



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

SEPTEMBER 2009

“Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge”

Vol. 5, Issue 9

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-o.org

Chapter O website

www.gwrra-la-o.org

April 8-9-10, 2010

LA District Rally

From the Chapter Director...

Apparently, Ernest and I missed a great August ride. The turn-out was great and the weather cooperated as well, and the surprise was outstanding! However, we do apologize for the mix-up announcing it was a lunch ride when it was actually a breakfast ride. I obviously missed that piece of information when Larry made his announcement at the August meeting.

September will hopefully bring cooler weather for us, so give us a call if you want to put a ride together, OR contact our Ride Coordinators Wendell and Marie Vince. We'll be happy to join you for a meal at one of your favorite spots or just for the "thrill of the ride."

Joyce Netherland leads this month's member ride. Joyce is planning for Saturday, September 19, to visit "PETUNIA's". We'll send details via the calling post. On September 26, Wendell and Marie will lead us to Alexandria for Chapter E's pig roast. Chapter E needs a headcount to prepare the proper amount of food, so let us know if you plan to go ASAP.

Chapter A's RIDE FOR KIDS fundraiser is Saturday, September 5, in Baton Rouge at Cajun Cycle on Airline Highway from 9 to 2. We can't go but if you're interested in going, you can hook up with Chapter F. Ernest and I will participate in RIDE FOR KIDS in Lafayette on SUNDAY, October 25. Let us know if you're interested in going with us. It's a great cause!

GLADYS and ERNEST

September 5 – Ride for Kids Fundraiser by Chapter A at Cajun Cycle, Baton Rouge

\$6 donation for lunch; drinks \$1 donation

Lunch CHOICE: Spaghetti/bread & salad/dessert, OR

Red beans & rice/bread & salad/dessert

September 19 – Joyce will lead us to "Petunia's"

September 26 – Wendell and Marie will lead us to Alexandria for Chapter E's pig roast

Great ride, Marsha and Larry. Your breakfast run on August 22 was wonderful

GOOD LUCK and get well wishes go to Pam Jastram as she undergoes hip replacement surgery on September 14, followed by several weeks of therapy. Get Well wishes are also sent to Huey Duncan who regularly visits LA-O. Glad you're now home! Take care of yourselves.

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

2009 Ride Captains

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 for an application**

39 attended LA-O's
August 2009 Meeting

GET WELL WISHES

Daniel & Janet Brock
Kelly & Laura Crain
Jack Sparks & Nell Baham
Jim & Bonnie Cothorn
Huey Duncan

WELCOME TO VISITORS

John Blackwell
Billy & Dottie Jambon
Murphy & Charlotte Hickman
EJ & Cathy Oalman
August 25/25/25 WINNERS
Geneva Bell, Visitor
Jim Cothorn
Hillary Crain

Wendell and Marie will lead LA-O to the LA-E Pig Roast. LA-E needs a headcount, so don't forget to RSVP to Wendell/Marie or Gladys/Ernest. The Pig Roast is Saturday, September 26. Lunch at noon, \$10 per person, Hwy 28W, National Guard Armory, Alexandria. Ride details will be sent via calling post.

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 everyone!! Hope this article finds everyone in good health and beginning to enjoy these days of beautiful riding weather. It hasn't been so good around the Cothorn household the last month with two thirds of us being in the hospital and the other one off traveling the world taking care of other people. Angel (our dog) spent almost a week at the vet and I spent three nights in beautiful St. Tammany hospital. We are both out and doing quite well and Ms. Bonnie is home and doing well also.

The weather is excellent for riding and again I congratulate Larry and Marsha for an outstanding ride. I'm really sorry I missed it, but from all the people I talked to, they informed me that Marsha really did a great job. I understand there were approximately twenty-four bikes on the ride. Great Job Guys.

As we get farther on in the year, the riding weather will become better and I'm sure there will be some impromptu rides planned. Please try to notify as many as possible or call Gladys for the "calling post". Let's not forget that Ernest and Gladys are about to become GRANDPARENTS.

Remember to call Bonnie if you have someone sick or in the hospital so she can get a card out to them. She can be reached @ 985-732-3225. If no one's home, please leave a message.

God Bless.

Jim and Bonnie

"For Sale" --- '97 GoldWing Aspencade, 1500, Maroon, Pin striping, air horn, CB, 2 helmets w/intercom, loaded with lots of extras, \$8,500. 985-516-4680

From the Chapter Educator

Hello, my friends. Hope everyone is well. It's hard to believe, but the end of the year is fast approaching. With it comes some cooler weather, which is always a welcomed change from the heat of summer.

Although this time of year is always nice for getting in some good riding, there is an encounter that most (all) motorcyclists hate. It is the dreaded Love-Bug. The Bug is made just to mess up your bike, including your windshield. It is very important to keep the windshields clean so you the rider have a good picture of the road ahead. Being able to see down the road will enable us to see impending dangers before it is too late.

With that being said, if you are leading a ride, be sure to make frequent stops for members in your group to clean the windshields. The bike can be cleaned later, but the windshield can't wait. **RIDE SAFE- RIDE OFTEN- RIDE WITH A CLEAN WINDSHIELD!!!!!!**

Frank Gendusa

FIRST AID AND CRASH SCENE TRAINING BECOMES ALL TOO REAL

Following Chapter LA M's gathering on 15 August 2009, we went on a group ride. Traveling west on Hwy 474; we neared a dangerous curve and slowed to 35 MPH. While negotiating the curve, a motorcycle traveling the opposite direction swerved to avoid a hazard. As he swerved left, he startled a rider in our group, and caused him to swerve hard to the right and drop the rear wheel of his bike off the pavement. The rider hit the rear brake and lost control of the bike. The bike slid sideways and hit a tree. The co-rider was ejected, hit the tree and landed under it. The bike and rider spun around the tree, tumbled through the air and landed about twenty feet away. Shouts were broadcast over the CB; "Bike left the Road", and "Bike Down". The group came to a halt, 911 was called, we cleared the road, set up traffic control, went to the rider and co-rider to keep them stable and awake, fanned them and applied damp cloths to keep them cool. The rider was complaining of neck pain, so his head was stabilized by knees on each side of his head. Shortly first responders and police arrived, and we assisted them as much as possible with information as to injuries, medications taken, personal information and shade. Both of the injured were loaded into an ambulance and transported to the hospital. We went too and provided information to the family. Later that evening, both were released from the hospital. The rider has a stable neck fracture and the co-rider is severely bruised.

The way in which Chapter M was able to respond to this accident and secure the Crash Scene is the result of extensive training made available by GWRRA. GWRRA has in its motto, FUN – the ride, SAFETY – clear the road & traffic control, and KNOWLEDGE - secured the crash scene, stabilized the injured, kept them awake and calm, and provided care until the medical personnel arrived. This is a tribute to GWRRA, and the Rider Education Department for ensuring the knowledge is available to all members and for encouraging them to participate in the Level's Program.

Paul & Linda Whittington, Chapter Directors, LA –M "THE MUDBUGS"

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! This is Phase 2 and 3 of a series on How a GWRRA Chapter is organized. Next month we will cover Phase 4 and 5. The content below can be found in the **Officer’s Guide Book** on page D-2.

HOW A NEW GWRRA CHAPTER IS ORGANIZED

The Proactive Approach to Chapter Formation

PHASE 2: Send out “Letter of Intent” and “Survey Form”

- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator will generate a complete list of all Members in the area and send a **“letter of intent”** (<http://med.gwrra.org/guides/Proactive%20Approach.pdf>) The letter explains what we are offering the Members in the area. A **“survey form”** (<http://med.gwrra.org/guides/Proactive%20Approach.pdf>) will be sent with the letter, which asks for a response via telephone, letter or email by a specific date to verify interest.
- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator collects responses, coordinates information (yes or no answers), and reports this information to the District Director. Together the District Director and the District Membership Enhancement Coordinator determine if the level of interest warrants further action. If the response is not favorable, a letter should be sent to all respondents thanking them for the response and stating another attempt may be made at a later date. If the response is favorable, the first informational meeting should be arranged.

PHASE 3: Set up the First Meeting

- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator, if not familiar with the area, may call on the District Director, staff or someone who gave a favorable response to the letter for assistance in finding a suitable location for an informational meeting. The meeting place should have a room that will hold at least 20 people.
- The District Director must approve the time and location of the meeting and appoint a facilitator for the informational meeting. The facilitator for the meeting may be the District Director, a Member of the District Director’s staff, nearby Chapter Director, or an Ambassador. The facilitator must be familiar with Chapter structure and activities to make the group want to join in. The District COY would be a good choice for the facilitator. It is always a good idea to contact nearby Chapters to attend to show support and organization strength.
- The District Membership Enhancement Coordinator sends everyone on the list a letter to notify them of the first informational meeting (<http://med.gwrra.org/guides/Proactive%20Approach.pdf>). As time approaches, telephone calls (if feasible) are a good touch, or email everyone that returned email addresses and give them a friendly reminder of the meeting.

“LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND THEN TEACH SOMEONE”

From the Couple of the Year

Helloooo Chapter OOOO!! Well, we have had some fine riding weather the last couple of weeks. I hope you all have been taking advantage of it. I know we have! We really enjoyed our ride with Larry & Marsha on the 22nd to Nyla's in Osyka, MS. We missed Brittany Spears by only a few minutes! Oh well, maybe next time. After a great breakfast we rode back to Roseland. I don't think we have EVER made that many turns on one ride!! Larry always has an adventure planned. Once we arrived in Roseland, we visited the Antique Car Museum. It was very impressive, and enjoyed by all. We had an enormous turnout for the ride with 24 bikes and 36 riders/co-riders. The weather cooperated beautifully! Thanks Larry & Marsha!

We attended the Horizons Leadership Training on August 8th & 9th in Lafayette. Brent Comeaux and Gene & Nelda Stanley were educators. They did a great job. We learned a lot about Chapter leadership and teamwork, how to hold a chapter meeting, staff meeting & utilizing all of your staff to help the Chapter Director. We enjoyed meeting new wingers and working with them as a team. We received certificates, patches & pins! I encourage everyone to take advantage of this training when it is offered again, even if you do not have aspirations of being a Director, the seminars offer great "Life" skills.

Wendell, Alfred & I went to Slidell on August 23rd to have lunch with Carl & Dianne, Wendell's brother, then rode over to Biloxi on Hwy 90 afterwards. It was a beautiful day for a ride!

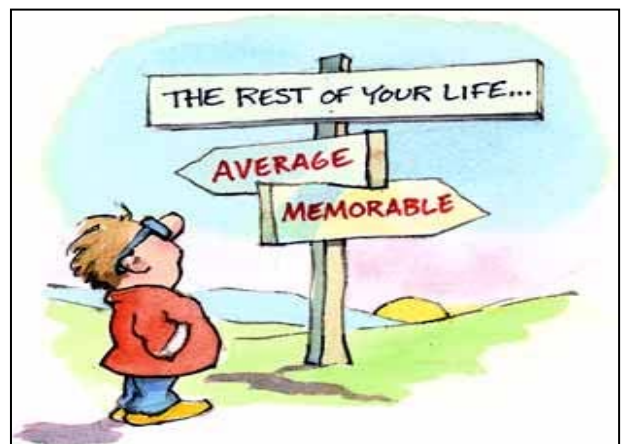
We offer our congratulations to Allen & Amy Strain for their being selected as Chapter F Couple of the Year. I know they will represent their new chapter well. Good luck Allen & Amy. We attended the Chapter F meeting on August 18 when they were announced.

Joyce will be leading our ride on September 19th. I'm sure she has a great ride planned for us. We will be leading the ride on September 26th to Alexandria to Chapter E's Couchon de Lait. Hope everyone can join us. We will have details at the meeting. The cost is \$10. We need to get a count of who plans to go by the 15th, so they can prepare. They plan to eat around 12pm.

Linus & Libby will not be with us at the meeting; they left on Friday for a trip to the Grand Canyon! Hope they have a great trip.

So, enjoy this beautiful weather! Keep smiling, riding, and by all means "BE SAFE"

Marie & Wendell, COY '09



*September 2009
Happy Birthday*

5th

Anita Jones

11th

Jim Cothern

13th

Deannie Willis

18th

Janet Brock

21st

Bonnie Cothern

22nd

Marie Kilgore

29th

Larry Spring

Happy Anniversary

22nd

Jim & Bonnie Cothern

23rd

Joey & Lesia Rawls

26th

Frank & Tammy Gendusa

Ladies of Chapter O

You're Invited to Meet and Greet

Rachel Vernon Cantillon

at her Baby Shower

on Sunday, September 13, at 2:00 p.m.

14436 Summerset Drive

Gonzales, LA 70737
RSVP if attending to 225/683-5636

SEPTEMBER 2009

MEMBER RIDE CAPTAIN – Joyce Netherland

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	3	4 <i>Chapter O meets</i>	5 LA-A Ride for KIDS 9-2, B.R.
6	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10	11 PATRIOT DAY	12
13 GRAND- PARENTS DAY	14	15	16	17 CITIZEN- SHIP DAY	18	19 JOYCE RIDE
20	21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24	25	26 LA-E PIG ROAST
27	28	29	30			
2009 UPCOMING				EVENTS		

September 10-12	Region A Rally, Dothan, AL
September 19	LA-O ride by Joyce Netherland
September 24-26	Wings Over the Smokies, Fletcher, NC
September 26	LA-E Pig Roast, Alexandria Wendell/Marie to lead LA-O riders
October 15-17	Mississippi District Rally, Tupelo
October 22-24	Oklahoma District Rally, Muskogee
October 25	LOUISIANA Ride for Kids 2009, Lafayette
October 31	LA-H Safety Day, Houma



AUGUST RIDE -- We watched the weather all week; it looked like our ride was going to be a wash out. But, Saturday morning started with clear skies and decent temperatures for August. And, what a **GREAT TURNOUT**. We had 23 bikes and a bunch of people for our surprise ride; even with the confusion about this being a lunch ride (it was actually a breakfast ride). We left Winn Dixie traveling north through Mt. Hermon where we crossed into Mississippi and followed Stateline Road to Osyka. There we got caught by a train and it split our group in two. After a delay, we arrived at Nyla's where we filled the place. (They did a great job even with all these people.) After a great breakfast we crossed back into Louisiana and took Stateline Road to Line Creek and crossed back into Mississippi again. Right before Gillsburg we turned back south and crossed into Louisiana and followed Hwy 441 south to Arcola. There we arrived at our **Surprise**. We had arranged a tour of The **Big 4 Classic Car Collection**. This is a private car collection [and what a collection!] with some very rare and collector cars. Everyone seemed to enjoy this outing, even though Mitch was looking forward to a grass clipping collection that we promised him (HA ! HA!). Our Special Thanks to The Smith Family for sharing these treasures with us and to Jenny Vernon for taking her day off to let us in. It was a great but short ride, less than 100 miles round trip. A new record for old Larry.

Mr. Huey Duncan -- sorry you weren't able to make this ride with us. We know that you were looking forward to this outing. Take care of yourself and hope to see you soon. Our prayers are with you and your family. Ride Safe,
Larry and Marsha

DISTRICT NEWS

..... District Staff congratulates the 19 GWRRR members who recently completed the HORIZONS training. Everyone came away with a reinforced commitment to help make their Chapter better and the tools they received will help them achieve their goals. The tools needed to build a great Chapter are found in Leadership Training Division. We want to build strong Chapters, ones that will withstand negativity, gossip, and agendas that do not produce a positive atmosphere. Leadership Training gives the leaders in the Chapter the tools to resolve these issues. Not everyone joins GWRRR and then gets involved with a Chapter for the same reasons. The Chapter exists for the members, and if the majority of the members are satisfied and happy, the problem might be you. Don't bring a negative attitude to Chapter meetings or gatherings. The participants at the Horizons Program were not all officers in their Chapter, but they too now have the tools to make them better equipped to be a positive influence and make a great contribution in their Chapter and in GoldWing Road Riders Association. District Trainers are also encouraging Chapters to present Leadership Skills Training to all members. Leadership Training is as important as Safety Education!

LA-O joins the District Staff and GWRRR family in sending Get Well wishes to LA-M members injured on a recent Chapter ride and congratulates LA-M on being prepared to handle the crash scene as a result of their recent Crash Scene Rider Ed training. This incident clearly shows why such Rider Ed training is essential. Take advantage of every training opportunity. Chapter M's report on the accident appears on the Rider Educator page.

The District Couple of the Year and District COY Coordinators asked that we share this information with our Chapter Couple and Members. These guidelines are for the Couple Baskets for District Rally 2010. Please encourage EVERYONE to participate. If you have not chosen a deserving Couple, we know someone in your Chapter is that SPECIAL COUPLE and will represent you well.

1. Pick a theme -- either in line with your Chapter (like Chapter A Tigers) or one basic theme (like all things to do with planes or something).
2. Have your Chapter participate either by giving items or donating money to purchase items or by having businesses donate items for the baskets.
3. Wrap your basket where you can see contents and have a list attached to let people know what is inside.
4. Either e-mail Faye Alexander or Beverly Mayon what your Chapter theme is so that two baskets will not be the same (remember 1st come/1st serve).
5. We will need Chapter members to help your Chapter Couple sell tickets Thursday, Friday and till 2 pm on Saturday at Rally, as your Couple may also be busy selling 50/25/25 and Grand Prize tickets. A COY table will be set up to display baskets and tickets will be sold at that table.

6. Baskets will be given away at closing and monies raised by each participating Chapter will be distributed by the number of tickets sold for their basket.

7. Any comments or suggestions please feel free to email Faye at fayealex@netzero.com or Beverly at merlinmayon@att.net. Beverly's phones 985-384-2673 home; 985-519-1524/1523 cells.

District Educators Mike and Pam Jastram announce that Chapter H, along with District Staff, have put together a safety day in Houma for October 31, 2009. An Experienced Rider Course (ERC - two wheel bikes) and a Trike Course, along with two rider education seminars will be offered. Registration form has all the details and is available from LA-O Rider Educator or the LA-O website, or the LA-O CD can send it via e-mail. The form will be posted on the Rider Ed page of District website soon.

For those who want to spend the night, the following motel is recommended: Quality Inn at 210 South Hollywood Rd, Houma, LA 70360. Phone 985-868-5851; Rates: One King or 2 Doubles \$70.00 plus tax. Thanks to Denise DuFrene, Chapter H Asst Director, for setting-up the motel. *Be sure to ask for the GoldWing Motorcycle Group special rate. Comes with a free breakfast. Hessie Cox is the Reservation Manager. You should be able to make reservations by just calling the front desk. If you have any problems ask for Hessie.* **Thank you Chapter H for helping put this event on.**

District COY Coordinators Beverly and Merlin Mayon ask the question:

An Honor or a Responsibility?

At the Chapter level, being selected a Chapter Couple of the Year is an honor bestowed on a deserving couple who has shown dedication and commitment to their Chapter. Being selected as Chapter Couple of the Year is just like being presented an award.

The responsibility comes if and when a couple chooses to participate in the District Couple of the Year selection process. *Being selected as District, Region or International Couple of the Year brings with it the expectation that the Couple will represent GWRRA as Ambassadors and spokespersons*, with particular emphasis on "spreading-the-word" outside the association. Additionally, when a couple participates in the selection process at the District level, they make a *commitment*, should they be selected as District COY, to participate at the Region level. And, then, if chosen at the Region level, to participate at Wing Ding for the International selection. The Couple must realize that if chosen at the District level, this could lead to a four-year commitment.

This information was taken from the Couple of the Year Program Manual. You can contact us at merlinmayon@att.net 985-384-2673 home; 985-519-1524/1523 cells.



**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