



The LA-O Report



FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA

Chapter O - Louisiana District – South Central Region H

MAY 2008

“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

Wendell & Marie Vince
(985) 848-2926

maivusal@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sylvia Ledet
(985) 848-5762

Sassycoon@AOL.com

Treasurer

Mitch & Marie Kilgore
(985) 848-0005

mariek@huntbrothers.com

2008 Couple of the Year

Linus & Libby Magee

[mageesapliancer@](mailto:mageesapliancer@bellsouth.net)

bellsouth.net

(985) 848-2420

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...

DID YOU KNOW -- (1) Failure of a car/truck driver to detect and recognize motorcycles is the predominant cause of motorcycle crashes? (2) In almost two-thirds of multi-vehicle crashes, the driver of the car/truck caused the crash by violating the right-of-way of the motorcyclist; and (3) Both the motorcycle rider and the driver of the car/truck are victims in these crashes. Though the car/truck driver may not receive physical injuries, quite often they experience emotional injuries, especially when the motorcyclist is severely injured or killed. May is **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH**. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA] and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission [LHSC] are striving to raise the awareness of drivers of passenger vehicles to be alert for motorcyclists. Of course, we motorcyclists must also do our part to safely share the road. A lapse in attention - even for a second - can make a dangerous difference. **Stay Alert!**

GLADYS and ERNEST

MARK THE DATE OF MAY 24 -- Joyce and Houston are leading this month's Chapter ride and are working out the details, which we will send as soon as they are finalized. At this time, they are planning an afternoon ride toward Columbia and returning for dinner at Old South on Hwy 21, Bogalusa. Make plans to join Chapter O for good fun and good eating!

Thanks to Larry and Marsha for a great ride on April 26 to Old River Steakhouse, Tylertown. We [mostly] avoided the rain getting to the restaurant; however, it was raining steadily on the way home. BUT, it was still great fun with our GW friends. Don't let the clouds keep you home.

MAY 2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 26 - Ham Martin

May 27 - Melaney Erwin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 7 - Chic & Linda Danna

May 16 - Mike & Theresa Dufrene

May 26 - Linus & Libby Magee

Chapter O APRIL Meeting

50/25/25 Winners

Linus & Libby Magee

Allen Strain

Thanks Wendell & Marie

for the t-shirt door prize, which
was won by **Charles Jenkins**

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

April 2008 meeting

18 members in attendance

**Guests were Hilry & Helen Flynt
and Allen Strain**

2008 Monthly Ride Leaders

May	Joyce & Houston
June	Dale & Kim
July	Pete & Pat
August	David & Terry
September	Jim & Bonnie
October	Available
November	Frank & Tammy
December	Wendell & Marie

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From the Assistant Chapter Director

Hi, hope this message finds all well and in good health. As the riding weather improves, we all find excuses to ride more. Such is the case with yours truly. On April 5th, I had an appointment in Mobile, Alabama, with TJ and the Boss to pinstripe the bike. I awoke at 3 a.m. to rain and thunderstorms. I went back to bed thinking that I would get up around 6 a.m. and call them and cancel. I awoke around 4 a.m. and the rain had stopped, so me in my divine wisdom decided to make the trip. I got dressed and put on the "Frog Toggs" and started the trip. I kind of figured that I might run into SOME rain. About 10 miles from home I hit the rain and I rode in it all the way to Mobile. The thunderstorms had stalled over Mississippi and Alabama. It was by far the worst weather I've ever been in. Severe thunder and lightning. But, when you see the Wing, you will agree that the trip was worth it. What a difference it made on the bike. On the 19th, we met in Franklinton at 2 p.m. for an ice cream ride to Angie. We had nine bikes make the trip and met Mitch and Marie there; had a great social and had seven bikes make the return trip. The return trip consisted of a ride west on 48 to Tylertown and down 27/25 to Franklinton for a short disbursement gathering. Russell and Ginger Butler of Clinton joined us. What a treat. He rode a beautiful 1500 and she rode a VTX 1300. Great group. Great ride. On the 26th, Larry and Marsha led us on the scheduled monthly ride. We met in Franklinton at 2 p.m. and traveled through the back roads of Louisiana and Mississippi with a final destination of the Old River Steakhouse just west of Tylertown. This was a great ride even though we dodged rain for the entire front end of the ride. We again had to stop at a little church and put on the rainwear. After arrival and a GREAT meal, we rode home entirely in the rain. We had 18 for dinner with ten bikes making the trip. As always Larry and Marsha did an outstanding job for their monthly ride. It was great to see some of the group that we haven't seen in a while. For your information, Wendell and Marie now have a CB, so no more talking about them while riding. Again, if you are ill, in the hospital, or have a procedure scheduled, please call Bonnie at 985-732-3225 so she can let the rest of the club know. Ride Safe and God Bless each of you. **JIM and BONNIE**

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!**

From the Chapter Educator

Hello to everyone. I hope that everyone has Spring Fever as bad as I do. I want to just take about two months off work and just ride! That brings me to the subject of this month's letter, RIDING YOUR BIKE. On April 13th, I along with Larry Spring; Linus Magee; Mitch Kilgore; Wendell Vince; Alfred Ingram, and Daniel Butscher, participated in an Experienced Rider Course (ERC) in Hammond. It involved cornering, swerving, braking and just learning what your bike is capable of. I learned how quickly my bike will stop in a hard braking situation. I learned how tightly I could turn my bike in a figure 8 pattern. I learned evasive maneuvers to avoid an obstacle in the roadway. The clue to that is to look at the way around the object [don't fixate on the object or you will hit it!]. The most important thing that I got out of this training is that a person needs to be familiar with his or her own bike. A rider should know exactly what his or her bike is capable of. That way, if the need arises, you will be able to get yourself out of a situation that could cause you to get into an accident. And, how do you do that? **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!** Participate in a Parking Lot Practice [PLP] or just get out on your own and practice the different techniques.

Frank and Tammy Gendusa

I would like to thank Frank for his efforts to get an ERC scheduled especially for Chapter O. In addition, Frank noted that Basic Rider Courses are also scheduled in several locations around Louisiana for May and June. See him if you are interested in attending one of those classes.
Gladys

From the Couple of the Year

Hi, Gang. Now that the weather is better, we hope that everyone has been getting to enjoy some riding. We have done a few short rides this month. One Sunday afternoon we rode up to Red Bluff which is above Foxworth, MS. Our group included Mitch and Marie, Wendell and Marie, and Alfred Ingram. Those of us that live close together have a habit of calling some of the others and quickly putting together a short ride. We are very spontaneous. I know some of you do that as well. It's fun, isn't it.

We want to thank Frank for his efforts in arranging to get together enough guys to go to Hammond on Sunday, April 13, for the motorcycle training course. This was a very informative training and very important in keeping our riding skills up to par. We urge everyone to plan at sometime to take this training. We can never learn too much about riding and our safety. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, FRANK, YOU ARE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB.

Larry and Marsha led us on a ride last Saturday to "SOMEWHERE". We've never made so many twists and turns and we didn't know if we were going East, West, North or South. We did end up at the right restaurant in time to eat though. Larry was really trying to outrun the rain, but our luck ran out while we were eating, so we had to ride home in the rain. We still had fun, in spite of the rain. Good job, Larry and Marsha.

We are very proud of Mitch and Marie. They are working their fingers to the bone making motorcycle signs to sell. They are having very good response from customers and are busy booking rallies as vendors. We wish them much success with this endeavor. They have a classic looking product.

Everyone get your bikes shined up and let's hope that we can enjoy being together with our GWRRA friends. We realize that we can't always make every event, but when we can, let's do our best to get together.

So until next time, God Bless, Have Fun and Be Safe.

Linus and Libby

MAY 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Be SAFE RIDE safe Have FUN		Drink water when riding in hot weather		Is emergency Info on bike?		Stay Alert When riding
				1	2 Chapter O meets	3 MS-M Fun Day
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mothers Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day LA-E. Alex
18	19	20	21	22	23 Thru 25	24 Arkansas District Rally
25 Arkansas District Rally	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31 LA-M Mud Bug Rally
UPCOMING				EVENTS		

- May 3 MS-M Fun Day, Brookhaven HONDA, Brookhaven, MS
- May 17 LA - E, Alexandria, Spring Rally @ National Guard Armory
- May 23-25 ARKANSAS District Rally, Harrison, AR
- May 31 LA - M, DeRidder, Mud Bug Rally
- July Wing Ding
- October 4 LA - A, Baton Rouge, Sock Hop
- October 16 STARS ON THE COAST, Mississippi District Rally
- October 19 Louisiana's RIDE FOR KIDS, Lafayette

DISTRICT NEWSDistrict Directors Brent and Roxie *Comeaux* announced that Mike and Pam Jastram of LA-A were selected as the REGION COUPLE OF THE YEAR at the Rally in Marshall, Texas. Mike and Pam will also be serving as DISTRICT RIDE EDUCATORS. Brian and Kim Berthelot will serve as District Assistant Ride Educators.

Wayne and Joyce Brewer are now Louisiana's Assistant District Directors and District Trainers. *Wayne and Joyce* were also named 2008 District Couple of the Year, representing Chapter A in the COY selection. They are former Chapter Directors of Chapter A.

Other appointments include: Faye Alexander as District Treasurer. Jere Pyburn will serve as District Rally Vendor Coordinator and Steve Alexander will continue to assist in this area as well. Among other duties, Maurine Pyburn will be handling orders for the patches.

Congratulations to everyone. District has a great team in place.

Do you know the primary function of the Chapter Director?

GWRRA's Officer's Guidebook actually says that the CD's role is to serve the membership. The CD's primary function is to coordinate activities for the participants. The CD should focus on the fact that this is a hobby. People want to enjoy activities that involve riding their motorcycles and being with their friends. WE AGREE with that idea. That's what we want to do, and we need your help to do it. We want to plan activities that YOU are interested in. So let us know what you want to do and we'll try to coordinate the activities so we can continue to enjoy our hobby and have fun with our friends.

Gladys & Ernest

A Member's Ride

Hi Guys. Wendell and I enjoyed a recent trip to the Smokey Mountains along with his brother Carl and Carl's fiancée' Dianne. On Monday, we traveled new roads in Alabama, Hwy 69 North. A MUST RIDE - beautiful scenery, not to mention getting off the Interstate. Our trip continued on to Rome and to Helen, Georgia. Other points of interest was T.W.O. [Two Wheels Only] in Suches, passing through national forests, and visiting many beautiful waterfalls along the way. At the top of two mountains we had the privilege to see snow and icicles on the side of the mountain.

Another beautiful ride was the Blue Ridge Parkway in NC. A breathtaking ride. Finally making our way over the Smokey Mountains from Cherokee to Townsend, TN and then heading South toward home. We had beautiful weather every day to ride. It was the first vacation Wendell and his brother have ever been on together. What a thrill it was for both of them. We traveled 1,550 total miles with no incidents. Temps ranged from a low of 38 the first morning and gradually warming up each day to a high of 72. Perfect riding conditions. Can't wait to go again!

Marie

Looking for a weekend get-away? Consider a ride to the Ozarks of Arkansas. The Harrison Convention & Visitors Bureau website [www.HarrisonArkansas.org/motorcycling.htm] has identified seven routes through the mountains. Each is named with a description and mapped for motorcyclists. You can also download the Motorcycle Riding Guide or e-mail them to receive your copy in the mail. Check it out!

Gladys



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

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Chapter Director & Newsletter

Ernest & Gladys Vernon

10727 Highway 961

Clinton, LA 70722