



# Texas Chapter U

September 2006



Northeast  
San Antonio

## Chapter "U" Update

As we approach the best part of the riding season, my bike is in the shop needing substantial repairs. The insurance company has not been real swift in taking care of business. Hopefully the repairs will begin soon. In the meantime, I have been staying busy with some Chapter U administrative activities as well as Texas District activities. Although Bonnie and I were listed as being at the helm for Chapter U, it has been the efforts of Brad and Jill Severe that have kept Chapter U moving forward. There has been significant help from a core group of individuals as well, who have been doing the work but not being publicly recognized. Hopefully, they will assume staff positions in the near future since they are already doing the work.

Having said this, I would like to make sure the credit goes to where it is truly deserved, and communicate that effectively immediately, Brad and Jill are the Acting Chapter U Directors. They will become the Official CDs on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the delay being simply for the efficiency of paperwork for the changing of officers. So for all intents and purposes, they are the Chapter U Directors, and I am indebted to them for the effort they have exerted for the benefit of all of us. I will remain the Newsletter Editor for the interim, knowing that I will need to turn this over in the future due to District demands on my time. Most importantly, I do not want to overload the current staff, so I will retain the Newsletter until an individual that is currently not on staff is identified for this role.

Please congratulate Brad and Jill on their appointment, thank them for their tremendous efforts to date, and please support them as much as you can. If you are curious about joining the Chapter "U" staff, read the next article about the

Mid-Winter Round-Up. This is an opportunity to attend a seminar/forum relating to specific staff positions, and from this, you can determine if this is the role for you!

In closing, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to those that have been working behind the scenes in support of Chapter U -- you know who you are.

Sincerely and regards,

John Simonick  
Former Chapter "U" Director

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## MID-WINTER ROUND-UP

### January 6th, 2007

I am excited to announce that the event traditionally held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday after New Years Day is being enhanced to provide greater value to the membership. Historically, the "District Staff Meeting" was intended for Chapter Directors and Chapter Educators, with encouragement for other Chapter Staff members to attend. The content typically involved informational updates from international, Region, and District. Rider Education had a break-out for the Educators. There was an opportunity for Chapters to announce their rallies, and there was the opportunity for Chapters to volunteer for their preferred role to assist with the District Rally. There were also opportunities to meet members from other Chapters, ask the District Staff questions, and to get help with Financial Reports. The revised event, referred to as the *Mid-Winter Round-Up*, is not restricted to current Chapter Staff members; we are encouraging any and all GWRRA members to participate in this event. Now, for the big question: What is the *Mid-Winter Round-Up*, and how will it differ from

the Staff Meeting of years past? *The Mid-Winter Round-Up* will:

- Provide an opportunity for the District Staff to meet the GWRRA members of Texas as well as the Texas Chapter Staffs
- Provide a plethora of training opportunities for staff and non-staff
- Have a General Session, which will provide informational updates from International, Region H, and lots of information regarding the District operations, objectives, and initiatives
- Solicit assistance for the upcoming District Rally (May 17, 18, & 19 in Wichita Falls)
- Host a social event as an additional opportunity for District Staff to meet and greet the Chapter participants in Texas Provide assistance for completion of Chapter Financial Reports
- Allow some Hill Country riding to be mixed in with the events

The training being offered at this event is targeting the major roles of a Chapter Staff. Specifically, there will be seminars and/or forums for Chapter Directors and Assistants, Treasurers, Newsletter Editors, Webmasters, Membership Enhancement Coordinators, and Couples of the Year. Each seminar/forum will be presented at least twice to accommodate interested parties to the greatest extent possible. If you are currently on a Chapter Staff, this is an excellent opportunity to ensure that you understand the role and responsibility associated with the staff position that you hold. For those that are not currently on a Chapter Staff, the seminars/forums are an excellent opportunity to learn what is really involved with various staff positions, and to determine if they would be interested in a particular Chapter Staff role in the future. We will be publishing an event schedule in the near future (by the next Newsletter), and provide additional information regarding this event. Chapter Educators will have their break-out session as well, and will have time to participate in other seminars/forums. Two important notes **worth reiterating**: The training is **not** restricted to current Chapter Staff members; we encourage non-staff to participate in these seminars/ forums either out of curiosity, or to determine if they would be interested in a

particular Chapter Staff role in the future. Secondly, there are many myths of what the responsibilities and requirements are for various staff positions. These myths will be busted! We are excited to have a chance to be the “GWRRA Myth Busters.” We anticipate that this event will grow over the next couple of years, since we will have more time to plan, and will make changes based on the evaluation and feedback from the 2007 event. In 2008 and 2009, we will be holding the District Couple of the Year Selection at this event. (Read more about the Couple Selection in the MED article.) In closing, we **STRONGLY** encourage Chapter Directors and Chapter Educators from all Chapters to attend, just like in previous years. We really encourage Chapter Staff members to attend at least for the training related to their staff position. We really hope that non-staff members will attend for not only the social aspect, but to audit some classes, and to allow the District Staff to meet and greet, and increase our circle of friends. And finally, if your schedule permits, please join us at the social that evening.

**John Simonick**  
**District Director**  
**Master Tour Rider 3034**

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### **Before You Dismount Six things to do** **By: James R. Davis**

We all have our own unique way of doing things. Some people, for example, do exactly two things before they dismount their bikes: they turn off their ignition switch and they put down their side stand. Given a little thought about it, however, I think there are a few more details to attend to (however 'uniquely') before we dismount our motorcycles, and if we make a habit of doing them we can avoid some major trouble for ourselves.

- Use your engine cutoff switch to shut off your engine. Some people seem to think that switch is there for use only in an emergency. Not true. The reason you use the engine cutoff switch rather than the ignition switch to shut off your engine is because you do not have to take your hand off the grip in order to do so. Further, if you make a habit of doing so you will build 'muscle memory' as to where it is so that you

can quickly and unerringly find it in the event of an emergency.

- Turn your ignition switch off. Obviously, unless you do this your lighting system is still on and your battery is discharging. By the way, it is good form to get into the habit of using your LEFT hand to turn off the switch (if possible) so that you can keep your front brake lever activated.
- Turn your fuel valve (if you have one) to the OFF position. A stuck needle valve in one of your carbs can allow a great deal of gasoline to leak past it. If a needle valve should happen to stick while your motorcycle is left in your garage overnight, that leaking gasoline can cost you your house and your life. When you start your motorcycle you should always turn your fuel valve to the RUN/ON position. Thus, by making it a habit of turning the valve off at night you also eliminate the risk of having left it in the reserve position (had it been there when you last dismounted) and running out of gasoline on the road somewhere.
- Put your side stand down - and confirm that it is locked in place. After leaning the bike onto the side stand you have insured that it is stable from side to side before you try to dismount. (Your bike should be in first gear and you should push the bike forward until all the play in your gears is gone before leaning the bike onto the side stand.)
- Turn your handlebars full-lock left. A motorcycle is several times more resistant to movement when the front wheel is not pointing straight ahead. Even a gentle nudge from behind can cause a motorcycle that is on its side stand to roll forward unless the front wheel is not pointing straight ahead.
- Squeeze the front brake lever. If you build these six steps into a habit that you always perform before dismounting, you are serious about ALL aspects of motorcycle safety.

The ride is not over until you are safely dismounted.

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## FUN 101

Part of our GWRRA Logo are the words Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge. Sometimes as Chapters we tend to forget the FUN part. As Ken and I have traveled and visited throughout Texas it has become very obvious that the Chapters that are thriving are the same ones that are also having a great time.

Fun can be exhibited many different ways - a great Chapter (well planned) gathering, a mixture of fun rides, a variety of activities and special events. Simple additions to your various activities can easily be the spice that enhances an otherwise routine event.

Throughout the year you will find various ideas in the newsletter under Fun 101 (MED). You will also find references where you can get additional ideas. The District is designating a section especially for you to share some of the terrific ideas that could work for your Chapters. There are so many neat, fun, things going on around our state - please don't hesitate to write them up and send them in so we can all benefit from them.

If you check in your GWRRA Guidelines you will find a whole section giving you ideas to enhance your "Fun Quotient" - games, parties, eating (like we need help here) rides and getting acquainted. Just go to [www.gwrra-tx.org](http://www.gwrra-tx.org) and look under Member Resources for the complete guide. A QUICK TIP - The holiday season is fast approaching, take advantage of using themes. Halloween - Thanksgiving - Christmas, these three holidays offer so many opportunities to do unique gatherings, rides and dinners.

Halloween - everyone come in a mask and funny hat and try to figure out who they are. I thought I'd be the Jolly Green Giant. (Editors note: Barbie *might* be 5 feet tall in heels...)

Thanksgiving - The perfect time for a Progressive Dinner Ride

Christmas - time to party!

Nothing clever here - all are simple suggestions. Put your creative thinking caps on and let the

"Good Times Roll". See you in the Funny Papers,

**Barbie Peterson**  
**Assistant District Director**  
**Membership Enhancement**  
**Division**

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# BY THE BOOK

By: David Barham  
Region H Trainer

The "By The Book" articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer's Guidebook. Any quotes or references to topics contained in our OGB should not be taken "out of context". Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.

## Fundraising for Charities

During certain times of the year, fundraising is sometimes a very popular activity for some of our Chapters. Moreover, as a result, becomes a topic of much discussion. First, we should consider the Primary Purposes of our Association as stated in our Officer's Guide Book. We touched on this subject briefly in last month's article.

### The Purposes Of Our Association

1. GWRRA is an International Association of Gold Wing and Valkyrie motorcycle riders.
2. GWRRA is a social organization formed for the pleasure, recreation, safety, exchange of information, coordination of common motorcycle efforts, promotion of camaraderie and friendship of its Members and chapters, without political or religious affiliations or influence.
3. Other purposes include: assisting all motorcyclists in achieving and/or improving public acceptance of motorcyclists; member support of civic, local, police, charity, and government organizations; education of non-motorcycling public concerning motorcycling problems; dissemination of safety information relating to motorcycling and motorcyclists; supporting the Motorcycle

Safety Foundation (MSF); being a family oriented organization.

4. Promoting and enlarging the Association's Membership.
5. To publish and distribute *Wing World* and other media that will inform, entertain, educate and enlighten our Members and officers.

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Now that we understand that our primary focus is the "Membership", other questions must be considered.

*"THE MEMBERSHIP COMES FIRST.* Never forget that important point. Before sponsoring an event to fund a cause other than the chapter, make sure the needs of the Members are taken care of. A few elements that may require attention; a suitable meeting place, door prizes and gifts, the newsletter printing and mailing costs, a special fund for flowers, cards, etc. Once these financial requirements are accounted for, you can then direct your resources towards other avenues. **Charity begins at home.**" - OGB

Now that we understand that our primary focus is our own membership, a few more questions should be answered.

- ❖ Is GWRRA a "charity" group?
  - No. GWRRA is NOT a "charity" group.
- ❖ If my chapter collects donations for a fundraiser to assist a charity, do we provide proof of GWRRA's non-profit status?
  - No. Donations to GWRRA (for any reason) may be a legitimate business expense, but they are not tax-deductible contributions.
- ❖ If my chapter's rally sponsors provide food and drinks for the rally, do we provide proof of GWRRA's non-profit status?
  - No. The value of these items becomes a business expense for them, normally associated with advertising.

The information provided here is NOT meant to discourage fundraising for charities of any type. It is provided for guidance and information to be used at any level within GWRRA.

*More detailed information can be obtained by reviewing the GWRRA Officers Guide Book – Sections "B", "D", and "H"*

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September 9<sup>th</sup>'s ride to Friesenhaus, New Braunfels



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Please note below that there are events planned well into the future. This provides the heads up so that the rides and events you wish to participate in can be planned well ahead of time. This prevents us from scheduling a conflicting. Also note that 4-wheeling is totally acceptable. This can accommodate bringing the family, or addressing a time when your bike is in the shop.

## **UPCOMING RIDES & EVENTS**

**Saturday 23 September** – Chapter X Rally, Corpus Christi

**Sunday 1 October** - Ride to the Silver K Cafe in Johnson City for their Sunday Buffet. Leave the Walmart at 10am and pickup any others at 46 & 281 at 10:30

**Saturday 7 October** - Lunch ride to Maverick Restaurant in Floresville. 6671 Hwy 181 North, Just a few miles south of 1604 on 181. Meet at 10:30 at the Walmart!

**Saturday 14 October** - **Motorcycle Maintenance Day.** We will have a get together at David Lonning's or Brad & Jill's house and take care of repairs, oil changes, etc. Details to follow!

**Saturday 21 October** - Fredricksburg National Museum of the Pacific War. We will leave the Wal-Mart at 9am and pickup at 46 & 281 at

9:30. Cost for the museum is \$6. We will find someplace to eat downtown.

**Saturday 28 October** - Progressive Halloween Run!! Ride from one house to another with a different part of a meal at each house! Details to follow!

**Sunday 29 October** – Berclair Mansion, Should be a cooler ride!

**Saturday 4 November** - Lonestar Motorcycle Museum, Vanderpool, TX We will eat burgers at the cafe there! Admission charge is \$5. Meet at WalMart 9am. Pick up at 46 & 281 at 9:30 Maybe take a cruise thru Lost Maples SP if we have time!

**Saturday 18 November** - Ride to the Central Texas Museum of Automotive History in Rosanky, TX. We will leave the pickup point at 10am and stop for Bar-B-Q in Luling on the way.

**Saturday & Sunday 18-19 November** - Horizons class will be hosted by Chapter S2 of League City and held at the at the Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department.

**Sunday 26 November** - 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.

**Saturday 2 December** - Overnight ride to Salado for their Annual Christmas Stroll. *It appears there are no longer any rooms available in town.*

**Saturday 9 December** - Ride to Dripping Springs for the 2d annual Christmas on Mercer Street. We can eat at the Salt Lick or maybe Riley's bar-B-Q. Details to follow soon.

**Saturday 16 December** - Ride to the Fredricksburg Trade Days, 2-wheel or 4-wheel should be lots of great gifts to buy! Meet at the pickup point at 9:30. We can eat some Oma Sausage or other vendor goodies there.

**Saturday 30 December** - Impromptu lunch ride. Let's meet and decide where we want to go!

**Saturday 6 January** - District open meeting in Kerrville with classes and more! More info later.

**Saturday 10 February** - Red Hot Valentine's Day Run to Marble Falls. Eat at the Bluebonnet! More info later!

**Thursday- Saturday 22-24 March** - Region H Rally, Marshall, TX

**Saturday & Sunday 31 March - 1 April** - Texas "SandFest" in Port Aransas. Great fun and an overnight! More info to follow.

**Friday & Saturday 13-14 April** - Chapter O "Bluebonnet Campout & Rally" in Fredricksburg

**Saturday 28 April** - Chapter V2 "Rally By The Lake" in Edna/Victoria

**Thursday - Saturday 17-19 May** - Texas District Rally in Wichita Falls

## Chapter U

Serves northeast San Antonio & surrounding areas

Acting Chapter Directors: **Brad & Jill Severe**

**Phone: 210-403-9299**

**e-mail: [usedphoto@aol.com](mailto:usedphoto@aol.com)**

**Chapter U (new) website address:**

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

### Chapter Gatherings:

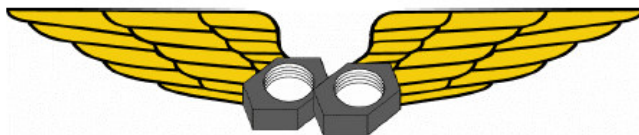
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month

Golden Corral: 2301 Pat Booker Road  
Universal City

Eat between 6:30 – 7:30

Fun and Information Sharing at 7:30

## WWW.2WingNuts.US



(210) 872-6206

Daniel: [2wingnuts@earthlink.net](mailto:2wingnuts@earthlink.net)

Wayne: [2wingnuts2@earthlink.net](mailto:2wingnuts2@earthlink.net)

Colby: [2wingnuts3@earthlink.net](mailto:2wingnuts3@earthlink.net)

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\* **Champion Sidecars** - Trikes, Sidecars, Colorado Trailers and Accessories

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\* **LED Lighting**

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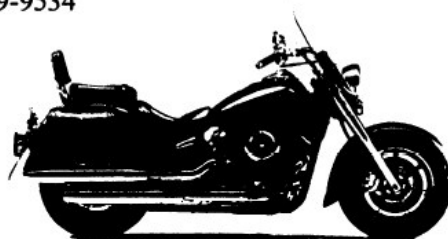
\* **SADDLEMATE COOLERS**

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