



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

AUGUST 2009

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

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LA-O Staff

Chapter Director

Gladys & Ernest Vernon
(225) 683-5636

clinton70722@yahoo.com

Assistant Chapter Director

Jim & Bonnie Cothorn
(985) 732-3225

jcothorn@wste.coop

Ride Coordinator

2009 Couple of the Year

Wendell & Marie Vince
(985) 848-2926

maivusa1@yahoo.com

Secretary

Joyce Netherland
(985) 886-5814

jcnland@att.net

Treasurer

Mitch & Marie Kilgore
(985) 848-0005

marie.kilgore0303@gmail.com

Rider Education

Frank & Tammy Gendusa
(985) 893-5056

fgendusa@gwrra-la-o.org

Newsletter Editor

Gladys & Ernest Vernon
(225) 683-5636

clinton70722@yahoo.com

DISTRICT website

www.gwrra-la.org

Chapter O website

www.gwrra-la-o.org

From the Chapter Director...

The weather continues to be very HOT and we remind you to be careful in the heat. Be sure to drink and carry plenty of water and wear light-colored, vented clothing or evaporative cooling gear and take plenty of air-conditioned breaks.

We congratulate Wendell and Marie Vince for completing the recent 2009 GWRRA Horizons program in Lafayette. It's a great way to become more informed about the National organization, and to prepare yourself for leadership roles within the Chapter, and to continue to have fun with your GWRRA friends. Hopefully, Marie and Wendell will have some new ideas to share with us.

Mr. Ed Price, Marketing Director of GWRRA [eprice@gwrra.org] wants to hear directly from YOU, both Members and Officers. He asks for your suggestions and advice. Anonymously, if you wish. He is noting changes within the Association, with membership declining slightly, and the fact it seems to be harder to recruit Volunteers and Members. Write and tell him what you see and hear and more importantly, what you believe GWRRA can do to make it better!

GLADYS and ERNEST

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 22. Larry and Marsha will lead Chapter O on a great ride to Nyla's for lunch, followed by a SURPRISE. Bring your camera!

We will leave Franklinton Winn Dixie parking lot at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, following back roads to Nyla's in Osyka, MS, and then head to the surprise. Don't miss it.

Check out your bike and be prepared for the heat when you ride these next few weeks.

The new Chapter shirts [available in polo style and tee-shirt] are beautiful. You'll be proud to wear them, so order today if you haven't already done so. See or call Marie Vince @ 985-848-2926. We'll check availability of long sleeve shirts if you are interested.

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

2009 Ride Captains

August Larry & Marsha Spring
September Joyce Netherland
October Ernest & Gladys Vernon
November Holiday Events
December Holiday Events

**Check your membership cards and stay current with GWRRA.
Not a GWRRA Member?
See the CD.**

GET WELL WISHES
Daniel & Janet Brock
Kelly & Laura Crain
Jack Sparks & Nell Baham

**31 attended July 2009 Meeting
25/25 WINNERS**
Jimmy Oalman
Bruce & Debbie Adams
Door Prize Winners
Wendell & Marie Vince
Gift basket donated by
Jim & Bonnie Cothorn

A note of Thanks from David and Charles Jenkins.....we just wanted to say thank you for keeping us in your prayers through this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness means so much. Once again, you all showed why you're such wonderful people.

The Family of Larry Jenkins

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.

From the Assistant Chapter Director

Hi Wingers and friends. Hope this article finds everyone in good health and doing well. Things have been pretty hectic around our place, but they are starting to slack up a bit. The ride to Hwy 35 Diner, led by Mitch and Marie, had a great participation factor. Although Bonnie and I didn't make the ride, we met the group for lunch. We really filled the place up and the food was excellent. Ms Candy Love, the owner, was really appreciative of our group for choosing her place.

Ms Bonnie and I had the luxury with riding with her son Blake the following day. We met Blake, who lives in Baton Rouge, at 7:30 in Amite and rode the back roads to Percy Quinn State Park and then on to McComb for breakfast. This was very unusual because it was a Sunday and we never miss church to ride. We also put about 230 miles on the Wing that day and she normally doesn't like to ride that much. I'm sure that Blake wanting his mother to ride and share quality time was a major factor in this decision.

Continue to let Bonnie know if you have any sickness or a death in your family so she can get the appropriate cards in the mail. She can be reached at 985-732-3225. If she is not there, leave a message. She is in Houston at this writing doing what she does best—taking care of a sick friend. She plans on returning on August 12th.

God Bless You and Yours,

Jim and Bonnie

THANKS Mitch and Marie. The July ride to the Highway 35 Diner was GREAT. We had a very good turnout even though it got a little warm. Candy was very gracious and delighted to have LA-O visit and the food was great. Some came in 4wheelers to have lunch with us, and some had other things to do after lunch, so they returned home. But, some of us rode for a short while after lunch and we want to thank Ralph, Pam and Hillary for showing us their "roller coaster" road. They say it's even better riding it from the other way, so we'll look forward to that ride too. GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

From the Chapter Educator

As Gold Wing riders, we all have the occasion to ride along the highways with big rigs. In the following article James R. Davis talks of experiences with trucks on the highway.

Enjoy and Ride Safe!!

Frank and Tammy Gendusa

18-Wheelers

Often make good 'riding buddies'

By: James R. Davis

When I was on jury duty a few months ago I had occasion to spend a lot of hours with a trucker who explained to me many of the things that I have always been curious about. Not the least surprising of which, considering the setting, was how many truckers manage to accumulate far more miles in their rigs than the law allows with the illegal use of a second set of log books. (The message here is clear - many truckers out there are TIRED - morning, noon, or night.)

I have only been inside the cab of an 18-wheeler once in my life, when I was a kid. The driver had allowed me to ride with him between LA and Monterey along the California coast. I could not believe how hard it had been for him to drive that rig - it had a 'brownie' (second shift-lever) that he managed by looping his arm through the steering-wheel. Well, technology has come a long way in long-haulers and brownies are a thing of the past. But the driver's job remains a tough one, and motorcycles often just add one more worry for them to have to deal with.

This trucker that I mentioned above claimed that two-wheelers, particularly those driven by women, (though they often get 'cat-calls' from his friends), are actually held in high regard by truckers - especially if they seem to know what they are doing. Motorcyclists, he said, are smart to keep their distance from the trucks. He said that though retreads have been banned from automobiles for many years, there are still trucks that ride on them and if one should blow the energy released is roughly equivalent to a stick of dynamite. A motorcycle that happens to be nearby would not stand a chance.

And though it is not possible to completely avoid riding on one side or the other of an 18-wheeler, he said, a smart motorcyclist would not linger there and would pass as soon as they could. He also said that motorcyclists that pass a truck only to then pull in front of it are smarter still if they do not pull in too quickly. He described a nightmare accident he once had where a small Toyota had pulled in front of him on the open highway then hit its brakes. He was hauling a load of steel rebar and there was absolutely no way he could even slow down before running over that car. Mass and inertia have their own rules.

As to motorcyclists in general, he said that he was no longer surprised at the number of times he would say something about a 'good looking bike' on the road near him to another trucker in the distance only to have that biker thank him with his CB. This, because he has come to understand that most touring bikes have CB radios and that they seem to have realized that truckers can make good 'riding buddies' when the motorcyclist is riding solo. He described dozens of times riding 'escort' for a solo biker, and sharing a meal with a few of them along his

way. That they invariably talked about their bikes (and he about his rig) while eating and how impressed he had been that they were really 'into' and knowledgeable about what they (the bikers) were doing.

I thought I would post this here because we often hear bikers describe 18-wheelers in rather nasty ways - like they were generically dumb, illiterate, drunk, mean, and dangerous. Truth is they are just people with a hard job and they are on the roads with people that do not have sufficient respect for how much time it takes to slow/stop those rigs so are constantly put in risky situations as a result.

My experience with truckers has been almost universally good. Hope this little Tip causes a few readers to re-think their attitudes about them. A trucker can be a life-saver in time of need. Why not maximize the odds?

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<http://www.msgroup.org>

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

Here's an interesting tidbit – A Notorious Top 10 List -- as of 2007, the Top 10 states with the highest motorcycle theft rates, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau [NICB] are:

- California
- Florida
- Texas
- North Carolina
- Arizona
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Indiana
- South Carolina

SO, watch over your ride! If your ride is stolen, there's less than a 30 percent chance you'll ever see that bike again, according to the NICB. To avoid the problem, insurance companies and the NICB are encouraging bike owners to use anti-theft devices. In the event of a theft, these systems help police track the location of your bike and increase the likelihood of recovery by up to 90 percent. The best way to avoid bike theft is to avoid leaving your bike outside at night and to make sure your bike is stored in a safe location. Insurers offer customers discounts off comprehensive coverage for a manual wheel-locking device, such as RoadLok, and they may increase that discount to 20 percent with an anti-theft vehicle recovery device, such as the LoJack or Celovoke systems. Check with your insurer.

The "By The Book" articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the *GWRRA Officer's Guidebook*. Any quotes or references to topics contained in our *OGB* should not be taken "out of context". Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters. The backbone of GWRRA is the Local Chapter. Without the Chapter there would not be a National, Region or District, so we must foster and help the "Chapter" to grow and prosper! The next few months I will be doing a series on How a GWRRA Chapter is organized. This month's article will include the 1st Phase of 5 phases. The content below can be found in the **Officer Guide Book** on pages D-1 and D-2.

HOW A NEW GWRRA CHAPTER IS ORGANIZED

The Proactive Approach to Chapter Formation

Overview:

Healthy, active Chapters are GWRRA's best tools to retain and help the membership grow. As Members and Officers, we are motivated to helping the Organization grow. It seems obvious that fostering Chapters in new and needed areas will benefit the membership and the Organization. Everyone wins!!!! A successful method that has been tried and proven to work is the Proactive Approach. With the Proactive Approach, we do not wait for a person to contact us; we offer them an opportunity to form a Chapter. This approach reminds me of the movie, where it was said "If you build it, they will come." We are not building the Chapter but are giving all our GWRRA Members the opportunity to build their own Chapter.

This approach takes a lot of work on the part of the Membership Enhancement Coordinators and the District Directors. They must work together to target areas for new Chapters. Following, you will find a step-by-step version of what it takes to foster a new Chapter using the Proactive Approach.

Process Flow

PHASE 1: Finding the Target Area

- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinators use the Area Report Listing and/or Gold Book to target an area that can support a new Chapter or additional Chapter in a heavily populated area. A rule of thumb is that people should not have to travel more than 40 miles or an hour over surfaced streets to attend a Chapter gathering. Easy access promotes participation. The target area may slightly overlap an existing Chapter; it is okay to offer an alternative (the goal is to reach the Members in the opposite direction).
- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinators may use a state map to mark all existing Chapters (where they *gather*, not where the Chapter Director lives) and the cities where we have GWRRA Members. This is a time-consuming process but a crucial part of targeting an area for a new Chapter.
- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator then checks the number of Members in an area outside a 40-mile radius of an existing Chapter. If we have 10 Members or more, we have a **Target Area**. (Ten Members would include couples or individuals, i.e. a husband and wife would count as two Members).
- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator will coordinate all the information and present it to the District Director for approval. After getting the District Director's approval, the Membership Enhancement Coordinator moves into the next phase of the process.

"LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND THEN TEACH SOMEONE"

Dale and Susan Wingrove
7552 Hwy 278 W
Nashville AR 71852
870-845-0025
regionhtrainer@hotmail.com

From the Couple of the Year

Hello All!

Hope everyone had a great month. We have been really busy. Our Church hosted a fundraiser benefit at the Fairgrounds for a member of our Church that had bone cancer on July 18, so that has taken up a lot of our time. Thanks to all who donated items, bought raffle tickets and chicken dinners. It was very successful. Sadly, however, Brother Jeff Magee passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers.

We also send our condolences to David and Charles Jenkins on the loss of their Father, Mr. Larry. Our prayers are with you all.

We enjoyed our ride with Mitch and Marie for lunch at Highway 35 Diner on the 25th. The weather was great and the food just as good. We had a good turnout with 23 in attendance. Thanks M&M for a fantastic ride. We look forward to next month's ride with Larry and Marsha. They always have something special up their sleeve.

Wendell and I took an impromptu ride up to McComb Sunday evening and had dinner at Ruby Tuesday. The weather was very pleasant. We had not ridden since the group ride a week before. There's nothing like getting the wind in your face to help you relax and forget your troubles for a while.

Wendell and I attended the Horizons seminar in Lafayette. We are excited to learn more about GWRRA and leadership.

Hope to see ya'll soon!

Marie & Wendell, COY '09

So, you're the Chapter Couple....Now What? First of all, congratulations, enjoy it! You've been honored by your Chapter....selected to represent your Chapter. As the COY, you simply want to continue doing those special, little things that you did before you were COY. You always volunteered to help; you were always enthusiastic about GWRRA and active in Chapter activities; you are committed to GWRRA ideals and dedicated to safety. And, now, you get to do the same thing AND greet new participants at gatherings, introduce them to others, sell 50/50 tickets, answer questions, spread the word about GWRRA and the Chapter, have fun with the group. Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge. Simple, isn't it?

August 2009
Happy Birthday

1 st	Terry Barrios
5 th	Trudy Oalman
17 th	Pete Bennett
	Jack Sparks
18 th	Nell Baham
	Joby Willis
24 th	O'Dean Burris
26 th	Theresa Dufrene

Happy Anniversary

12 th	Bruce & Debbie Adams
27 th	Randy & Tina Miley

AUGUST 2009

MEMBER RIDE CAPTAIN – Larry & Marsha Spring

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
It's HOT! Ride safely						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Chapter O meets</i>	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Larry & Marsha Ride
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
2009 UPCOMING				EVENTS		

August 28-29

Kansas District Rally, Abilene

September 10-12

Region A Rally, Dothan, AL

September 24-26

Wings Over the Smokies, Fletcher, NC

October 15-17

Mississippi District Rally, Tupelo

October 22-24

Oklahoma District Rally, Muskogee

DISTRICT NEWS

..... Louisiana made a huge impact on Wing Ding. We manned the Goodie Booth on Thursday, instructed LTD and Rider Education seminars and range course classes and had a lot of FUN. The District Staff paraded through the Vendor area in Mardi Gras costume and threw Beads to the crowd to promote our very own Louisiana Mardi Gras Madness Rally in April. Thank you, each and every one of you for your participation.

The new International Couple of the Year is Alan & Carolyn Little. Mike and Pam Jastram, LA-A, and represented Region H and Louisiana very well. We are all proud of their effort, Thank You, Mike and Pam. Mike & Pam Jastram was presented a "Plaque of Appreciation" at Wing Ding 31 from National as one of twelve "Best Rider Educator" in the country by GWRRA. Congratulations to both Mike and Pam. "Hall of Fame" members Sherwood "POP" Goins LA-M, and Phil Babin, LA-A, were recognized at Wing Ding 31 for all their recruiting efforts in 2008. Thank You Both. You help us grow and stay healthy. They each recruited over 100 new members.

Here are some Wing Ding 31 stats:

9072 people attended in Tulsa; 635 Bikes participated in the Grand Parade on Saturday; 353 New members registered at the rally; 105 Units of Blood were donated; 9125 miles-Melbourne Australia, the couple traveled the furthest; 2325 miles- 2 up riders who traveled from New Foundland.

District Educators Mike and Pam Jastram report: Training, it's all around you and getting easier to find, but you do have to put out a little effort yourself. Just since the 1st of 2009, a person could have taken the following safety courses.

TRIKE course: Pineville Safety Weekend, La District Rally, Region Rally, Wing Ding

ARC course: Pineville Safety Weekend, Wing Ding

ERC course: State teaches many times during the year

SIDE CAR course: Wing Ding

Trailer course: Wing Ding

Road Captain and Co-Rider: Pineville Safety Weekend, La District Rally, Region Rally, Wing Ding.

First Aid: Pineville Safety Weekend, La District Rally, Region Rally, Wing Ding.

Other safety seminars such as a crash scene, team riding, etc. were taught at many of the above.

With the exception of Wing Ding, these classes are only a few hours away from most of our Louisiana members. Can we do a better job of making more classes available? Yes, we can. Can you do a better job of taking advantage of these classes? Yes, you can!



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

The LA-O Report

FAIR CITY WINGS

FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter Directors & Newsletter

Ernest & Gladys Vernon

10727 Highway 961

Clinton, LA 70722