

Judy & I just returned home from a twelve day trip to Wing Ding, Ohio and Mississippi spanning some 2800 miles. We met many friends and family. We had an absolutely grand time both at Wing Ding and with our family in Ohio.

Wing Ding was to us about as perfect as it could be with lots of vendors present; if you wanted it they had it. All the GWRRA riding courses and seminars were available Wednesday through Friday including four new seminars Going, going, gone, Riding with new riders, Riding in the heat, and Dealing with the elements. If you took part in any of the riding courses or seminars they were immediately taken to the Rider Ed booth and updated on the new National data base so that you could stay current or move up in the levels program. In addition to all this at closing they gave away over fifty thousand dollars' worth of products including a brand new 2012 GL 1800 Gold Wing and a Hannigan trailer and more. All in all I'd say Wing Ding 33 was a huge success.

During all my coming and going around the convention center for five days I observed literally hundreds of riders and co-riders riding in shorts, sleeveless tops, some wearing Flip flops, sneakers and gloveless and a host of gearless ways. It seems that they all feel that nothing can happen to them so why wear the gear, but guess what it did happen at Wing Ding to one unfortunate couple on a trike. No it wasn't their fault but it still happened and almost right at the convention center, so I guess it comes back to the saying it isn't if it's when. I guess the reason that I mention this is because as an educator I feel that in some way we have let our members down by not promoting and stressing the importance of proper gear all the time no matter what the weather. I encourage all the team members starting at the International level right down through the Regions, Districts, and Chapters to lead the way by dressing for the ride with All the Gear All the Time. Lead by example just maybe some of it will rub off on some of our riders & co-riders. Remember if you're going to talk the talk you need to walk the walk. So let's all get out there and put forth a great team effort and save some lives.

Till Next We Meet Keep the Shiny Side Up and the Rubber On the Road.

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