



TEXAS DISTRICT NEWS



Texas Derby Days...May 17 - 19, 2012

New Braunfels Texas

See pages 15 & 16 for information about New Braunfels.



Is that our own **Jean Simmons** on-stage with the Blues Brothers???

Why...yes, it is!!!

See the story on page 6.



AUGUST 2011

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Looks like Texas folks had a lot of fun at Wing Ding.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped Region H at the bike show.

If you have pictures of your Texas chapter events, send them to NLE@gwrra-tx.org. You may see yourself on the cover of the *Texas District News*!

From the District Director Fred Mew

I don't have to tell you how hot it is. If you've been riding at all... you know. We are well on our way to breaking new heat records in Texas. I'll tell you why I'm glad to be a witness to that! The training I have received as a member of GWRRA has taught me about riding in the Texas summer heat. Knowing what I know from my training has allowed me to make good decisions when planning a ride/ trip this time of year. Our trip to Wing Ding this year is a perfect example. Even though my bride wasn't too happy about early morning starts (on vacation she likes to sleep late), lots of stops, and lots of fluids... we made the trip without incident! That's the goal isn't it???... a nice long adventure without the excitement of any unforeseen difficulty!

I also know if I want to see the end of this heat streak that I will continue to take all the precautions (ATGATT) I normally take and if too hot (like it is now), I'm going to stay off my bike! I have nothing to prove and I'll be alive! That way I can always say... "I remember back in 2011 when we had the hottest..." I hope you remember this year too!

Thank-you everyone who has ever shared with me and my friends about safe summer riding! We now have the responsibility of passing on that knowledge with all of our other "new" friends. After all... that's who we are!

Have fun, ride safe,

Fred





Texas District Couple of the Year



June started the heat wave in Texas, of course that is not news to anyone that lives here in this great state. Each year Carleen and I load up our trike and trailer and head to the north. One of the best things about the last few Wing Dings is that they were up north. This year was one of the coolest Wing Ding out of the last ones we have attended. We headed north a week early



and literally stayed in the Great Smokey Mountain Nation Forest. A few hundred feet out our back door and we were walking in the forest. Carleen looked every day for a bear or some other woodland animal. Luckily this year we did not see one. We went southeast from Knoxville to Bryson City, NC. We planned our trip on paper but did not realize all the roads we were traveling upon. We took U.S. 129 out of Tennessee only because it got us where we wanted to go. We came around a

corner, looking for a rest stop, when we came upon the "Pit Stop." We parked and headed in only to find that we were headed down the "Dragon Tail," if you guessed by now we were a little surprised. If you remember for our Arkansas trip, we have made it a habit of eating our way around the states and here we found one of the most unique and good hamburger stops on our trip. When you are up that way stop and enjoy a very good meal. We headed down the 318 curves in 11 miles of the Dragon, great riding. I cannot list all the roads we traveled in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and the hills of North Georgia but we put over 2600 miles on the trike.



We left North Carolina early Tuesday morning and arrived in Knoxville at the convention center in plenty of time to register for Wing Ding and attend the International Couple of the Year Selection Program. It was a little sad to see Mandy and Fred pass the title to another deserving couple. Nine couples participated in the selection process. We laughed and cried as they answered the posed questions. We had an enjoyable afternoon and witnessed the selection of another tremendous couple to represent the GWRRA on the International level. Kirby and Sandy White from Region D were selected as the 2011-2012 International Couple of the Year. We wish them a fun filled year.

(Continued on page 4)



Texas District Couple of the Year, *continued*



(Continued from page 3)



Wing Ding this year was a very special one to Carleen and me. We have always heard how this was the largest family reunion in the world. This year it really hit home, not one day went by that we did not meet someone that we had made friends with in the years past. Fred told us at the Texas Convention to enjoy this year and have fun. We can certainly say that so far we have done just that.

Each year GW members are told that the best way to enjoy Wing Ding is to participate. The average Wing Dinger spends an average of \$300 at the vendors; Carleen did more than her share in raising the economic level of the jewelry vendors. I heard many people say that it seemed like there were more people in the vendor area. This was proven as we gathered for the closing ceremony. We filled the main hall, a lecture hall and some even were seated in a third overflow room. I will let the bean counters provide the numbers, but this was the largest Wing Ding that we have attended out of the last six. From the opening ceremony to the Knoxville Zoo, to the light parade, to the Grand Parade; we had a great time. American Honda paid for everything to eat and drink at the Zoo on Tuesday night, it was hot and humid but fun was had by all.

I had the privilege to assist the Region H Team with the Bike and Trike show. It was not the largest show that I have seen but I believe it was one of the best. Carleen and I both participated in lining-up the participants in the hall for judging and I was honored to be one of the Bike Show Judges. Region H and Texas District were well represented and took home several First Place Plaques.

We have several conventions in Texas, on our calendar, as well as representing Texas at the Kansas and Oklahoma conventions. We hope to visit several chapters in the coming months and meet some old friends and make as many new friends as possible.

See Ya' Riding

Dale and Carleen Garrett
TX District Couple of the Year



Couple of the Year Coordinators

Dave and Jean Simmons

Let us start by saying this is the first time we have ever gone to Wing Ding without our trike. We had planned to ride, and even scheduled our departure according to the time we thought we would need if we were riding. Well, the heat we encountered while riding back from the Arkansas District Convention, coupled with more than a week of triple digit temperatures before we left, changed our minds. We just don't handle the heat as well as we used to, so we decided to "play it safe" and use four wheels and an air conditioner.

After picking up our registration packet at the convention Tuesday, we attended the International Couple of the Year selection. There were couples representing nine regions participating, including our own Region H Couple Steve and Faye Alexander. We were then told we would have to wait until opening ceremony Wednesday morning to find out who would be replacing Fred and Mandy Mew as our International Couple. At the close of Opening Ceremony, it was announced that Kirby and Sandy White from Region D would represent GWRRA during the coming year. Region D includes Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.



2011 -2012 International Couple of the Year
Kirby & Sandy White

(Continued on page 6)

Couple of the Year Coordinators *Continued*

(Continued from page 5)

The Blues Brothers at Wing Ding

Immediately following the Drill Team Exhibitions, a professional act from Pigeon Forge performed on stage with "A Tribute To The Blues Brothers". It was a lively and entertaining performance. About halfway thru their act, "Elwood" left the stage and went into the audience. He then, took Jean Simmons' hand and led her on stage. They didn't tell her what they wanted her to do, but they were dancing and she was not about to just stand there.....so, she started dancing with them! Before she left the stage, "Jake" asked her for her name. When "Elwood" announced her name over the microphone, she stepped up to the mike and said, "that's Jean Simmons from Texas!" So, fellow Texans...they know that Texas went to Wing Ding!



Jean Simmons and "Elwood"

A NOTE TO ALL COUPLES OF THE YEAR.....

You don't have to stop having fun when your "year" is over!

A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL CHAPTER COUPLES OF THE YEAR.....

You can add some "fun time" to your year by participating in the District Couple of the Year Selection process. Remember, there are no losers.....every Couple is already a winner because your chapter selected you to represent them. If you are selected to represent the Texas District as District Couple.....you know you will be experiencing fun for at least one more year. And if you are not selected, you will still be bringing recognition to your chapter by just participating. **THINK ABOUT IT!**

Dave & Jean Simmons

Texas District Couple of the Year Coordinators





Rider Education

Chet Roby and Maria Collins

As I cogitate on the content of August's news letter and focus on the relevance of the topic, I have come to the conclusion that knowledge is important, but even more important is the ability to express thoughts and ideas in a format that educates, without insulting.

A philosopher once said, "...In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists..." (I apologize for not being able to identify the source of this quote.)

Let's look at the three primary causes of single rider motorcycle accidents...

- inability to negotiate a turn
- inability to stop quickly
- inability to swerve to avoid an obstacle

Let's take one step further and look at some additional statistics that are of great concern to this writer, as they involve alcohol, while riding.

(Note: The following statistical data and information has been resourced through Texas Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Safety Unit, The American Motorcyclist Association, and The Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Although some statistical data is several years old, the information is highly relevant to the subject at hand.)

- Did you realize that 1 in 4 motorcyclist involved in a single rider accident were impaired due to alcohol?
- Did you realize that over 41% of motorcycle operators who died in single rider accidents had a BAC (blood alcohol concentration) of over .08?
- Did you realize that a motorcyclist is 34X more likely to die in a single rider accident than a passenger car occupant?
- Did you realize that nationally, between 2004 and 2005, single rider accidents increased 25%?
- Did you realize that nationally, between 2004 and 2005, motorcycle fatalities increased 24%?
- Did you realize that nationally, between 2004 and 2005, 27.3% of all single rider accident fatalities had a BCA equal to or greater than .08?
- Did you realize that nationally, in 2005, motorcycle fatalities, due to the lack of a DOT approved motorcycle helmet was 10.5%?
- Did you realize that the state of Texas is #1, in a 5-state area (OK, LA, AK, MS, TX), for motorcycle fatalities involving single rider accidents, in which the rider had a BAC of .08 or greater?

Some additional statistics, on alcohol related accidents and impairments are as following:

(Continued on page 8)

Rider Education, *continued*



(Continued from page 7)

- Did you know that 44% of single motorcycle rider accidents were alcohol impaired?
- Did you know that 31% of motorcyclists who died were impaired, compared to 23% of car drivers?
- Did you know that 80% of alcohol related motorcycle fatalities were from beer?
- Did you know that a .08 BAC is legally impaired in most states?
- Did you know that a .02 BAC reduces physical skills (equal to 1-drink)?
- (Note: From a group of 5 professional motorcycle riders, 3 were unable to safely maneuver around a stationary obstacle in a simulator, after only two drinks.)
- Did you know that 2 drinks will impair most riders' night vision?
- Did you know that a .05 BAC increases the risk of an accident 11X?
- Did you know ¾ of all single rider motorcycle accidents that occurred between Midnight and 0300 hours were impaired with alcohol?

The above information may be an eye-opener, but let's review some myths about alcohol. Remember the remedies for reversing the effects of alcohol...food, coffee, and a cold shower? I am here to tell you these are old wise tales, as food will just make you full, while coffee will keep you awake, and a cold shower will only make you wet. The only thing that will reduce the alcohol concentration in one's body is time; about one drink per hour. (Women process alcohol at about three-fourths of that rate or one drink every hour and thirty minutes.) That's right, time, and only time can reverse the effects of alcohol in the blood stream. (Note: An accepted definition of a drink is beverage alcohol that contains around one-half ounce of pure ethyl alcohol, which is equivalent to a 12-ounce can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, or a shot of liquor (1.5 ounces), as each contains about the same amount of alcohol.

Remember, a motorcycle requires one to balance, maneuver, sound vision, solid motor skills, judgment; both cognitive skills and reaction time are required in riding a motorcycle.

Not only does alcohol impair judgment, but the financial implications of a DUI could continue for 10 years, with the physical implications possibly for life.

- If you were to be found guilty of a DUI, as a first-time offender in Glendale, California, the out-of-pocket costs would be \$4,315.00.
- If you were to be found guilty of a DUI, as a first-time offender in Oak Beach, Florida, the out-of-pocket costs would be \$5,293.00.
- If you were to be found guilty of a DUI, as a first-time offender in Albany, New York, the out-of-pocket costs would be \$8,185.00.

(Continued on page 9)

Rider Education, *continued*



(Continued from page 8)

- In addition to the cost of the DUI offense, one's insurance premium would increase 80% for the next three years, plus an additional 25% for the next seven years. (Note: This is like buying a new motorcycle for \$9,000 and giving it to your brother-in-law.)
- First time offenders would have their motorcycle license suspended for 6 months...
- Second time offenders could serve jail time...
- Third time offenders could lose motorcycle riding privileges...

Remember, drinking and riding should not be an option, as alcohol is a depressant drug that affects safety. It reduces one's ability to search for hazards, to evaluate factors that lead to crashes, and to execute coordinated physical movement.

When someone has had too much to drink, it is the responsibility of others to keep that person from taking too many risks. No one likes being in a situation that requires intervention, but the payoff can be enormous. What are some ways of responsibly intervening, when someone is alcohol impaired? Consider enlisting others, arrange a ride home, assist in slowing the pace of drinking, consider delaying one's departure, and ensure the motorcycle stays parked. Whatever method you choose to use the key is early intervention.

Riding a motorcycle requires a great amount of mental alertness and physical skill, and alcohol has extraordinarily detrimental effects on a rider's capabilities. Thus if one chooses to continue to drink and ride, one is choosing to roll the dice, that will eventually come up "snake eyes,"

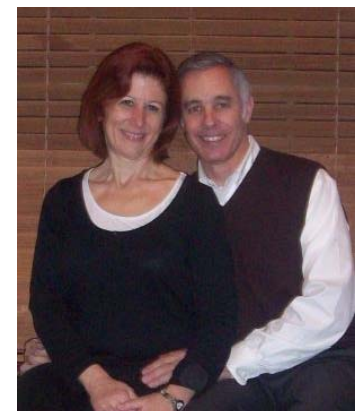
Although the above provides factual statistics and information related to alcohol impairment, I would be remiss if other forms of impairment were not noted; fatigue/drowsiness, emotions, and riding to the limit.

Remember, the key element for a good rider would for one to have the desire and motivation to choose to reduce risk while riding. It takes superior riding skills, a positive mental attitude, and a strategy for thinking and planning to avoid trouble.

Ride for fun, safety, and knowledge, always returning home, safely.

Kindest personal regards,

Chet Roby



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Region H Rider Educators **John and Lydia Bourg** for their selection as **GWRRR Rider Educators of the Year!!**



You know you are in Texas in August when...

- You discover that it takes only 2 fingers to drive your car.
- You no longer associate bridges (or rivers) with water.
- You can say 110 degrees without fainting.
- You can make sun tea instantly.
- You learn that a seat belt makes a pretty good branding iron.
- You notice the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
- You actually burn your hand opening the car door.
- No one would dream of putting vinyl upholstery in a car.
- Your biggest bike wreck fear, "what if I get knocked out and lay on the pavement and cook to death"?**
- You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.

Leadership Training

Lynn Heene



PRACTICE BEING POSITIVE

Leaders need to have enthusiasm and bounce in their step along with a positive attitude. People follow leaders with a can-do attitude, not those who give sixty-seven reasons why something can't be done or who don't make us feel good about ourselves or what we're doing.

The leaders people most admire are electric, vigorous, active, full of life. Be positive that your team can do the job and stay the course, never say never.

CONGRATULATIONS TEXAS LTP TEAM!

Because of your participation in the Leadership Training Program and the excellent job you do bringing the information to the Membership, Region H received the Excellence In Training award again this year during the Leadership Training Meeting at Wing Ding 33. Thank you for your participation in this valuable program.

The "online" Officer Certification Program (OCP) has been released and new programs were outlined, the Officer Training Initiative and GWRRA University. To learn more please read Director of GWRRA Mike Stiger's article in the August edition of Wing World, *Training Enhancements Announced...*





Chapter Spotlight

Chapter Information

Location: Cypress, Texas (Northwest side of Houston)

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Thursday of each month at Goode Company Texas Bar-B-Q, 20102 Northwest Freeway (On the corner of Hwy 290 & Wortham Center Drive). 7:30 pm

Chapter Directors: Kurt and Pam Massey

Website: <http://www.txx2.org>

Chapter X2



Chapter TXX2 was chartered in 1999 and has been very active since then. X2 was founded by RIDERS and continues to be filled with participants that love to ride. There are few weekends when there isn't an event on their calendar. In addition to their weekend "day rides", they schedule overnight rides to places like the Texas Hill Country to view the beautiful bluebonnets. They have also been known to take a week or longer to ride the roads of places like Colorado and Arkansas; not to mention trips to attend Wing Ding. You will see Chapter X2 at many of the other GWRRA chapter's rallies and functions.

X2 doesn't stop with riding. They love to eat...don't most wingers? They have Friday night dinners as a group at restaurants in the area. Their gatherings can range anywhere from a pot luck dinner, to a Super Bowl party, to a pool party. They don't need much of an excuse to get together. They celebrate two functions annually. The first is their chapter Birthday party where they serve the best Bar-B-Q and all the trimmings. The second is their chapter Christmas party complete with a white elephant gift exchange.

X2 is also very active in the community. They have raised money and participated in many charitable activities.

When riding a motorcycle, safety cannot be stressed enough. X2 boasts several Level 4 Master Tour Riders and are known as a fun loving but safe group of riders. They maintain a trained group of Road Captains to make their rides safe.

As you can see, X2 congregates with many **FRIENDS** and have a lot of **FUN**, keeping **SAFETY** in mind, while continually enhancing **KNOWLEDGE**. **Come by and visit, you may just like what you see.**



The X2 12th Anniversary Chapter Rally is on **August 20, 2011**
and you don't want to miss it!

Come enjoy a great meal and enjoy some camaraderie.

Location: Houston, TX - Bear Creek Park, Pavilion #6

- I-10 to Hwy 6, north on Hwy 6 to Clay Rd, turn right.
- Hwy 290 to Hwy 6, south on Hwy 6 to Clay Rd, turn left.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

*Top Gun Rider Demonstration by Doug Roberts, raffles, 50/50 drawings, Silent Auction, Poker Draw, Vendors, Grand Prize Drawing, Bike Show, **AND ... THE BEST BBQ IN TOWN!***

\$13.00 per person early registration - \$15.00 per person at the rally!



CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

It is not too late to get in on the fun. Many Chapters are discovering the advantages of participating in the Chapter of the Year program. The main purpose is to have fun and see your Chapter grow and thrive.



Remember for 2011 points are based on a percentage of the Chapter participants rather than the size of the Chapter.

This results in a fair selection process for both large and small Chapters. Most of you are already keeping records for your 501(c)4 compliance; the Chapter of the Year forms and score sheets make the process virtually painless.



How can my Chapter participate? Check out other Chapter newsletters for ideas. Maybe have a ride to other Chapter gatherings and share ideas.

Get involved and keep it FUN.

Ann Nahl

Region H Chapter of the Year Coordinator

Finally - Navi card update!

Here is the latest available information for the Gold Wing navigation system from Honda.

We met with Garmin this week and they moved forward quickly! They have a new update available for generation 1cf cards 2006-2008 and gen 2 SD card 2009-2010 models (a newly available calendar 2011 update).

They have reduced the price for update from \$149 to \$95.

They are updating their website to make it easier for customers to find the Honda info with keyword searches. Our Owners manual recommends linking thru Ownerlink or HRCA. We will fix those links to work. Best way to go to Garmin for Honda products is to use: <http://www.garmin.com/goldwing>.

Thanks & Have a Great Day,

Judy Ferguson



Willkommen to New Braunfels!



Where German Heritage coexists with Texas lifestyle!

Willkommen to a little bit of old Germany smack dab in the middle of the Texas Hill Country. New Braunfels is the kind of old-fashioned town that makes folks feel right at home.

New Braunfels is a popular Texas tourist town that was founded in 1845 by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels region of Germany and a group of German farmers and craftsmen. German names can be seen on the billboards and street names throughout the city.

The Texas District Staff is excited about our 2012 Texas District Convention in New Braunfels! Each month, we will highlight some interesting attractions around the area. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know! We are currently researching available hotels and will have them listed in upcoming newsletters.



Location: New Braunfels is on your way to and from everywhere - it is perfectly situated in central Texas on IH-35, minutes from IH-10, and nestled at the foot of the Texas Hill Country.

Austin is 40 miles to the north. San Antonio is 25 miles to the south.

Houston is 160 miles to the east. Odessa is 361 miles to the west.



Historic New Braunfels is one of the top tourist attractions in Texas. The Main Plaza was built in 1845. Then the Fountain was added in 1895 to celebrate the 50th anniversary and the Bandstand was added in 1905.

The Comal County Courthouse, built in its beautiful Romanesque revival style, stands across from the Main Plaza. The bell tower still announces the hour to the area.



If a regular sized picture says a thousand words, these paintings would say ten million and fifty words. Visit downtown New Braunfels amazing Historic Outdoor Art Museum and learn a bout the history of the area by way of building sized paintings. New Braunfels murals were created by world-famous artists and plans are always in the works for more.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XWfRcLvNoo>

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Region H News

For more Region H news,
refer to the
Region H Newsletter at
www.gwrra-h.org/news

Steve and Faye Alexander, Region H Couple of the Year for 2010/2011 represented you very well during the International Couple of the Year selection in Knoxville. Unfortunately they were not selected, although I thought they should have been. Please thank Steve and Faye for their splendid efforts representing Region H in such an outstanding manner. They made us proud.

This year Region H was responsible for the Bike Show at Wing Ding. **Thank You, Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers who along with the region team made this event a success.** You all represented Region H in an outstanding manner to the members of GWRRA. Over 100 members of Region H volunteered some of their precious vacation time to assist with the Bike Show.



Harry and Joan Dollarhide
Region H Directors



Region H Team

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2010-2011 Couple of the Year

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GWRRA National News



For this and other news, refer to the GWRRA Home Page at www.gwrra.org

July 14, 2011

Trikes and Bikes Rally Cancelled!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Phoenix, Arizona - Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) announced today it will bring to an end its planning of the Trikes & Bikes Rally that was to be held in Bowling Green Kentucky, September 30 - October 2, 2011. This rally was to be a continuation of the five year history of trikes rallies that have been held in great cities like Bardstown, Kentucky and Branson, Missouri.

These rallies focused on the emerging trike industry and were the first in the industry to be primarily geared toward trikes by GWRRA. GWRRA values its partners in the industry, namely the vendors, hotels, the CVB, facilities, all of our Members and guests and especially the Volunteers for supporting our efforts.

Given the economic conditions as they are for 2011 and the rallies already planned in this region, GWRRA will look to 2012 for a new venue and a way to make it a bigger and better rally for our Members and vendors. GWRRA wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the many folks who have helped us over the years with the trike rallies and look forward to serving you better in the years to come.

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2010-2011 International Couple of the Year
 Kirby and Sandy White

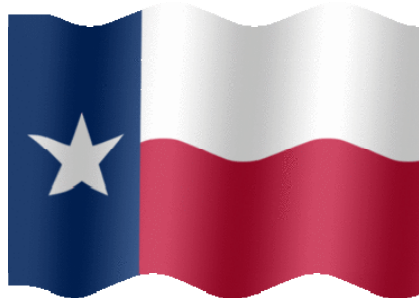
GWRRA - TEXAS DISTRICT NEWS

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

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Visit our website:
www.gwr-ra-tx.org

If you have an article, news, or other item of interest that you would like to be included in this newsletter, please e-mail it to NLE@gwr-ra-tx.org by the 20th of the month



Save the Date (Passport Events)

Texas Chapter M Convention	Mansfield, TX	August 13, 2011
Texas Chapter I Convention	Jefferson, TX	August 20, 2011
Texas Chapter X2 BBQ	Cypress, TX	August 20, 2011
Kansas District Convention	Eldorado, KS	August 26 - 27, 2011
Texas Chapter R Convention	Keller, TX	September 10, 2011
Texas Chapter T Convention	Killeen, TX	October 1, 2011
Texas Chapter N2 Bee Blast	New Caney, TX	October 8, 2011
Texas Chapter U Convention	San Antonio, TX	October 15, 2011
Texas Chapter Z Birthday	Pasadena, TX	October 22, 2011
Oklahoma District Convention	McAlester, Ok	October 27 - 29, 2011
Texas Chapter V-2 Convention	Victoria, TX	March 24, 2012
Region H Convention	Marshall, TX	March 29 - 31, 2012
Louisiana District Convention	Lafayette, La	April 12 - 14, 2012
Texas District Convention	New Braunfels, TX	May 17 - 19, 2012