

The Gulf Wings Newsletter

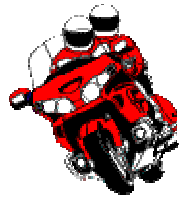


GWRR Region H - Chapter TX-G

Volume 23, Issue 4

April 2011

**“Friends For Fun, Safety
And Knowledge”**



A Message from Sam



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Anita and I are sorry for our absence at this meeting. Our other GWRR duties called upon us to be in Plano, TX to prepare for the Region H Rally. We hope to see some of y'all there!

The riding season is coming full swing for us. But are you ready for it? There is talk of a chapter ERC (Experienced Rider Course) to help brush up on techniques as well as shake off some cob webs. Anyone interested?

Another great ride was had to Blessing, TX for our annual memorial ride. Sorry more folks didn't make it to this poignant chapter event. Ernie also blessed us with a ride of his own as well this month. Hope we can get some good stories from that adventure.

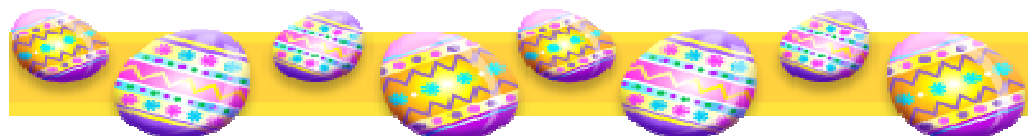
For those a bit more adventurous, the Louisiana District Rally is April 8th and 9th. Those people know how to throw a great party!

Please welcome Ms. Lynda Hoot to your chapter staff. She is taking over the responsibility of the newsletter. And please give a BIG thanks to Ms. Kathy Norwood for her efforts over these last couple of years.

And bestest thanks goes to Mr. Rick Fritz for running things in our absence. I know you're doing us all proud!



Happy Easter!!!



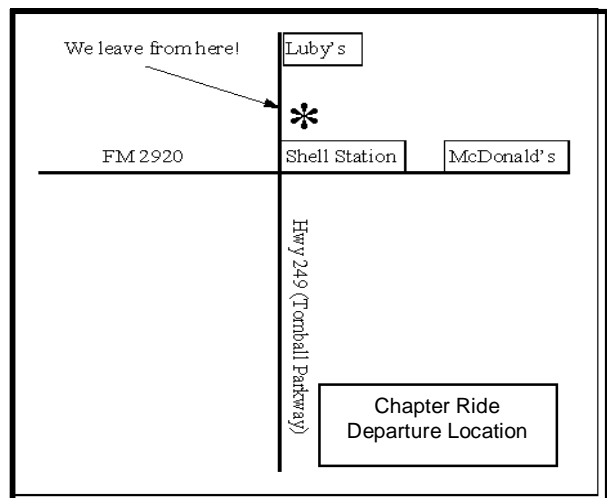
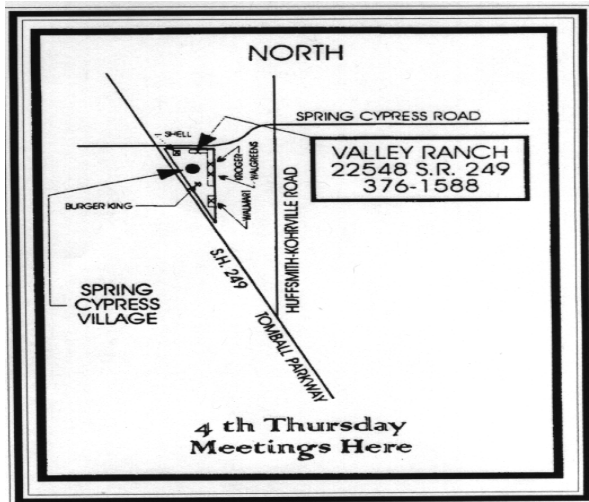
**Chapter G
Safe Miles**
as of
March 19, 2011
6,055 miles
**ACCIDENT
FREE!**

Special points of interest:

- Next chapter meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:30 PM at Valley Ranch BBQ
- Chapter G Ride Line: 281-469-8804
- Find Chapter G on the Web: www.gulfwings.com
- Texas District Website: www.gwrri-tx.org
- Region H Website: www.gwrri-h.org
- GWRRA Website: www.gwrri.org

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Your Chapter G Officers & Team Members

<p>Officers:</p> <p>Chapter Director: Sam & Anita Belinoski 281-469-5755 email: sam@samanita.com GWRRA # 131632 & 131632-01</p> <p>Assistant Director: VACANT</p> <p>Chapter Educators: Rick & Terry Fritz 281-256-1801 email: fritz1n2@att.net GWRRA # 307833 & 307833-1</p>	<p>Officers:</p> <p>Membership Enhancement: Philip Blair & Erin Gilligan 832-723-0656 email: philipblair@comcast.net GWRRA # 246032 & 246032-01</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry & Darlene Worley 281-516-1944 email: worleybird@live.com GWRRA # 289772 & 289772-01</p> <p>Team Members:</p> <p>Ride & Email Coordinator: VACANT</p>	<p>Team Members:</p> <p>Couple of the Year: Gene & Barbara Mings 832-671-8523 mingsdynasty@sbcglobal.net GWRRA # 171121 & 171121-01</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Lynda Hoot 281-755-6830 email: raylynhoot@att.net GWRRA #</p> <p>Webmaster: Sam Belinoski 281-469-5755 sam@samanita.com GWRRA # 131632</p>
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BIG DATES

as of 3-19-2011

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Region H Rally	Plano, TX	3/24-26	Sam Belinoski	713-557-4577	sam@samanita.com
RIDE	Luby's (9:30)	4/10	Philip Blair	832-244-9621	philipblair@comcast.net
RIDE	Luby's (9 am)	4/30	Sam Belinoski	713-557-4577	sam@samanita.com
EVENT	New Kentucky Park	6/4	Sam Belinoski	713-557-4577	sam@samanita.com

The Editor's Corner

by Kathy Norwood

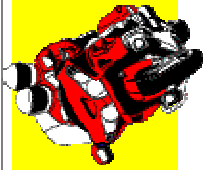
I have really enjoyed being the newsletter editor for Chapter G the last few years, but the time has come for me to pass the editor's hat; pass it to someone I know will do a fabulous job for Chapter G! So please welcome Lynda Hoot to the position of Newsletter Editor!!! I know you will all continue to support Lynda in this position as you have me; however, I would like to emphasize that the newsletter really belongs to the members of Chapter G and is supported by the submissions you send to the editor. So please, keep those cards and letters (photos, articles, event dates, etc) coming!

As for me, I will still be around Chapter G; that is, after Brian and I return from a trip we have had planned for some time. We will be spending several weeks on the road in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains (and then on to a class reunion). You all know I am camera happy, so if I do a good job and take some pictures that are worthy of sharing, I promise to do so after we return.

In the meantime, I would like to leave you with a little something I think you might find interesting. Although I will be traveling back to my home state of North Carolina, I have actually lived in Texas for more years now than I did North Carolina, and I have grown very fond of this state. I know some of you have been in Texas for many years, but I would like to close out my tenure as the Newsletter Editor with some interesting facts about Texas you may or may not know. Check out the tidbits about our state on pages 11 and 12 to see what you did or did not know.

My sincere thanks to Lynda for stepping up and taking over the newsletter duties. I am forever thankful!

Safe riding to all and a very Happy Easter!!



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Team Meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Palm Sunday	18	19	20	21 Chapter Meeting	22 Good Friday	23
24 EASTER	25	26	27	28	29	30

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Caramanica 4/3
 Betty Killbuck 4/25

ANNIVERSARIES

None this month

RIDES

RIDE 4/30

EVENTS



May 2011

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>							
Chris Dillon		2	3	4	5	6	7
Lynda Hoot							
Teresa Cook							
"Mom" Kelley		9	10	11	12	13	14
Larry Seal							
Jim Cook							
Don Roberts							
					Team Meeting		
<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u>							
Ricky & Mary Ann Bearb		16	17	18	19	20	21
Rick & Terry Fritz							
David & Kim Lamb							
Vince & Patricia Falbo		23	24	25	26	27	28
Louis & Linda Rucker							
					Chapter Meeting		
<u>RIDES</u>							
<u>EVENTS</u>							
	29	30	31				

Please note: Ride times do change so please check the Ride Line number (281-469-8804) to be sure of the ride time. During periods of inclement weather, the Ride Line should be checked to find out if safety concerns have cancelled the ride for that day. Monthly Chapter meetings start promptly at 7:30 PM (arrive early if you'd like to eat).

Membership Enhancement by Erin Gilligan & Philip Blair



Membership Enhancement

By Erin Gilligan and Philip Blair

Visitors and Guests

No visitors at our Chapter Gathering last month.

Congratulations To

Lynda Hoot, winner of the 50/50 drawing

Vest Drawing

The monthly Chapter Vest Drawing has been retired and a NEW drawing replaces it! Each month, every person who attends the Chapter Gathering will get a yellow ticket. The lucky winner will receive a \$10 gift certificate to the Valley Ranch BBQ.

Last month's winner was Bill Burgess!

Every participant in Chapter G is important to us. Please let us know if you have suggestions or news you want to share with the Chapter. Just contact us at erin@texascyclechrome.com. We welcome your input!

Rider's Education

by Rick Fritz

Bolting for Safety

Lightning



THUNDERSTORMS! Though these storms are formed during all the months of the year, they are particularly active during the spring season when cool fronts from the north collide with our warm, moist air in Southeastern Texas. A thunderstorm, also known as an electrical storm or a lightning storm is a form of weather characterized by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the Earth's atmosphere known as thunder. Thunderstorms result from the rapid upward movement of warm, moist air. They can occur inside warm, moist air masses and at fronts. As the warm, moist air moves upward, it cools, condenses, and forms cumulonimbus clouds. Lightning from these storms pose a dangerous risk to motorcyclists with the majority resulting in death. Motorcyclists do get hit by lightning. Robert Gift, a member of the Lightning Data Center at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, states that although motorcyclists may believe they are safe from lightning, they are not. Simply put, motorcycles are not grounded. Although rubber is an excellent insulator of electricity, tires can be compromised by the millions of volts generated by a lightning bolt seeking ground.

Gift further notes that automobiles are not grounded. However, being inside a car is safer because a direct hit will most likely travel harmlessly around the occupants through the metal exterior and frame of the car and exit to ground. The car's frame acts as a type of "Faraday cage" offering protection from the lightning. As long as the occupants of the car stay away from any metallic objects, they will most likely survive a direct lightning strike due to the lightning strike spreading itself around the occupants, not through them, and ultimately going to ground.

It is well to note that lightning can also travel horizontally many miles away from a thunderstorm and then strike ground. These types of lightning flashes are known as "Bolts from the Blue" because they seem to come out of a clear blue sky.

The bottom line to remember as motorcyclists is that there is NO safe place outside in a thunderstorm. If there are more than 5 seconds between the lightning flashes and your hearing that thunder, head for a safe shelter. A safe shelter is one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, and has plumbing or wiring. This is the only time trying to ride out from under an electrical storm makes any sense.

If you cannot find a safe shelter, some areas outside may be somewhat safer than others:

If an overpass is available, seek shelter under the overpass. DO NOT go near steel girders. Move away from your bike. Remain on the dry surfaces, if possible. Overpasses are engineered structures and are likely to be properly grounded. Although an overpass is likely to be higher than the surrounding landscape, if it is struck by lightning, the electrical current will likely be channeled safely into the earth's surface.

Look for a bridge over a stream, culvert, railroad crossing or any other type of bridge. Stay away from water and from any metal surfaces (however, be alert for rapidly rising water if under a bridge which crosses a stream).

Rider's Education (cont'd)

High tension wires:

If high voltage electrical tension wires cross the road, you may want to seek shelter directly underneath these wires. Do not get too close to the large metal towers which hold up these wires (stay away at least 100 feet). Electric companies design these high tension wires for lightning strikes. If lightning should strike the wires or towers, the current is designed to safely go deep into the ground.

IMPORTANT: None of the above recommendations (overpasses, bridges, high tension wires) guarantee safety from being struck by lightning. However, it is likely that these recommendations are safer than being caught "out in the open". Of course, the best thing to do is to find a safe location before lightning threatens.

What if you are caught completely out in the open on your bike when lightning begins to flash and you can hear the thunder in less than 3 seconds from when you see the flash? Stop your bike and GET OFF!

- Immediately find low ground, but NOT under a single or small group of trees.
- Get into the *Lightning Desperation Position*. Squat on the ground with your feet together and on the balls of your feet, head lower than back with your hands over your ears, but NOT touching the ground. Do NOT lie on the ground.
- LET YOUR CLOTHES GET WET!!! (In this way, if you are hit the majority of the electricity will follow the moisture of your wet clothes around your body.)
- Do not get up until thunder following a lightning flash is AT LEAST five seconds after the flash. (Which means the lightning struck more than 1 mile away.)

Remember the old adage that lightning does not strike the same place twice? Lightning can and does hit the same place twice – frequently.

Ben Franklin, that famous person known for flying a kite in an electrical storm, once penned "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". This is good advice for the motorcyclist when confronting a thunderstorm. If the weather looks threatening, resist the urge to ride your bike. On your rides, carry a portable NOAA Weather Radio or listen to commercial radio. If you see threatening skies in the distance and you are near a safe building, pull over and wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming your ride.

Ride Safe!



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graciously operated by Mary Ann Bearb

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Caps—NOW \$10 each	<u>Short Sleeved T-Shirts</u> NOW \$15.00	<u>Long Sleeved T-Shirts</u> NOW \$20.00	<u>Polo Shirts</u> NOW \$15.00
10 Caps	4 XX Large	2 Small 2 Medium 3 X Large 1 XX Large	1 Medium 1 Large 1 XXLarge



Merchandise w/Newer Logo



Caps & Visors (\$10 each)	<u>Denim Shirts— Ladies-Dk. Blue</u> (\$25.00)	<u>Denim Shirts-Ladies</u> Faded (\$25.00)	<u>Denim Shirts—Men Dk.</u> Blue (\$25.00)	<u>Denim Shirts-Mens— Faded</u> (\$25.00)
34 caps 37 visors	1 Small 1 Medium 1 Large 1 X Large	1 Small 1 Medium	1 Medium 1 Large 1 XX Large	1 Medium 1 Large



CHAPTER G WANTS YOU!!!!

for an Officer Position

Assistant Chapter Director— Best parts: 2nd in command, and looked upon as a leader within the chapter. Worst parts: 2nd in command, and looked upon as a leader within the chapter. Duties: Sending weekly e-mails, rousing up ride leaders, monthly staff meetings.

Let's see the bluebonnets on a beautiful ride to Independence TX for March of Dimes!

HEB Tomball Market is hosting a
March of Dimes Motorcycle ride

April 16th 2011

From Tomball TX to Independence TX and back!

All bikes will be out by 9:30 am

Ride entry is \$20.00 each person by April 11th.
any entry's after that date will be \$25.00 each
(\$10. for donation and \$10. For breakfast and a shirt)

After the ride we will have a bike show and a raffle for prizes!!

Please contact
Charlotte Peterson
#281.255.2250
email: s574aa@heb.com

Call or email for more information

Please fill out the information below and turn this and your entry fee in by
April 11th to Charlotte Peterson

Driver/Passenger name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
zip _____
Phone # _____ E-mail _____
Shirt size _____

*HEB and March of Dimes are not to be held liable. Any and all liabilities are at your own risk

Texas Tidbits

Did You Know???

(Note: so I don't repeat myself throughout this entire document, each one of the items below was enacted upon by your state Legislators. After looking at all these items, I began to see why things pass fairly slow in our state's capital.)

...the City of Ennis was named the state bluebonnet city in 1997?

...the state bread is *Pan de campo* ("camp bread"); also referred to as cowboy bread; so named by the Legislature in 2005. The bread is a simple baking powder bread that was an early staple often baked in a Dutch oven. And while we're on the Dutch oven...

...the cast iron Dutch oven is the official cooking implement of Texas so named in 2005?

...the state dinosaur (yes, dinosaur) is the *paluxysaurus jonesi* as named in 2005?

...the state air force, the Commemorative Air Force (formerly known as the Confederate Air Force), is based in Midland. And so proclaimed in 1989?

...the state tree is the pecan tree? Yes, it is believed the adoption of the pecan tree grew out of a request by Gov James Stephen Hoff to have a pecan tree planted at his grave. Adopted by the Legislature in 1919.

...the state legislature designated cotton as the state fiber and fabric in 1997?

...the Guadalupe bass, one of a group of fish collectively known as the black bass, was named the state fish in 1989?

...the monarch butterfly was designated as the state insect in 1995?

...in 2007, the cowboy boot was named the state shoe? Seems a little late to me.

...the Elissa was not named the state's tall ship until 2005 although it was built in 1877?

...the state has a tartan? The Texas Bluebonnet Tartan was so named the official tartan in 1989.

...Petrified palmwood is the state stone? Found principally in eastern counties near the Gulf Coast and so named in 1969.

Texas Tidbits (cont'd)

Did You Know???

...the crape myrtle was designated the official state shrub in 1997?

...although the USS Texas was launched from Newport News, VA in 1912 and commissioned in 1914, it took the state legislature til 1995 to designate the ship as the state ship? Also, in 1919, the USS Texas became the first US battleship to launch an aircraft, and in 1939, it received the first commercial radar in the US Navy? In 1940, the Texas was designated the flagship of the US Atlantic Fleet and was the last of the battleships to participate in both World Wars I and II. The ship was decommissioned in 1948 and is a National Historic Landmark and well as a National Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

...the chuck wagon was named the state vehicle in 2005? Again, seems a little late to me. Texas rancher, Charles Goodnight, is credited with inventing the chuck wagon.

...the geographic center of Texas is southwest of Mercury in McCulloch County?

...the highest point in the state is Guadalupe Peak at 8,749 feet above sea level and it resides in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Culberson County near the New Mexico state line?

...there are a total of 7 mountain peaks in Texas over 8,000 feet? In addition to Guadalupe Peak, the others are Bush Mountain (8,631), Shumard Peak (8,615), Bartlett Peak (8,508), Mount Livermore (aka Baldy Peak) (8,378), Hunter Peak (aka Pine Top Mountain) (8,368), and last but not least, El Capitan (8,085).

...the geologic history of Texas, as documented by the rocks, began more than a billion years ago? I guess that's why we have a state dinosaur.

...the largest know earthquake in Texas occurred on August 16, 1931, near the town of Valentine in Jeff Davis county? The quake registered a 6.0 on the Richter scale and was felt in an area measuring 400,000 square miles. An aftershock of 4.2 was registered on August 18 in Alpine, while the last was measured on November 3 in Valentine.

...in 2008, there were 123 tornadoes in the state of Texas? 48 were in April with 33 in May. The year 2007 was even worse with a total of 216 with 56 in March, 61 in April, and 43 in May. The worst year on record was 1967 with 232 recorded. The worst month was September when 124 tornadoes were recorded spawned by Hurricane Beulah.

...the coldest temperature recorded in Texas was -23°on February 12, 1899 in Tulia?

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