



# GWRRA CHAPTER WA-A SEATTLE, WA



**Chapter Director**

Periodic News Letter  
July 2022

[www.gwr-ra-waa.org](http://www.gwr-ra-waa.org)



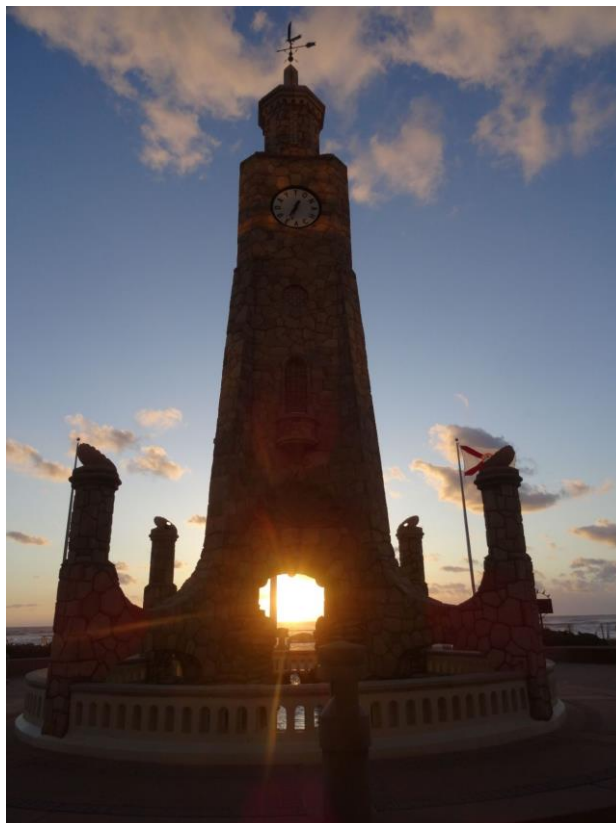
*Something from the road!*



**Claudia and Harry's Big 2022 Trip – Part 2**

## ***The Long Road Home***

*Having traveled 4002 miles to Key West we still hadn't managed to complete our 48 state patch. So we headed up the coast on US 1 though Miami to Daytona with an overnight in Ft Lauderdale. Traffic on US 1 was reasonable, the Atlantic side of Florida wasn't quite as manic as the Gulf side. We saw lots of sites along the way including Cape Canaveral but the best was sunrise at Daytona Beach.*



Sunrise at Daytona Beach

After Daytona we continued up US 1 to St Augustine where we detoured to Florida 13 which runs along the St John's River because a guy in a gas station told us it was one of the best rides in Florida.



Florida 13

From Florida 13 we found our way to US 17 through the miracle of 'being lost'. We spent a night in Brunswick, GA and continued off us 17 the next day to Charleston, SC.



US 17 through rural Georgia

After spending the night just outside Charleston we took a quick ride through historic Charleston in the morning before heading north on US 17 again to Myrtle Beach.





Historic Charleston

Myrtle Beach was nice but if I had to choose I would rather go to Daytona or Ft Walton beach. From Myrtle beach we turned west to Charlotte to visit my sister. We spent two days at my sister's doing exciting things like sitting on her boat dock at Lake Norman and doing laundry.

We wandered from my sister's to Robbinsville, NC via rural roads. The riding in Western, North Carolina/Blue Ridge Mountains was excellent.



Western North Carolina

Of course no trip to Western North Carolina can be complete without taking a ride along the 'Tail of the Dragon' @ Deals Gap. The most challenging part of this ride was avoiding folks coming the other way who were being less than perfect about staying in their lane.



From Robbinsville we took US 129 and US 127 to Albany, Kentucky because somehow we managed to ride all around Kentucky in our various trips but never managed to actually cross into Kentucky. It was a lot like Western NC. We took TN 111 to Cookeville for the night.

The next morning we headed out on TN-55 towards Tupelo, Mississippi. We passed the Jack Daniels brewery in Lynchburg, TN. Once in Tupelo we took a ride to see Elvis's boyhood home. The King had a very modest start in life.



Elvis's boyhood home

After Tupelo Claudia wanted to go home..so I took her to Stuttgart,~~Germany~~—Arkansas for lunch. It turned out it was nothing like Stuttgart, Germany. I tried. We spent the night in Conway, AR.



We had planned to go home through Oklahoma and Colorado but there was a blizzard happening in Colorado. So I adjusted our course to head west on AR-22 then turn north along AR-59. Never one to miss an opportunity to score points I thought a quick trip to Paris, ~~France~~ Arkansas would thrill Claudia.



Paris Arkansas

We spent the night in Siloam Springs, AR. The next morning we set out to document the 48<sup>th</sup> State we visited. Warning to those that may follow..both the Honda Nav and Google maps become hopelessly 'confused' here. Somehow we managed to find our way to Hiawatha, KS via US 59/69 .



Oklahoma,Arkansas,Missouri boundary marker

From Hiawatha,KS we continued north to Vermillion, SD. Somehow getting from US 73 North to US 77 North involved gravel roads..about 20 miles or so. We had our best dinner of the trip at the Hartford Steak Company in Vermillion. Two bacon wrapped 6 ounce fillet mignons with potato and salad for \$19.95. The beer was cold as well!!!

The following morning we started out on SD50 West to US 18 West. Somewhere around Star Valley, SD the odometer on the Goldwing hit the magic 100,000 miles.



We finished up the day at Chadron,Nebraska.

From Chadron we made our way to Sheridan, Wyoming. US 14 from Gillette to Sheridan turned out to be the 'loneliest road in America' as far as we were concerned.



US 14 - Lonelist Road in America





Spotted Horse

The only eatery along US 14 between Gillette and the outskirts of Sheridan was at Spotted Horse. There is a 'Standard' sign but no fuel pumps. The food at the Spotted Horse was pretty good considering how far off the beaten path we were. We spent the night in the Sheridan Convention Center. Spaghetti with 'meat sauce' was \$19.95 at the hotel restaurant. The worst meal of our trip.

From Sheridan we took I-90 to Billings then MT 3 to US 12 to Helena. It would appear that in Montana when they 'resurface' a road they take it all the way down to 'gravel'. We got to experience about 12 miles of gravel just outside of Helena. We stayed at the Great Northern Hotel. The best hotel of the trip.

So after 33 days we were dry except for a couple of 'bad clouds' that only lasted a few minutes. Of course the Pacific Northwest wouldn't be the Pacific Northwest if it didn't welcome us home with 'liquid sunshine'. I had hoped to get from Helena to Wallace, Idaho dry but the sky opened up an hour east of Wallace, Idaho. We called 'short day' and spent the afternoon and evening in Wallace.



Lunch @ Redlight Garage - Wallace

We had lunch at the 'Redlight Garage' in Wallace. We were unaware of Wallace's 'history'. Wallace was definitely a 'colorful' place. The Wallace convention center had a very nice pool and was comfortable and clean.

It was raining the following morning when we left Wallace. We stayed on I-90 until North Bend pretty much telling ourselves the whole way that if we had to we would stop at the next town with a hotel. The rain stopped when we got to Auburn.



**Don't forget!** This **Saturday July 23rd** is our **Chapter "A"** monthly meeting at the Golden Steer Restaurant. Breakfast starting at **8:00am** with meeting following at **9:00**. Usually a ride after....

---- *"Yes a Breakfast Meeting"* ---- With the **King County Covid-19** restrictions in Phase (3) three, the Golden Steer can now hold a group up to (24 people) in our meeting room. **Hope to see you there!**



23826 104th Ave SE, Kent, WA 98031.

(Have you checked out the **Chapter "A" Website** lately? Our Webmaster works on it almost daily, Check it out). [gwrra-waa.org](http://gwrra-waa.org) **Come on out and join in!**

-----**Don't miss the fun**-----

Harry Rossignol  
Chapter "A" Director  
[harrywr2@comcast.net](mailto:harrywr2@comcast.net)



## Assistant Director (ACD) – July 2022



### Looking through the Windshield:

*Good evening Chapter “A” As I sit here working on the July Newsletter I can’t help thinking about all the new information coming out of National, but more about that later!*

*Our June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting was well attended with 20 members and Guests attending.*



*Lots of great conversation was enjoyed talking about future planed events and the loss of fun due to the Cancellation of the **Washington State Rally** (Was looking forward to seeing friends and having fun at the Rally).*

*Then the opening day of **Wing Ding** came with the Terrible news from **Phoenix GWRRA Headquarters** that **National** was **CLOSING THEIR DOORS** effective July 31, with finial shutdown on December 31 and GWRRA would be no more!*

*Then as planned Chapter “A” visited the Chapter “V” meeting on Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> (***There’s never enough fun***) with an announced extra feature of the State Directors for GWTA attending to talk about GWTA, its benefits and to welcome any or all of us in GWRRA to join them in future riding and fun!*



*21 Members and Guests were in attendance to enjoy each others company and hear what the Directors from GWTA had to say and discuss the future of Chapters “A” & “V”.*



***The fun is not over!** Harry and Jeff will be checking with Ken our District Director to see what the district is looking into for the future.....*





*GWTA's Directors here to invite GWRRR members to join GWTA.*



*Take the time to attend other Chapter meetings and functions! You won't regret it.....**Don't miss the Fun.***

**Chapter "A" is in its 42nd year in 2022**

**Don Hatley**  
**Chapter "A" ACD**  
[dhatwaa@comcast.net](mailto:dhatwaa@comcast.net)



## **So many news worthy things to talk about.**

It is really amazing how many things have happened in the last couple of weeks. Honda announced that some of the Gold Wing line will be discontinued soon. GWRRA founders announced during opening ceremonies at Wing Ding that the Gold Wing Road Riders Association is dissolving. I'm sure you have been hearing about it and reading about it more than you want to so I am not going to talk about it here.

I want you to know that none of the above has affected my desire to ride and I hope it hasn't affected you either. Why? Because we have a 5 Aces Ride coming at the end of the month. Free ice cream for all GWRRA members that ride with us to the destination that has been selected.

The ride will start at the McDonald's Restaurant parking lot in Tacoma on South Tacoma Way and Hwy 512. We will roll out of the parking lot at 9:30 am on July 30th. There will be short intermediate stops to make it easy for anyone to join us on our trip to Raymond.

First stop will be the Walmart parking lot in Yelm. The parking lot is not a comfort stop, merely a rally point to allow anyone from south of Tacoma to join up without having to go north just to ride south again.

The ride to the Walmart in Yelm will take about 30 minutes. We will roll out of the parking lot at 10:10 am. I think a 8 to 10 minute wait is more than sufficient since I doubt there will be many that will join us there.

From Walmart in Yelm we will ride to the Shell station in Rochester. It is conveniently located at the junction of Hwy 12 and I-5. Nice place for a short rest stop, and then we will roll out at 11:00 am bound for Raymond. Free Ice Cream ahead.

It will take one and three quarters hour to make it to the destination. You are more than welcome to have lunch there and in fact, I'd recommend it but make sure you leave room for ice cream. Though lunch will be on you individually, Chapter WA-A will be buying the ice cream for the group.

The return trip will be via US 101 to US 12 and WA 8E and a bit of I-5. We will only have about 45 minutes of saddle time to Elma but we should probably stop at the Rest Stop on WA 8E. From there it is about an hour back to Tacoma.

Bill and I rode this route a couple of weeks ago and it was a really nice ride. Lunch was good and the ice cream really hits the spot. By the way, we only spotted two deer on the ride. I doubt that they were related though. They were about 30 minutes apart on WA 507. First the big Doe and then the little Fawn.



To see the short video of the near misses, click the picture.

Mike Briesse

WA-A Webmaster/Membership Enhancement Coordinator



## Part 2

You are undoubtedly aware now that the Gold Wing Road Riders Association is closing their doors for good as of July 31, 2022. That kind of leaves us all high and dry for the duration. Sad state of affairs. I don't think anyone agrees with how and when it was announced but it is what it is.

With all that in mind, some of us thought that we should check out the competition. Someone contacted the Gold Wing Touring Association (GWTA) district director for Washington, Vonda Brest, and asked if she would come and address Chapter WA-V and WA-A at the WA-V gathering in July.

Vonda told us that they are few in numbers and are very welcoming to all new members. She is a participant in Chapter F of GWTA. Their chapter is small and their meetings are intermittent. Vonda rides a Can-Am and is taking a rider training course to learn her new three wheeled machine. Next weekend, July 16 and 17, is the STP (Seattle to Portland) bicycle escort event which is their fundraiser. She would like it if we could visit the Everett chapter (C) in August if she is back from vacation by then. From what I understand, Chapter C is the largest chapter in the district. As far as I know, they meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Evergreen Lanes, 5111 Claremont Way, Everett, WA 98203 at 8:00 am for breakfast. But this is information from their website and may be outdated.

Prior to the WA-V gathering on July 3rd, Harry and I attempted to contact the GWTA Chapter Q folks to see if they were going to have a meeting. From all the information we had we understood that they normally meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Centerville Cafe in Centralia. Neither one of us got a reply to our emails or phone calls. So, we figured that we would just motor on down to the Centerville Cafe for breakfast anyway on Saturday morning.

The weather was a bit overcast and a little foggy but comfortable. We decided to meet at the restaurant in Centralia at 8:30 am for breakfast. We both arrived there around 8:15 am.

Initially, we didn't see any of the GWTA folks but to be honest, I guess we didn't look too hard. There were two of them there and one of them introduced himself after we sat down and were eating. We talked for a while and learned that the reason we had not gotten a reply to our inquiries about the meeting is because they had lost their Chapter Director in June. Very sad. Anyway, we found out that the chapter is quite small as are all the chapters nationwide. They are really hurting for members. I think if one tenth of the members that were part of GWRRA were to join GWTA, the association would get a real boost. I guess we will have to see how things pan out.

The ride home from Centralia was interesting. We took some roads that we had never been on and encountered a car parked in a road side ditch and meet up with some hoofed ruminant mammals.

For a short video of the hoofed ruminant mammals, click [HERE](#).

Mike Briese  
WA-A Webmaster/Membership Enhancement Coordinator



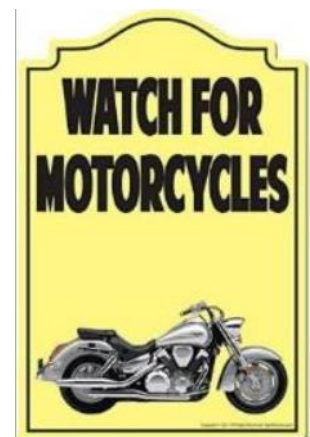
## **Rider Education –**

## **Motorcycle Awareness -**

and other interesting

information is available with Washington District and National activities in the Washington District Newsletter @

<http://www.gwrra-wa.org/>

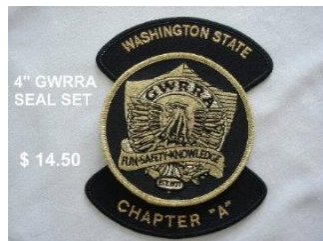


***Rider Education***

***Motorcycle Awareness June 2022***



## Chapter Stores



The full stores inventory is on the Chapter Website:



Don Hatley  
Stores Manager  
[dhatwaa@comcast.net](mailto:dhatwaa@comcast.net)

## Chapter Sunshine / Greeters



### July Birthdays

27th Michael Piechowiak

### July Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> Todd & Merdith Mclain

Chris & Patty Johnson  
Sunshine / Greeters



## **WA”A” Activities**



### ***5 Aces Ride***

## ***Upcoming events***

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Chapter “A” 5 Aces Ride

Aug 20<sup>th</sup> – WA”O” Whale of a Picnic

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Anacortes Oyster Run

October 29<sup>th</sup> – Chapter “A” 5 Aces Ride

WA”A” Activities the 5 Aces Ride

### **Hello All GWRRA members and Chapters**

At Chapter “**A**” We’ve noticed that there are some lonely Saturdays out there. Outcasts, if you will. Four months each year have an additional 5th Saturday with no chapter meetings or scheduled events. No guidance, and more importantly, “**No Ice Cream**”. Well here at Chapter “**A**” we want to do something about it! Come ride with us, on these 5th Saturdays of the month and **we will buy you a cone**. The destinations are going to be forthcoming. We are not really sure. Did I mention that there will be ice cream and riding involved. More to follow!

Harry Rossignol, Chapter “A” Director

*Flyers for the above events can be found on the Chapter “A” website.*

[gwr-ra-waa.org](http://gwr-ra-waa.org)



## Motorcycles and / or Parts ..... Buy / Sale .....

Adds will be listed for three (3) months or until sold!

**GWRRA Members Adds Free!**

### For Sale



Brand New GL1800 Wheel. Non-Coated.  
Never had a tire on it or been mounted to  
a final drive. **\$125.00**



Powder Coated GL1800 Wheel.  
**\$150.00**

Email Mike Briese @ [briese@earthlink.net](mailto:briese@earthlink.net)

### WANTED / To Buy







## ***Chapter WA”A” Officers and Staff***

**Harry Rossignol – Chapter Director (CD)**

**Don Hatley – Assistant Chapter Director (ACD)**

**Don Hatley – Newsletter Editor**

**Charlie Butters – Treasurer**

**Mike Brieese – Membership Enhancement Coordinator (MEC)**

**Mike Brieese - Webmaster**

**Don Hatley – Stores Manager**

**Bill Holt – Phone Tree Coordinator**

**Open – Face Book Coordinator**

**Chris & Patty Johnson – Greeters, and Sunshine Person**

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*The Chapter has several positions open and is looking for members with great ideas to fill them!*

**-Open – Assistant Chapter Director (ACD)**

**-Open – Ride Coordinator**

**-Open – Newsletter Editor**

**-Open – Activity Coordinator (Monthly Activities)**

**-Open – Technical Coordinator (Goldwing Maintenance Information)**

**-Open – Chapter Historian**

**-Open – Ways & Means Coordinator – Conducts 50/50 drawings, door prize etc.**

*----- So step forward, “volunteer” to have more fun and have your ideas enjoyed by everyone! -----*

# WASHINGTON CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Chapter	City /Mascot	Chapter Director	Meeting Date/ Time	Location
WA-A	Seattle Apes	Harry Rossignol Phone: (425)351-9481 ACD: Don Hatley	4th Saturday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Gathering @ 9:00 AM	Golden Steer Restaurant 23826 104th Ave SE Kent, WA 98031
WA-E	Bellevue Eagles	Ron & Lana Peck Phone: (425)908-7321	3rd Saturday Breakfast @ 9:30 AM Gathering @ 10:00 AM	Kenmore Lanes 7638 NE Bothell Way Kenmore, WA 98028
WA-I	Olympia Cow	Ray Abitz Phone: (360)790-2832 ACD: Ron Wolf	3rd Sunday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Gathering @ 8:30 AM	VFW On Martin Way 2902 Martin Way E. Olympia, WA 98506
WA-L	Kennewick Looney Tunes	Gary Dumas Phone: (509) 551-6133 ACD: Tom Denny (509) 582-8779	2nd Saturday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Gathering @ 9:00 AM	Sterling's Restaurant 2500 Queens gate Drive Richland, WA 99352
WA-N	Spokane Wing Nuts	Don & Hope Sundahl Phone: (509)993-5501	3rd Saturday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Gathering @ 8:30 AM	Golden Corral Buffet 7717 N Division St Spokane, WA 99208
WA-O	Port Orchard Orca	Ken & Tami Smith Phone: (360)440-6357 ACD: Jack Davies	3rd Saturday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Gathering @ 9:00 AM	Everybody's Restaurant 4215 SE Mile Hill DR Port Orchard, WA 98366
WA-R	Walla Walla Road Runner	Pat & Von Webb Phone (509)438-3906 ACD: <b>None</b>	1st Saturday Breakfast @ 9:00AM Gathering @ 10:00 AM (Winter Hours)	<b>Shari's</b> Restaurant 814 Chestnut St. Walla Walla, WA 99362
WA-V	Auburn Frog	Jeff & Cindy Duffield Phone: (253) 293-0744	1st Sunday Breakfast @ 9:00 AM Meeting @ 10:00 AM	Golden Steer Restaurant 23826 104 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE Kent, WA 98031
WA-X	Vancouver Phoenix	David Van Nice Phone: (360) 891-6889	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dinner @ 5:30 PM Gathering @ 6:00 PM	Benny's Rod & Custom Pizza 4219 N.E. St Johns Rd. Vancouver, WA 98661
WA-Z	Centralia Chickens	Patrick & Ruth Allison Phone: (360)266-8418	2nd Saturday Breakfast @ 8:30 AM	Ramblin Jacks Ribeye 1336 Rush Rd Chehalis, WA 98532 Ext 72



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See our web site for Web Site Links to our sponsors; <http://www.gwrra-waa.org/>

**Harry Rossignol**

WA-A Chapter Director

harrywr2@comcast.net

