



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

FEBRUARY 2010

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

Vol. 6, Issue 2

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April 8-9-10, 2010

LA District Rally

From the Chapter Director...

What a busy month. Our darling granddaughter Elle was born on January 9. Gladys enjoyed two weeks of "GG-time" in NC, and then we awaited the arrival of our great niece Raylee [February 2].

Our thanks to Wendell and Marie, Mitch and Marie, and Frank for representing Chapter O at District Staff meeting. We heard great reports on all of them!

If you've never attended Wingless Weekend, try to attend this year. Wingless [come in the car if it's cold] Weekend will be at the Alexandria National Guard Armory, February 19-20. FREE Gumbo on Friday night; FREE award-winning spaghetti for lunch on Saturday. Chapter O needs 6 members for its "elite" game-playing team. It's lots of FUN and there are many door prizes to be won. Please come out and enjoy all these activities free of charge, compliments of the District. This is their way of saying they appreciate all you do for our Louisiana District.

Jim is making progress and so is Bonnie! Some of you may not know Bonnie fell recently and broke her ankle and injured her back, but we're told she is beginning to feel better. Keep them in your prayers.

Believe it or not, the District Rally is not that far off and we still need a few items for Chapter O's COY basket for the Rally. We need your help. See Wendell and Marie.

GLADYS and ERNEST

2010 rolls out a new program from GWRRA National, the Officer Certification Program [OCP]. OCP is a training and certification program from GWRRA's Leadership Training Division and is open to current and prospective officers and interested members. Training covers the operations of a Chapter, District or Region. It's a 1½ day classroom session, scheduled for Lafayette May 22 & 23. Register early; space is limited.

MARK THE DATE FOR WINGLESS WEEKEND

**Friday, February 19 [6 to 8 PM] and Saturday, February 20 [8:30 AM – till]
Alexandria National Guard Armory, 5500 Hwy 28 [Leesville Hwy]
All food, fun, games are FREE. Hosted by your Louisiana District Staff**

**Come join the fun and invite someone to come with you
to the Chapter O meetings and on our rides.**

28 attended the January meeting
50/50 winners
E.J. Oalman
Joyce Netherland

**Check your membership cards
and stay current with GWRRA.
Don't forget to renew!
Not a GWRRA Member?
See the CD for an application**

This is YOUR newsletter. Articles by
members are always welcome. If you'd
like to tell us about one of your rides, etc.
e-mail me at clinton70722@yahoo.com
Editor

Thanks for Visiting Chapter O
Come Back Soon
Butch & Sharon Favalora
Sal & Charlotte Engolia
Allen & Amy Strain
Chapter F

GET WELL WISHES
Daniel & Janet Brock
Kelly & Laura Crain
Jim & Bonnie Cothorn
Mike & Theresa Dufrene

THANKS to Marsha, Larry & Mitch for
representing LA-O at the Chili Cookoff on
January 31....BRRRRR....THAT really was a
POLAR BEAR RIDE on those WINGS!

COY BASKETS -- Chapter O's theme for the COY basket is BAR-B-CUE. You can participate either by giving items related to a BAR-B-CUE or donating money to purchase items. We need your help. We only have a few items at this time; A table will be set up at LA Rally to display Chapter Baskets and tickets will be sold at that table. The Baskets will be given away at closing and monies raised by each participating Chapter will be distributed by the number of tickets sold for their basket. See Wendell and Marie.

MOTORCYCLING is a constant learning experience!
You'll never know all there is to know about riding,
but a year from now,
You'll know a lot more than you know now

BY THE BOOK

By: Dale Wingrove, Region H Trainer

The "By The Book" articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer's Handbook. Any quotes or references to topics contained in our OHB should not be taken "out of context". Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.

As most of you know there was a Leadership Summit in Phoenix in January and with that meeting a number of changes will be taking place. I will be sharing some of the changes to the Officer Handbook in the next few articles. The following excerpt is taken from the newly revised Officer Handbook pages E-1 and E-2.

EXPECTATIONS OF GWRRA OFFICERS

1. Be appointed for a probationary period of six months. At the end of the probationary period, the tenure may be extended through December 31st and each year thereafter, subject to the approval of the appointing Officer. Total tenure in office will not exceed the specified tenure as established by the Association.
2. As an appointed GWRRA Officer, the Director agrees to comply with the Officer's Guidebook and agrees to be self funded and operate under the guidelines of GWRRA.
3. Immediately upon being appointed, a new Director will contact existing subordinate Directors within the District or Region to establish their interest in continuing their appointments and/or appoint current Members to serve as Directors and to assist as District or Region staff.
4. Immediately upon being appointed, a new Director will appoint a current GWRRA Member to serve on your staff as the Treasurer of the District or Region. The Treasurer cannot be the assistant or anyone in the Director's immediate family.
5. The District Director, upon appointment, shall establish a checking account in the name of the District, and all checks shall require the signatures of both the District Director and the Treasurer.
6. The Region Director, upon appointment, shall establish a checking account in the name of the Region, and the Region Director, Treasurer and Executive Director are authorized signers on the account, with two signatures required to write a check.
7. A copy of the signature card along with the checking account number must be sent to the Home Office.
8. If not in close proximity, **each check written by any of the signatories on the account must have prior written approval from one other signatory.** Approval in the form of an email is acceptable. This document is to be kept on file.
9. **It is understood that monies raised in the name of GWRRA are intended only for the operations of the District or Region. At no time shall any Officer or representative of GWRRA assume that funds or GWRRA property may be used for personal gain.** If difficulties regarding the operations of the District or Region Director arise, the appointing Officer has the authority to conduct all business of the District or Region.
10. It is each Director's responsibility to use all funds for the legitimate operations of business within their District or Region. **All expenses must have verifiable receipts.** All expenses relating to legitimate GWRRA business are reimbursable from operational funds. **A full accounting of expenses reflected in an annual financial report, with receipts, must be provided annually by the District to the Region Director and the Region Director to the Executive Director (even a negative balance).** In order to protect yourself, the IRS states that all documentation must be kept on file for up to seven years.

To be continued in the March By the Book article.....

LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND THEN TEACH SOMEONE"

From the Assistant Chapter Director and Couple of the Year

Brrrrrrr.....Wingers!

Has it been cold or what? I think we set some new records in Louisiana this January. Too cold to ride except for an occasional day here and there. Speaking of COLD, it was rightly named the "Polar Bear Ride" on January 1. It started out cold and cloudy, but after many prayers along the way, the clouds parted and the sun came out. The ride back was much nicer, but still cool. Thanks Larry and Marsha for a great ride!

Congratulations to Gladys and Ernest on their new grand-daughter, Elle. She is a beauty. Oh yeah, Congratulations to Rachel and Matt too! (haha)

Wendell and Marie, Mitch and Marie and Frank attended the District Staff Meeting in Lafayette on January 22. Wendell did a great job filling in for Gladys, updating the chapter status and plans for 2010. We obtained lots of information to bring back to our Director.

We would like to plan to have our Leadership Training on March 20th. Everyone check your calendars and let me know if this is a good date. We will plan to start about 9am, break for lunch, and finish up about 2pm. Maybe we can take a ride afterwards! There is lots of information available to us through our District Trainers.

Some of us plan to ride in the Mardi Gras parade "Ponchartrain" on February 6th in New Orleans. Talk to Marie after the meeting if you wish to ride with us.

Don't forget Wingless Weekend February 19th & 20th in Alexandria. It's lots of fun and great food. And it's all FREE!!!

We are still accepting donations for our COY basket to be raffled at the La. District Rally in April. Any items related to our BBQ theme are welcomed or if you would like to make a cash donation I will purchase items needed.

If you haven't signed up for the Levels program, see Frank. He has all the info you need to sign up. We need all the education we can get to help us all be safer riders.

We plan to participate in the COY selection process at the district rally again this year. Please make plans to come and support us. We were the loudest Chapter last year, and I know we can be again this year. So, come on out and let's make some NOISE CHAPTER-O!

Get well wishes go out to Jim & Bonnie. Hope you are feeling better soon. We miss you!

Our ride leader for February is Mitch and Marie. We are looking forward to a great ride with them. (No Gravel Roads Please).

Till next time. Ride Safe and Have Fun!

Wendell & Marie

February 2010 Happy Birthday

2nd

3rd

5th

8th

9th

18th

18th

21st

21st

25th

28th

Tammy Gendusa

Virginia Dixon

Frank Gendusa

Irma Turner

Michael Dufrene

Libby Magee

Marsha Spring

Debbie Adams

Katie Barrios

Ralph Bennett

Sandra McDaniel

2010 Member Ride Captains

January

Wendell & Marie

July

Dale & Kim

February

Mitch & Marie

August

Keith & Sandra

March

Ernest & Gladys

September

Linus & Libby

April

Frank Gendusa

October

Larry & Marsha

May

E.J. Oalman

November

David Jenkins

June

Jimmy Oalman

December

John Blackwell



COME RIDE WITH LA-O

From the Chapter Educator

While traveling home from the team meeting in Lafayette, I encountered some strong crosswinds. Sometimes crosswinds can be a scary situation if you are not prepared to handle it. I found a good article that will give some pointers on how to handle the dreaded "crosswinds".

Frank Gendusa

Crosswinds

How to deal with them

By: James R. Davis

Sooner or later you are going to wonder about how to handle severe crosswinds - probably while fighting them.

Surprise, surprise - you don't have to do anything and the motorcycle will handle most crosswinds just fine - with only normal responses from you.

There are a couple of things that you can do to make the experience less stressful, however. For example, you can quit white-knuckling your grips. When you hold on tight you also tend to stiff arm your controls. That, as we've talked about before, merely allows front-end instability to propagate into the rest of the motorcycle. Relax your grips and droop your elbows. Allow your bike to be a bit unstable. Drive in the CENTER OF YOUR LANE. Lean forward and down to reduce your profile, and snug up your jacket.

What about traction? You neither gain nor lose any significant traction when the wind blows from your side unless you are in a curve. While you are leaned into the wind all of the weight of the bike remains on your tires (fancy that) and there is very little lateral force scrubbing that traction away. How much lean do you need? Whatever the bike dials in for you.

Should you anticipate those gusts? Should you just respond quickly to a gust in order to remain in control and traveling in a straight line? No, and no. Your bike will NOT travel in a straight line. That is, as long as you allow it to do its thing, your bike will be modestly blown off course with a gust and the result of that movement is EXACTLY the same as any other minor course change - you will need modest counter-steer input to correct it - the CG of your bike will then be on the side the wind came from and the result is that it will lean towards the wind.

[Anticipating wind-shear IS important under a couple of scenarios: the approach of an oncoming large vehicle suggests that severe buffeting will occur when you pass it, and entering or exiting stretches protected from the wind such as tunnels or bridges with relatively high retaining walls. In these cases you will certainly want to position the bike away from the source of the wind-shear and insure you maintain a firm grip.]

Is a heavier bike less likely to be blown around than a lighter bike? Not necessarily. What is primarily determinant of how great the effect of a crosswind is on your bike is its profile. A garage door (GoldWing) will typically be more harshly affected by crosswinds than a lighter low profile bike.

Can you mitigate some of that instability in any way? Yes. There are cowling additions that can be designed (some are available off the shelf - called 'belly pans') that streamline the airflow under your bike and help (modestly) to reduce crosswind handling problems.

Your side profile area is what determines how your motorcycle reacts to crosswinds. Just as there is a Center of Gravity, there is also a Center of wind resistance. If that center of wind resistance is in front of your Center of Gravity then crosswinds will tend to push you off course while if it is behind your Center of Gravity the motorcycle will try to steer INTO the wind. Thus, mounting a high profile LIGHT object (a stuffed animal, for example) onto your trunk lid or your pillion can have a dramatically corrective effect rather than worsen the bike's steering reaction to those crosswinds. Crosswinds can be murder if you are leaned way over in a curve. Don't, if you can avoid it. As a result of a crosswind your bike will move off course and normal modest counter-steer will lean it into the wind. A strong gust will blow you out of track. So, correct your steering, gently, and keep going.

I admit that sometimes a gust can be ferocious! I was on the Golden gate bridge once when a crosswind blew me into the adjacent lane! But the bike was in no danger of falling down and it was easy to get back in lane. Had the gust been a sustained blast I would have been leaned over nearly 45 degrees. It was not, thankfully.

Note ... there are TWO times when a gusty crosswind changes your bike's direction of travel: when it hits, and when it stops. Both require that you allow the bike to respond and use normal modest counter-steering. (When it quits you will be leaned over and, as a result, your bike will move towards where the wind WAS coming from until you straighten it up.

If crosswinds involve huge short gusts, go park the bike. If the crosswinds are more sustained, pucker up and keep going.

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<http://www.msgroup.org>


(James R. Davis is a recognized [expert witness](#) in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics.)

GWRRA GROUP RIDING HAND SIGNAL OF THE MONTH "Single File" – Arm and Index finger extended straight up



FEBRUARY 2010

Mitch & Marie Member Ride

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Be SAFE RIDE safe Have FUN		Dress for the weather – Hot or Cold !		Stay Alert when riding		Is Emergency Info on bike
	1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5 Chapter O meets	6 N.O. MG Parade
7 SUPER BOWL	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 	15 Presidents Day	16 MARDI GRAS	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19 20 Wingless Weekend, Alex National Guard Armory	
21	22 Washingtons Birthday	23	24	21	26	27
28						

2010 Upcoming Events

February 20	WINGLESS WEEKEND, National Guard Armory	Alexandria
March 20	Tentative -- Leadership Training for Chapter O	Details coming
March 25-27	Region H Rally, March Madness	Marshall, TX
April 8, 9, 10	Louisiana District Rally	Lafayette
April 24	LA-J GATOR RUN	Lake Charles
May 6,7,8	Texas District Rally	Killeen, TX

***DISTRICT NEWS** ... District Directors Brent and Roxie and the entire District Staff, invite GWRRA members to WINGLESS WEEKEND.*

Wingless Weekend [FEBRUARY 20] is an open invitation, *free*, to all current GWRRA members for a FUN-FILLED Saturday of activities and good food.

- 8:30 AM - till. Friday evening [FEBRUARY 19] is a *free* social and dinner for all, 6-8 PM. Chapter E is Host Chapter. Chapter A (Baton Rouge) is providing their championship-winning recipe for lunch Saturday. Chapters will compete for "Number 1" in competition for the Chapter Cup contest. Join us at the Alexandria National Guard Armory on Hwy 28
- **Louisiana District Rally** is at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center. Go online @ gwr.ra.la.org for registration forms. We are introducing "The Fancy Hat Contest" and Crawfish Races, (with live crawfish) for all Chapters to compete for FUN and Bragging Rights. "Bring On" your Fanciest Hat and Best Jockey to be "Number 1!" in the District. We will not do Chapter Booths. **MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR FUN**

District Leadership Trainers, Gene and Nelda Stanley, announced a new program from National GWRRA -- the Officer Certification Program. OCP is a training and certification program administered by the Leadership Training Division. OCP is for current and prospective GWRRA officers (CD and Assistants) as well as any interested members. OCP Certified Trainers will hold a 1 ½ day classroom session. TOPICS include "What GWRRA Is", "What it Stands For", and "Why it is Structured and Operated the way it is". This training is directly from the GWRRA Officer Handbook. The Handbook replaces the Guidebook. Only Leadership Training Directors, Certified to teach OCP, can administer the training. Training must be completed by August 31, 2010. The Louisiana Session is scheduled for **May 22 & May 23** in Lafayette. If you cannot attend that session, please see your CD for other dates and locations. You must register as soon as possible. If you've hesitated to serve as a Chapter officer because you don't feel qualified or don't know what to do..... this training is for you. OCP, unlike Horizons, is more technical, directly from the Handbook of "How To". As an Officer, you will feel more confident in your position. You will know the resources of where to find information. You will be the best you can be for your friends and members. You lead before you take on the position. You **should complete** this informative program to serve your members. **You will be prepared. You can and will succeed.** Good Luck!

Mike and Pam Jastram, District Educators, ask a question to make us "THINK".....

Looking Good-- How far does just "looking good" help you when you travel down the roads? This is one of those questions that there is no real answer for, but I know "it" can only help. A few weeks ago I was traveling east on I-12 in the right lane when I observed a group of bright headlights behind me in the left lane. They were at least a 1/2 mile back but yet they stood

out. Being a motorcyclist, I thought it might be a group of motorcyclists but couldn't be sure at the distance that they were behind me. As they got closer I knew that it was a group of motorcycles and the way they were approaching, knew I was about to be passed by more than just your usual riders. Boy, was I ever right. It was a group of nine motorcycle sheriff deputies. Of course all their bikes matched as well as their uniforms. Their group spacing was just so perfect. To me, it was a thing of beauty. It was so impressive. I had to slow down a bit so they could pass, but now I was speeding up just to watch them travel down the highway. I followed them for about 10 miles at which time they exited. I wanted to just follow, but had an appointment I couldn't miss. The point of my article is that a motorcyclist or group of motorcyclists that rides in a proper manner will gain respect from other motorists. We can't all have the same color bikes, or wear the same type of clothes, but our formations and driving habits can make a difference with the motoring public. On the other hand, if you drive like an idiot and/or look like an idiot, then the motoring public will treat you like an idiot. Just something to think about.

District COY Coordinators Merlin and Beverly announce that, at this time, three Chapter COYs are participating in the District COY selection, which is scheduled during Louisiana District Rally on Friday, April 9, at 9:45 a.m. The most recent update to the Couple of the Year Program Manual, revised September 2008, can be found at <http://med.gwrra.org/index.htm> on the COY division tab. They ask that Chapter Couples participating in the COY Selection bring their completed resumes to Wingless Weekend. Otherwise, a hard copy resume must be mailed to them no later than March 1, 2010.

District Membership Enhancement Coordinators Errol and Nancy continue to visit with Chapters where Errol explains the importance of maintaining contact with current members as well as members whose GWRRA memberships have expired. Those contacts are then reported to District MEC. Errol can be contacted at 985-804-5600 or e-mail at pelly@mobiletel.com if anyone has questions.

Plan to attend the Louisiana District Rally in Lafayette on April 8, 9, 10, 2010
Watch for details on the NEW events: CRAWFISH RACES and RALLY HATS
Lots of opportunities for fun and education.
The more you participate, the more fun you have.

Texas District Rally, May 6, 7, 8, 2010 in Killeen, TX
Arkansas District Rally, May 27, 28, 29, 2010, Rogers, AR

GWRRA is now on **FACEBOOK**.
Check out GWRRA's new Facebook page
and sign up to follow us!
It is easy!!!

SPONSORS - Thank you for your support of LA-O. We greatly appreciate your placement of an ad in our Chapter Newsletter.....AND, it's now time to renew your Chapter O newsletter ad. Please review your ad and advise the Newsletter Editor if any changes are needed or simply send two copies of your business card or ad to the Editor. AD Rates remain the same-- \$60 for business card size; and \$100 for Dollar Bill size. Make checks payable to GWRRA-LA Chapter O. Note: This is a business expense, not a tax deductible contribution. If you have any questions, call Gladys. Again, thanks for your support.

LA-O staff with District Directors Brent and Roxie Comeaux at District Staff Meeting, Lafayette, January 23, 2010. Left to right: Wendell & Marie Vince, Roxie, Frank Gendusa, Brent, Marie and Mitch Kilgore





**Louisiana's Newest GWRRA Chapter
Organized June 2004**

The LA-O Report
FAIR CITY WINGS

FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter Directors & Newsletter

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