



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

March 2009

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

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DISTRICT RALLY

April 16-18, 2009

From the Chapter Director...

Hope you've all had a chance to ride this month...February had a lot of rain, but we did have a few beautiful days, some warm and some cold, so we hope some of you got to enjoy your Wing "on the spur of the moment" on one of those good days because it seemed to rain on our "scheduled" ride days. Nevertheless, Frank's ride to The Shed BBQ & Blues Joint near Gulfport was GREAT. The BBQ is excellent. And, for those who like "the Blues," it seems to be great for that too! It's well worth another trip! We started out under "less than perfect" conditions, but all of us who went think it got better by the hour! Some didn't even get wet!

Jim and Bonnie and Larry and Marsha will take care of LA-O's March meeting as we are in Pineville for Safety Weekend. We're excited that we have finally found a Parking Lot Practice for our sidecar. We will also participate in a couple of the training seminars being presented. Frank Gendusa, Joyce Netherland, Allen and Amy Strain are also at Safety Weekend.

The Louisiana District Rally will also offer opportunities for additional safety education training and improving your skills, and the Rally will be here before you know it. If you have not registered or made your plans to attend, please do so as soon as possible. Come join the FUN, meet new FRIENDS, and improve your motorcycle SKILLS. Let us know if you plan to go as we will need some assistance with the Chapter's Rally "duties."

Remember too that we're planning a Chapter O Yard Sale. Start sorting your "trash and treasure." We will probably select a weekend at the end of April or the first of May. Thanks to Kay Dodds for offering us a prime location on Highway 21, Bogalusa, for the Yard Sale.

GLADYS and ERNEST

MAKE YOUR PLANS -- Jim and Bonnie Cothorn have scheduled their March ride for the 28th. Details will be sent shortly. And, the weather should be greatly improving during the month, so plan to ride whenever you can. Pete and Pat Bennett have the April Member ride. Their date will be announced soon. In addition, April is RALLY TIME. We'll be heading to Lafayette April 16-18. Come join your GWRRA family.....Is your GWRRA membership current? Or, is it about to expire? Or, do you need an application for membership? See your CD!

THANKS, FRANK. We started off under light rainy skies, but we still had a great ride to The SHED BBQ & Blues Joint near Gulfport. The BBQ was the best ever tasted; the rain stopped; and we rode up Hwy 49 to the flea market across from Paul B. Johnson State Park at Hattiesburg before returning home on Saturday. We had 10 bikes, 14 people. It was GREAT!

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

2009 Ride Captains	
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 MARIE VINCE... for the excellent presentation on the new logo for the Chapter Shirts and Banner. Thanks too for your efforts to locate someone to "perfect" the design and to locate shirts. And, **THANKS EVERYONE** who contributed ideas for the design. We hopefully will have new shirts in time for District Rally.

Congratulations to JOYCE NETHERLAND Winner of BOTH 50/50 drawings at February meeting

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

JUST A NOTE –
The District's HORIZONS PROGRAM will be held in August. An official announcement will be posted soon. Please consider participating in this program. Horizons is certainly useful for Chapter Directors and their staff, or for those interested in leadership roles, but it is also great for any member that wishes to attend and know more about GWRRA. It is fun and informative and open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you're interested, curious, or considering attending the program and want to talk about it, please see your CDs

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From the Assistant Chapter Director

Hi, everyone. Hope this article finds you in good health and getting ready to enjoy the good riding weather that is fast approaching. Everything has pretty much been put on hold for the month of February due to Mardi Gras. We, as well as everyone else, are patiently awaiting Frank's ride on the 28th of February. I'm sure we will have another great turn out for the ride. When you can get 15 or 16 bikes with 25 to 30 people like we have had on our rides since the ride of New Years Day, then you can say that the response is "GREAT". Just imagine what the turn out will be as the weather conditions get better. As we prepare for rides, don't forget to ask anyone who doesn't belong to our club to come along for the fun.

April is fast approaching and so is the Louisiana District Rally. Please plan to attend and pass a good time with your fellow GWRRA members from Louisiana and throughout the southeast. Please continue to let Bonnie know if you have an illness or a death in your family so she can get the proper card mailed out. She can be reached at 985-732-3225. God Bless You and Yours,

Jim and Bonnie Cothern

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

THANKS FOR COMING34 LA-O members were present at the February 2009 meeting. Guests included Leroy Barrios; Ralph Stogner; Hillary Crain; Pam Dillon; and Eric Ingram. It was great to see everyone.

THANKS Sylvia Ledet. Sylvia has served as LA-O Secretary since the Chapter was organized in June 2004 but has decided to "retire." A Certificate of Appreciation for her service was presented at the February meeting.

AND, we welcome ***Joyce Netherland*** as Chapter O's new secretary.

From the Chapter Educator

Below is another good article written by James R. Davis. It is worth a read. If you have any questions on the article, contact me. We'll talk about it! Frank and Tammy

Groups Of Two

Lead in the left or right track?

By: James R. Davis

You and your friend, or spouse, are out for a ride on your separate motorcycles. One of you is more experienced, one of you is more skilled - possibly the same person. Which of you takes the lead? Which track of the lane does that person ride in?

Let's start with a pair where one of them is essentially a newbie.

Contrary to advice I have offered elsewhere, your most experienced rider in this case belongs in the lead. This, because it is the lead biker's responsibility to establish speed, select travel lane, navigate, and encounter trouble first. The newbie is gaining experience and may well be 'pushed' over their head if required to take on the many responsibilities of group lead. And, the lead bike belongs in the left track of the lane because that is the position that provides most visibility (for oncoming drivers as well as the lead biker.)

In the case where the least experienced rider is not a newbie (meaning, this person has ridden in groups several times and is in complete control of their motorcycle when on the road), then either of the motorcycles may take the lead position. The least experienced rider may well wish to learn how to lead a group or the most experienced rider may wish to better assess the riding skills of the other rider, for example. The safety rationale that stipulates that the lead bike take the left track of the lane is persuasive most of the time. However, in the case of a person who may be an experienced rider but who has NO or very little experience riding in the lead, both riders can mutually agree that the lead will ride in the right track until that person has gained more experience. In this case you are trading the somewhat greater safety of lead bike in the left track with the greater safety to the lead bike of being farther away from oncoming traffic while they are learning to cope with all the other demands of being in the lead. This is the ONLY scenario I can think of where the lead bike can justify being in the right track.

In the case where BOTH riders are inexperienced (at riding lead) but are reasonably skilled riders, either can take the lead but it should be from the left track of the lane - AND group spacing should be doubled.

In the final case where both are inexperienced (at riding lead) and are relatively unskilled riders, then they are well advised NOT to ride as a group. If they intend to ride 'together' then they should do so in single file with twice the normal group spacing between them. This is a pair that should find an experienced lead bike to tutor them in group riding or otherwise obtain group riding experience while gaining riding skills before they ride as a group of two together.

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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

Well, Hello Wingers!

I guess it's true, be careful what you wish for. Last month I hoped this month would not be so busy. Well, I got my wish. There was not much going on but RAIN! The weather has been so crazy, rain, cold, hot. I am so ready for Spring.

We rode our GoldWing in a Mardi Gras parade on February 14th in New Orleans with Chapter K. We had a blast. We were apprehensive at first, but fell right in and had a great time. We encourage more Wingers to participate next year. Chapter K has a large variety of Parades to ride in, including daytime parades, which we chose. Our picture is on the internet at "Mardigrasparadeschedule.com", scroll down to "Krewe of Ponchartrain" on 2/14/09, click on Photos 2009.

The Region H Rally in Marshall, Texas, will be held on March 19 thru 21st. Some of our members are planning to attend. We've heard it is a great rally, better than Wing Ding!

A few of our members are not present tonight because they are attending Safety Weekend in Pineville. Hats off to anyone who furthers their education in riding excellence. We are looking forward to more information from Frank, our Rider Educator. He has done a fantastic job! Thank you Frank.

Don't forget to set your clocks forward ONE hour on March 8th for Daylight Savings Time. We will be glad to see the change. The longer days make for a lot more riding time. With this change comes the hope of better weather too!

We enjoyed our ride on the 28th to Gulfport to "The Shed" for delicious BBQ. Some of us got wet, (some of us didn't). That is a story for another day! Followed by a trip to the Hwy 49 Flea Market and a chilly trip home...Brrr. We had 10 Bikes and 14 Riders. Thanks, Frank for a great ride.



We wish The Luck of The Irish to all our fellow Gold Wingers!

***"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face &
The rain fall softly on your fields.
And, until we meet again, may God hold you in the
Hollow of his hand"***

Irish Blessing

Remember, Keep Riding Safely with Education!!!

Wendell & Marie

*March 2009
Congratulations
Happy Birthday*

8th

Anna Sellers

9th

Darryl Jones

10th

Sylvia Ledet

17th

Patti Seals

19th

Josette Stringfield

26th

Pat Bennett

Happy Anniversary

3rd

Mitch & Marie Kilgore

21st

Jimmy & Hilda Oalmann

23rd

Dale & Kim Jenkins

District NEWS, . . . Directors Brent and Roxie Comeaux announced the **Louisiana Chapter of the Year (LCHOY) 2008** meets all the criteria set by GWRRA National Committee and will be forwarded to Region H Staff for further review to qualify against four other Region H Districts for Region CHOY.

The 2008 LCHOY has increased membership thru recruitment and retention plans, increased Rider Education Levels, participated in parking lot practice, consistently selected a Couple of the Year, the Chapter Director attended and completed LTD course "Development & Certification Instructor", the Asst C/D attended two basic LTD courses, the Chapter as a whole attended a LTD program, the Chapter has a current web site. Extra Ordinary events include: Chapter featured in Wing World magazine, Secured Grant money thru a non-profit organization to interact monthly social activities between their local Veteran's War Home patients and Chapter members, Put on an annual Chapter Poker Run fund raiser, placed 1st in the local Christmas Parade & supported other Chapter events. There is much more to speak of, but the events of 2008 have set Chapter J apart and the Louisiana District Staff Congratulates Brice and Shylar Palmer and all their members and Staff for a wonderful year of fellowship, commitment and accomplishments.

We thank all of the Chapters that participated and submitted to be Louisiana Chapter of the Year -- Chapter A, Chapter D, Chapter E, and Chapter H.

MORE NEWS -- Merlin & Beverly Mayon of Houma Chapter H have joined the Louisiana District Staff. They will serve as Couple of the Year Coordinators in 2009. Their accomplishments in GWRRA bring valuable leadership to our District Staff. Welcome aboard!

Additional 2009 GWRRA Events

May 14, 15, 16	Texas District Rally
May 21, 22, 23	Arkansas District Rally
June 11, 12, 13	Georgia District Rally, Hiwassee
July 2, 3, 4, 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

MARCH 2009

MEMBER RIDE CAPTAIN – Jim and Bonnie Cothorn

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Be SAFE RIDE safe Have FUN		Dress for the weather – Hot or Cold !		Stay Alert when riding		Put Emergency Info on bike
1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Chapter O meets</i>	7 Safety Weekend
8 Time Changes	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16		18	19	20 SPRING BEGINS	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Jim & Bonnie Ride
29	30	31				
2009 UPCOMING				EVENTS		

- March 7 Rider Education Weekend, Esler Field, Pineville
- March 12-14 Florida District Rally, Kissimmee
- March 19, 20, 21 Region H Rally, Marshall, Texas
- March 21 Blessing of the Bikes, Gautier, MS
- April 16, 17, 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, Houma

May 9
May 9

LA-M MUDBUG Rally, DeRidder
MS-L Rally, Laurel



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

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Chapter Director & Newsletter

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