



# The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

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

January 2009

*"Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge"*

Vol. 5, Issue 1

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#### Chapter O website

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

## *From the Chapter Director...*

We ended 2008 by giving THANKS to and for all of our GWRRA friends; we start off 2009 by giving THANKS especially to:

...ALL LA-O members for your participation and support during the year with our rides, meetings and special events and who continue to improve your riding skills and increase your knowledge of riding safely.

...ALL LA-O members who volunteered and served as officers for 2008 and who will serve in 2009 – Jim and Bonnie; Wendell and Marie; Sylvia Ledet; Mitch and Marie; Frank and Tammy.

...ALL LA-O members who participated in the Food Drive. Let's try to do this again in 2009. It was greatly appreciated. See me for a copy of the newspaper article.

...ALL LA-O members who offered such wonderful support, kindness and friendship to each other during the good and bad times we faced during 2008.

...ALL LA-O members who encourage others to come join us.

...Larry and Marsha for hosting our Christmas Party at their home, though they were still without electricity due to the rare snowfall in south Louisiana. They even had enough snow still on the ground to enable a few LA-O members to enjoy a snowball fight. And, maybe we brought them good luck since the lights came back on while we were there.

...Mitch & Marie for hosting our Thanksgiving Luncheon at their home and for handling the Chapter finances.

...Wendell & Marie for volunteering to host our 2009 Christmas Party and for representing LA-O as our 2009 Couple of the Year.

...Linus & Libby for representing LA-O as our 2007 and 2008 Couple of the Year. You did a great job!

And, the list could go on and on! Keep up the Good Work!

*GLADYS and ERNEST*

LA-O's Holiday Food Drive was a great success. Many, many pounds of non-perishable food items were delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank located at Trinity Baptist Church in Franklinton. The food bank serves over 350 families each month. Your participation was greatly appreciated. THANKS LA-O!

The District Staff meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, in Lafayette from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. All LA-O staff are encouraged to attend. Please let Gladys know if you cannot attend or if you'd like to coordinate travel plans.

LA-O joins the GWRRA family in sending our condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Thomas F. Sessum, who was a Charter Member of Chapter F. Mr. Sessum resided in Amite. In addition, we send our thoughts and prayers to Betty Wilson, Chapter D, on the loss of her Mother, Bonnie Bratton.

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

#### 2009 Ride Captains

January - David & Terry Jenkins  
& Charles Jenkins  
February - Frank & Tammy Gendusa  
March - Jim & Bonnie Cothorn  
April - Pete & Pat Bennett  
May - Wendell & Marie Vince  
June - Dale & Kim Jenkins  
July - Mitch & Marie Kilgore  
August - Larry & Marsha Spring  
September - Joyce Netherland &  
Allen and Amy Strain  
October - Ernest & Gladys Vernon  
November - Holiday events  
December - Holiday events

**THANKS, Larry and Marsha, for leading us on our "traditional" New Year's Day ride. We went to Ryan's in Hammond. No one but Larry can turn a 30-minute trip into a great two-hour ride! We had 16 bikes and 25 people. A great turnout for a great ride!**

#### CONGRATULATIONS

**Dale & Kim Jenkins**  
**On the birth of their new grandson**  
**Sine Maxwell DeNosky**  
**8 pounds and 3 ounces & 21 inches long**

#### December 2008 Meeting

**Wendell & Marie Vince**  
**won both 50/25/25 drawings**  
**31 Members and Guests attended**

Thanks to everyone for your support, well wishes and prayers during our difficult and trying times. Words cannot express our gratitude.  
Amy and Allen Strain

**Our New Year's Day ride started off a little chilly but turned out to be a beautiful day. In addition to guests Jane Carr and Clay and Rita Sanders, those following Larry & Marsha were Mitch Kilgore, Linus Magee, Alan Rauch, Charles & David Jenkins, Joey & Lesia Rawls, Dale & Kim Jenkins, Ernest & Gladys, Allen & Amy Strain, Wendell & Marie Vince, Darryl & Anita Jones, Jimmy Oalman, Jim Cothorn, and Joyce Netherland.**

*SPONSORS SPONSORS SPONSORS*

# GRAVES

**Tim Graves**  
*Master Technician*

## Cycle Repair

209A Oral Church Rd.  
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## ***From the Assistant Chapter Director***

Hope this article finds everyone in good health. It has been quite a time since I have been able to sit down and compose an article for the monthly newsletter. You all know the reason, but you all are the reason that I am back ahead of schedule. The many cards, calls, visits and most importantly "prayers" are the reason that I'm back on focus and working even my real job.

It was great to see everyone at Pine Seafood on December 5<sup>th</sup> and what a great meeting. My and Bonnie's heartfelt thanks go out to Linus and Libby for the great job that they have done as Couple of the Year for 2007 and 2008. Their replacements, Wendell and Marie, will do an outstanding job also. As the weather gets better, let's do some riding. It's been three months since the big white LSU bike has been off the center stand.

Remember to stay in touch with Bonnie @ 985-732-3225 if you have anyone ill or a birthday or anniversary. Good riding and God Bless. Jim and Bonnie Cothorn

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We were talking on December 14 and decided on a "spur of the moment" ride." We made a few calls and met Wendell and Marie, Linus and Libby, Charles, David and Terry, Larry and Marsha, Jimmy, and Dale and Kim at Duvall's in Bogalusa. Wendell was given the job as ride leader. He led us to Wendy's in Columbia, MS, via the Old Columbia Highway. After visiting, eating, and resting, we headed back home - each going his or her own way. This was a very good spur of the moment ride. Let's do more!

Allen, Amy and Joyce

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## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

**NEVER WORN--NEW white NOLAN N102 full-face helmet with J&M Audio, size XL. Only \$375 - Joyce @ 985-886-5814 or 630-1994 cell**

**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**

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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***

Let me begin by saying Happy New Year to my fellow Wingers and friends alike. I hope that everyone has come up with their New Year's resolution(s) for the upcoming year. And, let's hope that some of you may have decided to improve your riding skills by attending the GWRRA Louisiana 2009 Safety Weekend.

DATE: March 7<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PLACE: Essler Field, Pineville, LA

[Essler Field is located just north of Hwy 28 East, a few miles out of Pineville]

COURSES to be offered:

Trike Riding Course (TRC)

First Aid Classes

Advanced Riding Course (ARC) [This is GW's two wheel course]

Parking Lot Practice (PLP) [This is also a new GW course introduced this summer]

SEMINARS to be offered:

Co-Rider

Road Captain

Trailerling

Team Riding

Plus Leadership Training Classes

Please make plans to attend and to support the Louisiana Rider Ed group. Many volunteers have worked long hours to bring this opportunity to our members. Check out the District website for additional info and forms.

RIDE SMART, RIDE SAFE!

*Frank and Tammy Gendusa*

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

**Hello from Wendell & Marie Vince, newly appointed "Couple Of The Year" for 2009. We are honored and pleased to accept this position to help promote our Chapter O. Most of you already know us, but for those who don't, we have been married 31 years and have two beautiful daughters. Jennifer is 28, lives in Monroe, is an x-ray technician, working full time and going back to college pursuing a degree as a Physician's Assistant. Wendi is 21, lives at home and is a Senior at Southeastern, majoring in Criminal Justice, with plans to be a lawyer. Wendell is a School Bus driver for WPSB, and Marie is a School Bus driver for Franklinton Head Start. We also have a stump grinding business. We reside at Pine, LA.**

**We were the leaders for the scheduled ride in December, which was taken on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 8 bikes and 10 people. The weather was pretty cool, but not unbearable. We headed up some back roads to Mt. Hermon, to Osyka, then on to McComb, where we had lunch at the Golden Corral. A good day for a ride.**

**The following week, we all were given a great surprise. SNOW!!!! How beautiful, and what a treat for us in South Louisiana. Most areas got 6 to 8 inches of the white fluffy stuff.**

**We enjoyed our Christmas party at Larry & Marsha's house on the 13<sup>th</sup>. They still had a little snow on the ground, so some of the "children" (Larry, Pete & Dale) had a snowball fight!! We got pics, of course. We had tons of food and fun. And, who can forget the "BONKO" champs!! What a fun game. A special thanks to Gladys & Ernest for the WingWood Tree Ornament that they presented to all the members. We also presented Gladys & Ernest with a WingWood plaque from the Chapter for serving as our directors.**

**Well, it's been a very busy month for everyone: eat, sleep, open gifts, eat, sleep, eat, eat, eat!! I'm sure everyone will be starting a new diet after January 1. I know we will. Christmas is a wonderful holiday, but I for one am glad it is over for another year, but let's not forget the real meaning of Christmas, the Birth of Jesus Christ! We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to many more rides and get-togethers with LA-O. God Bless each one of you and Ride Safe.**

**Wendell and Marie**

January 2009  
Congratulations

Happy Birthday

1<sup>st</sup>

Gary Bankston

7<sup>th</sup>

Karisan Hunt

8<sup>th</sup>

Linus Magee

14<sup>th</sup>

Clyde Moody

18<sup>th</sup>

Mark Busby

19<sup>th</sup>

Alan Rauch

25<sup>th</sup>

Pam Moody

Happy Anniversary

18<sup>th</sup>

Robby & Josette Stringfield

26<sup>th</sup>

Daniel & Janet Brock

# JANUARY 2009

MEMBER RIDE CAPTAIN -- David & Terry Jenkins & Charles Jenkins

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 New Year's Ride	2 <i>Chapter O meets</i>	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 District Staff Mtg Lafayette
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	MLK Jr. Day					
25	26	27	28	29	30 Wingless Weekend	31 Alexandria National Guard Armory
2009 UPCOMING				EVENTS		

TBA in 2009

January 17

January 30-31

March 7

March 19, 20, 21

April 16, 17, 18

May 14, 15, 16

May 21, 22, 23

Horizons Program [open to everyone]

District Staff Meeting, Lafayette, Holiday Inn

WINGLESS Weekend, Alexandria,

National Guard Armory

Rider Education Weekend, Essler Field, Pineville

Region H Rally, Marshall, Texas

2009 Louisiana District Rally...

"WINGS OVER THE BAYOU"

Texas District Rally

Arkansas District Rally

***DISTRICT NEWS*** ..... Louisiana District Staff Meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Lafayette. This is an annual business meeting for all District & Chapter Directors and their staff. We discuss all areas of managing your Chapters, end of the year Chapter financial reports, Rally assignments and much more. Plan to attend.

Louisiana District Wingless Weekend scheduled for January 30 and January 31 at Alexandria National Guard Armory, Hwy 28. Friday from 6 p.m. till. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wingless Weekend is MEMBER APRECIATION DAY sponsored by the Louisiana District Staff. It's called Wingless because with the weather you may prefer to travel by car. Come for the fun, the food, the games and the Chapter Cup competition where six of your Chapter members play games to win the Chapter Cup trophy. Some of these games are hilarious. Shreveport, Chapter C, the 2008 Champs, are the ones to beat. Wingless was originally a one-day event, but the informal Friday evening social gained popularity seeing all our friends in the District together for fellowship and a good dinner, so we're now Wingless Weekend.

District Educators will discuss several issues, including Louisiana Education goals for 2009, with Chapter Educators during the District Staff meeting, along with some ideas that should really help move our safety program forward. All Chapter Educators are encouraged to attend. Also, District Educators have finalized plans for the Louisiana 2009 Safety Weekend March 7, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Essler Field, Pineville, LA

District Trainers Gene and Nelda Stanley remind us that a 2009 Horizons Program will be presented. It will be open to officers and non-officers and to anyone who may be interested in becoming an officer in the future. Everyone is welcome to participate. It's great fun as well as being informative!

District Membership Enhancement Coordinators plan to meet with all of the Chapters in the next couple of months to show us their plans on member retention.

AND, an updated Couple of the Year manual is available from GWRRA at <http://med.gwrroa.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!



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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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