & Gracie Mazza
Assistant District Directors, West Central



2011 Florida GWRRA Events

Nov 12	Multi-Chapter Lunch	Clewiston
Nov 19	FL1-X Spaghetti Social	Jacksonville
Dec 10	FL1-S Mingle Jingle	Zephyrhills



FL1-A Tampa	FL1-R Dunnellon
FL1-A2 Tallahassee	FL1-S Zephyrhills
FL1-B Brandon	FL1-T Inverness
FL1-D Pensacola	FL1-V Jacksonville Beach
FL1-D2 New Port Richey	FL1-W Apopka
FL1-E2 Ft. Walton Beach	FL1-X Orange Park
FL1-F Titusville	FL1-Y Gainesville
FL1-F2 Ocala	FL2-A West Palm Beach
FL1-G Deltona	FL2-B2 Sarasota
FL1-H Daytona Beach	FL2-D Melbourne
FL1-H2 Orlando	FL2-E Miami
FL1-J Jacksonville	FL2-F Punta Gorda
FL1-K Palm Coast	FL2-G Ft. Myers
FL1-K2 St. Petersburg	FL2-H Wauchula
FL1-L Panama City	FL2-L Lakeland
FL1-L2 Wesley Chapel	FL2-N Cocoa
FL1-M Clearwater	FL2-O Stuart
FL1-O DeFuniak Springs	FL2-R Ft. Lauderdale
FL1-Q INACTIVE	FL2-W Winter Haven

2012 Florida GWRRA Events

Jan 7-8	FL Chapter Conference	Lakeland
Jan 14	FL2-L Cowboys & Indians	Lakeland
Jan 21	FL1-O Annual Chili Run	DeFuniak Springs
Jan 29	FL2-D Multi-Chapter Breakfast	Melbourne
Feb 11	FL1-G 50's/60's Sock Hop	Sanford
Mar 22-24	FL District Rally/Convention	Kissimmee
Apr 14	FL1-B Rally	Sefner
Apr 14	FL1-K Poker Run	Palm Coast
Apr 19-21	AL District Rally/Convention	Mobile, AL
Apr 26-28	SC District Rally/Convention	S. Charleston, SC
Apr 28	FL1-W Green Eggs & Ham	Orlando
Jun 14-16	GA District Rally/Convention	Dillard, GA



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