

**Gold Wing Road Riders Association**

*FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE*

**Humble  
Chapter N2**



**Texas  
Region H**

**May 2008**



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Splendor, TX, 77372

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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

The month of May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month. With the price of fuel going up just about everyday, we as motorcyclist need to help in making motorist more aware that we share the road with them. By increasing our visibility when we ride in the use of reflective or fluorescent vests, brighter jackets, reflective decals or tape. When riding alone or with a group lane positioning is very important. When riding you have the larger vehicles that you have to watch out for, be it buses, eighteen wheelers or S.U.V's , their blind spots are a lot larger. It comes in handy to make sure you can see the drivers in the side mirrors. Which means the driver can also see you. Motorcycles are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a "quick look" due to their smaller size. Always ride where you can be seen.

I have a black 1800 Gold Wing which makes it a lot harder to see especially at night. That's why I have a lot more brake lights so I know I'm going to be seen. I have an additional 50 LED lights on the rear of my bike with the back off box that wig-wag every time I hit the brakes. A lot of motorcyclist are putting the modulating head light on the front of their motorcycle, so during the daylight hours the headlight are going back and forth with the high beams, and at night it stays on a solid brightness. I saw a lot of them while on the ride to Marshall for the Region H Rally on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, I have to say the flashing headlights really got my attention.

Did you know that over 40% of accidents occur in the intersection where the drivers says that they never saw the motorcycle. When approaching an intersection watch the other drivers and try to make eye contact with them to assure that you have been seen and always watch for the unexpected.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> a lot of members came to the Humble Oil Days where we had a booth set up to pass out information about GWRRA's MAD program. (Motorist Awareness Division)  
We handed out over 150 bags of information about being aware of motorcyclist around you while driving. We had the chance to talk to many people about riding safely and being more aware.

So lets break out those brighter clothes and lets get out there and do some safe riding.

Mike and Robin Thacker-Master Tour Riders-6751 & 6162  
Humble. TX  
Chapter Directors



## ***EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED ON THE ROAD***

“Expect the unexpected” is a phrase most all of us have heard all our lives. I remember Oral Roberts saying it on his prayer show. I remember hearing it on TV game shows. I remember hearing from coaches on the football field. I really remember hearing that phrase daily during my flight training. But now you will hear it from me.

Expect the Unexpected at all times while driving. I can tell you from personal experience gained from a lifetime of traveling our highways and byways that every time I thought “I’ve seen it all now” something new would come along to amaze me. But, let me share some things that you should really be careful of. We all know to expect that car looking at us with its left turn signal on to turn left in front of us. That is almost a given and happens everyday. But, what about the vehicle in front of you traveling the same direction as you with its left turn signal on.

The vehicle in front of you starts his/her left turn. You can see there is no opposing traffic to hinder the other vehicle’s turn. You slow slightly expecting the driver to complete their turn. Unexpectedly the other driver decides that is not their turn and pulls back into your lane. Did you expect the unexpected and leave yourself a safety zone or did you just become a statistic.

You are approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic light. There is a vehicle in front of you. As you near the light you decide where your go-no go spot is if the light should change. As you near this spot the light does change. You apply both brakes to come to a smooth stop. You expected the vehicle in front of you to go through the light. That driver unexpectedly slammed on the brakes to stop. Not a big deal right. You just apply more pressure on your brakes and stop a bit more abruptly. You and the vehicle are both stopped now. The other vehicle is slightly beyond the crosswalk. You expect that driver to stay there, but unexpectedly he/she decides to back up. Did you expect the unexpected and leave room for this or did you just become a statistic.

You are sitting at this same traffic light with the same vehicle that just backed up in front of you. During the quick stop you had left this other driver braking room. Some of this space cushion was used up when the other driver backed up out of the intersection. When the light turns green you expect the other driver to drive off. Unexpectedly the driver backs toward you because they forgot their vehicle was in reverse. Not a problem right. You expected the **unexpected** and noticed the reverse lights lit up. You held up and waited for the other driver to stop again and put their vehicle in drive.

These are but a small example of what can occur very quickly on our congested roadways filled with distracted drivers. Always expect the unexpected. The trip will be safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

**As always Ride Safe--Ride Aware--Ride Respectfully**

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

## Couple of the Year Corner

Are we having fun or what! If you are not having fun, try getting involved with us. We are having the time of our lives. March was a very interesting and exciting month and followed by an equally exciting and busy April. The last week of March found us making a little ride over to Lafayette Louisiana for a great rally. The games, the food, the vendors and of course, the fellowship of great people were the order of the day there.



We had the opportunity to visit with Bob and Juanee Barrington, former Mississippi District Directors while in Lafayette. This couple is an inspiration. They have the attitude that represents the heart and soul of the people of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Always upbeat and positive, I can never walk away from an encounter with Bob and Juanee without feeling a great sense of admiration for their courage and tenacity.

We also got to spend some time with the Louisiana Couple of the Year, Mike and Pam Jastram. They conducted a Couple of the Year seminar at the rally and it was very informative. We enjoyed their presentation and the candid conversations we had with other Couples of the Year. Their experiences were encouraging and uplifting.



Tom and Kathy Peck from the International Staff came all the way from Knoxville Tennessee to attend the Louisiana Rally and share their experiences as International Couple of the Year with all of us in attendance. Their stories and the stories of others in the room warmed our hearts and made us feel excited to represent our wonderful chapter from Humble Texas.

We also had the privilege of representing Chapter N2 at Chapter J's Rally in Beaumont on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. We had a great time there visiting with friends for around the region.



It was great to see Sherwood "Pops" Goins whom we had met the week before in Lafayette. He is an inspiration as well being 87 years old and still riding his trike to rallies. You just have to respect that. He had not been on a motorcycle until he was 84 years old. Now he's logged over 40,000 miles on one. Who says an old dog can't learn a new trick? Keep on riding Pops. You give the rest of us hope.

We also met Sidney the Cocker spaniel. He has logged over 87,000 miles since 2002 riding behind Rodd Polk, his owner on a GL1500. Yes, he has his GWRRR membership card. You just never know what you will come across at one of these rallies. We sure had a good time there.



Billie won a Wal-Mart gift card for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the poker game and I won a gift certificate for gas and coupon to a local area restaurant playing wingo-bingo. We donated that prize to Chapter J's Couple of the Year as a token of appreciation. Everyone made us feel so welcome.



Jim Hartley made the ride with us and we logged 203 safe miles taking a scenic route out there. The food was good and the games were a blast.



We made it back to the Humble Oil Days for a brief visit with everyone there and a trip to Little Mexico for some dinner. There was a

good turn out for this and the support for the Chapter is really appreciated. What a great bunch of folks! And just look at these beautiful rides! Who wouldn't want to be a part of a great group of people like this?



These are some of the best rides on the road! And when we get together we always have fun.

The Marshall Rally was great! We were not able to go up until Friday night due to work but we made the trip enduring a late spring cold front and cool temps after the sun set. In fact it was down right cold by the time we arrived. We did get to attend the Couple of the Year seminar there Saturday morning led by Ken and Rhonda Holmes and had time to visit with friends from around the region.

Mike and Pam Jastram were selected as the Region H Couple of the Year for 2008-09. Ken and Rhonda Holmes, Region H 2007-08 Couple of the Year, will represent Region H in the International Couple of the Year Competition in Greenville, SC. Let's be sure to give them our support at Wing Ding.



Robin Smith was the winner in the Medallion hunt Saturday. Go Robin! N2 Rules!!!



Marty and Donna Uphoff did the Poker run with Billie and I Saturday and the weather was perfect for the event. The course of the ride was through some very pretty countryside around the Marshall area. I must say that Billie is getting far too good at this poker thing. She won second place in Beaumont but out-did herself by taking first place in Marshall. Billie also was involved by selling tickets for the Grand Prize Saturday afternoon.

Texas made a great showing at this rally. Texas District won the District Cup for 2008 and Chapter "O" from Austin took the Chapter of the Year Honors. Our Chapter had achievements worth mentioning. We took first place in the mascot competition and second place in the scrap book competition.



Saturday evening after the closing ceremonies, we made a little ride up to Jefferson Texas for dinner. We found a great restaurant in the Historic Jefferson Hotel in town and enjoyed a great meal in very cozy surroundings.



We were surprised to find that most of downtown was blocked off for an antique car show. There were some pretty amazing cars on display.

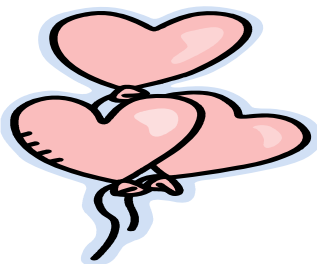


You just never know what lies just around the next curve in the road. Life is an adventure to be enjoyed. Take advantage of every turn to find something good and worthwhile out of the day.

'Til next time.... Safe miles and plenty of smiles to you,



Steve and Billie Fleming  
N2 Couple of the Year 2008



Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the one's who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason.. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it. Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you can't get them back.

## Rider Education Courses

As promised last month, here is the update on the Experienced Rider Course Chapter N-2 took on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. I would like to thank each of the nine riders that participated in this course. I would also like to thank our instructors Paul Duke and Jeff Ingram of American Motorcycle Training. Another Chapter N-2 member, Ricky Frazier, helped with course range set-up although he was unable to ride the course at this time. So, moving on with the update.

As stated last month during our Parking Lot Practice, Jeff and Paul decided that I, Michael, had a throttle control issue due possibly to poor hand positioning on the grips. I am very happy to report that I slayed that demon. I conquered the “Box”.

I also learned something else about these courses and head and eye positions. We all know the adage “Look where you are going because you will go where you are looking”. I use this very effectively on the highway along with the Smith System Key “Aim high in Steering”. But on the range trying to dodge cones was a whole new concept.

As I would enter the exercise my eyes would naturally seek out the cones so as to avoid them. Paul told me several times to get my eyes up. Paul also told me to be looking at least three cones ahead. Finally, during one of the weave exercises with the 3 feet offset Paul had me try something new. He positioned himself at the end of the line of cones at one end. As I made my turn to start down the line at the other end I had instructions to make eye contact with Paul as I drove the line of cones. Can you believe it; I zigzagged through 12 cones perfectly while making eye contact with someone 40 feet away. Wow. That was an eye opener for someone who considers himself a pretty good scanner. Taking that course was a really good thing. I did not even need the course at this time as I took a trailering course just last year. I was practicing what I have been preaching since my time as Chapter Educator started 15 months ago.

You may recall an article I wrote several months ago about remedial training for riders. The *MSF* has studied post crash data and determined that the edge gained by riding courses can begin to dull in as little as six months. In other words, Insurance companies and GWRRA give you credit for a riding course for three years, but your riding skill begins to erode after as little as six months. In just over 3 years as a GWRRA member I have taken 3 riding courses. I learned something new during each course, but what I learned at this last course was really, literally, eye opening. I tell you this, not for a pat on the back, but to try to convince you of the importance of remedial training.

We have a District Staff that is very dedicated to Rider Safety. I thank them from my heart for this dedication and truly pray that you will take advantage of the opportunities they are providing. Friends, at the District Rally in Corpus Christi our District Staff are offering Rider Courses **FREE OF CHARGE**. That’s right; on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> you will be offered a trike course. On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a trailer course offered. Both of these courses are free and count towards your Rider Levels. These courses are a first come first serve basis and so if you are interested please tell me so I can get you signed up.

The District Staff is also offering CPR/FIRST AID. The cost for the refresher course on Friday is \$20.00. The first time course will be offered on Saturday. I understand the cost for this course is also \$20.00. Again, this is first come first served so let me know.

These classes will be limited to a certain number of participants. I do not know what that number is. Since it is limited and on a first come basis, if you are truly interested in any of the courses let me know and I will get you signed up. If you are unsure, or if you think you may change your mind then I ask

that you wait. We do not want someone to be excluded and then have someone signed up be a no-show. This thought is coming from me and not your District Staff. I just expect for the price there will be a lot of interest in these classes. I hope so anyway. Well that's it for now. Until we next meet *Ride Safe-Ride Aware-Ride Respectfully*.

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



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Don't forget the Texas District Rally in Corpus Christi!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# The Shed Café in Edom, TX

Randy Rainwater

Most of the N2 regulars were attending the Louisiana rally in Lafayette (March 29) and the weather guessers were giving us a 50% chance of isolated thunderstorms all along our planned route. When Sharon and I got to the appointed meeting place the only other bike was that of Marty and Donna Uphoff.

I was reminded of the joke about the preacher and the one old rancher member that showed up for church one Sunday morning. The preacher asked the rancher what they should do and the rancher said that since they were both there that the preacher might as well go ahead and preach. Well preach he did, he pulled out all the stops and continued to preach for 4 hours. After the preacher finished preaching he asked the rancher what he thought about the sermon. The rancher said, “when I go out to feed the cows and only a few show up, I don’t give them the whole load”. Anyway we decided to go ahead and make the trip, even though there were only two bikes and four folks.

In the beginning it didn’t seem to be a good idea. As we went further the fog got a little heavier, but it never got too bad. We stopped on the other side of Crockett and the fog lifted after we took a little break. After leaving Crockett the weather only got better. There was not a lot of traffic on the road, so it made the trip even better. We got to Edom in pretty good time and walked right in and set down to order our food at The Shed. Everybody ordered something different and seemed to be pleased. Then it was time to order our desserts. Sharon and I both thought that the pies were off from the last time that we were there. I guess everybody has a bad day sooner or later.

Sharon walked and Donna hobbled, you will have to ask her what the hobbling was all about, to a few of the shops. They did stop and get a menu from the sandwich and bakery across the street. So we may go back that way some day just to check them out closer. It was time to head back and I had picked a few new roads on the way back. Let’s just say that when I got home I changed the route in the computer back to the roads that we rode on the way to Edom. We didn’t find any dirt roads, but we got pretty close and it’s just hard to beat the other roads.

We ended up riding 248 miles before we filled the bikes up in Palestine, on the way back. Almost 400 miles for the round trip and we had a great day and never really saw any rain. By the way The Shed Cafe has changed a lot from this picture. They have added more seating area and recently added a small area for shoppers and the parking lot is still loose gravel.



## Win a Big Bend Adventure

- Garmin Zumo 550
- A coupon for 2 nights at the Limpia Hotel in Fort Davis
- A coupon for 1 night at the Paisano Hotel in Marfa
- A coupon for breakfast in Fort Davis
- A coupon for lunch in Lajitas
- **A coupon for dinner at the Limpia restaurant**
- A one-year Texas Parks pass

Sponsored by Texas District Rider Education Tickets are \$10. If you are interested in a ticket - please see Michael Elrod. You can also buy the tickets at District Rally at the Rider Education table.



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### *Texas wins big at Region H Rally!!*

Mark and Robin won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the mascot competition  
Chapter N2 tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Scrapbook completion – thanks Karen and Ricky Frazier  
Robin Smith found the medallion on Saturday  
Billy Fleming had the best hand for the poker run  
Texas District won the District Cup for the second time  
Texas Chapter O from Austin won Region Chapter of the Year

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# A Camping We Will Go, Along With Chapter 'O'

By Rex Nix

Let me see if I can get this right. Stats: One bike, two folks, Three days, Two nights, 1027 miles, Incredible weather, beautiful scenery, good times with new friends.

We made it to the Flying J and Ricky Frazier was already there to see us off for a fun weekend of camping in Fredericksburg Texas at the Lady Bird Johnson Park. We pulled out at 8:15 and headed towards Hempstead via the 242 to 1488 back way to Hwy 290. It was interesting in heavy traffic that wasn't going our direction. We traveled to Giddings, down to Bastrop over to San Marcos across the backbone on Hwy 12 and stopped in Blanco south of Johnson City for lunch at the Subway. We then took a couple of back roads to Stonewall where we took Hwy 290 again to our destination for the weekend.

We arrived at the office to the park, paid our \$40.00 for lodging for the weekend and set up camp. About 15 minutes after we unhooked the trailer from the bike, our camp was set up, we were enjoying a nice breeze in the shade having a cool glass of water while we watched the world go by for a while. Others arrived, we said our hello's, watched as a couple set up their new camper for the first time, they even let me take pictures so they could remember having to use directions to set up. It was fun to have fun making fun with new friends.

Ann and I decided to head out and take a ride in the countryside for a few hours arriving back at camp just before dark. We met some more campers then spent some quiet time together just enjoying the stars.

Next morning, Saturday, Chapter 'O' had already been cooking breakfast tacos and we made good having a hearty start for the day. We checked in, got our armbands, our welcome pack, had more breakfast and started looking at the various items out for silent auction. Then we started playing games, and the coolest game of all for me was finding one where Ann could understand how it feels for me to walk on those days when my legs don't work right. Take a two foot 1 by 4, tie a rope to both ends leaving it long enough to come up to your hands to hang on to, stand on the boards, hold the rope and go for a walk about 20 feet, go around a tree and come back. They said I had the best time of all. Heck yea, I understand how to walk that way.

We found a map of the Fun Run they had set up, about 70 miles or so, and off we went to ride on roads we had not been on yet. Nice roads, great scenery, and lots of interesting things to see. We hung out for a while playing more games, found the cookie stash and that got Ann to start giving me a funny look every time I went back for more. But I had to, they were asking everyone to help take care of them, so I felt obligated to do my part. At the end of the day, we had a lot of fun, got to talk with lots of folks, and even won a couple trinkets we just couldn't do without.

We had been talking about going for a ride on the 33's, that would be Hwy's 337, 336 and 335 if you want to call them highways. But I have a very strong suggestion. Do Not, that is DO NOT, start this journey from Fredericksburg at 4:30 pm and expect to get back by sundown. NOT. After making a critical wrong turn and going 100 miles the wrong way, we arrived back at camp at 11:15 that evening. And yes, there were LOTS of deer. Not only that, it started getting cold. In fact, it dropped down into the upper 30's that evening. This really got me into trouble with Ann because I, yes I forgot to bring the heater and electric blanket. It was my fault. But hey, we got to snuggle all night though.

Sunday found us breaking down camp and getting ready to head home. This didn't take too long, but we were in no hurry to get back to Houston after spending the weekend in the Hill Country. We finally left

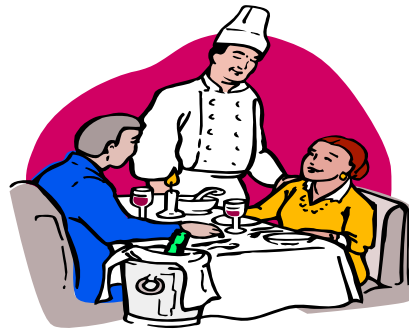
around 10 am and decided to try going all the way on Hwy 290. That will not happen again. Too much traffic, especially on the weekend of the MS 150 bicycle ride. So the next time we will know better.

Don't know if you noticed but there is no mention of bluebonnets on Chapter 'O's Bluebonnet rally. Well, there weren't none. We did find a few closer to Harris County along Hwy 290 in from Brenham.

It was a very nice weekend, but we both decided we really would like to spend more time with some of our friends from our group. Ann and I have been really busy this year with projects and we miss you guys. Now the next event for us is Corpus Christi. Ann says, camping at the Holliday Inn is bliss and we look forward to partying with yall.

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

- |          |                         |             |                      |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| • May    | Larry & Debbie Turnbull | • September | Don & Eileen Hess    |
| • June   | George & Linds Stiech   | • October   | Gary Sandborn        |
| • July   | Steve & Billie Fleming  | • November  | Jim & Lynn Flournoy  |
| • August | Jim & Beth Hartley      | • December  | Randy & Anna Carroll |



**Upcoming Region/District events:**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| May 8 – 10, 2008        | Texas District Rally<br>Corpus Christi, TX |
| May 23 –25, 2008        | Arkansas 2008 District Rally, Harrison, AR |
| May 31, 2008            | Mudbug Rally, Chapter M, DeRidder, LA      |
| July 3 –6, 2008         | Wing Ding, Greenville, SC                  |
| September 16, 2008      | Chapter R rally                            |
| September 26 – 28, 2008 | Kansas District Rally, Abilene, KS         |
| October 10 – 11, 2008   | Oklahoma District Rally, Muskogee, OK      |
| October 16 –18, 2008    | Mississippi District Rally, Biloxi, MS     |

## **Texas District Staff**

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John & Lydia Bourg  
District Educator

Collen Campbell  
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Ron & Magaly Griffis  
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Dieter Meyer  
Chief Advisor

Jim & Ruby Seale  
Vendor Coordinators

John & Lena Bryant  
Assistant Membership  
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Carolyn Barton  
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Fred & Mandy Mew  
2008 Couple of the Year

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

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Harry & Joan Dollarhide  
Region H Assistant Director

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Region H Treasurer

Dale & Susan Wingrove  
Region H Trainers

Walt Smith  
Region H Educator

John & Lydia Bourg  
Region H Webmaster  
& Newsletter

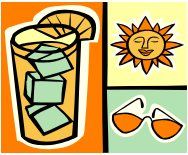
Ken & Rhonda Holmes  
Region H Couple of the Year  
2007-2008

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




**May 2008**  
**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 Couple of the Year Basket Billie & Steve Fleming 29002 Aterstone St 7 PM	3 Rainwater ride (475 miles) 7 AM Flying J  First Aid/CPR , American Legion Hall 12:00 pm
4 Scenic ride with M2, 5 PM Krogers at FM 2920 and Kuykendal	5	6	7	8 Texas District Rally in Corpus Christi  8 AM Little Mexico Thacker	9 Texas District Rally in Corpus Christi	10 Texas District Rally in Corpus Christi
11	12	13	14 Chapter Dinner Mi Pariso FM 1314 in Porter	15	16	17 Ride to Galveston 8 AM Flying J Rainwater  6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall
18  Randy Carroll birthday	19	20	21	22  Rita Rathmann birthday	23 Ride to De Rose, Leakey for the weekend with Jim Hartley 7AM Flying J	24  Ann Nix birthday
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31  Mudbug Rally, Chapter M, DeRidder, LA



June 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	14 Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches, 6 AM Flying J Rainwater  Flag Day 
15	16	17	18 7:00 pm Chapter Dinner	19	20	21 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting – American Legion Hall
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Leave for Wing Ding 5AM Flying J Thacker  Watermelon Thump, Luling 7 AM Flying J Rainwater
29	30					

## Trike for Sale

Yamaha 1100 V-Star classic with 18,850 miles.

It also has mustang seats. The pipes are an upgrade they are not the factory ones that came with the bike.

It has a voyager conversion kit

with some custom add ons.

Contact Joe Zuniga at [Jozuniga@earthlink.net](mailto:Jozuniga@earthlink.net)



## *"N2" Apparel*

**Yellow/black polo shirts** with logo: \$25.00

**Grey T-shirts** with logo:

Short sleeve \$10.00

Long sleeve \$12.00

**Yellow T-shirts** with logo:

Short sleeve \$10.00

**Black denim vests** \$25.00

Contact Randy or Sharon Rainwater

## Office DEPOT

Hwy 59 at  
FM 1960

281-540-9005



## CREATIVE MEMORIES

**Karen Frazier, Consultant**  
24273 E. Terrace, Porter, Tx 77365  
281/354-8563 or 281/615-1365

**Email: [karenf@nctv.com](mailto:karenf@nctv.com)**

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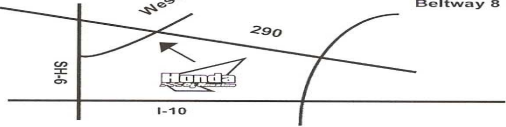
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