

**Gold Wing Road Riders Association**

*FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE*

**Humble  
Chapter N2**



**Texas  
Region H**

**January 2008**

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# Chapter N2 Staff – 2007

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## **Media Coordinators**

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## **Chapter Educator/MAD Coordinators**

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## **Website**

[www.gwrra-n2-humbletx.com](http://www.gwrra-n2-humbletx.com)

Chapter meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## News from the Chapter Director

What a great year. We hope that each and every one of you has had a great year too. We have had some great times last year. Between all of us in the Chapter we have ridden a total of 137,000 miles of safe riding. That's some good riding. We hope that this upcoming year is going to be even better. We already have some great rides planned and more in the works.

The first thing on the agenda is the Polar Bear ride on the 1st of January where Randy will lead us on the first ride of the year. The second thing is the Mid-Winter Round Up in Kerrville, Texas where Ricky and Karen will be competing for the District Couple of the Year. We hope that we have a lot of people that come out and support them. This is a big honor to have someone from our Chapter to represent us. Let's show them how proud we are of them. Ricky and Karen will also be bringing in our new Couple of the Year. Their first thing to plan will be the Valentine Dinner.

In March, we will be going to another state in Region H to support them at their rally in Louisiana. Then, of course, we have our Region II rally in April in Marshall Texas. Then we have the BIG one in May, our District Rally in Corpus Christi on the USS Lexington.

We already have people in the Chapter helping to plan some great rides. We will be giving out information on a Memorial Day ride to a campground where only motorcycles are allowed. This year is already sounding great.

We would like to thank all of you for your support and help in making our first year as Chapter Directors fun and exciting. We have really enjoyed this past year and are looking forward to another great year will more fun and excitement.

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



*Are you curious which chapter members have been named as 2008 Couple of the Year????? Any guesses???? Come to the January chapter meeting to find out !!!!!*

## Rider Education Keeps Me Out Of Dog House

It was December 8<sup>th</sup> and our Chapter had ridden in the Cleveland Christmas Parade. All twenty-three members were excited; as the parade is one of our Christmas events we look forward to all year. After enjoying a dinner in Cleveland it was time to return home. Most of the riders had already left so I rode drag bike in the third slot behind our leader. All three bikes plus one trailer (lead's) were still decorated and all lit up. So we were still very much in a laid back Parade frame of mind. We were also enjoying the attention we were receiving from the other motorists on the highway.

As the cars would pass children would press their noses up to the windows and wave and smile. Bringing a smile to a child or adult always makes me feel good about myself. So, between feeling the Christmas spirit, enjoying a ride on a beautiful night with good friends, and just enjoying the gaily-lit bikes there were many distractions from the task of driving.

As we rode south on Highway 59, I suddenly realized *I* had a problem. The Dog House fastened to the trailer directly in front of me was coming loose. I was in the process of telling our lead bike that his doghouse was loose when it came off the trailer was headed toward me. I had about 3 seconds to recognize and respond to this impending emergency.

Thanks to the training and experience in my professional life I have good scanning habits. Remember the five Smith Keys I wrote about in 2007. So, I had already recognized the hazard before it actually became an emergency. Once the hazard *did become* an emergency I was not caught off guard. A moment ago I wrote that I had about 3 seconds to recognize and react to an emergency. Well, since the hazard was spotted before it became an emergency, I had more time to perform an evasive maneuver.

Now the hazard was an emergency. I had a very large and well-built doghouse coming at me fast. Without hesitation, without fear, and really without much thought I made an abrupt swerve from the left track of the right lane to the outside shoulder. As I was clearing the right track of the lane and crossing the fog line onto the shoulder this large doghouse went scooting by me. An emergency that could have had tragic results was now reduced to an event that good friends could nervously laugh about. Thanks to my recent Rider Education course taken just this year I had the ability, knowledge, and confidence to perform two very abrupt counter steering maneuvers at highway speeds. I really am grateful that I had that course in my bag of tricks. In the past, I would have hit the doghouse hoping to keep the bike straight and upright. Friends, that doghouse was well built. It did not come apart after hitting the highway and skidding for about a quarter of a mile. There is no doubt in my mind if I had hit the doghouse, I would have gone down at a speed of about 65 mph.

If you have never practiced a radical swerve on your bike at highway speed, I am here to tell you that things happen very quickly. It was not enough that night to dodge the doghouse, I also had to be able to control the bike and bring it back onto the highway safely.

The G.W.R.R.A. and most Insurance Companies recognize a Rider Education Course for three years. The *Motorcycle Safety Foundation* data supports the idea that a rider starts losing the edge gained by a

Rider Course in as little as *six months* if the rider doesn't practice the lessons regularly. I imagine most everyone reading this has taken some course in the past.

As we start a New Year with our G.W.R.R.A. friends and family make a resolution. Make a New Year's Resolution to take advantage of the many opportunities to take a Rider Education Course. Challenge a friend to take it with you. Let's get out there and ride with our Chapters, and make it a safe and happy experience.

Happy New Year Friends.

Until Next Month Ride Safe--- Ride Aware-- Ride Respectfully

Michael & Suzanne Elrod  
Chapter Educators  
Chapter N-2 Humble, TX



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Do you have a favorite soup recipe??? Don't forget the Annual N2 Soup contest on Saturday January 26. Bring your favorite soup along with the recipe. Maybe you will take home 1<sup>st</sup> prize.



## RIDER EDUCATION YEAR 2007 IN REVIEW

Can you believe that it is already time to look back on the year 2007? This has been a really quick year for our Chapter. Seems like just a few weeks ago we were all in Kerrville at the District Mid-Winter Roundup preparing for this new year and now it is past. As we look forward in a few days to our District's second annual Mid-Winter Roundup, I would like to take a few moments to review the Rider Education highlights for 2007.

I would like to start off by saying *Thank You One And All* for your support during our first year as your Chapter Rider Educators. During this year of 2007 Chapter N-2 family and friends were very active within the Rider Education Levels. We had 14 members sign up as first time Level I's. They are:

Kerry O'Day	Karen Frazier ( Rider )
Carol O'Day	Thomas Miller
Donna Hess (Uphoff)	Marty Uphoff
Steve Fleming	Billie Fleming
Oliver Rathman	Rita Rathman
Don Withrow	Carla Withrow
Mark Smith	Robin Smith

We also had ten people advance to Level II. They are:

Kerry O'Day	Karen Frazier ( Rider )
Rita Rathman	Steve Fleming
Oliver Rathman	Billie Fleming
Mark Smith	Donna Hess Uphoff
Robin Smith	Marty Uphoff

We then had four of these members advance to Level III. They are:

Mark Smith	Donna Hess Uphoff
Robin Smith	Marty Uphoff

Also, I am very proud that *SEVEN* Chapter N-2 members made the ultimate commitment to safety by advancing to Level IV. They are:

Mike Thacker	Karen Frazier
Steve Seligman	Ricky Frazier
Linda Seligman	Suzanne Elrod
Michael Elrod	

That is awesome. Thirty-five Levels attained by eighteen different riders. The time and money invested in training courses for these Levels speak volumes about the commitment to safety from these N-2 Riders and Co-Riders. This mindset gives me total confidence in Team Riding with these folks. I give these friends a hearty *Thank You and a Warm Handshake*.

While the Road Captains Course does not qualify as training for the Levels Program it does educate riders on the Team Riding Concept. We had seven riders step up and take responsibility for leading and dragging our Chapter Rides safely. They are:

Mike Thacker

Mark Smith

Robin Thacker  
Jeff Ingram  
Michael Elrod

Karen Frazier  
Marty Uphoff

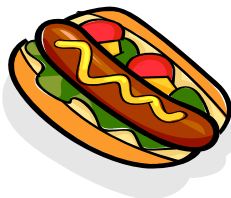
With all this dedication to training one might wonder how in the world this Chapter ever gets any road riding done. Well, I am here to say we *GOT--R--Done*. As a Chapter, N-2 rode an amazing (to me at least) 137,112 miles in 2007. Since the riders of N-2 already know I am very proud of their accomplishments I wrote this article just to brag on them to everyone else. Come ride with us some time and check out this group of dedicated riders for yourself. We would glad to have you. So, until next we meet.

*Ride Safely, Ride Aware, Ride Respectfully*

Michael and Suzanne Elrod  
Chapter Rider Educators  
Chapter N-2 Humble, Texas  
Master Tour Riders 6679&6680

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Second Annual Hot Dog Roast at the Thacker's – Saturday January 12 from 2 – 6. Hot Dogs, fixings and Smores will be furnished. Bring your favorite side dish and drink. Come enjoy some horseshoes, hot dogs at good fellowship.



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### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Run Parade and party

On Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Run and party. From Chapter N2 there were 22 members, 11 bikes and 2 cars that participated in the fun. We also had 2 of our younger members ride with us – Magen Withrow and Kendall (Steve and Billie Fleming's granddaughter). The parade was the day after our Chapter Christmas party so we were all on a Christmas spirit high. We started the morning out by having breakfast together at Golden Corral in Humble. Then we headed to the back of Macy's to decorate our bikes. The morning was a brisk 35 degrees. The day warmed up into the 50s but the wind continued to blow. After we all decorated the bikes (and ourselves) it was time for the bike judging. I am happy to say that tow of Chapter N2 members won awards. Mark and Robin Smith – best-decorated bike with trailer and Oliver and Rita Rathmann won best-decorated trike and trailer. It was then time to get on the bikes and head to the Sheraton Hotel at Bush Intercontinental Airport. Santa Clause was in front and all of his elves followed. As we went along the route to the

hotel, cars pulled over to the side, watched and waved. It was really a blast. Once at the hotel, the elves followed Santa into the party room and began distributing the gifts. The sound of excitement filled the

party room - children excited over getting presents and the foster parents filled with gratitude. Chapter N2 sponsored 35 children and a table for the Thomas family. I remember a few of the foster parents thanking us for the gifts and our generosity. I thought to myself how thankful I was to be able to participate in such a wonderful event. It made me warm from head to toe. At the end of the day we were all exhausted but hated to see the day end. Before we left Robin Thacker gave me the card from the table and also a thank you card she received from a child.

The card marking the table read:



**Table # 27**

**Thomas, R. Family**

Sponsored by: GWRRA Chapter N2

The thank you card read:

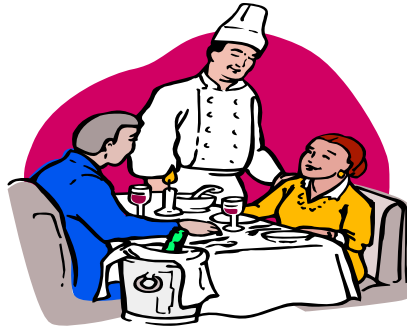
Thank you very much for the presents  
+ all ~~you~~<sup>you</sup> have done for us. We  
appreciate it. Thank you.



Ddo

**The hosts for the monthly chapter dinners in 2008:**

- |            |                         |             |                        |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| • January  | JR                      | • July      | Steve & Billie Fleming |
| • February | Carolyn Thomsen         | • August    | Jim & Beth Hartley     |
| • March    | Brad & Shirley Rodger   | • September | Don & Eileen Hess      |
| • April    | Randy Sharon Rainwater  | • October   | Gary Sandborn          |
| • May      | Larry & Debbie Turnbull | • November  | Jim & Lynn Flournoy    |
| • June     | George & Linds Stiech   | • December  | Randy & Anna Carroll   |



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

Paul Rich	January 13	Ryan Talbutt	January 21
Sharon Rainwater	January 16	Randy Talbutt	January 28
Mark Smith	January 17	Larry Turnbull	January 29



**Happy Anniversary**

Jim & Beth Hartley	January 1
Jim & Lynn Flournoy	January 24
Steve & Billie Fleming	January 30

## Upcoming Region/District events:

January 5, 2008	Mid Winter Round Up Inn of the Hills, Kerrville, TX
March 27 – 29, 2008	Louisiana District 2008 Rally, Lafayette, LA
April 17 – 19, 2008	Region H Rally, Marshall, TX
May 8 – 10, 2008	Texas District Rally Corpus Christi, TX
May 23 –25, 2008	Arkansas 2008 District Rally, Harrison, AR

### *It's time for Texas Mid Winter Round Up.*

There will be seminars in Leadership Training, Membership Enhancement Division, Chapter Finances and the Couple of the Year Program. Texas District Staff will discuss the upcoming year and of course – The Texas District Rally in Corpus Christi – Wings Ahoy!!!

The big event of the day will be selecting the 2008 Couple of the Year for Texas.

Please come join us on January 5, 2008 at The Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, Texas. Call for reservation @800-292-5690 and mention “Winter GWRRA Meeting” to get the special room rates.

### *Tentative Schedule of Events*

8:30 - 9:00	All Participants Sign In Foyer
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Announcements - Ballroom
9:30 - 11:30	Rider Education - Breakout Rooms B & C
9:30 - 11:30	COY Interviews-by invitation only Angora Room
9:30 - 10:30	LTD - Breakout Room D
10:30 - 11:30	MED - Breakout Room D
11:30 - 12:30	LTD - Finances Ballroom
1:00 - 2:00	COY - Breakout for 2008 Couples Room B
1:00 - 2:00	LTD - How to Show a Bike - Room C
2:00 - 3:30	Closing Ceremonies, Chapter Assignments for District Rally, News from National Region and District - Ballroom
5:00 - 8:00	COY Selection Process - Ballroom



## **Texas District Staff**

Ken & Barbie Peterson  
District Directors

Pamela Meyer  
District Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

John & Lydia Bourg  
District Educator

Collen Campbell  
Assistant District Educator

Ron & Magaly Griffis  
District Trainer

Dieter Meyer  
Chief Advisor

Jim & Ruby Seale  
Vendor Coordinators

John & Lena Bryant  
Assistant Membership  
Enhancement Coordinators

Carolyn Barton  
Assistant Membership  
Enhancement Coordinator

Gene & Carolyn Tice  
Couple of the Year  
2006-2007

Website: <http://www.gwrra-tx.org/>

## **Region H Staff**

Gliff & Donna Miller  
Region H Director

Harry & Joan Dollarhide  
Region H Assistant Director

Ed Nahl  
Region H Treasurer

Dale & Susan Wingrove  
Region H Trainers

Walt Smith  
Region H Educator

John & Lydia Bourg  
Region H Webmaster  
& Newsletter

Ken & Rhonda Holmes  
Region H Couple of the Year  
2007-2008

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




**January 2008**  
**GWRRA 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 Polar Bear Run 9AM Flying J Randy Rainwater	2	3	4	5 Mid Winter Round Up Kerrville, Tx 7 am Shell station 242 and I45 Steve Seligman
6 Mid Winter Round Up Kerrville, Tx	7	8	9	10	11	12 Hot Dog Roast at the Thacker's 23620 Oakwood, Splendora 2:00 – 6:00 PM
13	14	15	16 7:00 pm Chapter Dinner	17	18	19
20 Rex Mystery ride 12 -5 pm Flying J 12 pm prefed Rex Nix	21	22	23	24	25	26 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall Soup night!!
27	28	29	30	31		



**February 2008**  
**GWRRA 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	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 7:00 pm Chapter Dinner	14 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall
24	25	26	27	28		

## Office DEPOT

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