

# Gold Wing Road Riders Association

*FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE*



**Texas District  
Chapter N2  
Humble, Texas**

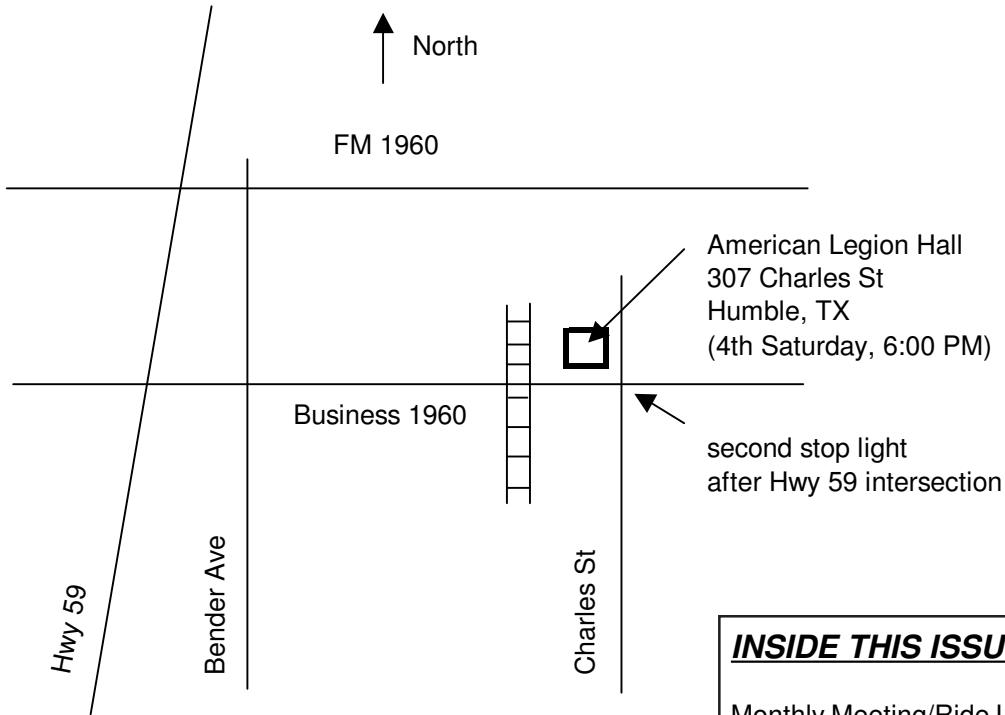
**South Central Region H**

## The N2 Buzz

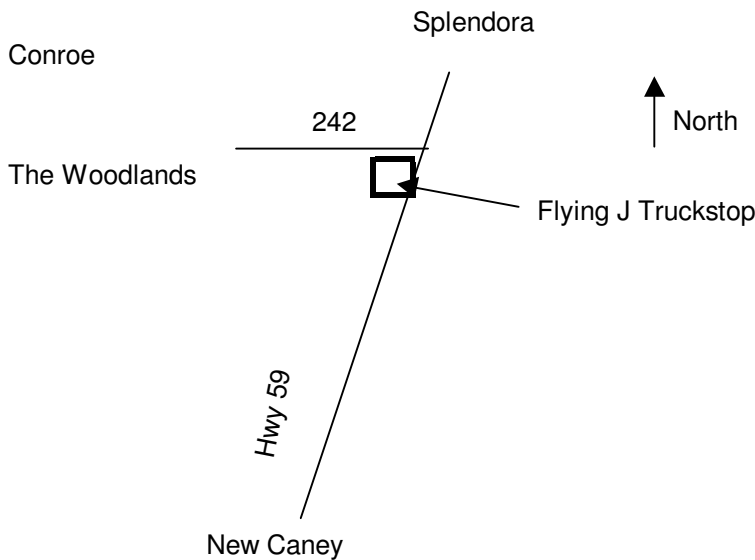


# December 2011

**MONTHLY MEETING PLACE**



**RIDE MEETING PLACE**



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**NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTORS**

Steve & Linda Seligman  
 Master Tour Rider 6748 & 6747  
 Chapter N2 - Humble, TX



H a p p y  
 December!  
 Well another  
 year is almost  
 come and  
 gone. It is hard  
 to believe that  
 we are now in

December. This year has been full of events for the chapter. We have spent many a Friday night playing games; there have been numerous rides; we have attended many of our sister chapter's convention; and even held our own chapter convention.

December is when we celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah. Each of these celebrations has many traditions--Christmas trees, menorahs, singing of carols, cards, gifts, and seeing family and friends. December is also the month that the chapter celebrates a few traditions of their own. The first on is the Fruitcake Ride on December 10 to Collins Street Bakery in Corsicana, TX. This is an all day ride and everyone always comes home with bikes, trailers, and cars full of breads, fruitcake, and candy.

Then we have our annual Christmas Party. This year we will be holding the party at a new venue-- Bull Sallas Park in New Caney, TX. So, put on your dancing shoes, bring a big appetite, and get ready to celebrate Christmas. December 18 is the 21st GWRRA Foster Children's Toy Ride. This year Chapter N2 members sponsored 6 family tables and are buying gifts for 54 children. This is so awesome! The final Chapter tradition for the year is the Polar Bear ride. This year we will hold the Polar Bear ride on New Year's Eve. A good way to begin the ringing in of 2012.

We hope that everyone enjoys their time with family and friends. However you celebrate the holidays, we hope you have a great time. 2012 will be an exciting year for the chapter. We will try to put different rides and events on the calendar. Remember to take a look at the list of upcoming events for 2012, hopefully, there is an overnight trip on the list you will enjoy! We are looking forward to the Dr. Pepper factory, Fredericksburg, TX, and Grapevine, TX.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all!!!

**November 2011  
 RIDE/EVENT PARTICIPATION REPORT**



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>#OF BIKES/CARS</u>	<u>#OF PARTICIPANTS</u>
11/04/2011	Game Night		15
11/05/2011	Breakfast Ride	2	3
11/06/2011	Chapter Breakfast - Hot Spot Diner	6	16
11/12/2011	TX Honor Ride - San Antonio	6	9
11/16/2011	Social Dinner - Alma Latina	4	31
11/17/2011	Chapter G Gathering 262958	1	6
11/19/2011	Chapter N2 Gathering/Potluck	2	25
11/24-27	Camping @ Livingston State Park		3

## 2011 COUPLE OF THE YEAR

Mike & Robin Thacker  
Master Tour Rider 6751 & 6162  
Chapter N2 - Humble, TX



Now that the year is coming to an end, we are very excited to hear who the 2012 Couple of the Year will be. We just hope that they have as much fun as we have had the past year. Just remember that it's not an job, it's an adventure and is as much fun as you make it.

The only things that we have done as Couple of the Year were:

- Host the Valentine Dinner, which was fun. The Chapter all ready had most of the decorations. We just found the restaurant and came up with some games to play. We had a lot of help with the games and decorations.
- Come up with a theme for the District Couple of the Year basket for the District Convention. After you've determined the theme, the rest is the easy part. Everyone in the Chapter helps by donating the items you need to complete the basket.
- Help the Chapter by drawing names for the participation prizes and door prizes.
- Introduce guests that come and visit at our meetings.

It was not a lot, but we have had a blast.

Mike and I had gotten ideas from our past Couples of the Year and visited our surrounding chapter gatherings. We decided to add a little something by making the Chapter Couples of the Year a BEE VASION plaque and decorated it with bees and our black and yellow colors. Everyone that has accompanied us on the Bee Vasions have had a lot of fun watching the expressions of everyone, when we walk into the gathering with our bee hats or bee costumes on. We have had a lot of nice visits.

The biggest job of being a Couple of the Year is to have the most fun you can possibly have in one year's time as it goes by quickly!



**Kudos to..**



**Chapter members** - for selling briskets to benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

**Chapter members** - for buying Christmas gifts for the foster children

**Chapter members** - for participating in the Annual Toy Run benefiting the foster children

**Chapter staff** - for coordinating events for the chapter and for their leadership

**DATES TO REMEMBER...****2012**

1/13-14	Mid-Winter Roundup - New Braunfels Convention Cnt.
3/29-31	Region H Convention, Marshall, TX
4/12-14	Louisiana Convention, Lafayette, LA
5/17-19	Texas District Convention, New Braunfels, TX
10/4-6	Oklahoma District Convention, McAlester, OK

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**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES--PASSPORT PROGRAM**

Phoenix, AZ - Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) has announced a new program, called the "Passport Program." The Program is geared to encourage the Members of GWRRA to ride more--mainly to GWRRA Chapter gatherings, events, rallies, their Honda Dealers, vendors, etc. The Program will kick off officially in March.

Paul Hildebrand, Founder and COB of GWRRA, said, "This program will encourage more riding with our Members and also provide a vehicle for more camaraderie by having Members and providers getting to-gether to sign/stamp their "Passports" and compare their travels!"

The Passport books have 64 pages, with 4 spaces on each page, for Members to get stamps/initials for each place they visit. GWRRA will be providing a special website for those Members who fill their Passports and send them into the GWRRA Home Office.

To capture those special travel moments, use this Passport when you go to GWRRA Events or Wing Ding. At each Event or Wing Ding (at any GWRRA booth), the Chapter Director, District Director or Region Director will apply a special stamp or initials (one per event) to recognize your attendance. After completing the entire Passport, send it to the Home Office by December 31, 2011, for a chance to win a prize. The winners will be chosen randomly from all entrants.

Mr. Hildebrand goes on to state that "I am looking forward to seeing this Program bring *riding and camaraderie* back to the forefront of GWRRA!" GWRRA will support this Program through editorials in *Wing World* magazine; our FREE monthly e-Newsletter, *Wingin' It*; and electronic media through our websites.

*Founded in 1977, the Gold Wing Road Riders Association is the largest single marquee motorcycle organization in the world, with 72,000 Members in 52 countries. Our motto is "Friends for FUN, Safety and Knowledge." The Home Office is at 21423 North 11th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027, the phone number is 800-843-9460 or 623-581-2500 and the website is [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org). For this and other news, refer to the GWRRA Home Page at [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org)*

# Winter Riding...Steve & Billie Fleming

## Chapter Educators



### Winter in Texas?



We all know that our winters for the most part here in the Houston area are pretty mild. Still, there are some tips to riding here that we need to remind ourselves of as the winter season approaches. As mentioned in last month's article, the days are definitely shorter and night fall seems to come about the time we get off of work or shortly thereafter so we need to plan accordingly and be prepared to ride after dark. Also when the sun goes down, so does the mercury in the thermometer so we have to plan for that.

### Dressing for comfort vs. dressing for safety

Is there such a thing as too much clothing? As a Co-rider, probably not, but that is not necessarily true for Riders. Too much clothing can restrict the Rider's ability to operate the controls and control the motorcycle. I'm picturing in my mind's eye the scene from "A Christmas Story" where Ralphie's little brother Randy Parker was so bundled up by his mother that he could not get up when he had fallen down and walked like a penguin when he was up.

### Motorcycle maintenance during cold weather

Some people choose to winterize the bike and place it in the garage until the season changes, but not anyone I know. We love riding our bikes year round here in Texas. However, if for some reason you decide to store yours for the winter season or for several months at a time, there are a lot of good tips about what to do which are available to you online. See the links at the end of this article.

Jim Flournoy, whom I consider a resident expert in our chapter, gave some tips for winter riding and maintenance. He said that it is not sufficient to just start the bike and run it in the garage for 10 to 15 minutes ever so often. He said that would only heat up the engine and possibly cause condensation in the crankcase and other parts of the bike which could cause problems down the road. He also said that would not be enough to maintain the charge on the battery. He suggested that we ride the bike for at least five to ten miles minimum on a weekly basis to get all the parts moving and warmed up to prevent the condensation problem. By doing this, we will also maintain the battery without the need for using a battery tender.

Speaking of battery tenders, if you are only going to ride your bike to mid-winter round-up and let it set the rest of the winter, it is a good suggestion to get and use a battery tender to maintain the battery through the winter and take appropriate steps to store the bike properly. Long periods of idleness will deplete the battery and could permanently ruin the battery so that it will not hold a charge. Then you will have to replace it.

### Rider – Co-Rider Maintenance

When riding in cold weather, we often do not take into account the hydration needs of our bodies. Our basic need for hydration does not change with the seasons. According to an article I recently read on the web, women need to consume about 92 oz. of water per day, year round, to maintain a healthy level of hydration; men on the other hand, need to consume about 128 oz. per day to maintain a healthy level of hydration. This includes the roughly 15 -20% (14-18 oz. for women and 19-25 oz. for men) that comes from fruits and vegetables we consume in our diet.

*(Rider Educators, cont.)*

### Environmental conditions

Wind screens and full face helmets with face shields tend to fog up in cold weather, especially when you take the bike from a warm garage to a cold outside. Someone said that a thin film of hand or dish soap, buffed off, will help with preventing the face shield from fogging. I lift my face shield partially to assure good airflow to prevent the face shield from fogging. Usually the problem will not appear while we are moving, it is during the stops and going through temperature inversions that we see this fogging effect.



Beware of other seasonal environmental dangers. Wet leaves are as dangerous to us two-wheelers as ice. Be sure to take appropriate actions when confronted with this major threat. Avoid them if at all possible but if you cannot get around them then slow down and avoid sudden actions such as braking, accelerating or quick turns.

Beware of deer! In the rutting season, deer can dart out in front of you with no notice at any time of day.

When a “blue norther” blows in here the temp can fall 20 to 30 degrees pretty quickly so it is a good idea to have cold weather gear on hand when we plan to do any distance riding. As always, check that weather forecast before making that ride. It is better to have what you need on hand than to get caught a long ways from your destination without any cold weather gear. Experience is talking here.



Needless to say, don't ride the bike anywhere when there is a chance of sleet or snow. Rain can make you miserable in cold weather but sleet and snow are not at all conducive to two wheeled vehicles.

### Additional Tips for Winter Riding:

I found these additional tips online at <http://www.xxlbiker.com/index.php/biker-articles/49-motorcycle-articles/130-winter-motorcycle-storage-a-riding-tips.html>



1. Be aware that pedestrians in wet or cold weather don't always pay attention to traffic, especially when running across the road to avoid getting wet! They usually keep their heads down to avoid the rain, so keep yours up to avoid them.
2. There is an illusion created by pot holes. Appearing like puddles, they conceal their depth...that is until you ride over them. Never assume a puddle is just a puddle!
3. Trees overhanging the road get a little over sapped during summer. In the winter rains the mixture of water and tree sap can form a slippery film, the perfect trap for the unwary motorcyclist!
4. Corrosion during winter can be avoided by washing off the salt and road dirt causing oxidation. Wax your alloy rims with a nice hard wax to prevent the outboard motor effect. Try putting a little grease or Vaseline in areas you think should stay dry. (Remember, bike covers will actually get a little moisture underneath them, so keep your bike covered in more ways than one.)
5. Get a good leather motorcycle jacket, helmet, gloves and boots. The two categories of motorcycle riders are those who have fallen and those who haven't fallen yet. (\*Interesting statistics regarding what we should be wearing. Sliding along the road at 50 mph, Denim will wear through within 4' (feet). Kevlar will wear through within 18'. But leather will take 86 feet to wear through.)

(Rider Educators, cont.)

6. Watch out for auto drivers out there! Many don't expect to see motorcycles on the road during the winter time so they're especially not looking for you!

The author of this web site also has a lengthy list of things to do if you are going to winterize your bike, not all of which will apply to the Gold Wings. There is a lot of good information available on this subject online. We've only used a few.

Sites used in preparing this article are:

<http://blog.revzilla.com/search/label/Cold%20Weather%20Motorcycle%20Riding%20Safety%20Tips>

<http://www.self.com/fooddiet/blogs/eatlikeme/2010/11/hydrating-in-the-winter.html>

<http://www.xxlbiker.com/index.php/biker-articles/49-motorcycle-articles/130-winter-motorcycle-storage-a-riding-tips.html>

Until next time – Safe miles with lots of Smiles!



### FOSTER KIDS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Each year, Chapter N2 has an opportunity to select gift cards for foster children and help brighten their holiday. Below are the gift card guidelines:

1. Keep the cost to approximately \$40 per child.
2. If you get more than one gift for \$40, wrap ALL gifts into ONE box.
3. Circle the gift(s) you have chosen.
4. Wrap the gift, gently taping the card to the wrapping paper or bag.
5. Bows will get squashed.

6. If it needs batteries, install batteries and be sure it works.
7. If it needs assembly, assemble it.

Collection of these gifts for Chapter N2 will take place on **Saturday, December 3**, at 9:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall. If you need to make other arrangements, contact *Steve Seligman* at 713-305-0225 to turn in your gifts.



## GOLDWING INVITATIONAL

*By Ann Nix*

We did not get to go last year and the additional perk of going someplace new this year, San Antonio, made the whole idea of going to the Invitational a really good idea. Rex and I have not gone in a few years and we really needed the break.

We got to Northwest Honda about 9:30 a.m. to meet up with everyone else going to the Invitational. From our chapter there was Mike & Robin Thacker, George & Linda Stich, and David & Cathy Southwell. Of course, while we were waiting to saddle up, we all pretty much took a gander around the store and made known which bikes we liked and which ones we did not. I do believe Rex and I actually got out of there without buying anything! What a shock. Anyway, way too soon it was time for the rider's meeting and off we went to meet up with the other riders from Pasadena Honda, the only other Honda dealer that was participating in the Invitational this year. It is always interesting to see the other people and their bikes that show up. We met up at a high school on the West side of town with the others. It was really something – we started off with about 5 bikes in our group and by the time we got to the high school, somehow we ended up with about 20 people in our group. I guess they all just really liked the way we road together.

I am not good remembering the routes we take, but after we got through the Houston traffic (and back to our original group), it was a very pleasant ride to our lunch stop. Which of course was catered by Mikeska's Bar-B-Q at the fairgrounds in Columbus, TX. Yum – yum. They make such good food; especially those potatoes. Awesome! Again, all too soon it was time to hit the road again to get to the hotel in San Antonio. We arrive at the Hilton Inn and Resort of the Hills about 3 p.m. This by the way is a very nice hotel. We got our room and settled in our "suite," then we decided to wander around and check the place out. While we were wandering, we ended up going by the Spa – and found Linda there getting a manicure. After talking to the young lady at the desk, we found out that we had just enough time for Rex to get a pedicure and I got my first ever manicure. I think I see many more of those in my future! By the time I got finished, Rex was already done and it was time for dinner.

Dinner was held in the Banquet room and, of course, hosted by Ronnie Lunsford. We had a delicious Fajita dinner and a really good dessert. During the dinner, there was a silent auction held for the "Ride for Kids." There were plenty of items to look and bid on. They had a Karaoke machine going and actually a couple of people got up to sing. Howard the "tech" guy got up and sang one of the songs. Then a bit later, he sang again with a couple of young ladies. Steve Ferguson sang also. I understand that was quite a bit later, when there was not very many people left. Ronnie also took a go at singing.

We were able to sleep in a little bit and went down the next morning to have a go at the breakfast buffet in the hotel restaurant. It was okay and the coffee was good, so it worked for me. We had already packed, so it was just a matter of getting our gear down to the bike and getting everyone together for the ride home. Mike and Robin had to work that afternoon, so they left before everybody else. The rest of us finally gathered up and started on our way home. We all decided we wanted to just get home, so it was just straight down I-10. Cathy and David broke off from the group around Fostoria, to go a way that would take them closer to where they needed to be and the rest of us just kept on I-10 all the way into Houston. For once, we were the first people to say goodbye and probably the first people to get home. It was a nice feeling. But it was a nice relaxing weekend and even better, we got to spend it with our friends.

## SECRET SISTER REVEAL

*By Sharon Rainwater*

You know when your best laid plans go astray, that's what happened with our original date and location for the reveal. Mari Rich had graciously offered to host our dinner and the Secret Sister Reveal (with the help of Lynn and Stormy), when sickness hit her household. Not only was Mari ill, but Paul too. Not feeling well enough to host and not wanting to share the "germs," Mari had to cancel and extend her apologies.

Being "women," we were dying (*not literally...ha*), wanting to know who had treated us with goodies over the last three months. Were we correct on who we thought was our Secret Sister or would we be in for a "BIG" surprise? With time and patience (*and hoping that Mari and Paul were on the mend*), it was decided that we would reveal our Secret Sister over dinner at our monthly Social Dinner in November.

You know our group well enough to know when an event involves food...we will come! Randy and I have yet to be the first ones at a social dinner event. What the scheduled 6:30 p.m. time really means is what time your dish will be set before you...ha! After enjoying a Mexican dish of our choice at Alma Latina in Porter, we got down to business!

The restaurant wasn't the most ideal setting for the reveal as we were spread out as a group, but there's enough of us Girl Scouts present that we made it work. Being amidst a large group, we just missed out on the oohs and ahoos that normally accompany the opening of a gift. Yes, there were some surprises...me for one. It turned out that my Secret Sister was sitting across from me at dinner. During dinner, she asked if I knew who my Secret Sister was? I replied "no," but had been treated to lots of goodies. I imagine I wasn't the only one who was wrong. A big thank you goes to my Secret Sister, Diane!

With the holidays approaching, we will not draw new Secret Sisters until after the new year. Will I participate again...you bet! What's neat about the program is you have the choice as to whether you want to participate each session. So whether you draw a new name or sit out a spell, the thrill of being a part of this "Sisterhood" will not get old. Maybe the new year will allow you time to draw a name and get better acquainted with our friends in the chapter and you're welcome to attend that reveal even if you don't draw a name.

P.S. Guess who felt well enough to join us for dinner that night...Paul and Mari...yeah!

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### MAILING GUIDES FOR MAILING USPS CHRISTMAS DELIVERY WITHIN THE U.S.

Heed these holiday mailing deadlines to ensure your Christmas cheer arrives at its destination within the United States by December 25. It is always recommended that you get those holiday cards, letters and gifts sent as early as possible.

- Letters and Cards (first-class): December 20
- Priority Mail: December 21
- Express Mail: December 22
- Parcel Post: December 15



Friends,

We have been talking about placing some overnight trips on our 2012 Chapter calendar. The staff has already decided on a few of the trips. Billie has put together a list of the overnight trips and conventions that are currently on the calendar. The list includes the dates, places, and hotels. We would love to have everyone join us.

To book online through GWRRA website select member benefits when page comes up on lower right side select travel and hotels then enter your information.

**January 13 - 14** - Mid-Winter Roundup New Braunfels, TX / Ramada Inn \$49.95 + tax / call 1-830-625-8017 ask for GWRRA rate / TX District website for information.

**March 10** - Chapter Overnight to Fredricksburg, TX / Super 8 \$63.60 + tax / book online through GWRRA website.

**March 29 - April 1** - Region H Rally in Marshall, TX. / Days Inn \$49.59 + tax \$56.04 nightly / book online through GWRRA website / Region H website for information and registration.

**April 12 - 15** - Louisiana District Rally in Lafayette, LA / Host Hotel Holiday Inn 337-233-6815 ask for GWRRA rate / Louisiana District website for information and registration.

**April 21** - Chapter overnight to Dr. Pepper Museum in Waco, TX / Ramada Inn in Hewitt, TX \$60 + tax + \$68.55 / book through GWRRA website (subject to change).

**May 5** - MudBug Rally DeRidder, LA (more information to follow, not an overnight trip).

**May 5** - Chapter Overnight to Grapevine, TX to ride Grapevine Vintage Railroad / Baymont Inn \$79 + tax / Book through GWRRA website (subject to change).

**May 17 - 20** - Texas District Rally in New Braunfels, TX / Ramada Inn \$69.95 + tax / call 1-800-625-8017 ask for GWRRA rate / Texas District website for information and registration.

**June 9** - Blueberry Festival Nacogdoches, TX (more information to follow, not an overnight).

**July 4 - 7** - Wing Ding Ft. Wayne, IN Host hotels are booked you can keep checking but "Good Luck"/GWRRA website for additional hotel and registration information.

**September 1 - 3** - Chapter Overnight to Nacithoches, LA. This is to be determined/ lodging options Church St. Inn or Fleur de Lis B&B with cooking classes at Cane River Kitchen \$35 per person includes meal, dessert, and beverage. Great shopping on Front St. This is all tentative, more information to follow.

**October 18 - 22** - Chapter Cruise on The Carnival Triumph. Contact Bernadine Christian at 1-800-819-902 ext. 82405 / separate email being sent with all information.

**November 23 -25** - Chapter Overnight to San Antonio, TX for Riverwalk Christmas Lighting/St Anthony Hotel \$83.84 while special last/this is an in-house special and must be booked online through their website [www.thestanthonyhotel.com](http://www.thestanthonyhotel.com). If you book the park and play, you will get a great savings on parking, at \$10 per day otherwise it is \$19.50 self-park & \$24.50 Valet park per day. If you are thinking of doing this, I would suggest booking now to get the special, because the regular rate is \$139 and this can be cancelled the day before by 3 pm at no charge.

This is only a part of the rides and events we have planned for 2012. We have tried to include the overnight trips so hotel reservations can be made, all reservations can be cancelled at no charge just read the cancellation policy. If you have rides or overnights you would like to see included, please forward your suggestions to Steve and Linda Seligman in the form of an email with all information included or bring written information to a chapter function.

# COME RIDE WITH US



## GOLDWING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



### CHAPTER N2 - HUMBLE, TEXAS

### FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

We ride Goldwings and other motorcycles and enjoy riding safely and having fun. We schedule several rides each month (*weather permitting*) and meet monthly at the American Legion Hall (307 Charles Street, Humble, TX 77336). Our meeting date/time is the 4th Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Visit our website at [www.gwr-ra-n2-humbletx.com](http://www.gwr-ra-n2-humbletx.com).

MY NAME IS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT US AT: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## By the Book

*By Steve & Carolyn Cotton, Region H Trainers*

The “By the Book” articles are intended to help familiarize GWRRA Volunteer Leaders and Members with the policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer’s Handbook (OHB). A copy of the Officer’s Handbook can be found at [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org) - Click on the Officer Connection tab at the bottom of the page; then select Officer’s Handbook in the upper right hand corner. Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District, or Chapter newsletters.



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## What is a Chapter Gathering?

A Chapter Gathering is the means whereby GWRRA has FUN, grows, teaches, educates, informs and establishes a basis for GWRRA’s very existence. The Chapter Gathering is the most important aspect of what we strive the hardest to accomplish: educating our Members. Educating them in ways of safety, skills, knowledge, and the FUN OF GWRRA. If we, as Officers, recognize and acknowledge these responsibilities to our Members, we understand the importance and the difficulty of obtaining our goals as represented in our motto, “FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE”.

In paraphrasing an old adage, “You can take Members to water, but getting them TO the water is not as hard as getting them to take a drink”. We have found the way to get them involved (so we can provide the “water”) is to provide a positive, FUN and worthwhile environment. We call this a Chapter Gathering.

Properly done, a Chapter Gathering is the perfect medium to carry out the prime responsibility to our Members. It provides them a place to come and have fun, friends, knowledge and camaraderie. It provides us the opportunity to discuss safety, so we can teach our “family” the tools and skills that will enable them to live longer and better enjoy their hobby – Motorcycling.

The Chapter Gathering was formerly called a “meeting”. Consider the word “meeting”. It can be a little misleading. “Meeting” sometimes implies business, minutes, politics, reports, no fun, dryness, rigid structure, speeches, and is capable of being very boring. Obviously, this is not what a GWRRA Chapter Gathering should be!

Our immediate goal is to try and entice our Members to come to a monthly activity with their “family”. We do this by making our Chapter Gatherings FUN! We make it a relaxed, non-political, non-religious, friendly place where there are no strangers... good food, interesting people and educational programs. This is not as difficult as it sounds, but it is very basic to accomplishing another of our missions: EDUCATE!

If we can motivate our Members to attend a Chapter Gathering, our job is half done. We must then ensure that the meeting is so good, so interesting, so rewarding, and so much FUN that they will return

*(By the Book, cont.)*

each and every month. They will also “talk it up” with their friends, thereby helping GWRRA receive the positive publicity that goes a long way in attracting new Members into our “family”

Good FUN Chapter Gatherings cannot be overemphasized... they are the backbone of a successful Chapter. Good luck, and may all your efforts be amply rewarded.

Learn Something New...Then Teach Someone!



**CHAPTER N2 MONTHLY  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL DINNER  
6:30 p.m.**

**DEC** *David & Cathy Southwell*

Wed., December 14 - (Supreme Hibachi & Sushi Buffet, 23741 Hwy. 59, Porter 77365 - 281-577-0122)

**JAN** *Steve & Billie Fleming*

**FEB** *Ricky & Karen Frazier*

**MAR** *Kenny & Diane Shults*

**APR** *George & Linda Stich*

**MAY** *Randy & Sharon Rainwater*

**JUN** *Robin Smith*

**JUL** *Mike & Nancy Morgan*

**AUG** *Adrian & Janice Summers*

**SEP** *Mike & Robin Thacker*

**OCT** *Rex & Ann Nix*

**NOV** *Jim & Lynn Flournoy*

**DEC** *Jerry Barnett*

*ALTERNATES: Jim & Beth Hartley, Paul & Mari Rich, and David & Cathy Southwell*



**Kingwood Farmer's Market**

*Thursdays*

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Town Center Park in Kingwood

Vendors have fresh produce, flowers, breads and baked goods, fruits, homemade items, and more.



# Wing Wisdom Whittles

December 2011

**Prepared by Steve & Carolyn Cotton, Region H Trainers**



“Whittles” articles are intended to provide information that can be presented by chapter members at monthly gatherings to help promote the Leadership Training Program. The hope is that chapters will enlist members to share the information to make it a FUN and interesting new experience.



## Steps to Problem Solving

In *The Team Coach*, author Donna Deeprise discusses a business approach that seems applicable for a volunteer organization like GWRRR. We need to listen to Members, and treat them with respect. We need to incorporate the experience and knowledge of the Members to continue improving as an Association. We need to simplify what we do to the basics necessary to meet Member’s needs.

So how do we let Members know that they matter and play a valuable role in our Chapters? How do we encourage Members to get involved?

Remember the T-E-A-M slogan of “Together Everyone Accomplishes More”? The team concept can also be applied to problem solving. Team problem solving pits the collective knowledge of all Team Members against the problems the team confronts. When teams solve their own problems, the result is often a better solution with more buy-in than if a leader had dictated the way to go.

Deeprise suggest the following steps in problem solving:

1. Identify the problem.
2. Identify the causes.
3. Determine the criteria for a solution.
4. Generate options.
5. Determine the solution(s).
6. Develop implementation plans.
7. Review results regularly.

Problems we encounter may include decreasing membership at social gatherings, for example, or we can apply the same technique to planning a chapter fundraiser. When organizing an event, the team or planning committee is exploring various opportunities, identifying the challenges, determining the variables, and the “to do” list, etc. in preparation for the event.

Remember to recognize those involved in the process whenever possible too. Positive feedback and “Thank You” are always appreciated so volunteers will be more willing to help out the next time.

Never put off until tomorrow the hug you can share today, and we will see you down the road.



# Strikepoint



of TEXAS

COMMUNITY HANDBELL TEAMS

## *A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols -*

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Friday, December 2, 2011

7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood  
5520 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood

The traditional Service of Lessons and Carols originated in England and is synonymous with Christmas celebrations. Telling the story of humanity's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden through the promise of redemption in the messianic prophecies and the birth of Jesus, these beloved services intersperse Bible readings with the singing and ringing of Christmas carols and hymns.

**Tickets are available by calling**

**281.360.4743 or 281.358.1464**

**or tickets are available for purchase from Marie Rabalais**

**Tickets: \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Students**

---

One of our own, **Marie Rabalais**, is an original member to the charter, which began in 1991. Marie has rung every position at different times in the charter's history. While these teams present an effortless performance, there are weekly practices behind their perfection. Come enjoy an evening of musical entertainment!



21st Annual  
Northwest Houston Foster Children  
QWRRA Toy Run

Sunday, December 18, 2011  
Join us in helping the foster kids  
of North Houston

Sheraton Hotel, JFK Blvd.  
Bush Intercontinental Airport

Decorated motorcycle judging at 12 noon  
Parade starts at 12:45 p.m. sharp  
Deerbrook Mall, Humble, TX (Macy's side of the mall)

Meals provided for children, foster parents, and  
entertainers only.

For more information call:  
Marshall LeGard @ 281-550-5338





### Strikepoint Community Handbell Teams

*"A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols"*

Thursday, Dec. 1 & Friday, Dec. 2

7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood  
(5520 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood)

Tickets: \$10 adults / \$5 students



### Fruitcake Ride

to Corsicana, TX

Saturday, December 10

6:00 a.m.

We will be leaving from Flying J (kickstands up) at 6:00 a.m. There will be a breakfast stop in New Waverly before traveling on to the Collin Street Bakery in Corsicana. While in Corsicana, we will stop by the Russell Stover Candy Store.

### RIDER EDUCATOR SEMINARS

Saturday, December 3

9:00 a.m.

American Legion Hall  
(307 Charles Street, Humble, TX)

Steve and Billie Fleming are on the last step of being certified as Rider Educator Seminar Presenters. They will be observed by Chet Roby, Texas District Educator, while they present the two seminars (a seminar on Night Riding and a Co-Rider seminar). The Co-Rider seminar will count towards Level Maintenance for Co-Riders in the Levels program. The Co-Rider seminar will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a short intermission between seminars. Breakfast snacks will be served. Beside the experience you will gain, it's also a great opportunity to show your support for Steve and Billie.

### Social Dinner

Wednesday, December 14



David & Cathy Southwell have chosen (Supreme Hibachi & Sushi Buffet - 23741 Hwy. 59, Porter 77365 - 281-577-0122) for December's Social Dinner. Ya'll come.

### Chapter Christmas Party

@ Bull Sallas County Park

Saturday, December 17

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.



We will have our annual Chapter Christmas Party at Bull Sallas County Park, New Caney, TX 77357. The chapter will provide ham and pork tenderloin; members are asked to bring a dish to share (salads, vegetables, bread, or desserts). We will have a gift exchange (*optional*) with a \$25 gift limit. Men buy for men and women buy for women. (If you do participate in the gift exchange, the value of your gift should be in the \$20 - \$25 dollar range (nothing less) to be fair.) Be prepared to do some "friendly" stealing.



### Christmas Gifts for the Harris County Foster Children

The gifts for the foster children are due back to Steve & Linda Seligman on Saturday, December 3, at the American Legion Hall. If you need to make other arrangements, contact Steve at 713-305-0225 to turn in your gifts.

### Chapter Breakfast @ Hot Spot Diner

(20669 W. Lake Houston Pkwy.)

Sunday, December 4

9:00 a.m.



### Toy Run

(to benefit the Harris County Foster Children)

Sunday, December 18 - 11:00 a.m.

We will meet in the parking lot outside of Macy's at Deerbrook Mall. You will have an opportunity to decorate your bike with Christmas decorations taking place at 12 noon. We will depart the parking lot at 12:45 p.m. for an escorted ride to the Sheraton Hotel (on JFK Blvd.) for the children's gift exchange and refreshments.



**Polar Bear Ride**

*Saturday, December 31*  
9:00 a.m.



We will be leaving from Flying J (kickstands up) at 9:00 a.m. There will be a lunch stop at the Lone Star Cafe in Jasper, TX. Randy Rainwater will lead the ride.

**Polar Bear Rider Lunch**

*Hosted by the Hartleys*  
(3819 Deer Fall Ct., KW 77345)  
*Sunday, January 1, 2012*  
2:00 p.m.



Come join us for what has become an annual tradition...gumbo...thanks to Jim & Beth Hartley (chicken and sausage gumbo, rice, potato salad, bread, beverage, and dessert.) We'll be ringing in the new year in a fitting manner...a full tummy!

**Fine-Tune Your Fridge**

7 fresh-start steps for food safety:

1. Set the fridge temperature at 40 degrees F or less. At warmer temperatures, some bacteria can double their numbers every 20 minutes.
2. Store perishables such as eggs and milk on interior shelves. Door temperatures can rise when the fridge opens.
3. Put raw meats in sealed containers so drippings can't taint other foods.
4. Wipe up spills right away.
5. Keep produce in crisper drawers. If possible, set humidity levels high for veggies – and low for fruits.
6. Divide cooked leftovers into small, shallow containers. They'll chill through faster than larger batches.
7. Once a week, check for foods that are past their prime. A wise saying: When in doubt, throw it out.



(Source: United Healthcare newsletter – 2011)

**Get well wishes go out to...Bubba Tice** for a speedy and complete recovery! Cards may be sent to the Tices at 10419 Lauren Creek Dr., Baytown 77523.

**AND**

To **Paul Rich**, who is scheduled for surgery on December 6. His address is: 11058 Spring Lane, Cleveland, TX 77328.



**GWRRRA CHAPTER N2  
HUMBLE, TEXAS  
December 2011**

| SUNDAY                                                                        | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                                     | THURSDAY               | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               |        |         |                                                                                               |                        |        | Co-rider Class &<br>Night Riding Class<br>American Legion<br>Hall 9:00 a.m.<br><br>Turn in Christmas<br>gifts for children |
|                                                                               |        |         |                                                                                               | 1                      | 2      | 3                                                                                                                          |
| Breakfast @<br>Hot Spot Diner<br>9:00 a.m.<br>20669 West Lake<br>Houston Pkwy |        |         |                                                                                               |                        |        | Fruitcake Ride<br>Flying J (59 & 242)<br>6:00 a.m.<br>Breakfast - New<br>Waverly<br>Lunch - Corsicana                      |
| 4                                                                             | 5      | 6       | 7                                                                                             | 8                      | 9      | 10                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                               |        |         | Social Dinner<br>Southwell's<br>Supreme Hibachi Grill<br>Hwy 59 & 1314<br>Porter<br>6:30 p.m. |                        |        | Christmas Party<br>Bull Sallas Park<br>7:00 p.m.                                                                           |
| 11                                                                            | 12     | 13      | 14                                                                                            | 15                     | 16     | 17                                                                                                                         |
| Toy Run<br>Deerbrook Mall<br>Bike judging 12:00 noon<br>Parade 12:45 p.m.     |        |         |                                                                                               | First Day of<br>Winter |        |                                                                                                                            |
| 18                                                                            | 19     | 20      | 21                                                                                            | 22                     | 23     | 24                                                                                                                         |
| <i>Christmas Day</i>                                                          |        |         |                                                                                               |                        |        | <i>New Years Eve</i><br><br>Polar Bear Ride<br>Rainwater<br>9:00 a.m.<br>Flying J<br>Lone Star Café<br>Jasper              |
| 25                                                                            | 26     | 27      | 28                                                                                            | 29                     | 30     | 31                                                                                                                         |

***Birthdays***

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Beth Hartley | 12/7  |
| Jason Ingram | 12/9  |
| George Stich | 12/20 |
| Carolyn Tice | 12/20 |
| Robin Smith  | 12/31 |


***Anniversaries***

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Adrian & Janice Summers | 12/7  |
| Mike & Nancy Morgan     | 12/8  |
| Paul & Marie Rich       | 12/26 |
| Gary & Marie Rabalais   | 12/31 |



**GWRRR CHAPTER N2  
HUMBLE, TEXAS  
JANUARY 2012**



| SUNDAY                                                                            | MONDAY            | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY               | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Polar Bear Riders<br>Gumbo at the<br>Hartley's<br>2:00 p.m.<br><br>1              | 2                 | 3       | 4                       | 5        | Game Night<br>American Legion<br>Hall 6:00 p.m.<br><br><br>6 | 7                                                                                  |
| Breakfast @<br>Skeeter's<br>9:00 a.m.<br>4121 West Lake<br>Houston Drive<br><br>8 | 9                 | 10      | 11                      | 12       | Leave for Mid-<br>Winter Round Up<br>Flying J<br><br>13                                                                                        | Mid-Winter<br>Round Up<br>New Braunsfels<br><br>14                                 |
| 15                                                                                | 16                | 17      | Social Dinner<br><br>18 | 19       | 20                                                                                                                                             | 21                                                                                 |
| 22                                                                                | MLK Day<br><br>23 | 24      | 25                      | 26       | 27                                                                                                                                             | Chapter Meeting<br>American Legion<br>Hall 6:00 p.m.<br>Soup Competition<br><br>28 |
| 29                                                                                | 30                | 31      | 32                      | 33       | 34                                                                                                                                             | 35                                                                                 |

***Birthdays***

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Clint Slaughter  | 1/11 |
| Paul Rich        | 1/13 |
| Sharon Rainwater | 1/16 |
| Ryan Talbutt     | 1/21 |
| Randy Talbutt    | 1/28 |
| Larry Turnbull   | 1/29 |

***Anniversaries***

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Jim & Beth Hartley     | 1/1  |
| Jim & Carolyn Fleming  | 1/17 |
| Jim & Lynn Flournoy    | 1/24 |
| Steve & Billie Fleming | 1/30 |

Did you find your GWRRA number? Keep looking!

### *"N2" Apparel*

**Yellow polo shirts** (summer) with logo: \$17.00

**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

**"Humble Bumble" Bears** \$3.00

Contact Randy or Sharon Rainwater

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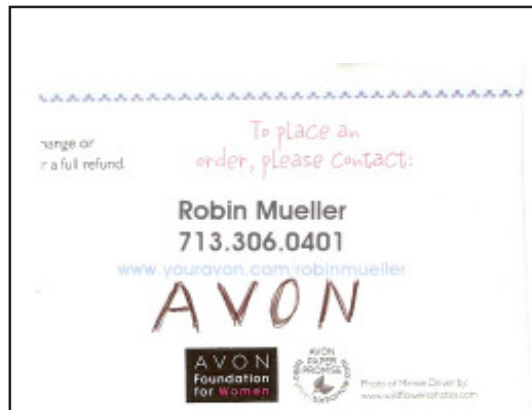
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**If you know of someone who would like to advertise their product in our monthly newsletter, please get the information to Linda Seligman.**



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