



TEXAS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

GWRRA SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



ATTENTION: CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR MWRU

The Texas District Couple of the Year Selection will **NOT** be held in Kerrville this coming January. Please pass this along to all your chapter participants.

We have enjoyed a long stay in Kerrville over the years but it was deemed necessary to relocate to a more central location within the State. The Mid Winter Round Up will be located in Killeen, Texas on January 9, 2010 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. With this nearly geographical central location, it will also give you a great preview of next years Rally site. The facility is only five years old and simply beautiful, with up to date accommodations.

Room Blocks at the Shilo Inns Suites Hotel are secured for the Mid Winter Round Up and the Texas District Rally, May 6-8, 2010. With the host hotel, Shilo Inns Suite Hotel, right next door, we are fortunate enough to get the same room rates for Mid Winter Round Up and the Texas Rally. All rooms at this hotel are suites and normally cost about \$160 per night but we have negotiated a rate of \$85 per night. When you call for reservations, let them know you are with GWRRA.

You can make reservations on line at www.shiloinns.com or call 254-247-3133 (direct line to hotel) or 1-800-222-2244.

This will not be the only hotel that will have special rates for GWRRA. We are currently in the process of securing bids for other hotels and will list them as they become available. The hotels will be posted in the Texas District Newsletter and the Texas District Website, www.gwr-ra-tx.org.

Wing Ding 31, Tulsa, OK

Wow, and what a Wing Ding it was. You could almost say it was a Texas Wing Ding with Texas being the largest pre-registered District with over 500 members attending. Here are some winners from Texas:

Bike Show

- Bob MacBird M2 1st GL1000 Touring
- Howard Halasz M2 1st GL1000 Custom
- James Smith Z2 1st Custom 1800
- Charles Dunn Z2 2nd Airbrush

Volume 1, Issue 20

July & August 2009

Inside this issue:

Change in MWRU	1-2
FUN 101	3
Thank You	4-5
Leaders Building Strong Alliances	5
R E Weekend/Open Forum Dinner	6-7
Anatomy of Crash	7-8
Tribute to O.D. Hughes	8
2009 TX Couple of the Year	9
Dates to Remember	10
District Staff	11
Maxim Ad	12





ATTENTION: CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR MWRU

Ed Neal Z2 2nd Custom 1800
 Keith Costless Z2 2nd Stock 1800

Light Show

Bob MacBird M2 2nd Place

Talent Show

Steve Ferguson C 2nd Serious

50/50

Joe Milton Y2 20% \$4016.20

Bushtec Trailer

Karen Olson M last one standing

Other Statistics at Wing Ding:

- 9072 people in attendance
- 635 bikes in the parade
- 353 new members signed up
- 105 units of blood donated
- 9125 miles longest distance couple from Melbourne, Australia
- 2325 miles 2up riders from Newfoundland
- 2173 miles longest distance male rider
- 1766 miles longest distance female rider

Texas made up approximately 75% of the Talent Show but only 1st & 2nd places awards in two categories were given out. **Thank You very much Texas for the Talent.**

It was a last minute Barbie Alert thing, but the “Not Texas” T-Shirts were the hit of Wing Ding. Thank you Donna Holley for finding them, Linda for letting Barbie know and most of all thank everyone who attacked Wal-Mart in search of these shirts. They were everywhere; I don’t think I saw a Texan that didn’t have one on. Members from other Districts were asking, “How many members are there in that Chapter?” It was fun!

Not only did Texas shine at this Wing Ding, but Region H also brought home some awards. There were over 200 volunteers from Region H helping out all over the place; see Harry Dollarhide’s article on page 4.

Remember the Mid Winter Round Up has been moved to Killeen, Texas. Pass this along to your chapter members that this is primarily a business meeting, the old District Staff Meeting and the new District Couple of the Year Selection. We would like to urge all Chapter Staff members to please try to attend. This is where all of the end of the year paperwork will be turned in as well as the installation of all new Chapter Directors. You will find out all of the new and old inside workings of GWRRA. If anyone from your chapter is interested in becoming an officer or staff member this is the place to be. Set your schedule now as this one day you do not want to miss.

Ken & Barbie Peterson
District Directors
Senior Master Tour Riders
2352 & 2353





FUN 101

Texas District Chapters - FUNTASTIC!!

Ken stole all my kudos in his article. Since G.I.Joe is about to be a big movie star, Mr. Ken had better watch his step!!

However, I must send out a special thank you to all the great Chapter Directors for responding to the Barbie Alert about Wally Worlds' "Not Texas" t-shirts. They truly made a statement. When we were asked about what Chapter that was, Joan Dollarhide said I should have told them it was one of our smaller Chapters. - Great come back -

Just a few thoughts this month, but next month will be loaded so be sure you check it out.

Think about Tour de Texas, we've not received feed back on some of our most beautiful riding areas.



If this applies to your chapter, please think about getting your Tour information in.

Mid Winter Round Up, January 9, 2010 do not miss it. Texas District Rally in Killeen, May 6-8, 2010 will be totally different from our previous two rallies. Get your first hand information here. Once again there will be a special session to bring you up to date; what a better way to get great training for your staff.

Couple of The Year Selection on Saturday afternoon January 9th Texas has done a great job with our selection process. The fact is largely because you as members have been so supportive. We sincerely appreciate John & Lena Bryant for their energy and enthusiasm so let's keep this trend on a roll.

The District Staff has already started gearing up for the new rally season. After Labor Day we will be putting ideas, plans and updates in motion for our membership.

Feel free to send me anything you would like us to think about doing. Fun's the name of the Game.

See ya in the funnies,

Barbie



THANK YOU ! THANK YOU ! THANK YOU !

Wing Ding 31 was a huge success for Region H and you the members are to be congratulated. Over 210 of you from Region H volunteered your time at Wing Ding this year. That is a fantastic show of support from the five districts in Region H. Your Region H staff joins the GWRRA National Staff in sending a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the volunteers from Region H. Your efforts created a positive impression of Region H throughout GWRRA.

This is a list of the volunteers from Texas. Thanks so much for your great efforts.

- Paul & Karen Guidry**
- Rick & Sherry Lowe**
- Phil & Annette Lockler**
- David & Kathy Sailer**
- Bill & Janelle Wood**
- Tom & Karen Durham**
- E.J. & Sissy Flippin**
- J Allen Lackey**
- Rich & Hydi Duty**
- Tom & Gwen Hart**
- Arnold & Lucy Borber**
- Norma Oliver**
- Dave & Jean Simmons**
- Leann Lackey**
- Bob & Toby Davis**
- Larry & Ruth Wheeler**
- David & Mary Graham**
- Harry & Tone Whipple**
- George & Linda Harwell**
- Ron & Pat Wilson**
- Ron & Sandy Channy**
- Carolyn Barton**
- Don & Linda Holley**
- Donna Holley**
- Ken & Barbie Peterson**
- Michael & Suzanne Elrod**
- Harvey & Shirley Woods**
- Benny & Linda Adkins**

- Mark & Lynn Heene**
- Roy & Mary Bray**
- Dwight & Mary Palmer**
- Marion & Candy Palmore**

Region H Volunteers served in many capacities:

- Oklahoma District Director Rick & Robin Greninger with the help of local OK chapters worked with the National Event management Team to setup the Poker Run routes, the Self Guided Tours, and organized the registration volunteers. Even overcoming several “surprise” last minute changes.
- Tulsa area chapter members manned the Information Booth all during Wing Ding to insure someone knowledgeable of the local area could answer member questions
- Volunteers worked at the Goodie booth, Region H’s primary responsibility, where we sold a record amount of GWRRA merchandise.
- Registration, Region N’s primary responsibility, where our volunteers passed out packets and welcomed members to Wing Ding creating a wonderful “First Impression”.
- Leadership Training where LTD Seminar Instructors presented numerous classes to the members. You also assisted in manning the National LTD booth.
- Rider Education where Rider Coach Instructors and Seminar Presenters trained the membership in safety related topics.
- Region H volunteers assisted with staging and classification of the Wing Ding Bike show, lending valuable experience to Region N.
- Region H Members from Texas and Kansas staged the Top Gun competition.

Your Region Staff also received numerous complements and “**Thank You**” from the National staff, the Event Management Team, as well as the other Region Directors that you assisted with their Wing Ding duties.





THANK YOU ! THANK YOU ! THANK YOU !

The hard work and dedication of Region H Trainers and Educators were also recognized:

- Region H Leadership Trainer Dale Wingrove: **National Trainer of the Year** (LTD Top Award)
- Region H Leadership Trainer Dale Wingrove was awarded his **Master Instructor** certification
- Region H Leadership Trainer Dale Wingrove and all the District LTD folks: **National Excellence in Training Award.**
- Region H Web Master John Bourg: **Dedicated Service** as the former National Leadership Training Web Master.

- Arkansas District Educator Bill McBride: **National Rider Education Merit Award**
- Kansas District Educator Dennis Joynt: **National Rider Education Merit Award**
- Louisiana District Educator Mike Jastram: **National Rider Education Merit Award**
- Region H Director Harry Dollarhide: **National Rider Education Merit Award**

**Harry & Joan Dollarhide
Region H Directors**

LEADERS BUILD STRONG ALLIANCES

Abraham Lincoln gained the trust and respect of those he was charged with leading by building strong alliances on both personal and professional level. By listening, paying attention, spending time together and getting to know the participants in your chapter, mountains of personal differences and hard feelings can be overcome. A good leader needs to listen at least as much as he or she needs to talk. Too many people fail to realize that real communication goes in both directions. Doing the above you will gain respect and trust. People are much more likely to trust a leader if they know he or she is compassionate and forgiving of mistakes. Trust of course is the essential building block for successful relationships and chapters.

The GWRRA Leadership Training seminars and the Horizon Program are the tools needed to learn how to build strong alliances become a good leader. Remember every position on a chapter staff is a leadership position and training is not a luxury, but a necessity.

The next Horizon Program is scheduled for September 19th & 20th at the Vietnam Veterans of America Building in Beaumont, Texas. Remember space is limited so sign up early.

Wing Ding was a huge success in regards to Leadership Training. Many of the seminars were full to overflowing. The Leadership Training Division Staff Meeting with David & Kathy Orr, National Directors and Ed & Ann Nahl, National Assistant Directors was very informative. The exchange of information was great and we are looking forward to an exciting future.

**Lynn Heene
District Trainer
Master Tour Rider
7183**





RIDER EDUCATION WEEKEND

Well, folks it is that time again; time to start planning for our Annual Texas District Rider Education Weekend. It will again be held in Marshall, Texas at the East Texas Baptist University on October 17th and 18th. Classroom and range preparation will be done on October 16th. If anyone wishes to help with marking ranges please let us know; all help is appreciated. Also, if you are a Seminar Presenter and wish to help let us know.

The curriculum has not been completely decided yet. Some courses will be subject to member interest. For example, we will have a CPR/First Aid Refresher Course. I would like to also hold a CPR/First Aid first time course. But that will depend on interest based upon early sign-up. The same will be true for the riding courses. We will be holding an ARC (Advanced Riding Course). I would also like to present a TRC (Trike Riders Course). Again that will depend upon interest based on early sign-ups. We will have the usual core Seminars including the Co-Riders Seminar so our members can stay current in their Levels.

Early sign-up is required for the CPR/FA classes and the riding courses. The CPR/FA courses will be \$20.00 per member. If you sign up for the full course and we drop it your money will be returned. Hopefully, we will have enough interest to conduct both classes. Greg and Cassima Dean will be presenting these courses.

The ARC (Advanced Riding Course) will be held by Chet Roby and Collen Campbell. Early registration is required and the class is limited. The cost at time of registration is \$50.00. You will be given a \$25.00 refund upon completion of the Course. The TRC (Trike Riders Course) is scheduled to be presented by

Alice Meyer based upon early registration interest. The cost is the same as the ARC. You will need to send \$50.00 with your registration. Upon completion of the Course you will be refunded \$25.00. If we decide to cancel the Course, then obviously we would refund the entire amount.

Lynn Heene, our Texas District Trainer will be putting together a program from Leadership Training. She will inform us of her agenda as it becomes available. Lynne is a very capable Trainer and will put together a program you will enjoy.

Also, I am working on something a little different than years past. I would like to put together a Rider Educator Open Forum Dinner. The desire here is twofold. One, at the end of the day members tend to gather into their little groups and scatter. I would like to keep the sense of family together long enough to share a meal. Two, I would like to use this opportunity to give folks access to Educators (Chapter, District, and Region) they may not always have. An Open Forum Question and Answer Session. The main purpose of this would be to further understanding of our Rider Education Program and promote





RIDER EDUCATOR OPEN FORUM DINNER

growth and participation within. Several obstacles must be overcome for this to happen.

First, there must be an interest in having dinner with your Gold wing family. Second, I have to acquire space that is conducive to eating and talking. Third, I have to convince Educators (Chapter, District, and Region) they want to talk. Actually, the third obstacle is easy. I have never met an Educator that couldn't or wouldn't talk someone's ear off about Rider Education. Fourth, we must try to keep your costs

down. I understand the expense you incur coming to our Education Weekends. So, I look forward to meeting, talking, and learning with everyone in October. Please remember to stay hydrated and ride safely this summer.

Michael & Suzanne Elrod
District Educators
Master Tour Riders 6680 & 6679

ANATOMY OF A CRASH

This is in response to "Improving Safety Starts With Changing Attitudes" by Vincent Puterbaugh. I commend Vincent on his commitment to Safety. I thank him for his service to GWRRA and all motorcyclists as a MSF Rider Coach. I know that MSF's philosophy of an accident is there is no such thing. MSF contends that all accidents are crashes caused by one or more errors by one or more drivers. I can agree with this for the most part. Here is where I take exception with the article printed in the July 2009 Wing World.

Vincent contends that there are two kinds of motorcyclists. "Those who have committed themselves to safety and those who are willing to accept the consequences of failing to do so". I read this to mean that a rider that has been involved in an accident did not take safety seriously and therefore should accept the consequences. I disagree. I was involved in an accident on March 19, 2009 in Lufkin, Texas on my way to the Region H Rally in Marshall, Texas.

I was riding in full gear including chaps, modular helmet, long sleeve denim shirt and a jacket, gloves, boots. There were three bikes in my group. I was leading on my 1800 Gold Wing pulling a trailer, my wife was riding second on her 1800 Gold Wing Trike, and my brother-in-law and sister-in-law was riding a distant third spot on their 1800 Gold Wing. We were on a four lane divided highway with crossovers in the median. As we approached a slow moving vehicle in the right lane, I called for a lane change to pass. The slow moving vehicle had its right turn signal on. As I pulled up to the rear of the slow moving vehicle the driver suddenly turned left to take the crossover. We collided in the left lane. I then went into the crossover where my bike and I departed company. My bike went down on its left side, jumped a small curb, and went out into the median. I have replayed this accident in my mind many times to understand what happened and why.

As for Vincent's apparent view that riders involved in an accident don't take safety seriously. I am a professional driver with almost 3,000,000 safe miles. I have





ANATOMY OF A CRASH

been a member of GWRRRA since September 2004. In that time I have taken a BRC, 2 ERC's, a Trailer Course, and a PLP. That is 5 riding Courses in 5 years. Oh yes, I take safety very seriously and I have been involved in an accident. I wear full gear. And when the dust settled after my accident I stood up and walked. I had some injuries, but I did not have to grow any new skin.

My commitment to safety, my commitment to wear the gear, my diligence as a dedicated driver, and yes Divine intervention prevented this accident from being really bad. I believe Vincent did a disservice to our members that have been involved in an accident by assuming they were being negligent. Riders should be encouraged to ride safely and not judged when something goes wrong.

Platitudes. We all use them in some way in our everyday life. The one I hear the most in my circle of GWRRRA friends and family is: There are two kinds of riders. Those that have dropped their bikes and those that will drop their bikes. This is not diminishing safety in any way. This helps those riders that have dropped their bikes on parking lots from feeling self-conscious or beating themselves up for a mistake. In other words they are being encouraged. After all isn't GWRRRA all about FRIENDS FOR FUN AND SAFETY.

Michael Elrod
District Educator

TRIBUTE TO O.D. HUGHES

Chapter "I" members visited O.D. and Lyree a month or so back. He was so glad to see everyone in the Chapter riding up on their bikes (most were bought from him). Chapter "I" had constructed a banner "We love you O.D." with get well notes and signatures from all of the chapter members.

This great man has supporting Chapter "I" since the chapter started with the first director Donald Reeves. He has always been there for many Chapters as well as the Texas District. He has sold numerous bikes all over the United States. It would be interesting to know how many bikes he has sold to GWRRRA members in his lifetime. One thing about going to H&W

Honda you were always greeted with a smile and a hug from O.D. And then the salesman in him kicked in; Which Bike Do You **WANT TO RIDE?** What color do you want? Let's talk business, let's make a deal. There will never be another like him. His legacy lives on with the family but he will truly be missed by all that knew him. He was a one of a kind. God bless you O.D. and we all will miss your smiling face, your kind words of encouragement, and the good deals.

Ruby Seale





2009 TEXAS DISTRICT COUPLE OF THE YEAR

Here it is the end of July already. We can't believe that half of our tenure as Texas District couple is almost half over. We have had a blast so far and looking for a lot more fun in the coming months. We have already attended 1 Region Rally, 3 District Rallies and Wing Ding in Tulsa.

If you didn't get to go to Wing Ding, you missed a fun time. We actually went to Tulsa the Saturday before Wing Ding started. We decided to visit some places in Tulsa since we had never been there before. We went to the aquarium, downtown, the casinos and rode Route 66 several times.

Wednesday morning we went to the International Couple selection. Mike and Pam Jastram did an excellent job. We are sorry they did not get selected, but the new International Couple Alan and Carolyn Little will represent GWRRA well. Wednesday night we went to the Welcome Party which included dinner and the presentation of "Oklahoma". It was really nice.

Thursday morning we went to opening ceremonies and listened to all the introductions and announcements including the presentation of the new International Couple. They announced that the next Wing Ding will be in Des Moines, Iowa which will be close enough that lots of Texas members can attend and support our current Region Couple Fred and Mandy Mew in the International Couple Selection. We spent the rest of the day walking the vendors.

Friday we worked in the Goodie booth until noon and then we went over to our RV and got ready for a Hamburger supper we were having with our home chapter, Chapter R. It was nice to sit down and visit for a while.

Saturday we went back to the vendors. We probably spent more money at this Wing Ding than we have before. But it was on sale. We needed some new safety equipment because ours were getting old and worn, so we bought helmets and riding jackets. You have to support the vendors so they will come back. Sunday morning we headed back home. We had a great time at Wing Ding seeing so many of our old friends and met a lot of new people that we hope will become our new old friends.

We have been looking at our upcoming calendar and August, September and October are going to be really busy with local and District rallies. Our plans are to represent Texas whenever and wherever we can.

Don & Lindy Holley
Texas District Couple of the Year 2009
Grand Master Tour Riders
1855 & 1854





DATES TO REMEMBERS

Kansas District Rally, August 28~30, 2009,
Abilene, KS.

Rider Education Weekend, October 17~18,
2009, Marshall, TX

Oklahoma District Rally, October 23~24, 2009,
Muskogee, OK

Mid Winter Round Up, January 9, 2010,
Killeen, TX

Region H Rally March 23~27, 2010
Marshall, TX

Louisiana Rally, April 8~10, 2010

Texas District Rally May 6~8, 2010,
Killeen, TX

Arkansas Rally May 27~29, 2010





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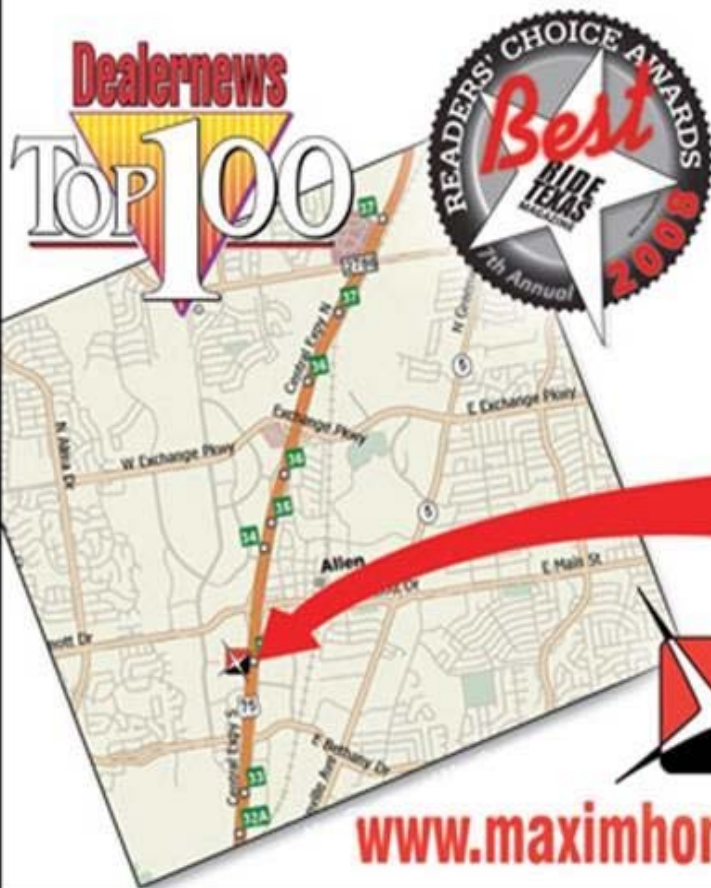
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