

***** INTRODUCING *****

Gary & Karen Ballou

2016-2017 Region D Couple of the Year

On July 29th, it was our honor to be selected as the 2016-2017 Region D Couple of the Year !

Representing our home chapter Chapter OH-B3 (Obetz) in 2015 we decided to participate in Ohio Cabin Fever where we were selected as the 2016 Ohio District Couple of the Year !

We are still the District Couple of the Year and are visiting as many chapters in Ohio as we can. Now we will be traveling to also represent the Great Lakes Region through July 2017. We have met many, many great Gold Wing folks and had tons of laughs and fun and hope to continue having fun!

We are not yet fortunate enough to be among the ranks of the “retired”. Gary owns his own property and casualty insurance agency and Karen is a registered dietitian and runs the family geologic and engineering business. We have 2 grown children and have recently been blessed with our first grandchild, a boy name Marshall and Karen always has pictures. Just ask ! We do have our four footed furry kids, Konan our Rottweiler and Ginger, our talkie cat.

We met in the seventh grade and got married in 1982. In the last few years, with an empty nest, except for a dog and cat, we have been traveling, some on the motorcycle, some by other means. Gary, on his GL1800, has ridden in Mexico, seven Canadian provinces, and all 50 states with Alaska reached just before Wing Ding in Billings this year.

We joined GWRRA in 2005 and have become much more involved as time became available. In 2010, we both took the OCP, Gary became Assistant Rider Educator and Karen became Motorist Awareness rep for Chapter B3. In 2014, Gary became Rider Educator for B3 and was honored to be named Ohio Educator of the Year for 2015. Gary has been a GWRRA University Certified Presenter for Rider Ed and Membership Enhancement and has already committed to take the new ITCP training when it becomes available. Karen is still Motorist Awareness and is looking forward to the rollout of the new Motorist Awareness programs in January 2017. She may be taking on other jobs soon. We both maintain our CPR/MFA training. We stay connected to our home chapter, OH-B3, as we can.

We are very excited about our new roles in GWRRA and are beginning to plan our travels within Ohio and to other Regions into 2017. At WING DING 39 in Grapevine, we hope to respectably represent Region D as part of the International Couple of the Year selection process. What a fun, full year we will have. It's all about the ride. Come & join us!