

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

**Humble
Chapter N2**



**Texas
Region H**

April 2007



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Splendor, TX, 77372

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Couple of the year 2006-2007

Evertt Hunt & Fay Eger

Couple of the year 2005-2006

John & Lena Bryant

Assistant Membership Enhancement Coordinators

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Chapter meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month at 6:00 PM. The meetings are held at the American Legion Hall at 307 Charles St, Humble, TX

The rides depart from the Flying J at 242 and IH-59 in New Caney.

News from the Chapter Director

As we move into better riding weather, it is very important to check our bikes for maintenance problems. After this past weekend, when the Chapter had a maintenance day, I realized that checking your bike is VERY important. If it had not been someone (you know who you are, Rex) walking around checking all the bikes for visible problems, one of our friends could have had a real big and expensive problem while away on a trip. Rex had observed what looked like a nail in a rear tire. After the guys put the motorcycle up on the stand, Rex looked closer and found that he could move the rear tire back and forth. Several of the guys helped to change the bearings, and had it fixed a while later. I know a lot of people are very good at checking their bikes for nails and air before going on a ride, but some of us get lazy and just assume that everything is OK. It really doesn't take that long to go over your bike and check the tires, lights and brakes. Your life could depend on it. I know we are planning on doing a lot of riding this spring, so lets check out those bikes and be safe.

On another note, when the weather starts to get hot, we will have some training seminars coming up in June. The Horizon program will be in the Woodland area. We will have the exact date when June gets closer. This is a great leadership program to give you pointers that you could use daily.

Mike and Robin Thacker-Master Tour Rider-6162
Chapter Directors



Suggestion Box:

Don't be shy - if you have any favorite rides you would like to ride again. Or you have any events or places you would like to ride. Want different prizes for the 50/50. Or want to eat at a special restaurant after our Chapter meetings. Also any ideas for the newsletter.

Remember all you have to do is send an email to Mike and Robin Thacker at m-r-werone@prodigy.net or put your ideas and thoughts in the suggestion box at the meetings. You can even email them to me at lsselig@earthlink.net. We want to make sure that this is a member's chapter and we get all the ideas.

Rider Education

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS Part Two

This month's topic is the second Key of the Smith System for Defensive Driving called "Keep your eyes moving". Of the five Smith Keys, this is probably the hardest to learn and will require conscious effort to master. As stated before, I am presenting this information to you for consideration. What you do or don't do with it is certainly up to you. I do hope you will at least give it a shot. Be forewarned this exercise will tire your eyes and mind until you master it.

The key to "keeping your eyes moving" is to use quick jerky eye moves, not slow gradual scans. The purpose of the rapid eye movement is to prevent you from fixating on any one object. Fixating on one object for more than two seconds has several undesirable results. Fixating on an object for a few seconds reduces your peripheral vision significantly. Continued staring will result in a condition known as highway hypnosis.

Many people experience mild highway hypnosis without realizing it because they are not asleep, they just don't have good situational awareness. The easiest self-check for this is to ask yourself what landmark, milepost, exit, or the last vehicle passed was. If you aren't sure, then you may have been slightly hypnotized. To ward off the continuation and deeper form of hypnosis you need to get those eyes moving.

As stated earlier, this is not an easy task at first if done properly. To keep your eyes moving get in the habit of scanning the road from side to side every four to eight seconds. Check both mirrors every four to eight seconds. Check your instruments every four to eight seconds. As you can see you must mix up the order that you scan everything in and this takes practice. With practice you will learn to use your peripheral vision to do much of this scanning, leaving your direct vision to keep tabs on the vehicles nearest you.

Turning your head slightly while scanning your mirrors will greatly increase your field of vision allowing you to watch vehicles in your mirrors and the next lane over. With practice and proficiency, you will increase your field of vision to the point where you can actually be aware of vehicular activity several lanes over. This is where the mind fatigue comes in. If you start moving your eyes and turning your head, you will be amazed at the extra information your eyes send to your brain for processing. This can overwhelm and tire you at first, But like any other learned habit it will become second nature and not so tiresome. If you decide to try this Key and your eyes tire, be sure to rest them. These first two keys primarily involve the eyes and getting information to the brain for analysis so let me put them together for a quick summary.

The first Key involved putting more space between yourself and the vehicle in front of you. This gives you the space and time cushion to raise your line of sight and scan further up the road. In good weather you should keep 6-8 seconds between you and the vehicle you are following. This space should be significantly increased during inclement weather. With this added safety cushion you can scan about 15 seconds up the road.

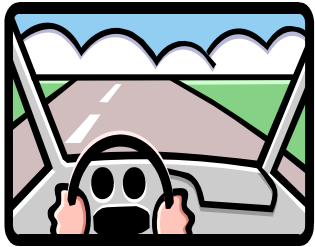
Add moving eyes to this extra space being scanned and the information obtained will amaze you.

This information is pretty basic defensive driving techniques. Not earth shattering classified secrets. The majority of drivers probably use these tips without knowing it. But, as experienced drivers, we tend to develop bad habits and “shortcuts” because we have been driving so long. Drivers tend to get a little lazy with the handling of their vehicles. I can hear some people now. I have been driving for X number of years, I don’t need you to tell me how to drive.

I am not telling anyone how to drive. How you drive your vehicle is up to you. I am presenting these Keys as a refresher course so to speak. It is your ride and your responsibility for its safe operation. But, if you will give these tips a chance, I believe you will like the results. Until next month.

As Always RIDE SAFE-----RIDE AWARE

Your Chapter Educators
Michael and Suzanne Elrod



Congratulations to:

Donna Hess
Marty Uphoff
Karen Fraser

Level 2 as a Rider
Level 2 as a Rider
Level 1 as a Rider

Brenham Airport Lunch Ride

It was a chilly 53 degrees at 10 a.m. Sunday morning, March 4th as 13 bikes carrying eighteen people departed the Flying J Truck stop. Our destination was the Brenham Airport and its 50's style restaurant. Our route took us through Magnolia where we were joined by Bill and CB Burgess, bringing our little group up to 15 bikes and twenty people. As I am rather new at this ride coordinator stuff this large group intimidated me a little. Before departing the flying J, I confided to Rex Nix that I was very pleased at the number of riders participating, but was a little intimidated by the level of experience riding behind me to Brenham. Rex, our former Educator and very experienced ride leader had some good advice for me. Rex told me to relax, do my job, have fun, and not to worry about who was behind me.

So, I took a deep breath, and got to work getting additional lead and drag bikes for this large group. I explained the route and then we departed. Within five minutes I was having a blast and I sincerely hope everyone else did also. I really appreciate everyone that makes the decision to come spend the day with me on our rides and never take their participation for granted. I know in our busy lives it would be easy to decide you do not have the time to invest in our rides. This dedication is what makes our rides and our Chapter strong, vibrant, and fun for our families.

We had one family reaching a new goal on our Brenham ride. Don Withrow's young daughter, Megan, was making her very first Gold Wing road trip. The trip was colder and longer than she expected. But, to my knowledge, she never complained. Don told me later that several times he had told Megan we were almost there, and then I would take us onto another scenic route.

We left the Flying J on highway 242, which we rode to highway 1488. We turned left on FM 1488 and rode to Highway 290. We took 290 into Chappel Hill and then turned onto FM 1155. We rode Hwy 105 for about a mile and turned onto Scenic Loop 390. We rode 390 around to Hwy 50 and turned left. Hwy 50 took us to the Brenham Airport Road where we turned right and went into the airport parking lot, which was full.

The airport and restaurant are popular with local residents, pilots, and motorcycle enthusiasts. The restaurant does not take reservations and has limited seating. There is room inside for approximately 40 people. The screened in porch will seat about another 30 people. Within ten minutes of our arrival at about 11:45 there was a waiting line in the airport lobby. I believe our group of twenty people filled the patio where we had to sit as the inside seating area was already full. Fortunately, the sun was shining on the patio and the building was blocking the strong winds so everyone was comfortable. We ate a wide variety of foods and everyone seemed pleased with their meals. The wait staff was working hard to accommodate the capacity crowd and explained they were having a hard time keeping coffee brewed.

After everyone had finished their meals we wandered out to the front ramp to watch the airplanes come and go. The airport seems to always have some vintage WWII aircraft

flying in. These pilots are proud of their planes and love putting on a little show for the spectators. Just before we left, three aircraft took off and then joined up with each other to do a fly-over. One of the planes was a T-6 trainer painted to represent a Japanese Zero. I am not sure what the other two planes were. We were now ready for the next leg of our trip to Cold Springs for dessert.

We rode 105 into Montgomery, where several riders headed for home. The other 13 people rode 149, 1097, and 150 into Cold Springs. We ate ice cream at the Hop. We had planned to eat pie at Elaine's, but it was closed. We then rode 2025 back to 59 and headed south for home with riders dropping off as they neared home. The official ride miles were 230. It was a great ride and a very enjoyable day. Again, I thank everyone who put forth the effort to participate on this cool, windy day. The Brenham Airport seems to be a popular destination for our members. Please let your staff know of other places you would like to go. We are here to serve you, but we can't plan them if we don't know of them. As Always RIDE--AWARE RIDE--SAFE.

Michael Elrod



A First Timer's Ride

By: Don Withrow

We were rounding one of the last ninety-degree curves on FM1488, just six miles from the City of Hempstead on a beautiful crisp spring morning. I rolled on the throttle to firmly plant the rear wheel onto the pavement. The bike was leaning hard to the right and I was feeling that slight rush that comes with an increase of "G" forces that we all love to experience on those curvy roads. I thought to myself what a beautiful day. I was enjoying this beautiful countryside with friends, my six year old daughter as my co-rider, and the sound of her voice coming through the speakers of my headset saying, "Dad that was fun". It was Heaven!

This was Magen's first real ride. Sure she had been around the block a few times and to The Panda Express to eat Chinese Food with Dad, but never on a long ride before. Our destination was Brenham, Texas to get lunch at a fifty's theme restaurant on the grounds of the airport.

You see, Magen loves airplanes. She was about two years old when Dad took her on her first airplane ride and she has been hooked on airplanes every since. When I told her we were going to an airport, she wanted to know if we were there yet.

It was a little nerve racking to say the least, having such a small child, not to mention, your own child, whose safety and well being you were totally responsible for on the back of a motorcycle. I was the one who had made the decision to put her on the bike and her well being was now up to me and The Lord, who I give full credit for our safe trip there and back.

The ride was about 260 miles total. A pretty long trip for a six year old first timer, and on such a cool day at that. I kept asking her if she was cold and she always replied no. I ask if she was having a good time. She would always say “yea”, but wanted to know if we were almost there yet, and on the return trip if we were getting close to home. Five hours on the back of a motorcycle is a long time to sit still for anyone, especially if you are a six year old with ants in your pants.

Several people came up to me and said she sure was enjoying the music on the radio. They said that she was swaying back and forth and was really getting down. Much to their surprise, I told them that the radio was broken and she was the one doing all the singing and was entertaining me. She was in her own little world back there, singing and talking to herself. I think she was enjoying it! I know I was.

After we ate lunch, we left the restaurant and rode through the town of Navasota. By that time she had fallen sound asleep. She was slumped over in the seat and snoring up a storm. Someone honked a horn and waved at us and that started a battery of horn honking, which woke her up. She raised up her head and asks, “Who’s honking”; I told her it was just people waving at the motorcycle riders. I ask if she enjoyed her nap. She said “I wasn’t asleep; I was just looking at the ground”. I told her that she needed to be careful looking at the ground like that because it makes her snore really loud. She just replied Daaaad...

Bathroom breaks were a chore, especially for a little person that need help getting through all those layers of clothing and such. Then it takes extra time getting back on the bike, getting properly secured, and finely, getting wired for sound.

Our next stop on the trip was in Cold Springs, Texas at The Hop Restaurant to get ice-cream. They had a jukebox and I guess by this time she was tired of hearing herself sing, so Dad gave up a couple of quarters for the cause. After a quick snack and a few bikes topped off with gas, we were off on the last leg of the trip home.

We arrived home at about 6:00 PM, shed our riding gear, loaded up the truck, and were off again to pick Mom up at Mike and Suzanne’s house. Overall it was a pretty good day for a motorcycle ride.

Now I would like to thank everyone who went on the ride for being so sweet to Magen. For being patient while I took the extra time to get her squared away at every stop we made.

She really did enjoy the ride but was glad to get back home and see her Mom. Carla had gone on the Scrap booking Retreat with Suzanne Elrod and Karen Frazier to Round Top, Texas for the weekend, and by this time she was really missing her Mommy.

It was a day I think we both will no doubt look back on with fond memories. She Thanks You, again I Thank You, and her Mother Thanks You! Because she now has some great memories as well as some beautiful pictures that her Mom can add to her scrapbook so she can re-live the day that she went on her first ride with her GWRRA Family on that cold day in the spring of 2007.

[Couple of the Year Adventures for March](#)

Every month John and Lena Bryant, the Texas District Membership Enhancement Division Coordinators write an article for the Texas District Newsletter Featuring a Chapter Couple of the year. The March Featured Couple of the Year were our own COY - Ricky and Karen Fraser. So, we thought we would share the article written by John and Lea with Ricky and Karen's N2 family. We hope you enjoy the article.

Ricky and Karen Frazier have been GWRRA members since March 2005 and members of Chapter N2 since that same time. Ricky has always been a rider of various small bikes since he began riding at the age of 15, but always wanted to own a Goldwing. Karen had never been a rider until their 20th anniversary when she agreed to ride a borrowed bike for a weekend trip. Karen was now hooked and they began looking for a bike and others to ride with. Ricky had an opportunity to meet Marie and she introduced them to Chapter N2 and GWRRA. They attended the first meeting and joined the Chapter and GWRRA immediately. They did not even own a bike. Ricky and Karen took their first ride with the Chapter, which was a Captains Course on a borrowed bike so they could begin riding immediately. They purchased their first Goldwing from another member of Chapter N2 and have been riding with the Chapter since that time. Karen continued to be a co-rider until June 2006 when she took and passed the motorcycle beginner course and obtained her license. She now rides a 1986 Honda VT 700 but also continues to ride with Ricky as a co-rider. Together they have been involved with their local chapter by serving on the staff as the Newsletter editor and now the Scrapbook coordinator. They have attended Wing Ding each year since joining and have attended district and regional rallies where they compete in the Best Dress Couple competitions. They have won numerous awards in the Best Dress Couple – Riding competitions. They also participate each year in the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Fund Raiser and ride as well in various Christmas Parades and The Christmas Toy Run for

children in Foster Care in Harris County. Safety and fun is an area of high priority for them therefore they take and attend as many education classes and seminars as possible. They have also completed the Horizon Program as well as an Advance Riding Class. Ricky is also training to be a riding coach and working on obtaining his certification to be an instructor. Ricky has also earned Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the GWRRA program as a rider and Karen has the same as a co-rider. Karen is now working on these levels as a rider. They both stress the importance of the use of safety gear and set an example of this by wearing their safety gear on all rides.



New COY Fund Raiser at 2007 District Rally

Karen and Ricky Fraser our COY, have decided on the theme for their basket for the 2007 Rally in Wichita Falls. Remember Couple of the Year contributing a “basket” will receive half of the proceeds collected for that their basket. All proceeds are intended to support the Couple of the Year Program.





Happy Birthday to you!! Happy Birthday to you!!

Carl Torres	April 9	Britt Grieger	April 22
Leo Hannan	April 17	Jim Flourney	April 29
Steve Seligman	April 20		

The hosts for the monthly chapter dinners in 2007:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| • January | Dolly Ard | • July | John & Terri Wilson |
| • February | Gary & Marie Rabalais | • August | Rex & Ann Nix |
| • March | Oliver & Rita Rathmann | • September | Ronnie & Doris Ryals |
| • April | Don & Carla Withrow | • October | Steve & Linda Seligman |
| • May | Jeff & Darla Ingram | • November | Gary & Stormy Young |
| • June | Randy Talbutt | • December | Marty & Donna |

The 2007 Texas District Rally will be held in Wichita Falls May 17th – 19th. The theme this year will be “Riding With The Stars”, come dressed as your favorite movie or television star or character.



Rider Education Raffle

This year Rider Education is proud to offer something different for the annual raffle - **Texas Hill Country Getaway or Sleep Like A Celebrity**. The funds raised will be used to pay for part of the Masters Breakfast at the Texas District Rally, Rider Education weekend as well as such mundane expenses as postage and supplies.

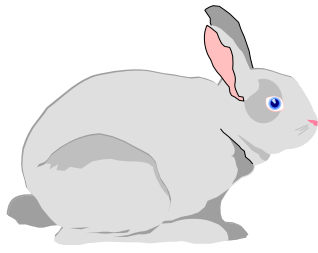
Texas District Rider Education is offering the following package:

- A Garmin Zumo 550
- A coupon for 3 days and 2 nights at a Fredericksburg Bed and Breakfast. (We are told that Sandra Bullock slept here.)
- A coupon for breakfast in Fredericksburg
- A coupon for lunch at Cooper's in Llano
- A coupon for ice cream in Medina
- A coupon for dinner at the Cotton Gin Restaurant in Fredericksburg
- A coupon for a package at a day spa in Fredericksburg (details still being worked out)

If you don't know where these places are don't worry your new Garmin Zumo 550 will be pre-loaded with the location of the B&B as well as the eateries. Some of our favorite Hill Country rides will also be preprogrammed in the GPS for your enjoyment. Eat to ride with breakfast and dinner in Fredericksburg. Ride to eat when you go to Llano for lunch and Medina for the required ice cream. Be pampered while you relax at the spa. Tickets cost \$10.00 each. You do not need to be present at the closing ceremony to win. The drawing will be held during closing ceremonies on May 19th 2007. The coupon for the Bed and Breakfast must be used by December 31, 2008 and is subject to availability. The winner will be responsible for making their own reservations. Tickets are available from Michael Elrod and will be available during the Texas District rally at the Rider Education table.

Remember !!!!!

In order for a ride to qualify for the Ride Participation and Miles Award Program points the ride must be a Chapter N-2 scheduled, calendar event ride. If you have any questions please contact Mike Thacker or Michael Elrod.



April 2007
GWRRA CHAPTER N2
HUMBLE, TEXAS

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Trailer class 8 am American Motorcycle	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10	11	12 Louisiana Rally	13 Louisiana Rally	14 Lindsay Foundation "Ride for the Bear" Humble Oil Days 10-5 (set up 8 am) Louisiana Rally
15 Grandparents Day at the Houston Zoo leave Little Mexico 8 am	16	17	18 7:00 pm Chapter Dinner at the Westfield by the Railroad at 21119 W Hardy Rd	19	20	21 Road Captains Course meet at Golden Corral 12:00 Ride to Edom to The Shed. Leave Flying J at 8 am
22 Ride to Crockett leave Flying J 10 am	23	24	25	26 Ride for Kids premium training 7:00 pm La Quinta 10137 North Freeway	27	28 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall. Ride for Kids set up leave 8 am Little Mexico
29 Ride for Kids Leave Little Mexico Group 1: 5am Group 2: 7am	30					.



May 2007
GWRRRA CHAPTER N2
HUMBLE, TEXAS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5 Painted Churches Ride 7 am Flying J
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 7:00 pm Chapter Dinner.	17 Texas District Rally Wichita Falls Leave 6 am Flying J	18 Texas District Rally Wichita Falls	19 Texas District Rally Wichita Falls
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall.
27	28	29	30	31		.

Region H Rally in Marshall, TX

Steve and I attend our first Region H Rally in Marshall. We had been looking forward to and planning the trip for a few weeks. We were not able to leave Thursday morning with the big group - Mike and Robin Thacker, Mark and Robin Smith, Ricky and Karen Fraser, Oliver and Rita Rathmann and Leo and Sandy Hannon. Steve and I left home Thursday afternoon about 4 pm. We stopped at Flying J for fuel and with the trailer loaded down we headed north on 59. It was a nice afternoon. The weather was cool and the sky was clear. We did not stop until Lufkin where we filled the trike with gas and our stomachs with Subway sandwiches. Then we were on the road again. We took 59 to 259 to 315 to 59 again. About 15 miles out of Marshall the bugs began to bombard the windshield. The bugs were so big you could hear and see them splat. One bug even flew into Steve's knee and the remains were the size of a half dollar. Once into Marshall we stopped for gas. There were so many bugs I refused to lift the front part of my helmet. I was not going to give any of these bugs a chance to attack or become my dessert. We hit the hotel about 8:15 while the others were out to dinner. After checking in to the hotel and unpacking the trailer it was time to relax. Friday morning we got up full of excitement to hit the Marshall Civic Center to experience a region rally. The big events for the day was either a ride to Troup to tour the Motor Trike Inc and Thoroughbred Motor sports facility or a trip to Jefferson to shop. Well, can you guess who took the bike ride and who went shopping??? After a full day of playing and shopping we headed to the hotel for the night. We got up a little slower on Saturday but ready for another day at the Rally. The boys, Robin Thacker and Karen Fraser hung out at the rally while Rita, Robin Smith and I headed off for another day of shopping. The three of us jumped on the shuttle to Marshall Pottery, the Star family House and downtown Marshall. I think Steve is sorry he bought the trailer. All of a sudden the rally was over and it was time to get ready to go home. It is funny how the weekends go by so fast. Sunday we got up, packed the trailer and headed home. It was a great ride home but went by too quickly. Steve and I had a great time at the rally. We saw some old friends, made some new friends and enjoyed the fellowship. We were entertained at the talent show, impressed with the couples that competed in Best Dressed contests and laughed a whole lot. We both are looking forward to the next big rally. Can you say - Wichita Falls!!!!!!!!!! We took a few pictures and though you might enjoy taking a peek at our fun.

Linda Seligman



Shopping bound !!!!!



Do you know this face???



What's up Oliver????



Nice ride Mike !!

Chapter N-2 Region H Rally Winners

Karen and Ricky Fraser
Karen Fraser
Mark Smith

1st Place Best Dressed Couple Riding
2nd Place Bike Show Open Class
Youngest rider at the Rally

Office DEPOT

Hwy 59 at
FM 1960

281-540-9005



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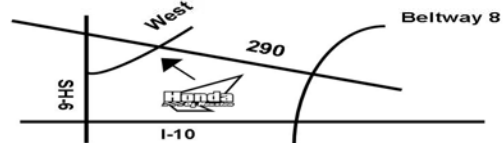


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