

Parking for Gold Wings Only

Recently Carrie and I had the opportunity to ride in a non -GWRRA Gold Wing event. It was there that I realized just how good Chapter Z is at group riding! I know I talk and write about it a lot in an effort to make us even better, but y'all, we rock compared to what I observed at the Gold Wing Invitational.



Carrie and I were honored to give the pre -ride talk about group riding to the bunch that jumped off from Pasadena Honda on Spencer that Saturday morning. For most participants the talk went in one ear and out the other. I don't know if they thought they knew it all or they just didn't care, but it was a mess for the most part. I was fortunate enough to be in a group with all "Z" people. We did great. The other things I saw and heard on the radio we are still laughing about. I say laughing, but it really wasn't funny, it was dangerous. Anyway, this paragraph is for Kudos for Chapter Z for being the best group riders I saw at the event. Carrie and I were both VERY proud!

And now, as Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story. We do a great job of "riding" as a group. What I want to touch on just briefly in this article is "parking" as a group.

I love being the drag bike in the last group on one of our rides. WE LOOK GOOD! Our lane changes are better than ever. Our communication is excellent. We need to pay more attention to parking as a group. Sometimes it's pretty good, other times....

1. When we pull in to a stop, we need to stay as close as possible with the group (if we are riding in multiple groups) we came in with. It just makes it that much easier when it's time to leave.
2. The lead bike needs to pull far enough in to allow all the riders the chance to get off the road and ready to park. We don't have to pick the closest place. The leader needs to try to pick a spot that will accommodate the whole group, if possible.
3. If we are parallel parking along a curb, try to park staggered or side by side if room permits. This makes our "footprint" in the parking lot much smaller. This is the best scenario since we can just continue on straight and in order when its time to pull out.
4. If parking in a regular parking lot, pull up in front of the spot you intend to park and **back** in to the space. Once again, this makes it easier when we try to leave as a group. Get as close to the bike next to you as you safely can. Don't just do 1 bike per parking space it takes up too much room. We can get closer than that. Allow room to dismount without kicking anyone else's bike, of course.
5. Put your new Chapter Z windshield cover on your windshield and walk proudly away from your Wing. We have arrived. Who? Chapter Z of course, the ones that look great on and off the road!

That's it for now. Till next time....think safe, ride safe, be safe.
It's not about the destination.....it's about the ride!

Ted and Carrie Geier

Chapter Z Chapter Educators
Master Tour Riders

ATGATT is where we are at!