



The Touring B News

"Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge"

Visit the Chapter B Web Page at <http://www.chapterb.org/>



April 2009

Volume XX, No. 4



**GWRRR, Region H
Texas, Chapter B
"The Fun Chapter"**

- Chapter B meets the Second Saturday of every month at Soulman's Barbecue, 691 E. IH-30, Rockwall. Eat at 8:00 AM, meet at 9:00 AM.
- Chapter B Scheduled Rides depart from multiple locations. The departure point will be announced for each ride. CB communications are on Channel 1.

Inside this issue:

Chapter B News	1
Assistant Chapter Directors	2
Rider Education	3
March Gathering Highlights	4
Local Area Chapter Gatherings	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
Coming Events	7
Texas District Rider Education	8
Texas District Director	9
Region H Director	10
Exciting Times in Rider Ed.	11
Chapter B Staff	BC

IT'S RALLY TIME!

George Augustas, Chapter Director

We had a great time at the Region H Rally in Marshall. Congratulations to Tom who won first place in the Factory Trailer Class of the Bike Show. Kenneth and Celeste were winners in the Downtown Poker Walk. It was a lot of fun, and they promise it will be even better next year.

Chapter Basket items are now due. Please turn in all items to Ken and Celeste. They will bring the basket to the May Gathering, and I will ship it to Amarillo. The theme of the basket is "Bee Entertained." There are already several nice items in the basket.

If you did not receive a bandanna, see Celeste or Ken. Wear your bandanna at the District Rally and also at Wing Ding.

District Rally: Chapter B will do one off-bike game and will man the registration table on Saturday for two hours. If you plan to attend the rally, please notify me. I currently have six B's attending: Mike and Joan, Ken and Celeste, Tom, and myself.

Be sure to visit the new Chapter B web site. There is much new information on it. Celeste is adding new pictures all the time. The pictures are arranged by events, and you can view them as a slideshow and select the pictures you want.

Capture a Flag: Whenever you attend another chapter's gathering, be sure to ask for a chapter flag. (Only one flag per chapter per visit.) You must be in your chapter shirt or vest. If they have one of our flags, you may ask them kindly to return it. If they don't have a flag to give, give them a black flag. The chapter with the most flags at the end of a year wins. The game ends at the Region H Rally. I will try to plan a minimum of one chapter visit each month. April's visit will be to Chapter G2 in Greenville on April 21. I will depart from the Wal-Mart at I-30 and Belt Line at 5:15 PM if anyone wants to go, or you can meet at Shumardi's in Greenville at 6:00 to eat.

Rides and other events:

We are planning a weekend ride to visit Marshall and Jefferson. We will leave Friday, April 17 and ride to Marshall. On Saturday, we will tour Lake Of The Pines, then visit Jefferson before returning to Marshall. We will return home on Sunday.

The Chapter Z2 rally takes place April 25.

Ken and Celeste are planning an overnight ride to Arkansas on Memorial Day weekend. We would ride to Hot Springs and stay the night, then tour the mountains and ride to Eureka Springs for the night

before returning home. Celeste will have more information about this ride.

Time is running out to pre-register for the District Rally in May. Register now to get a good room. The special event of the rally is a preview of the Texas Play at Palo Duro Canyon.

See Scott to get your tickets for the Hill Country Giveaway package which, includes a Garmin Zumo 550 worth over \$600. This great prize will be awarded at the Texas District Rally. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are just \$10 each. The proceeds benefit Rider Education. Take some tickets and sell them to your friends.

Be sure to get your registration and hotel reservation for Wing Ding 31 in Tulsa. Do it soon and rest assured that your room is secure. *Tempus fugit.*

Happy April Birthday wishes to Mike Leitch and Phil Polhemus. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please accept my apologies. Please enter the correct information on the sign-in sheet or e-mail me with the correct dates so I can correct my records.

Until next time, Happy Easter. Always ride safely, and keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down. ☺

George

Assistant Chapter Directors

Kenneth and Celeste Lyons

Spring is finally here and I think we are all ready to get out and ride! The weather in March has been so unpredictable. Our first ride in March was to Natty Flat Smokehouse in Lipan, Texas. Kenneth, me, Mike and Joan {Kaskavage}, Ken [Brown], Mike [Leitch]. and Loyd participated in the ride. You can see the pictures on our chapter website. The b-b-q was really good. We walked through their shops and had our pictures taken next to the largest wooden rocking chair. We had a lot of fun and the weather was a little cool but we had sunshine and wind in our faces.

George, Gary, [Tom], Kenneth and I then attended the Region "H" Rally in Marshall. On Friday afternoon Gary, Kenneth and I participated in the Road Captain's Course. We had two hours of classroom and then two hours of riding. There were four bikes in our class. The first part of our riding was horrible and the instructor had to stop us and start all over. We all felt like we had failed the course but the instructor got everybody on the same page and we ended pretty well. It is really hard to ride/lead a group when everyone is unfamiliar with how each other ride or have never led a ride before. We learned a lot though and hopefully everyone will see that the next time we ride. We met up with George, Tom and Tom's friend Cliff for dinner at Gucci's. After dinner Gary went back to the hotel while George, Kenneth and I participated in the downtown Poker Walk and



watched the light show parade that night. On Saturday we participated in the Fun Run which was about an eighty mile ride around the Lake O' the Pines. It was a beautiful morning and ride. We all enjoyed the ride and couldn't have asked for better weather or route. After the ride, Gary went back to the Civic Center to check on his panels that were being pinstriped while George, Kenneth and I finished the second part of the downtown Poker Walk. We then went back and met up with Gary and found Tom and Cliff waiting for the bike judging. Congratulations to Tom for winning first place in the factory trailer division!! You can see pictures on the chapter website. Later that afternoon, Gary headed to Kilgore to visit his son while Tom, Kenneth and I headed back home. George stayed and returned home on Sunday. We all had a great time and hope more of you can join us next year. We had an overnight ride to Tyler scheduled for the last of March but it looks like the weather is not going to participate.

Now we have to get back to business and start diligently working to complete the COY Chapter basket and other activities for the District Rally in May. If you have not received your chapter bandana for the District Rally let us know so that we can get one to you. Just a reminder that if you haven't given us your donations for the basket please get them to us so that we can get it put together by the May gathering. We need everyone's participation. So please help!

If you have any questions about what to donate here are a few suggestions: (our theme is "Bee Entertained")

- Gift cards to restaurants, movie theater, blockbuster, etc.
- Gift cards for I-tunes
- Anything that you can think of that is "entertaining".

Update on our new T-shirts...

The sample shirts were given to us and we took them to Marshall for everyone there to see. It was decided that the 100% cotton pre-shrunk shirt looked better with our logo. When we returned from Marshall, Kenneth ordered the shirts. As soon as we get pricing for other shirts, we will post it on the chapter website and I will send an email to let you know they are available and the cost. We are hoping to have the T-shirts before the District Rally in Amarillo.


Have a great Easter.

Until next time, be safe! ☺
Celeste and Kenneth Lyons

Rider Education

By Scott Polhemus

The Open Road

o there I was heading out to join several friends from Bonham for a piece of pie and cup of coffee at the Koffee Kup in Hico.



It was a nice sunny day with temps in the mid-50's though I noticed the tops of the trees were surprisingly active. Checking the Weather Band radio for confirmation of my senses, I learned that we had westerly winds of 13 to 26 mph with gusts to 36 mph. My senses hadn't lied.

Later, when we were heading down Hwy. 67 and completely exposed to these cross-winds, I found myself wondering what techniques were most often recommended by experienced riders for such conditions and why I hadn't lost 25 lbs to have a slimmer profile. Obviously, that wasn't the best time for me to begin considering riding safety and this article is intended to share what I've learned before you head out for your next windy ride. At the Motorcyclist Magazine website, one of the "Street Savvy" articles recognized that bikes like ours have the advantage of weight but also the disadvantage of presenting a large profile to cross-winds. Accordingly, they warn

that no matter how strong you are, the wind is stronger. So be smarter. Give yourself a cushion of downwind real estate wherever possible so unexpected gusts don't shove you into something solid, or off the road altogether. This is especially important on the country roads we often prefer around Dallas / Ft. Worth which are narrower and have unfriendly bar ditches alongside. Stay aware of your surroundings and you'll see most gusts aren't entirely random. Expect a blast of air to coincide with gaps in traffic or terrain--a line of large trucks or a canyon wall or emerging from behind some big wind-blocking urban structure--and brace yourself. As you twist and turn your way to a destination, try to understand your course and its relative position to the wind direction by watching for flags, blowing debris, trees/bushes and smoke stacks.

David Dirig, a fellow 'Wing rider who has a number of Safety Articles available on the Region F website, offers the following technical advice: "When the wind blows from the side, counter steer into it. In the same way that you push left to go left, if you have a cross wind from the left, you want to push on the left bar and counter-steer into the wind to maintain a straight line. This is not a sudden extreme 'push-push' as counter-steering to avoid an obstacle, but a continuous pressure on the handlebar that the wind is blowing from. This will lean you into the wind to counter the wind's push and maintain your

straight line down the road. When the wind blows harder, it takes a little more pressure on the bar on the side that the wind is coming from. One key point is to worry about the path you're taking down the road, not the angle that the bike is at. Just let the bike lean and only worry about the path you're taking down the road and the amount of pressure on the handlebars to maintain that path. If the wind is gusty or you come under an underpass or pass an 18-wheeler on the lee side, that pressure will have to change with the wind conditions, so stay alert. With a little practice, you'll be sailing that bike down the road like the best of them."

Some of the other articles I read also recommended staying aware of increased fatigue and poorer gas mileage from riding on windy days and the importance of ensuring your helmet or eyewear protect your eyes from blurred vision and drying out as a result of wind effects. As always, I'm interested to hear your thoughts and recommendations for safe riding. If you have experience or knowledge that you wish to share on this topic, please be sure to mention it at our next Chapter meeting or email me about it and I'll share it.

Ride safely and take good care! ☺

Scott Polhemus
Chapter Educator

March Gathering

By George Augustas

Nine B's met at Soulman's Barbecue on March 14 for the monthly Gathering of Chapter B. Attending were Ken Brown, Tom Fletcher, Mike and Joan Kaskavage, Ken and Celeste Lyons, Terry McPherson, Lloyd Porter, and myself.

Visiting were Norman and Nancy Gound and Don and Gertsie Law, all of Chapter Z2. They were present to promote their rally in April. They donated a free registration to the rally.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Birthdays for March were Lloyd Porter and Joan Kaskavage.

March 4 was "Learn What Your Name Means" day. I researched the meanings of everyone's name. I read them aloud, and everyone tried to guess the meaning of his/her name.

Celeste and Ken gave us an update on the new chapter shirts. The shirts are

looking very nice. They expect to have the shirts ready by the next Gathering.

Ken and Celeste announced the theme of the chapter basket for the District Rally, and everyone was asked to donate one or more items for the basket. All donations are due by the April Gathering.

We planned a visit to Chapter R in March.

We will participate in the Capture The Flag contest of Chapter R. We will have fifteen flags ready by the April Gathering. If a chapter visits, they may ask for one flag per visit, and if you visit another chapter, ask for one of their flags. Visitors must be in chapter colours or wear other chapter identification (e.g., a vest).

Mike and Joan made minor revisions in the lettering of the new logo. Ken made some alterations to the colouring and shading which have

greatly enhanced the logo.

In the prize drawing, Joan won a side stand support; Lloyd won a neck cooler, a thermal coffee set, a travel clock, and a calculator; Don won a tee shirt; Tom won a wind-up torch and a book light; Terry won a 6 in 1 screw-driver and a registration to the Z2 rally; Ken won an LED torch w/ holster. Nancy won the 50/50 drawing. Additional prizes this month were donated by Ken and Tom.

The cake auction for a blueberry cheesecake was won by Terry for \$22. Terry shared the cake with everyone present. A carrot cake was suggested for April.

Thanks to everyone who attended. Please come again. If you missed it, please try to attend the next one. We want to see *you* there. ☺

George

Local Area Chapter Gatherings






Chapter	Location	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Meeting Day
Chapter B	Garland	8:00AM (Eat) 9:00AM (Meet)	Soulman's Barbecue 691 E. IH-30, Rockwall	2nd Saturday
Chapter G2	Greenville	6:00 PM (Eat) 7:00 PM (Meet)	Shumardi's Steak House 5200 I-30, Greenville	3rd Tuesday
Chapter M	Arlington	6:00 PM (Eat) 7:00 PM (Meet)	Spring Creek Barbecue 1724 Hwy 287 at Debbie Lane, Mansfield	1st Thursday
Chapter P	Granbury	6:30 PM (Eat) 7:00 PM (Meet)	Spring Creek Barbecue 317 Hwy 377 E (at Overstreet), Granbury	2nd Thursday
Chapter R	D-FW	6:30 PM (Eat) 7:30 PM (Meet)	Fuddruckers 2001 SR-121, Grapevine, Texas	4th Tuesday
Chapter U2	Keller	8:30 AM (Eat) 9:00 AM (Meet)	Golden Corral (new location) 7660 Grapevine Hwy, North Richland Hills	3rd Saturday
Chapter W2	Waxahachie	6:30 PM (Eat) 7:30 PM (Meet)	Ryan's Steak House 1400 Hwy 77 N, Waxahachie	3rd Thursday
Chapter Y2	Tyler	8:00 AM (Eat) 9:00 AM (Meet)	Ryan's Steak House 5602 South Broadway, Tyler	4th Saturday
Chapter Z2	McKinney	6:30 PM (Eat) 7:00 PM (Meet)	I-HOP, 315 Central Expy N (between Allen and McDermott), Allen	4th Thursday

Birthstone:
Diamond

April 2009

Flower:
Daisy

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

 <p><i>Happy Birthday</i></p> <p>Mike Leitch.....16</p> <p>Phil Polhemus.....19</p>			<p>1 All Fools' Day St. Stupid Day</p>	<p>2 ☾ First Quarter</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Chapter O Bluebonnet Rally and Campout Ladybird Johnson State Park Fredericksburg</p>
<p>5 Palm Sunday</p>	<p>6 Butch Cassidy born (1866)</p>	<p>7 No Housework Day</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 ☀ Full Moon</p>	<p>10 Good Friday</p>	<p>11 Chapter B Monthly Gathering at Soulman's Barbecue Rockwall Eat 8:00 AM Meet 9:00 AM</p>
<p>12 Easter Sunday</p> 	<p>13 Thomas Jefferson born (1743)</p>	<p>14 "Be Kind To Lawyers" Day</p>	<p>15 Income Tax Due</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 ☾ Last Quarter</p>	<p>18 Weekend ride to Marshall and Jefferson (details TBA)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Louisiana District Rally Wings Over The Bayou Holiday Inn, Lafayette, Louisiana</p>						
<p>19 OK City Bombing Commemoration</p>	<p>20 Boston Marathon</p>	<p>21 San Jacinto Day Visit A Chapter Chapter G2 Shumardi's Greenville Leave from Wal-Mart I-30 at Broadway at 5:15 PM (or meet there)</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23 Shirley Temple born (1928)</p>	<p>24 ● New Moon Arbor Day <i>Plant a tree, a shrub, or a Bush.</i></p> 	<p>25 Chapter O2 Rally Riverside Park Brownwood, Tex</p> <p>Chapter Z2 Red, White, and Blue Rally Quality Inn McKinney, Texas</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 Coretta Scott King born (1927)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Newsletter Articles Due!</p>	 <p><i>April Observances</i></p> <p>Car Care Month Home Improvement Time National Poetry Month Child Abuse Prevention Month National Decorating Month National Pecan Month Prevent Animal Cruelty Month</p>	

Birthstone:
Emerald

May 2009

Flower:
Lily of the Valley

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY


<p>May Observances Motorcycle Safety Month National Barbecue Month National Hamburger Month National Military Appreciation Month National Physical Fitness Month Young Achievers Month</p>	<p>Happy Birthday Loyd Porter..... 3</p>		<p>☾ First Quarter 1 May Day</p>	<p>2</p>		
<p>3 Motorcycle Mass Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Cinco de Mayo</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 VE Day</p>	<p>9 ☾ Full Moon Chapter B Monthly Gathering at Soulman's Barbecue Rockwall Eat 8:00 AM Meet 9:00 AM</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day </p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 National Chocolate Chip Day</p>	<p>16 Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>Texas District Rally Amarillo Civic Center Amarillo, Texas</p>						
<p>☾ Last Quarter 17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Weekend ride to Eureka Springs. Overnight in Hot Springs. Return Sunday. Details to follow.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>Arkansas District Rally Embassy Suites Northwest Rogers, Arkansas</p>						
<p>● New Moon 24</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day (observed)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Visit A Chapter Chapter Z2 I-HOP Allen, Texas Leave from Wal-Mart I-30 at Broadway at 5:45 PM (or meet there)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>☾ First Quarter 30</p>
<p>31 World No-Tobacco Day</p>					<p>Newsletter Articles Due!</p>	

Coming Events

Date	Chapter	Event	Location	Contact/E-Mail	Phone
April 16-18	★	Louisiana District Rally Wings Over The Bayou	Holiday Inn Lafayette, Louisiana	Brent and Roxie Comeaux como102696@aol.com	337-993-8440
April 25	O2	Heart of Texas Wings Rally	Riverside Park Brownwood, Texas	Robert and Toby Davis bobandtoby@aol.com	325-698-6941
April 25	Z2	Red, White, and Blue Rally	Quality Inn 1300 Central Expy, McKinney	Norman and Nancy Gound ngound@sbcglobal.net	972-346-3970
May 14-16	★	Texas District Rally	Amarillo Civic Center Amarillo, Texas	Ken and Barbie Peterson TexasDD@gwrra-tx.org	817-791-6685
May 21-23	★	Arkansas District Rally	Embassy Suites Northwest Rogers, Arkansas	Dale and Carolyn Frieden director@argwrra.org	479-229-3370
June 13	L2	Annual Blueberry Festival	Nacogdoches, Texas	Wayne and Patty Heflin heflinw@nibco.com	936-564-2971
July 2-5	★	Wing Ding 31	Expo Centre Tulsa, Oklahoma	GWRRRA http://www.wing-ding.org/	800-843-9460
August 28-29	★	Kansas District Rally	Central Kansas Fairgrounds Abilene, Kansas	Gary and Susan Drake minuteofglory@yahoo.com	785-828-4801
September 11	R	12th Annual Rally	To Be Announced	Brian Neal icemantx721@yahoo.com	817-721-1014
October 3	T	T-Fest Rally	To Be Announced	Dale and Carleen Garrett director@centexwings.org	254-554-4123
October 10	W	Colorado River Rally	Smithville Riverbend Park Smithville, Texas	Steve and Kathy Wilkening swilkening@consolidated.net	281-391-1488
October 18	M2	M2 Rally	Montgomery Comm. Center Montgomery, Texas	Bart and Cheryl Harris manpawingers@suddenlink.net	936-539-1860
October 22-24	★	Oklahoma District Rally	Muskogee Civic Centre Muskogee, Oklahoma	Rick and Robin Greninger rag101353@aol.com	918-272-9055

This information is provided for the convenience of Chapter B members. Information is obtained from the Texas District web page and other sources. No warranty is made with respect to the accuracy of any information on this page, the calendar pages, or any other page in this newsletter, and the staff of Chapter B shall not be held liable if any information is incorrect. You are advised to verify the accuracy of this information prior to attending any listed event. This information is subject to change without notice. Rev. 07 April 2009.

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Texas District Rider Education Update

Michael and Suzanne Elrod

I hope everyone will join me in congratulating John and Lydia Bourg on their new position. If you are unaware of what I am talking about, John and Lydia stepped up and accepted the position of Region H Educators at the closing ceremonies at our Region H Rally held in Marshall. Suzanne and I attended the Rally to watch John and Lydia take on their new responsibilities. Our trip was not without drama. I had an accident en route to Marshall. I joined the ranks of statistics we all hear about at every large function. But, what I would like to talk about in this article is the safety gear.

Each and every one of us members that participate in the Rider Education Levels Program has taken on the commitment to ride safely and wear the proper riding gear. The proper gear being a helmet that at a minimum is DOT certified, long sleeves to cover our arms, full finger gloves to protect our hands, long pants to protect our legs, and boots or shoes that cover our ankles to protect those bones. Everyone, me included has pushed this commitment in some way. So, allow me to go over these points one at a time.

Helmets. I always wear a helmet and all of them have been at least a DOT certified helmet. But, I have been very guilty of wearing my open face helmet with the shield up. Bad idea. I have been guilty of riding with

the chin guard raised on my modular helmet. Very bad idea. In the case of the open shield, that piece of plastic is not protecting your face and eyes. In fact, it could become the object that cuts your face and eyes. With the chin guard on my modular up, I am not only exposing my face and eyes to the environment but am putting my neck at risk. The chin guard in the up position during an unexpected exit from your bike can actually act as a lever forcing your head back causing spinal injury.

In my recent accident I was wearing my modular correctly with both the chin guard and the visor down. I have no facial or spinal injuries. However; the helmet took a hard hit on its chin guard. I can only guess what would have happened to my chin instead.

Let's talk about long sleeves. I wear long sleeves always. But, I didn't always wear protective long sleeves. I have been known to wear long sleeved cotton t-shirts in the summer. I was wearing a windbreaker over a long sleeve denim shirt at the time of my accident. The jacket is a mess. But, between the jacket and my denim shirt I was protected from road rash. My new jacket will have body armor.

Gloves. I always wore full finger gloves even in the summer when I was cheating in the area of long sleeves. My

gloves are heavily scuffed from the accident, but my fingers are fine. They were protected by the leather gloves.

Long pants. I almost always ride in denim jeans. Occasionally I put chaps on over those jeans. Personally, I tend not to wear those chaps often because I am a big guy and they don't flatter and are hard to get into. I was wearing those chaps at the time of the accident. They are a mess, but my jeans were just a little dirty, and my legs were just fine. I will replace those chaps and wear them regularly.

I was wearing my boots and my feet and ankles are not injured. No broken toes or twisted ankles.

I wrote this article to use my accident as a teaching tool for others. Others that like me may put personal comfort over personal safety. I hope you reconsider these things and learn what I have. The Gear Works.

In closing, Suzanne and I as your new Texas District Educators hope you can learn something from our mistakes that will make you a better and safer rider. Ride Aware, Ride Safe, and always Ride Respectfully. ☺

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

Region and Texas Rallies

By Ken and Barbie Peterson

Region and Texas Rallies

March 20-21 started this year's Rally season off with a "BANG" as usual with the Region H Rally in Marshall, Texas. The Region Rally has settled in East Texas almost on a permanent basis because of the outstanding support of the community, the facility and mainly because of the central location to all five Districts.

This year was a special Rally in that our Region Directors for the past five years, Cliff and Donna Miller have decided to retire. We thank them for all they have done for the Districts and their guidance along the way. Harry and Joan Dollarhide have taken over the reins of the Region as the new Directors. Most of us know Harry and Joan from the Leadership Training Division programs and they have been Assistants to Cliff and Donna for several years. The Texas District extends their congratulations to Harry and Joan and we all look forward to working with them.

Along with the change in leadership of the Region most of the Region H staff has changed also. The new Assistant Region Directors and Trainers are Dale and Susan Wingrove; Membership Enhancement Coordinators are John and Lena Bryant, from the Texas District Staff and Rider Educators are John and Lydia Bourg, also from the Texas District Staff.

Please join us in thanking John and Lydia for all they have done for Rider Education in Texas. Because of the officer ship of Rider Education, John and Lydia are stepping up to Region Educators immediately. Michael and Suzanne Elrod are now our new District



Educators. We welcome them to our staff and look forward to the continued growth of the Rider Education Program.

John and Lena are going to wear two hats for a short time as they will be staying with the Texas Staff until the completion of the Texas District Rally in May. Join us in thanking them for their hard work in making the Texas Couple of The Year Program so successful. We wish both the Bryants and the Bourgs well in their new positions.

Another exciting addition to the Region H Staff this year was the selection of the new Region Couple of the Year: Fred and Mandy Mew, also from the Texas District Staff. Does this sound like a trend? We were all so excited when they were announced as the new Region Couple of The Year. Fred and Mandy will not only be the ambassadors for Region H next year in their travels, but will still be representing Texas as the Assistant District Directors. We all extend our congratulations on their selection for this honor.

We would also like to announce the addition of our new Grand Prize Sponsor for the Texas District Rally. Maxim Honda of Allen, Texas has graciously picked up the sponsorship of a \$1000 shopping spree in their beautiful dealership. As you know Maxim has been a long time supporter of GWRRA by

attending our rallies as vendors with all the latest clothing and accessories over the years. We are happy to have them as our sponsors this year and look forward to supporting them also, through our patronage.

Also Sharps Honda of Amarillo has joined in becoming a supporter of the Texas District Rally. They are having their annual open house and bike show while we are there in May which will give us another side attraction during our visit out west. We thank them for their support.

You've heard us talk about the friendly support of the Amarillo community but they continue to surprise us with more opportunities for our members. This year while at your hotel you will become aware of a \$10,000 give away to hotel patrons by the Convention and Visitors Council of Amarillo. This is at all hotels in Amarillo. Basically for each day of your stay you will get a chance to win \$1000. In October they will draw 10 tickets for \$1000 each. For the complete rules, visit www.visitamarillotx.com and follow the links to the rules. ☺

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



The Barbie Mobile

The Director's Corner

By Harry and Joan Dollarhide

Joan and I are excited to begin serving the members as your Region H Directors. We believe all members are part of the TEAM, so please join us in continuing the great Region H tradition of teamwork and excellence. We can continue to achieve great things if we work together. Our goals for the region staff and ourselves are to achieve open communications and build on the past to achieve ever increasing teamwork between the region, districts and chapters.

We are Harry and Joan Dollarhide and we live in Newalla Oklahoma, located about 10 miles east of Oklahoma City. Joan and I have a diverse and varied background in GWRRA to include Chapter, District, and Region Operations, Leadership Training, Membership Enhancement and Rider Education.

Joan and I met while I was still on active duty with the USAF in Virginia. Joan is a Virginia native, I an Oregon native. After I retired we settled in the middle, Oklahoma has been our home since March



1989. I was employed by the U.S. Air Force as a technical writer/editor until my second retirement in 2007. Joan is active in civic volunteer activities and a collector association. We both volunteer at the local airport Military Welcome Center.

Joan and I have five children between us and are blessed with 11 grandchildren. Our children and grandchildren are living in California, Colorado, New Jersey and Virginia so we travel often to visit.

Joan and I joined GWRRA in December 1994 soon after purchasing our first Gold Wing, a 1986 GL-1200. In 1995 we moved up to a 1993 GL-1500

touring over 146,000 miles before losing that bike to an accident in 2005. We moved up again to our current 2003 GL-1800 in early 2006.

We are both Senior Master Tour Riders (Level Four). I am currently a Leadership Training Master Instructor and a Rider Education Master Instructor Trainer.

Joan and I served as Chapter Newsletter Editors, Assistant Chapter Directors, Senior Chapter Directors, District Leadership Trainers, Assistant District Directors, Region Leadership Trainers, and Assistant Region Directors. While serving on the Region H staff we were also the Region Membership Enhancement Coordinators and Rally Vendor Coordinators.

Joan served as the Region Treasurer for two years and has operated the region patch and pin program for over six years, winning praise from the districts and membership for her fast efficient service. ☺

Harry and Joan Dollarhide
Region H Directors

MENTORING MOMENT

ensure you're on the right path

Ears Are for More Than Hanging Sunglasses On. Imagine you're getting dressed for that all-day ride-riding pants, jacket, boots, gloves and helmet. Did you forget anything? Yes hearing protection. But before you dismiss this as just another safety article, you should know that reading these words may save you from years of debilitating hearing loss.

Most riders think that the majority of noise associated with riding comes from the motorcycle itself. However, wind noise created by air turbulence produces almost all noise over 35 mph and can exceed by 10,000 times (over 40 decibels higher) the sound level of ordinary conversation. That doesn't sound good-and it's not. (Sound is measured in decibels on a logarithmic scale. This means a sound 10 decibels higher is actually 10 times louder, 20 decibels is 100 times louder, etc.)

Scott Polhemus

Exciting Times In Rider Education

By John and Lydia Bourg

March was a very busy time in Rider Education. We have a new National Director – Rider Education. Mike and Lori Stiger stepped into this position after Mark and Mary Zingery stepped down. Mike is a former Region Educator who has lots of energy and ideas. He has taken projects that have been “in the works” for years and brought them to completion.

The long awaited revision to the Rider Education Handbook was released on March 1. This total rewrite of the 2004 Handbook puts all the changes and updates in one place. Now there should be no more confusion over who appoints the Chapter Educator or how to become a Seminar Presenter. It is all there in the handbook. Do you have questions about the changes in the Parking Lot Practice Program? It is all there in the handbook. One thing that is not there any more is the chapter of forms. Forms change often enough that they are now on the National Rider Education website <http://www.gwrra.org/regional/ridered/index.html>. Most of the forms can be completed online and printed out to be mailed.

Speaking of the National Rider Education website... go online a take a look at it. It is quite a resource for the Chapter Educator or anyone who is interested in the Rider Education program. It is updated frequently so you might want to get in the habit of checking it weekly. You can also find the monthly National Rider Education newsletter there.

Another new item is the National Rider Education database. The database has been talked about for years and while we waited for it, Texas developed it's own. The



National database is now a reality. February and March were spent fine tuning and updating the database and the plan is to have it available to the Chapter Educators on April 1 st ...no fooling! Once this happens, the Texas Rider Education database will cease to exist as there will be no need for it. Directions on how to use the new database will be distributed once it is ready. (Hopefully this has already happened by the time you read this.)

Some other changes took place in Rider Education at the Region Rally held in Marshall, Texas. Walt and Maggie Smith stepped down as the Region Educators. Walt has been the Region Educator since he took over from Bob and Mary Jo Meloy in November 2004. We are sure you will join us in thanking Walt and Maggie for all they have done and wish them all the best in the future.

Walt and Maggie stepping down left an opening that we have been asked to fill. Lydia and I are your new Region Educators. Walt has been a good friend and mentor during our time as Texas District Educators. We hope to continue to build on what he has done for Region H.

If you have read the Officer's Guidebook or taken the Horizon

Program, you know that a person can hold only one officer position at a time. That means we stepped down from the Texas District Educator position when we stepped up to the Region H Educator position. Our first task as Region H Educator was to appoint the new Texas District Educator. Please join us in welcoming Michael and Suzanne Elrod to the position. We appreciate their willingness to step into the position before the Texas District Rally in Amarillo in May. We will be there to assist them with any thing they need and ask the Chapter Educators to do the same.

We close with a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to Texas. It has been an honor to serve as your District Educators these past three years. We have seen many things during this time. We appreciate the hard work and efforts of all the Chapter Educators; their work helps keep everyone safe going down the road. You all have made Texas Rider Education what it is today. We thank you for your support and friendship and look forward to working with you in our new position. ☺

John and Lydia Bourg

Region H Educators
Former District Educators
Senior Master Tour Riders
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2009 Couple of the Year			