

Greetings to all GWRRA Members,

Many have asked, others are waiting, and some have already decided. Yes, the question is “What is happening with Wings Over the Smokies?”

Wings Over the Smokies 2021 is a go! But not so for WOtS 2020. We want you all to know how hard of a decision this was to come to, but we really felt the safety and health of our members to be our first obligation.

The beautiful hills and mountains still call us to enjoy their thrills and their beauty; the Smoky Mountains will hold over all their grandeur for us.

We are extremely excited to say that in place of Wings Over the Smokies 2020, we are working to organize the first “Wings Over Carolina”.

“Wings Over Carolina” will be 3 separate regional rides spread across our state with specific routes and gathering points and will be in the fall, sometimes between the middle of September and the middle of October.

“Wings Over Carolina” will be an open-air focused event; meeting, riding, picnicking, and playing, all outside.

“Wings Over Carolina” will maintain safe social distancing and allow for masking as individuals may deem appropriate.

“Wings Over Carolina” will allow us to visit personally with friends.

“Wings Over Carolina” will not require hotels.

“Wings Over Carolina” will be exciting!

“Wings Over Carolina” will be fun!

“Wings Over Carolina” will welcome 2 wheels, 3 wheels or 4 wheels.

We will do our best to schedule the “Wings Over Carolina” ride for the western region (mountains) during the previously scheduled dates for WOtS (September 24th, 25th or 26th). We hope this will facilitate people that had plans to attend WOtS to come and join us for the western “Wings Over Carolina” ride.

Of course we understand if you prefer to stay home, no one knows what the next few months will hold, but on the assumption that the virus is beginning to come under control in the US, we would like to continue to ride together, even while we can't gather in large groups. We believe this is the absolute best way to balance the health and safety of all GWRRA members with our collective desire to gather, ride, and have fun.

Believing the safety and health of our members to be our first obligation, we have been brainstorming other ways to keep our GWRRA community connected. For the immediate future, organizing smaller local rides, observing proper social distancing protocols, and wearing masks in public places must be a consideration. The good news is that if we all do these things, we will help slow the spread of the disease enabling us to gather in groups once again.

Facing the threat of Covid-19 has certainly posed many challenges for all of us, individually and collectively. Out of this struggle to find the new path forward. **“Wings Over Carolina”** was born but may ultimately become a summer tradition.

There will be many more details forthcoming about **“Wings Over Carolina”** rides as the District Team works together with CDs and Ride Coordinators to make this happen.

Joy and I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and finding ways to stay connected.

We truly look forward to seeing you soon.

for our GWRRRA FAMILY

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