



Texas Chapter U

July 2006



Northeast
San Antonio

Chapter U update:

The chapter is still progressing nicely, with continued participation in the monthly gathering and on rides. It seems like our next challenge may be to find a larger meeting place for our monthly gatherings.

There has been a change in plans for the Chapter leadership, due to personal and family issues. It seems that it is best for Paul and Connie to take a step back at this time and focus on issues that are more important than Chapter activities. It is a good thing that this tough decision by Paul and Connie was made early in their journey as Chapter Directors, as it will be better for all. We hope to see them on rides and at gatherings as their time and priorities allow.

In the interim, we will continue as we have started, with Bonnie and me assuming the leadership role and continuing to assess and serve the interest of the Chapter U participants.

Brad and Jill will remain as **Assistant Chapter Directors**, and we are pleased to have them assist in providing for the members.

John McClinton has volunteered to assist the chapter in the area of Rider Education. That is another sign of progress, and we thank John for this commitment.

In closing, we would like to convey that Bonnie and I will be a bit more stretched now, having been appointed as your Texas District Directors, but that will not reduce our commitment to Chapter U.

We are looking forward to the continued growth of both the membership and the staff.

John & Bonnie Simonick
Acting Chapter U Directors

Expanding my ‘Horizons’” by Jill Severe

Ok, so I admit, I had mixed feelings about giving up a weekend to attend the GWRRR “Horizons” program. The good thing was it was being held in Corpus Christi. The bad thing was that it was supposed to be 100 degrees Friday afternoon when we were going to drive down so we weren’t planning on “winging” it. It also looked like the program would take most of the weekend, negating time at the beach, and I feared being cooped up in a conference room all day Saturday and Sunday. Needless to say I didn’t go with too high of expectation but John Simonick was part of it and I couldn’t think that John would recommend people interested in being future leaders in GWRRR attend if it wasn’t worth the time!

Well I have to tell you that both Brad and I felt the time was well worth it. Both of us have been the beneficiaries of the best leadership training Uncle Sam could provide us while we were in the Army. Fortunately, we have tried to grow beyond some of our “bad” habits. The program which is part of the training provided by the GWRRR Leadership Training Division was well worth the time...and it was FUN! Not the trivia game, particularly the part about GWRRR trivia, but where else would knowing that the “living” Ancient Wonder of the World was the Hanging Gardens of Babylon would win your team a point! The “Horizons” Program provides you the opportunity to meet other GWRRR members interested in or currently in leadership positions in their local chapters so you meet a lot of great people.

With this room full of great people, the trainers, in our case John Simonick and a great couple, Ron and Magaly Griffis from Corpus Christi (and new District Trainers) led us through a series of presentations, hands-on exercises, group discussions, and trivia game time-outs that discussed a series of helpful

topics. We each discovered if we were extroverts or introverts (I'm an extrovert, did you guess?). We talked about building teams using coaching, mentoring and empowerment. We talked about the benefits of teams and team building challenges. We discussed expectations GWRAA has of officers and members, and the different roles volunteers can fill in a chapter. We talked about what it takes to be a good leader (it seemed like we are all "good" leaders "in training") Effective meetings and gatherings were discussed, and how F-U-N can be built into chapter activities. Obviously jokes and puns are involved (especially with John there!). We also worked at learning how to improve our communication skills. These techniques were especially worth the time as they are something that someone can apply both at work, and in personal relationships! Last but not least, we had been broken into three teams, and each team put on a skit incorporating ideas and techniques we had learned during the "Horizons" program. Fortunately the trainers could figure out the points the teams were trying to make in their skits, and everyone felt they had learned a lot from their time in the conference room!

Not all time was spent at work, however, as Saturday night we went out to a seafood restaurant, Docs, out on the water and ate seafood and watched the sunset. Most of the "Horizon" participants were able to attend, and we spent a nice evening talking about Texas rides, great places to eat at different ride-worthy destinations, and making promises to catch up with each other at rallies and possible future joint-Chapter rides.

Brad and I never did get to the beach, but we look forward to seeing the people we met that weekend again. We came back with good intentions to apply what we learned but we know it will take some practice. I had only been to two GWRRRA classes before attending the "Horizons" program. Both had been at the recent District rally in Kerrville. Both those sessions were well worth my time, and I found this program to be well worth my time as well. I left Corpus Christi wishing other San Antonio Chapter U and H friends had attended as well because I felt that we would have had a great time getting to know

each other better, and expanding our "Horizons" by communicating more effectively. I'm sure if we would like to have GWRRRA training in San Antonio, the two chapters could work together to sponsor it, and we could invite other chapters to attend. If you ever have the chance to attend the "Horizons" program, I heartily encourage you to expand your "Horizons!"

Never Argue with a Woman . . .

One morning a woman's husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?" "Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?") "You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her. "I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading." "Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up." "If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman. "But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden. "That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think!

Submitted by Bert & Linda

WICOE

(Women In Charge Of Everything) is proud to announce the opening of its **EVENING CLASSES FOR MEN!**

**ALL ARE WELCOME
(OPEN TO MEN ONLY)**

Note: due to the complexity and level of difficulty, each course will accept a maximum of eight participants

The course covers two days, and topics covered in this course include:

DAY ONE

HOW TO FILL ICE CUBE TRAYS

Step by step guide with slide presentation

TOILET ROLLS- DO THEY GROW ON THE HOLDERS?

Roundtable discussion

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNDRY BASKET & FLOOR

Practicing with hamper (Pictures and graphics)

DISHES & SILVERWARE; DO THEY LEVITATE/FLY TO KITCHEN SINK OR DISHWASHER BY THEMSELVES?

Debate among a panel of experts.

REMOTE CONTROL

Losing the remote control - Help line and support groups

LEARNING HOW TO FIND THINGS

Starting with looking in the right place instead of turning the house upside down while screaming - Open forum

DAY TWO

EMPTY MILK CARTONS; DO THEY BELONG IN THE FRIDGE OR THE BIN?

Group discussion and role play

HEALTH WATCH; BRINGING HER FLOWERS IS NOT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

PowerPoint presentation

REAL MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS WHEN LOST

Real life testimonial from the one man who did

IS IT GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT QUIETLY AS SHE PARALLEL PARKS?

Driving simulation

LIVING WITH ADULTS; BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR PARTNER

Online class and role playing

HOW TO BE THE IDEAL SHOPPING COMPANION

Relaxation exercises, meditation and breathing techniques

REMEMBERING IMPORTANT DATES & CALLING WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE

Bring your calendar or PDA to class

GETTING OVER IT; LEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME

Individual counsellors available

Left Hand Salute

The army salutes with the right hand. I am told it comes from the age old symbol that the right hand is unarmed and that you are a friend. Well, we motorcyclist don't do it that way. We use the left hand. It does show that we

are a friend. Motorcyclist of all kinds signal with their left hand when passing, or seeing, other cyclist.

Now as simple as that sounds, there is a correct way to it. You hold your left arm straight out to the side and slightly downward. This keeps the arm and hand out of the air stream created by the front (faring) of the bike.

Some simple safety issues arise here. Do not take your hand off of the handle bar unless it is totally safe. If you are stopped at a red light, for example, you need to keep your clutch in with the left hand, so use the right hand to wave, or just nod in their direction. It is amassing how noticeable that nod can be, and it still allows you to indicate that you are a friend.

Now, passengers (Co-Riders) have a big responsibility here too. Usually you have both hands free and you can take over that duty for your driver. If you both do it, so much the better

All motorcyclist have a bond with one another, regardless of the kind, or size, or color of their bikes. So, I encourage you all to salute oncoming bikes. Even the Yellow ones.

Ray Wolford
GWRRA # 17221

ESCAPE ROUTE 6 June 2006

While riding a bike, I put most of my mental effort into constantly identifying an "Escape Route" for me, my precious

Gold Wing, and even more precious passenger if I happen to have one.

I think it is very necessary to always make sure you have that route available in case something happens around you. As much of a "Stud Muffin" as you think you are, I assure you things happen around you that you do not have control over, and that can harm your various body parts.

One of my scariest moments on a bike was being on a Toll Road and not having an escape route. The road was so narrow, with cement walls on both sides and fast moving traffic and - it also rained! But, that is another story. My point here is that I needed an escape route to aim for in case something dangerous happened around me. And in that situation, there just was no route available. I was at the mercy of the other drivers around me and the dependability of their vehicles. I prefer to have a fighting chance - or maybe I should say a "Running Chance".

When riding, I am constantly analyzing the situation and trying to identify the biggest danger to me at that particular moment. I then play the "what if game" in my head. What if this happened? What if that happened? Where could I go, what could I do?

That is where I plan my escape route to safety in case one of those likely dangerous things were to happen to me at that moment. When I have an escape route fresh in my mind, it allows me to, otherwise, relax and enjoy the ride.

So - what I'm a'saying here, pardner - -
is - - - plan your ESCAPE - before you
HAVE TO ESCAPE.

Ray Wolford
GWRRA #17221

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.

Saturday 24 June - Chapter "H" impromptu Breakfast ride. 8:30am - 1pm (Meets behind What-A-Burger, Bandera & 1604)

Sunday 25 June- No ride scheduled for Chapter U. Alamo Cycleplex is having 2 rides starting from the Krispy Kreme Donuts on IH-10.

July 2006

Saturday 1 July - Impromptu ride. Let's meet at 9:30 and decide where we want to go.

Sunday 2 July - Chapter H Breakfast ride 8:30am - 1pm (Meets behind What-A-Burger, Bandera & 1604)

3-6 July - Wing Ding 2006; Nashville, TN.

Saturday 8 July - Breakfast ride to the Busy Bear in LaVernia. Leave at 8:30, break then a short ride after. Hope to be back before 1pm. Don't want to ride all the way to the meet point, then just meet us at the restaurant (12880 US Highway 87 W)!! Should be there about 9:15. I know, it is kind of a dive, but a \$2.49 breakfast with coffee is hard to beat!

Sunday 9 July - Chapter H Lunch Ride 10am - 3pm (Meets behind What-A-Burger, Bandera & 1604)

Saturday 15 July - Chapter "H" meeting, at Logan's Road House on IH 10 access road between Woodstone Dr and DeZavala. 2-3:30pm Come early to eat first!!! Chapter "H" will meet on Saturday this month due to the conflict with Wing Ding 2006)

Sunday 16 July - Nothing scheduled yet!
Possible joint ride with Chapter H!!

Wednesday 19 July - Chapter "U" Meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant; 2301 Pat Booker Rd; Universal City. "Meet-to-Eat" at 6:30 pm. Information Sharing begins at 7:30pm.

Saturday 22 July - Chapter H Breakfast ride 8:30am - 1pm (Meets behind What-A-Burger, Bandera & 1604)

Sunday 23 July - Let's try the Gonzales Jail one last time! Leave at 10:30 and ride to Luling for lunch then to Gonzales. Museum opens at 1pm. [Click here for more info.](#)

Saturday 29 July - Salt Lick BBQ, Drift wood TX. Meet at 9:30 and a nice leisurely ride to lunch. We will come back a more direct route. Hope to be back by 3pm

Sunday 30 July - Chapter H Lunch Ride 10am - 3pm (Meets behind What-A-Burger, Bandera & 1604)

August 2006

Wednesday 2 August - Chapter "H" meeting, at Logan's Road House on IH 10 access road between Woodstone Dr and DeZavala. Meet-to-eat at 6:30, meeting at 7:30

Sunday 6 August - Nothing scheduled yet!

Saturday 12 August - Nothing scheduled yet!

Wednesday 16 August - Chapter "U" Meeting, Golden Corral Restaurant; 2301 Pat Booker Rd; Universal City. "Meet-to-Eat" at 6:30 pm. Information Sharing begins at 7:30pm.

19 or 20 August - Possible Joint ride with Chapter H TBD

Sunday 27 August - Berclair Mansion, Only open the last Sunday of each month: Berclair Mansion located between Beeville and Goliad. It is only open on the last Sunday of each month, and then only for 2. Admission is \$10.

Meet a member...

(Wild Bill) Billy & Jane Johnson

Member's Rides



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

Some important GWRRA links:

<http://www.gwrra.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.

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

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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

Fun and Information Sharing at 7:30

