



# The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

## Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

September 2008

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

Vol. 4, Issue 9

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#### Chapter O website

[www.gwrra-la-o.org](http://www.gwrra-la-o.org)

## From the Chapter Director...

The last few weeks have been hectic. A great ride on 8/16 turned somewhat tragic when a deer ran into the trike ridden by Mr. Houston Miley. Though he was injured and in the hospital for ten days, we're happy to report Mr. Houston is home and feeling better. He's working on his therapy and, overall, he's handling his recuperation far better than we expected. **GOOD WORK Ms. JOYCE!** We don't know why the deer "have it in" for Chapter O but hope we have "met our quota for the year." Seriously, as a result of the two accidents with deer by Chapter members, we very much want our GWRRA family to consider wearing appropriate safety gear whenever riding! We'd also like to say THANKS to everyone who assisted Mr. Houston during this accident. Everyone who responded to the incident was wonderful!

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike left their mark on us/the Clinton area as much or more than Katrina did. We're beginning to see the end of the repair work on our nephew's house and we're happy that most of the Chapter O family escaped these storms with only minor inconvenience/damage. However, we know that Jim and Frank were on round-the-clock work schedules to clean up the "no electrical power" mess left by these two storms. We were very glad to have our power restored after a week, and we're glad Frank and Jim are beginning to see a normal life again. Thanks to all the folks who came to Louisiana to help us recover, and keep in mind those outside the state who also felt the wrath of these hurricanes.

GLADYS and ERNEST

Jim and Bonnie are ride leaders this month. As you can understand, their ride was cancelled due to the storms, but they are planning a make-up ride for October. Details will be announced by a calling post notice and/or the phone tree. Gladys and Ernest will head to Lafayette on October 19 to take part in the RIDE FOR KIDS. Let them know if you want to ride with them.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Ride for Kids--Sunday, October 19, 2008- Rain or Shine!**  
**at SLEMCO, 3420 Hwy 167 North, Lafayette. Registration 8 to 9:45 a.m.**  
**Minimum Donation \$35 per bike. Coffee, doughnuts & light lunch provided.**

**September**  
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 5 Anita Jones**  
**11 Jim Cothern**  
**18 Janet Brock**  
**21 Bonnie Cothern**  
**22 Marie Kilgore**  
**29 Larry Spring**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 22 Jim & Bonnie Cothern**  
**26 Frank & Tammy Gendusa**

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GWRRA needs your input. They are trying to obtain new benefits for our members. They have asked the District Staff to survey what benefits the members would most like to have. Give some thought to it and send your ideas via e-mail to Brent Comeaux, District Director [como102696@aol.com]. Please put Benefit Survey in the subject line.

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

**AUGUST 2008 meeting**

**41 in attendance**

**Guests included:**

**Mike & Pat Jastram, Chapter A**

**Sandy & Thomas Arceneaux, Joce & William Melton, Fritz & Johnette Beter, Bernie Caruso & Chuck Denney, Chapter K**

**2008 Monthly Ride Leaders**

<b>October</b>	<b>Available</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Frank &amp; Tammy</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Wendell &amp; Marie</b>

**Chapter O August Meeting**

**Three Winners**

**Sandy Arseneaux, Chapter K**

**Amy Strain & Joyce Netherland**

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# GRAVES

**Tim Graves**  
*Master Technician*

## Cycle Repair

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## ***From the Assistant Chapter Director***

HI. Hope this article finds everyone in good health and doing well. This has really been a month/year to remember in our group. Not one but two accidents involving deer have happened to our group this year --- Gladys on June 6<sup>th</sup> after our June meeting and Houston on August 16<sup>th</sup> on our August ride. It will be hard to put the two incidents behind us, but we must in order to keep our group functioning and continuing to grow and prosper.

We should use these two incidents to grow in our rider education program. Accidents will happen, but we must use every precaution within our scope of knowledge to minimize these incidents. The Lord was with us as riders during both of these accidents and we must keep Him with us at all times. Both of these accidents could have been much worse.

With all of the above said, I'm looking forward to a great rest of the year. Bonnie and I have a great ride planned for September, and we have the Mississippi Rally coming up in October. Let's all cheer up and enjoy the rest of this year and prepare for a great 2009. Gladys has recovered and Houston will, so let's continue to participate and grow in numbers.

Please continue to contact Bonnie if you have someone in the hospital or if they are just ill, so can get a card off to them. Call 985-732-3225.  
Ride Safe and God Bless.

**JIM and BONNIE**

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### ***Chapter LA-O Motto***

**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!**

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## ***From the Chapter Educator***

HI to all! First thing this month, I would like to wish a speedy recovery to my friend and fellow LA-O member, Mr. Houston Miley. Mr. Houston, while on a Chapter ride on 8-16-08, was injured after a collision with a deer. GET WELL SOON!

Next, I would like to say GREAT JOB to all of the LA-O members who were on the ride when Mr. Houston had his accident. After speaking with a couple of the persons present, it was apparent that everyone handled the situation quite well. Everyone on the scene knew what needed to be done to secure the scene as well as take care of the injured until EMS arrived, thanks to information/training from the crash scene response seminar as well as first aid training, etc. Again, JOPB WELL DONE!!

While all of this was happening, I was in Baton Rouge at a meeting with all of the other Chapter Educators. We were getting certified to be a facilitator of GWRRA's new PARKING LOT PRACTICE PROGRAM. Yes, there will be a parking lot practice near you in the not-so-distant future. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

For additional info on new things happening for Rider Education in Louisiana, please visit the district site at [www.gwrra-la.org](http://www.gwrra-la.org). You can also get there from the LA-O website link to District.

Ride Well, Ride Safe!!

*Frank and Tammy Gendusa*

Thanks Everyone--We're Doing Well! We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, thoughts and kindnesses shown us during Houston's recovery from the deer encounter. Though unable to sleep in the bed (thank goodness for recliners), Houston is doing well. He is able to be up and around and has become quite adept at becoming a lefty. Chasing Jello around a plate with one hand, a left one at that, is still a challenge. He has started physical therapy and is progressing daily. The Trike is being repaired and will recover much more quickly than Houston. As for me, I'm POOPED! but grateful to have him here and that he wasn't hurt any worse. We are eagerly awaiting the time when we can climb aboard the Trikes and ride. Rest assured we will be watching for any wayward critters - especially DEER!! Thanks again for all your continued prayers, thoughts and kindnesses.

JOYCE AND HOUSTON

## ***From the Couple of the Year***

Hi Gang! We can certainly say that August was an eventful month but not necessarily in a good way. As most of you probably know by now, on August 16<sup>th</sup> while on our group ride a deer hit Mr. Houston Miley and his trike. Mr. Houston suffered some terrible injuries to his right elbow and shoulder, a broken left collarbone and several cracked ribs. He had to be airlifted from the accident site to Hattiesburg, MS. He had surgery on his elbow twice and we are so thankful that he is now home and recuperating. Many prayers went up for him, and he and Ms. Joyce have expressed their appreciation to everyone for their concern.

After having seen this accident, it makes me even more determined to be an advocate for wearing those helmets and safety clothing. Those full face helmets and riding jackets may be expensive, but what does that compare to the injuries and abrasions to our bodies. I can't understand how we can ride a \$20,000+ bike and skimp on our safety riding gear. I would like to challenge each of you in our Chapter O family to start making it a practice that when we ride those bikes to wear our safety clothes. It only makes good sense to me. The other day I passed a guy on a motorcycle with no helmet. It made me angry with the man (and I didn't even know him) to think how careless he was being. Those helmets could save our lives. IT DID MR. HOUSTON'S!!

Hopefully, everyone got through the storm without any major damages. We never lost power ourselves, but many many others did. Let us remember all those that did suffer damages to their homes and properties. We feel that our state and local officials did an outstanding job in handling the situation during the storm, and we thank God for keeping us safe through it all.

Until next time, God Bless, Have Fun, Be Safe.

**LINUS & LIBBY**

# SEPTEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Be SAFE RIDE safe Have FUN		Drink water when riding in hot weather		Stay Alert when riding		Is Emergency Info on bike
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5	6
7 Grand Parents Day	8	9	10	11 Remember 9/11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Chapter O	20
21	22 Autumn Equinox	23	24	25	26 Kansas District Rally	27 Kansas District Rally
28 Kansas District Rally	29 Rosh Hashanah	30				
UPCOMING				EVENTS		

## 2008

- September 18-20 Wings Over the Smokies, Fletcher, NC
- September 26-28 Kansas District Rally "WILD WILD WEST TRAILS  
END"
- September 27 BAMA Wings Motorcycle Rodeo, Tuscaloosa
- October 4 LA - A, Baton Rouge, Sock Hop
- October 10-11 Oklahoma District Rally "HALLO WING 2"
- October 16-18 Mississippi District Rally "STARS ON THE COAST"
- October 19 Louisiana's RIDE FOR KIDS, Lafayette

## 2009

- April 16, 17, 18 Louisiana district Rally "WINGS OVER THE BAYOU"

***DISTRICT NEWS*** ..... District Staff are planning new and exciting ideas for the District Rally, one of which is "MARDI GRAS MADNESS CARNIVAL". Each Chapter is invited to set-up a 10' x 10' booth [\$25 fee] in the vendor parking lot area at the Rally. Each Chapter will create its own theme and sell merchandise, raising funds to benefit the Chapter. Some of the booth ideas are: Game Booths, Sweet Shop, Mardi Gras merchandise shop, Ice Cream booth, or Water booth (with your chapter label, of course). Use your imagination for other ideas. Chapter info must be forwarded to District Staff as quickly as possible. Additional info/guidelines will be handed out at the Chapter meeting. If you have questions, please contact Gladys.

Rider Education is a top priority of District Staff, as well as our Chapter Educators. GWRRA has developed a new parking lot practice for its members. These practices are only to be conducted by Chapter Educators or someone who has been officially certified to administer the program. Chapter Educators will be giving us more details soon.

The state has recently posted its schedule for the rest of 2008 for advance riding classes. Again, the Chapter Educator can help you with information about the courses. For more information on state courses, go to [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net). You will find motorcycle safety under the community menu.

Also, keep in mind: Louisiana's *first Safety Weekend* will be held **March 6-7, 2009**. It will feature *Riding classes \* 1<sup>st</sup> aid course \* Safety Seminars*. We want your input on what you want taught. Express your suggestions to your chapter educator. Exact location to be announced later.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING course scheduled in Lake Charles for November 8 and 9. This course certifies trainers. District Trainers Gene & Nelda Stanley report there are still a few openings. If you are interested or if you have questions, please contact Gene by e-mail [trainer@gwrra-la.org] or phone [337-478-1670].



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

***The LA-O Report***

**FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA**

Chapter Director & Newsletter

Ernest & Gladys Vernon

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