



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

February 2009

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

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From the Chapter Director...

January was busy and fun, starting with the New Year's Day ride, the District Staff Meeting on the 17th and David & Charles' ride to McComb on the 24th, the Chili Cook-off on the 25th, and Wingless Weekend on the 30th and 31st. Thanks everyone.

Chapter O was the best represented Chapter at the District Staff meeting, with all our Officers and Staff attending, as well as Allen Strain who wanted to see what goes on at one of those meetings, which is designed to inform everyone about GWRRA policy, make plans for the new year, and educate members in leadership roles. It's great to have such enthusiastic Chapter members. We truly appreciate your support and cooperation. A report of the District Staff meeting will be distributed separately since it's rather lengthy, but we covered important topics on Member Enhancement, Rider Education, and Leadership Training, as well as Chapter events and the upcoming rallies.

The District Rider Educator commended Frank on his work with the Rider Education program. We know Frank does a good job for Chapter O and it's nice that District Staff recognizes that fact too. Good job, Frank.

The District Rally is not far away. Take time to register soon.

GLADYS and ERNEST

Frank and Tammy Gendusa have this month's ride. Details will be announced soon.

Chapter K in Metairie has extended an invitation to LA-O to join them for Mardi Gras Parade rides. Details regarding "costume", throws, dates and times, etc. available. Contact me if you need it. Or, see Wendell and Marie Vince. They plan to ride in a parade on February 14.

From the Assistant Chapter Director

Hi, hope this article finds everyone in good health and ready to enjoy the good riding weather that should be fast approaching. Earlier in the month, Joyce, Allen and I took a ride to Columbia, MS and enjoyed some Mexican food in addition to a great ride. Then, for our monthly ride for January, David and Charles led about 15 bikes with about 25 riders through the back roads of Louisiana and Mississippi to McComb for a wonderful meal at the Golden Corral.

Bonnie and I attended the officers meeting in Lafayette with a very much represented group from Chapter O. You guys should be proud of your Chapter Director as she gave an outstanding report and we were probably the best represented group there.

Please continue to let Bonnie know if you have an illness or a death in your family so that she can get the proper card mailed out. She can be reached at 985-732-3225.

God Bless You and Yours,

Jim and Bonnie Cothorn

ITEMS FOR SALE

2006 YAMAHA Road Star--Red; Saddlebags, Windshield, Back rest and MORE -- Only 7000 miles [health issues]. \$7500. Wilbert Thompson
Cell: 225/439-0584 Home: 225/667-4867

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!

Don't forget the Louisiana Ride For Kids JAR

Donations accepted at each meeting. Donations will be turned in at October 2009 Ride in Lafayette

From the Chapter Educator

This is a good article for the co-riders and is re-printed with permission. This is one we will discuss and practice. Frank Gendusa

Passengers Are NOT Helpless Should something happen to the rider

By: James R. Davis

The general impression amongst motorcyclists is that a passenger would be totally helpless when it comes to controlling the motorcycle should something happen to the rider. Nonsense!

An accident occurred in Ohio, I believe, some years ago where a deer attempted to jump over a motorcycle from the side and hit the rider, knocking him completely off the bike. The man's wife was a passenger at the time and she managed to take control of the bike and get it off to the side of the road and slowed it down so greatly that it simply fell over (into the grass.)

Well, you argue, since there was no rider in front of her she was able to reach the controls.

In fact, even if the rider was still there having, for example, simply collapsed from a heart attack, the passenger can almost always still gain control of the motorcycle.

Two controls that the passenger usually cannot reach are the gear shift lever and the rear brake, but the three that he/she CAN reach are the clutch lever, the throttle, and the front brake. (And, not incidentally, the engine cutoff switch.) Thus, the passenger can steer the bike as well as control its speed.

Even with a rider backrest, a passenger can stand on his/her pegs and lean over the rider to gain control of the bike. Cash and I have practiced this maneuver and demonstrated it to several motorcycle groups at rallies and other gatherings.

It does not take a rider (or anyone at all on the bike) to balance a motorcycle moving at any reasonable speed. Because of trail there is an automatic attempt by all motorcycles to get vertical and steer in a straight line. In other words, though there will likely be some wild gyrations of the bike as it finds its way to a stable posture, there is TIME available to the passenger to get control of that bike.

First order of business is to slow it down. Second order of business is to steer it to as safe a place as possible before it falls over, because fall over it will.

Before it falls over that engine cutoff switch should be turned off.

The passenger is certainly not helpless. Perhaps it would be a good thing to let him/her know it and even practice (at a dead stop, engine off, on the side stand) assuming control, no?

Following is a picture of Cash and myself using my GoldWing in a Co-Rider Safety Demo showing her taking control of my bike even though I was still in the rider's saddle and there is a backrest between us. Note that she was not standing nearly as tall as she could have should she have needed to because I was not as far out of the way as I was in the demo.



[Need I add that this is another reason why a person who prefers being a passenger and never intends to ride a bike by themselves should be encouraged to attend the MSF?] Please note that if she lays on the rider she tends to keep him on the bike. A good thing if traveling at 70 MPH, no?

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

From the Couple of the Year



AND, WE'RE OFF! Talk about off and running into 2009! We are looking forward to the New Year and anxious to see what's in store for all of us. Aren't you? Boy, did we ever get off to a busy start for January, beginning with the traditional New Years Day ride led by Larry & Marsha, to Hammond for lunch at Ryans. We had a good group with 16 bikes and 24 riders. Excellent turnout! Way to go Chapter-0. The following weekend was highlighted by the District Staff Meeting in Lafayette. We had great representation at this meeting, with all of our officers attending. Our thanks for the dedication of our staff. We want to thank David and Charles Jenkins for the well-planned ride to McComb on the 24th. We also had 16 bikes and 24 riders. This was extraordinary considering the "RAIN", but we had a great lunch at Golden Coral, then made a mad dash for home. Mo-o-o-ving on to the next event, being the Chili cook-off near Hattiesburg, MS, with 8 bikes and 1 car attending, with 17 people. Good turnout considering the weather. Finally, wrapping up the month was Wingless Weekend with Gladys & Ernest attending.

Many of us will be attending various rallies hosted by other Chapters, Districts, Regions and, of course, Wing Ding in Tulsa, OK. Make plans to be as much a part of the FUN as you can. We plan to ride in a Mardi Gras parade on Feb. 14th at 11:00 a.m. in New Orleans, with Chapter-K. If anyone is interested, please check with us after the meeting for further details.

Don't forget to invite friends and acquaintances to visit and ride with our Chapter. We want to give these folks a chance to check us out and hopefully join our GWRRA family. Also, don't forget to keep your membership up to date, so you can continue to enjoy all the benefits of being a GWRRA member!

We look forward to our February ride with Frank and Tammy and the Mardi Gras parade. I'm sure we will have a busy month, but hopefully not quite as busy as last month. Don't forget to tell your Sweetheart on Valentines Day how much you love him/her.

Let's keep our safety training in mind each time we ride, and we will be rewarded with bigger smiles and more miles!!!

Wendell and Marie

February 2009 Congratulations

Happy Birthday

2nd

Tammy Gendusa

3rd

Ron Dixon

5th

Frank Gendusa

8th

Irma Turner

9th

Mike Dufrene

9th

Paul Oulliber

10th

Robert Ben Taylor

14th

Larry DeWayne Terrell

18th

Libby Magee

18th

Marsha Spring

21st

Debbie Adams

25th

Ralph Bennett

Happy Anniversary

14th



Robert Ben & Terry Taylor

21st

Terry & Katie Barrios

FEBRUARY 2009

MEMBER RIDE CAPTAIN – Frank and Tammy Gendusa

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 GroundHog Day	3	4	5	6 Chapter O meets	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Mardi Gras Day	25 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins	26	27	28
	Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8		NOTE:	Chapter O's March 6 Meeting	May be changed due to Safety Weekend	New Date will be sent to everyone

2009 UPCOMING**EVENTS**

March 7	Rider Education Weekend, Esler Field, Pineville
March 12-14	Florida District Rally, Kissimmee
March 19-21	Region H Rally, Marshall, Texas
March 21	Blessing of the Bikes, Gautier, MS
March 26-28	Alabama District Rally, Pelham
April 16 -18	2009 Louisiana District Rally... "WINGS OVER THE BAYOU"
April 30 - May 2	South Carolina District Rally, Myrtle Beach
May 2	LA-H Progressive Dinner Ride
May 9	LA-M MUDBUG Rally, DeRidder
May 9	MS-L Chapter Rally, Laurel
May 14, 15, 16	Texas District Rally
May 16	Mississippi District Picnic, Holmes County State Park
May 21-23	Arkansas District Rally
June 11-13	Georgia District Rally, Hiawassee
July 2 - 5	WING DING, Tulsa, OK
August TBA	Horizons Program [open to everyone]
September 10-12	Region A Rally, Dothan, AL
September 24-26	Wings Over the Smokies, Fletcher, NC
October 15-17	Mississippi District Rally, Tupelo

**Make plans to attend one of these fun-filled
GWRRA events
Check those membership cards
Stay current with GWRRA**

DISTRICT NEWS Louisiana District Staff meeting was well attended by District Staff and Chapter Directors and their staff. The meeting is designed to inform all about GWRRA policy, plan for the new year, and educate members in leadership roles. We salute the retiring Chapter Directors for a job well done and Congratulate our new Chapter directors. Good Luck to all of you.

Everyone is working hard and looking forward to the District's first Rider Education Safety Weekend, March 7, in Pineville. Go to our web site www.gwr-ra-la.org for more information. Congratulations to Mike and Pam Jastram for making this happen and to all of you that work so hard to make it a success.

The Horizons Leadership Program is moving to August. We are working on details and will post an announcement soon. Horizons is for Chapter Directors, their staff, and any member that wishes to serve in a leadership capacity in GWRRA or who wishes to experience personal leadership growth. Plan to attend for a FUN weekend of Team Work.

District Membership Enhancement Coordinators Erroll and Nancy Pellegrin plan to meet with all of the Chapters in the next couple of months to show us their plans on member retention. Membership enhancement is a very important part of any successful organization, because if you lose most of your members, then you can't continue to grow and become a strong organization. You are only as good as your membership. You can recruit as many new members as you can, but it is as equally important to keep the ones you have and that's why each Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinator should keep up with its membership both old and new. District Coordinator Pellegrin will be visiting all of the chapters to go over District's plan to achieve this goal of reaching out to all GWRRA members assigned to the different chapters throughout the State. He can be reached at 985-804-5600.

RALLY TIME - GWRRA Louisiana District "Mardi Gras Madness" RALLY is almost here. April 16, 17 and 18 in Lafayette. Go to our website to pre-register and save! Get ready now for a "Bon Temps" with your friends. We are expecting a bigger crowd, more vendors, and lots of FUN. Register early and make your hotel reservations early too!

AND, an updated Couple of the Year manual is available from GWRRA at <http://med.gwr-ra.org/index.htm> on the Couple of the Year division tab. An excellent powerpoint presentation entitled Couple of the Year Program Brief has been added to the COY district webpage. This presentation is an excellent source of information and explains all aspects of the COY program in detail. Check it out!



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

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FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter Director & Newsletter

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