

2015 International Chapter of the Year Florida Chapter FL1-L2 – Wings of Wesley Chapel

By Rick and Madalena Buck



In April 2011, we were on our way to a Chapter Kick Tire when we received a call from the Director of the Membership Enhancement Program that our Chapter was selected as 2010 GWRRA International Chapter of the Year. Fast forward to May 2016 at the Alabama District Rally Closing Ceremonies. The Director of Membership Enhancement approached the podium and announced that Wings of Wesley Chapel were the 2015 GWRRA International Chapter of the Year. To say the 15 Chapter participants in attendance were excited would be an understatement!

We have been asked on numerous occasions why we think we were selected as International Chapter of the Year for a second time. Our answer is simple. Wings of Wesley Chapel kept doing what we do every year, we have fun. This may sound simplistic but it is a fact.

In Jan. 2015, since we are familiar with the Chapter of the Year Program, we approached Chapter Directors Paul and Sharon Matz and proposed that we assume the position as Chapter of the Year Coordinators. But we had a request. First, we wanted to keep to a minimum the number of people with knowledge that we were tracking

Chapter of the Year points. Our reasoning came from our experience in 2010. Second, we had talked with other Chapters that were selected and they said people wanted to do things just for points.

The other question frequently asked of us was if you didn't do specific tasks to get Chapter of the Year points, then how did we accumulate so many points? Again, the answer is simple. Our Chapter averages 12 events a month. Each year we average that amount every month. Having so many monthly opportunities, people can pick and choose what they want to do from the variety of scheduled events. Our calendar is heavy on riding. We joined the association because of our motorcycles. For the most part, you won't find rides to and from a restaurant. Rides are planned with dining somewhere along the way.

Rides take us all over the state to attend festivals, parades, poker runs, Chapter visitations and rallies. As a Chapter, we also attend District and Region rallies outside the state, along with Wing Ding. Other unique Chapter rides include going to drive-in movies on motorcycles or riding two hours to

go tubing down a spring-fed river. The key to our Chapter is we all come up with ideas and then we implement them.

We also hold regular recruiting and motorist awareness events, Kick Tires, Meet & Eats, Chapter Picnics, game nights and more. Our Chapter fully supports training in the Rider Education, Membership Enhancement and Leadership Training Programs. We are fortunate to have certified trainers, MEDIC First-aid Instructors and Parking Lot Practice Facilitators to meet our Chapters ongoing goal to increase our knowledge. There is one constant in our Chapter – we like having fun and participating. We have over 50 active participants from different backgrounds and areas that make our Chapter even more fun. The second key to the Chapter of the Year Program is having someone who is familiar with documenting what a Chapter is doing. 📖

Rick and Madalena Buck are Chapter of the Year Coordinators.