



Texas Chapter U

May 2006



Northeast
San Antonio

Chapter U update:

Are you ready to pitch in? We have had the great fortune of having two wonderful couples step forward and volunteer to lead Chapter U beginning in June. Your new **Chapter Directors** will be Paul and Connie Wesseler. They have previously held Chapter Educator and Assistant Chapter Director positions with a couple of chapters in Kansas. Also volunteering to help lead the Chapter in the role of **Assistant Chapter Directors** are Brad and Jill Severe.

Being relatively new to Texas and the San Antonio area, it would really relieve the pressure on Paul to have a person (or couple) that likes to ride step up and be the Ride Coordinator(s). Since this is a volunteer organization, Paul and Connie will be looking for the right people to help lead this Chapter into the future. Bonnie and I will continue to assist with things as they transition to Paul & Connie, Brad & Jill, and others to be named later. We would never “dump & run.” Additionally, your Texas District staff is focused on providing more training to individuals assuming any Chapter Staff position. After all, it is usually the fear of the unknown that keeps people from getting involved and volunteering, and your District Staff is committed to removing the fear by changing the unknown to the known. Bonnie and I are right here in San Antonio, and available to any staff member wanting some guidance, training, or help.

And for those that have been around a while, you know that the District Staff will be changing at the end of the District Rally this month in Kerrville. We assure you that we will be remaining on the District Staff, so all of the above promises will remain good.

So do a little soul searching and see if you wouldn't be able to dedicate a little bit of time to

the Chapter, and specifically, volunteer to help Paul & Connie out. They can find something for you to help with that will be commensurate with the amount of time you have available for the Chapter.

Congratulations Chapter U on your rebirth!

John & Bonnie Simonick

Acting Chapter U Directors

KEN'S KORNER

Well, here it is that time of year again - “Rally Time”!!! We've already had a GREAT start to the season with the Region H Rally in Marshall, TX. The facilities were fantastic, the attendees were fantastic and the Vendors were fantastic. I guess one could say it was a Fantastic Rally as everyone had a Fantastic time.

However, the Texas Hill Country Reunion - "Denim & Diamonds" is just a few days away and is looking like it will be another Fantastic gathering. With the new and improved convention facilities it will be a much more relaxed and enjoyable event. The outdoor Vendor area is simply Fantastic, the parking area is now much larger and is Fantastic, and the indoor vendor area is also larger and again Fantastic. The usual Fantastic vendors will be back along with several NEW fantastic vendors. Just to name a few - Lazer Engraving, new mounting systems for your GPS's and XM Radio's, seats for your Goldwing, ON SITE Embroidery Service. Looking for a Trike, we will have dealers from all across Texas and Okla Oklahoma covering every kind of trike

conversion available. Also a NEW Trike from the ground up - The New Stallion from Motor Trike will be there. Barbie says it's not really a "Stallion" - it's just a "Pony". Don't miss this folks, one of the neatest additions to our Trike family EVER!!! Absolutely FANTASTIC!!!

Of course everything else going on at the Rally will be Fantastic too. If any of your Chapter folks are in need of CPR/First Aid, Road Captain Training, general GWRRA training/information etc. we will have it in Kerrville. If just kicking back and relaxing is what you need after a nice long ride to the Rally, nothing is more relaxing than the pool area and lovely gardens at the Inn of the Hills. Guess what? if Riding is what you want to do, where better than in the Texas Hill Country. So come to the Texas "Denim & Diamonds" Hill Country Reunion and be prepared to have a FANTASTIC weekend.

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

DENIM AND DIAMONDS

For our final pre-rally communication, we would like to offer another perspective of rally participation. What reasons would you list for going to a rally? Some possible reasons may be:

- Social – to see friends and acquaintances
- Vendors – to buy safety chrome, get tires replaced, etc.
- Personal Competitions (bike show, best dressed, light show, personal mascot, on/off bike games, Top Gun, personal talent show act, Pine Car races, etc.)
- Team or Chapter Competitions (Newsletter, Banner, Scrapbook, Chapter Shirt, Chapter Mascot, Talent Show act, Web Page, largest chapter pre-registered, etc.)
- Rider Education seminars
- Leadership Training Seminars
- Win a raffle or door prizes

- Specifically visit the city or area of the rally
- An excuse for a mini vacation
- Simply tagging along with someone who is going for one of the above reasons

From the perspective of the rally provider (whether it is a Chapter, District, or Region), we could also discuss what the provider is trying to accomplish. As an aside, having helped with rallies at all levels mentioned above, unless you are a former staff member, you may not realize how much time and effort these volunteers are putting in for the benefit and enjoyment of the GWRRA members. If nothing else, thank a staff member occasionally for the effort they expend for the benefit of us all.

So what are rally planners trying to accomplish? Without a doubt, in the case of the Chapter, District, and Region, operating funds for the upcoming year is the prime motivator, but not the primary focus. The majority of the effort goes towards making sure we meet the needs of the members. Knowing that one size does not fit all, many different things are offered, so that no matter what one's preferences are, there will be something that they will find of interest or worthy.

Regardless of whether it is a Region, District, or a Chapter Rally, the staff that is putting the rally on wants it to be a success. But what constitutes a success? From our experience, a rally is considered successful if the people *participated* in the seminars, events, games, competitions, etc., and if they had a good time. If people talk favorably about the rally, and tell others (especially the staff putting on the rally) what a good time they had, the staff feels like they were indeed successful.

This leads us to the other perspective about participating in rallies. Consider this as a primary reason for going to a rally: *go to the rally simply to support the Chapter, District, or Region that is putting the rally on*. Although the registration fee helps with the operating funds for the coming year, consider registering and attending their rally also as a way of saying "Thank You" to them for all they do on the staff.

And by the way, when you are at the rally, get involved! Go to the talent show, or to the Pine Car Derby. Support your Couple in the selection process. Attend a seminar or two (why not learn something, or share what you know with the others that are there to learn). If you're not too introverted or afraid of looking silly, play the games. If you're outgoing, get some of your friends and put together a skit for the talent show. Encourage your chapter to enter competitions – not just to win, but to get involved! Show off that Chapter Shirt that someone worked so hard to design, and then had to find someone to produce it. Your involvement and participation is a very meaningful way to say "Thank You."

Whether or not you have attended a rally before, please join us in Kerrville to support your Texas District and the Texas District Staff.

Sincerely and regards,

John & Bonnie Simonick
Asst. District Directors and
District Trainers

LEVEL IV – MASTER TOUR RIDER PROGRAM

As announced in July 2005, the Master Tour Rider Program will be providing enhancements and revisions in the short-term future. This process and the recommendations for enhancement are currently being finalized to provide long-term enhancement to not only the Level IV aspect of the Program but to all of the Rider Education Program (REP) levels and content.

The initial enhancement is the removal of the renewal fee for the Level IV Program. Effective with the 2006 annual renewal, no renewal fee will be charged to any Master that is continuing their participation in the Program. Master Tour Riders will still be required to provide renewal information annually. The annual renewal hanger bars will be made available for purchase (\$2.00 each) through the Region/District/Chapter

channels as other Rider Education Program patches and pins are currently.

For those Masters who have already sent in their renewal fee, a refund will be sent from the GWRRA Home Office. Annual renewal forms for the Master Tour Riders are to be forwarded directly to Tony & Michelle Van Schaick, Rider Education Database via the Rider Education Officers chain of communications for processing and inclusion in the REP database Administrators and not to the Home Office.

One immediate impact to the renewal fee removal will be the Wing Ding Masters Breakfast Event. Those Masters that wish to attend this event will need to purchase tickets with their Wing Ding registration. Tickets will not be available until early 2006 to allow for completion of event planning.

Bob Lorenz
Senior International Director
Rider Education Division

SEEING & BEING SEEN

The first part relates to "seeing" which sounds really very simple in concept. We all have two eyes and most likely close to 20/20 vision with or without corrective lenses. So why the big deal on seeing? We just have to keep our eyes open, right? Our eyes may indeed be open, but are we seeing, really seeing? Unfortunately what most of us think of as seeing is closer to just looking. We usually are swiveling our heads about our shoulders taking in traffic, scenery, sky, road, gauges on the motorcycle and more. But could you describe what you just passed 30 seconds ago? Or could you even correctly identify the road mileage marker you just went by at highway speed. And if you are really seeing, why did you have to come down hard on the brakes when brake lights suddenly appeared in front of you? How about light glare; do you have some type of darker lenses to wear to reduce glare? Or how about this; is your face shield fogged, dirty, or water smeared during the rain storm you are traveling through? Can you make

out that dim light in front of you, and what it is? Are you traveling too fast in rainy or foggy conditions to keep making that “good time” on the road hoping there are no objects directly in front of you just out of your limited vision? Is your windshield also smeared with bugs, scratches, or other dirt, dust, or even rain running down it? No matter what you are wearing for eye protection, is the low sun hitting you directly in the eyes blinding you to just what may be ahead? How often do we try to ride just a little further wearing our sunglasses at dusk limiting our vision at this critical time? Just how many times do we as riders ride using the Braille method, feeling our way along, and peering out around the windshield to hopefully see just a little better.

A critical part of seeing for this issue is “mental seeing”. Sure, the eyes are open, our head is moving around, but our mind is on something else. What we are seeing is there, but it is not computing as our mind is actually concentrating on something entirely different. This “mental vision block” gets riders into more trouble than any other problem. Just watch drivers talking on the cell phone while operating a vehicle and you will know just what I am talking about regarding “mental vision block”. By the time the eyes and brain get synchronized, the rider may be in “too deep” to maneuver or take other action. So, are we seeing, really seeing?

Now, being seen is something motorcyclists really need to step back and think about before they ride. The most popular color of motorcycle is; you guessed it, black. The majority of motorcycle riders who wear any form of protective clothing wear, you guessed it again, black. Now envision attempting to see a black motorcycle, with a rider wearing black in dim light ahead of you. Or worse yet, in limited vision weather conditions. Take this one step further, which is motorcycle lighting. How many motorcycles have just one small and somewhat dim taillight on the rear of the motorcycle? Now think about those other drivers in cars, trucks, or semi-tractor rigs trying to identify this type of object in various conditions within safe reaction distances.

You ride a Gold Wing you say, which has lots of “safety chrome” installed. I admit, the Gold Wing is one the easier motorcycles to identify visually within traffic in day or night vision conditions. However, again, picture limited vision conditions of all types. Should you have more or different types of lights on the Wing? How about front and rear light modulators? I am not advocating having your motorcycle look as if it were a Christmas tree, but just step back from your motorcycle and try to see it from another drivers perspective. And just how clean are those lights, and are all of them working properly? What about your apparel and helmet as you ride? Is it of the type that is distinctly visible in all light conditions? Or do you wear nonreflective colors trusting that the other driver will see the motorcycle. The most common statement heard from vehicles colliding with motorcycles is “I did not see it” or words to that effect. Remember that other drivers also suffer from “mental vision block”. Being seen means taking or making all the precautions necessary to reduce your riding risk as much as is humanly possible to do. Perhaps last but not least, ride to be seen, especially at night. Position yourself and your motorcycle so as to be seen in the lane; use proper spacing so you can be seen from any point of a drivers view. Don’t hide right behind SUV’s, trucks, or large motor vehicles of any type, for that is the death zone.

Perhaps I could close by paraphrasing an old razor commercial; look sharp, be sharp. This goes back to our premise of “seeing and being seen”.

Above all, Ride with pride and confidence; the more you know, the better it gets!

Ace & Penny Peterson
District Educators
Arizona District

Member VS Participant

I was first involved with GWRRA in about 1980 and I have seen this issue (question) come up over and over again.

Let me give it to you as simply as I can.

When a person joins GWRRA International, they pay their money and get a membership card and membership number. Their membership has a start date and an ending date. They are a Member of GWRRA. No doubt about that.

That membership is good at any (or all) of the GWRRA Chapters, worldwide. These Chapters (like Chapter H or Chapter U) do not have separate memberships. Anyone that is a GWRRA member that wants to be, or thinks they are, a part of a particular (or several) Chapter is. Just by wanting to be, or by thinking you are, makes you part of that Chapter. There are no other requirements for you to be a part of it (or them). The amount of participation you do it totally up to you. You can participate as much, or as little, or as often as you desire. That is where the "Participant" name comes in. No one is actually a member of any particular Chapter. They are "Members" of GWRRA and "Participants" of Chapters. Now that brings up the question of "can a person be a participant in more than one Chapter?" Absolutely! You could even be on the staff of more than one Chapter if you so choose. The Chapter top three officers positions (CD, ACD and Educator) might not be open to someone that is also heavily involved in another Chapter, but other than that, you can be involved in as many, or as few Chapters as you choose.

That brings up the question of a Chapter Member needing to pay for registration for their Chapter Rally. Well, since there is no such thing as a Chapter Member, that should answer that question. Next question – Why does a Chapter Participant need to pay for registration? There is really no definition of a Chapter Participant, except it is anyone that wants to be, or that thinks they are, or anyone that says they are. So, there is no way to actually identify who is and who is not. Next question – Why do people that

help put on the rally need to pay? Now that is the best of the three questions. But, there is a rather simple answer. There is no definition of who helped and who did not. Where is the line drawn on who helped enough and who helped almost enough and who did not help at all? There is such a wide range of jobs needed to put on a rally, or any other major event, that it is impossible to draw a line. So, the fairest and smartest thing is that everyone that attends the Rally pays for registration, even the Chapter Director.

These are my explanations and are from years of experience with the issues. I assure you that they are the facts of the situation. But, I do not even pretend to speak officially for GWRRA or any Chapter.

Ray Wolford
GWRRA Member # 17221

TUNE UP TOOLS: WHY DID I JOIN GWRRA?

I have asked a lot of Members over the past few years that same question. Most of the time the answer is to meet people and have some folks to ride with. Some will answer to learn more about the bike and the accessories that you can get. There are a lot of answers to that question, but the one thing you will almost always hear from folks on why they stay in GWRRA is the FUN.

GWRRA was founded on some very basic ideas, first and foremost to provide a fun atmosphere for riders of Gold Wing motorcycles to gather. At Chapter gatherings, District Rallies, all the way up to the granddaddy of them all, Wing Ding. The idea was to get together and have fun.

Since the beginning, GWRRA has worked hard to answer to the needs of its Members and to provide resources for its many volunteer leaders. Through the years, many divisions have been created to help with that task. Rider Education, Leadership Training, Member Enhancement, Motorist Awareness and many others were created to make the GWRRA experience better for its Members and leaders. As the Association

grew, the need for programs to help manage the growth was obvious. These are necessary to help maintain the standards and structure of GWRRA.

As Members of GWRRA, we all enjoy the benefits of these programs, sometimes without even realizing it. These benefits however, do not come without a price. The Regions, Districts and Chapters are self-supporting and raise monies for the programs thru Rallies and Poker Runs, Raffles and a host of other ways. The purpose of raising money is to provide its Members with programs to enhance their time in GWRRA. To provide a safe and fun venue in which to enjoy their time. Somewhere along the way, a lot of folks have started to focus a lot of time and energy on Charities.

Now I am the first one to reach in his pocket and give, just like most motorcyclists do. My fear, however, is that, over time, Charity fundraising will become the major focus if we do not stop and look at the big picture. How many of you have gone to a GWRRA function, only to be bombarded by folks wanting you to give to this, or buy a ticket to support that, charity? I have seen people go away with a feeling that they cannot afford to go to too many of these events, and even stop going because of it. Now, I'm not suggesting that all charity fundraising must cease, lest we ruin GWRRA. I'm just asking you all, as GWRRA Officers and Staff, to remember what GWRRA is all about and not make the main focus of our activities

to support charities, but to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for the Members.

Why did you join GWRRA?

Mike Mitchell
Region N Director

Rides and Events:

NOTE: Unless otherwise and specifically designated, all Chapter U rides depart from the parking lot of the Wal-Mart located at the intersection of I-35 and FM3009 (northwest corner). FM 3009 is about 4.3 miles north of Loop 1604 on I-35.

May:

Wednesday May 3rd - Chapter H meeting, Mama's Cafe 14424 San Pedro (281) 7:30 pm (come earlier to eat first!)

Saturday May 6th - Smithville Antique Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet, Smithville, TX. Depart at 9am from the usual meeting place. We will eat lunch in Smithville before the show

Saturday May 13th - The Texas District Rally in Kerrville. Will depart 7:30am. You can ride back on your own or we will leave as a group about 4. You will have fun at this rally!

Wednesday May 17th - Chapter U meeting, Golden Coral 1 Pat Booker Rd, Universal City 7:30 PM (come earlier to eat first!)

Saturday May 20th - Lunch in Boerne and then The Cave Without A Name (*Departure time to be determined*)

June:

Saturday June 3rd - Lunch in Fredricksburg, restaurant to be determined and then ride the Willow City Loop on the way back. One of the top 10 motorcycle rides in Texas! (*Departure time to be determined*)

Wednesday June 7th - Chapter H meeting, Mama's Cafe 14424 San Pedro (281) 7:30 pm (come earlier to eat first!)

Sunday June 11th - Nothing planned yet! We welcome all ideas!

Saturday June 17th - Gonzales Old Jail Museum. had it planned before but rained out! (*Departure time to be determined*)

Wednesday June 21st - Chapter U meeting, Golden Coral 1 Pat Booker Rd, Universal City 7:30 pm (come earlier to eat first!)

Sunday June 25th - Berclair Mansion between Beeville and Goliad. Only open the last Sunday of each month for 2 hours. Admission is \$10. (*Departure time to be determined*)



**Texas WingFest-2006 District Rally
Hill Country Reunion
Denim & Diamonds
Kerrville, TX – May 11, 12 & 13**



Registration Form

Rally pins to first 500 pre-registered

All pre-registrations must be postmarked by May 1, 2006 After May 1st Register at Rally

GWRRA Members \$25.00	Non-GWRRA Members \$30.00	On-Site Registration Add \$5.00	Day Passes On-Site \$15.00
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Children under 12 free with registered adult.

GWRRA Membership Cards Will Be Checked

Rider: _____

GWRRA #: _____ Exp: _____ Age: _____

Co-Rider/Second Rider: _____

GWRRA #: _____ Exp: _____ Age: _____

Add'l Participants & Ages: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email _____

Phone: (____) _____ District/Chapter: _____ Direct Miles: _____

Check Applicable Boxes: RIDER/MALE RIDER/FEMALE CO-RIDER

Pre-Registered ONLY will be available to win prizes for Longest Distance Male Rider, Longest Distance Female Rider, 2 Up, Oldest & Youngest Male & Female Riders, Largest Pre-Registered Texas Chapter & 1st Pre-Registered.

Level IV Breakfast (Master Tour Riders/Co-Riders) # of meals _____ **Sign-in At Rider Education Booth.**

Escorted Parade to the Downtown "STAR"
An escorted parade to the 'Star' will include a people's choice Bike Show, music courtesy of 'The Music Man' Don Price, Light Show, Food Vendors and "Dancing on the Star". The city of Kerrville is invited to join us in all the activities with our "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

Waiver: I/we agree to hold harmless the GWRRA, the Co-sponsoring Organizations, City of Kerrville, Inn of the Hills and any other property owners for any loss or injury to self or property in which I/We may become involved by reason of participation in this event.

Rider Signature: _____ Date _____

Co/Second Rider Signature: _____ Date _____

Mail Payment & Pre Registration Form To:
Pamela Meyer, Texas District Treasurer
20906 Auburn Trace Court
Katy, TX. 77450



Meet a member...



Richard Watson (a.k.a. Chief)

Member's Rides



John & Bonnie Simonick's new rig

Send in a picture of your ride to
gwrriTXtrainer@msn.com

Some important GWRRA links:

<http://www.gwrri.org/>

This is the international website with general information; it may or may not be up to date.

<http://www.region-h.org/>

Region H consists of 5 Districts. They are Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Region H website has up to date regional information and is very well done. We recommend you visit this site from time to time.

<http://www.texasdist.org/>

This is the website of the Texas District and has links to various chapters, other GWRRA sites, and has the District

Newsletter and other District information. We recommend browsing the site and the newsletter at least monthly.

<http://home/satx.rr.com/txchapteru>

This is **chapter U's new website** with general information; it **is** up to date.

2006 Rallies:

This year, we may very well be "Wing-ing it" to the following rallies.

Texas District Rally in Kerrville, Texas on May 11th, 12th, and 13th.

Arkansas District Rally in Hot Springs, AR on May 18th, 19th, and 20th.

Oklahoma District Rally in Stillwater, OK on June 16th and 17th. We will depart in the morning on Thursday, June 15th and return on Sunday, June 18th.

Wing Ding in Nashville, TN on July 3rd through 6th.

Kansas District Rally in Winfield, KS on September 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about these rallies, please contact us.

John & Bonnie

Chapter U

Serves northeast San Antonio & surrounding areas

Acting Chapter Directors: **John & Bonnie Simonick**

Phone: 210-497-0447

e-mail: gwrriatxtrainer@msn.com

Chapter U website:

<http://home.satx.rr.com/chapu/>

Chapter Gatherings:

3rd Wednesday of every month

Golden Corral: 2301 Pat Booker Road
Universal City

Eat from 6:30 – 7:30

Information Sharing at 7:30

2006 dates to mark on your calendar:

Texas District Rally
May 11th ~ 13th 2006
Kerrville, TX

Hill Country
Reunion
Denim &
Diamonds
Kerrville, TX
Inn of the Hills

Host Hotel Inn of the Hills \$89.00 (1 to 4 people) 1-800-292-5690

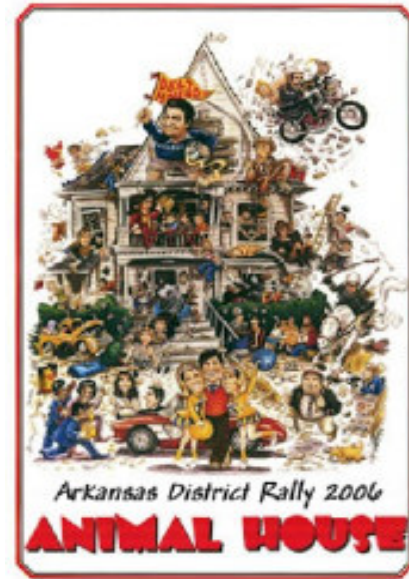
Best Western \$89.00/79.00 (1 to 4 people 1-800-677-9477 w / full breakfast

Holiday Inn Express & Suites \$99.00(standard) 1-800-404-4125

Y.O. Ranch Resort \$89.00 1-877-967-3767

Camping: KOA 1-800-562-1665 (special

Buckhorn Lake Resort 1-800-568-6458



Host Hotel:

Velda Rose Resort Hotel & Spa

218 Park Avenue

Hot Springs, AR 71901

Phone (501) 623-3311
or 1-888-624-3311

Fax (501) 609-9924

Special Rally Rate:

\$68.00 plus tax per night