



Region H

“D” Newsletter

LA District

January, 2012

FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS Steve and Faye Alexander



Steve and Faye

Hey guys,

2012 !!! Where did 2011 go? We were so busy enjoying each other's company that time went by in a flash.

Looking back, it seems hard to believe that we had so many adventures together. But, then again, you always spend time with those you hold near and dear to you.

We did everything from rides, conventions, eat outs, to changing of the guards, all with fun, laughter and the feeling

of family being by our side every step. We lifted each other up through good times and bad when it counted most to each of us. We thank each of you for that.

Our year started off with our Annual New Years Day Ride to Columbia for some good old cabbage, black eyed peas and visiting with each other. We will be heading down to Lafayette on the 20-21 to the financial meeting to discuss what's in store for the new year and close out the old.

Your Chapter team is working hard to finish up plans for the Wing Thing in March with hopes that this will be a fun and new event to Chapter D that we can continue for our members.

Don't forget that Wingless weekend is next month, so let's start our

training as it will be SUPER if we could bring home the trophy this year!! Let's work on this as one of our New Year's resolutions.

2011 is gone, but 2012 will be jammed packed with new and exciting times, so come and join us for the ride.

Remember, always be safe.

Steve and Faye



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Chapter gatherings held the 1st Thursday of each month at:

The Piccadilly Cafeteria**

2203 Louisville Ave. Monroe, Louisiana

6:00 to eat, 7:00 to meet

www.nelawings.org

****Except Dec: WM Recreation Center, No. 7th St WM.**

District Directors - Beverly and Merlin Mayon

Beverly & I would like to thank all the District Team plus all the members in Louisiana for their support, in our first year, as District Directors. There will be changes made to the District Team at the January Business Meeting, that I think will be for the good of the State and its members.

Jim & Reba Berry, after a lot of arm twisting (just kidding), have accepted the position of Assistant District Directors. They will finish the year and the Treasurers responsibilities through the January business meeting as the District Treasurers, then step up to the Assistant position.

Missi Verdick from Chapter D will take over as the Treasurer for the District at the business meeting. She will bring with her more new ideas that will help keep Louisiana the fun District.

The business meeting will be January 21 in Lafayette at the same hotel as the Convention. We will close out all the Chapters financials, swear in new officers for the Chapters, and pass on some important information to all. There will be breakouts for Rider Ed, Membership Enhancement, and Couple of the Year while the Treasurer is working on the Chapter financials. I urge all the Chapter Directors to encourage your team to attend this meeting.

It is time to talk a little about Leadership Training. Since my last newsletter article, we have finally set up some training for Leadership Training instructors. I sent out e-mails and made phone calls and even put the word out in the last newsletter. We had an instructor's course in Bossier City on December 3. There were six participants taking the course. The District now has six new Leadership Trainer Instructors. Thanks so much for your interest in this much needed area.

The District will be needing an OCP class for all new officers taking over in January (CDs & ACDs) or anyone recently taking an officers position (that haven't previously taken the class). CD's, I need your help with this matter. If you have no one in need of OCP training, please let me know also at the District business meeting.

Thanks so much to all of the Chapters who invited Beverly and me to your Christmas parties and Thanksgiving rides. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

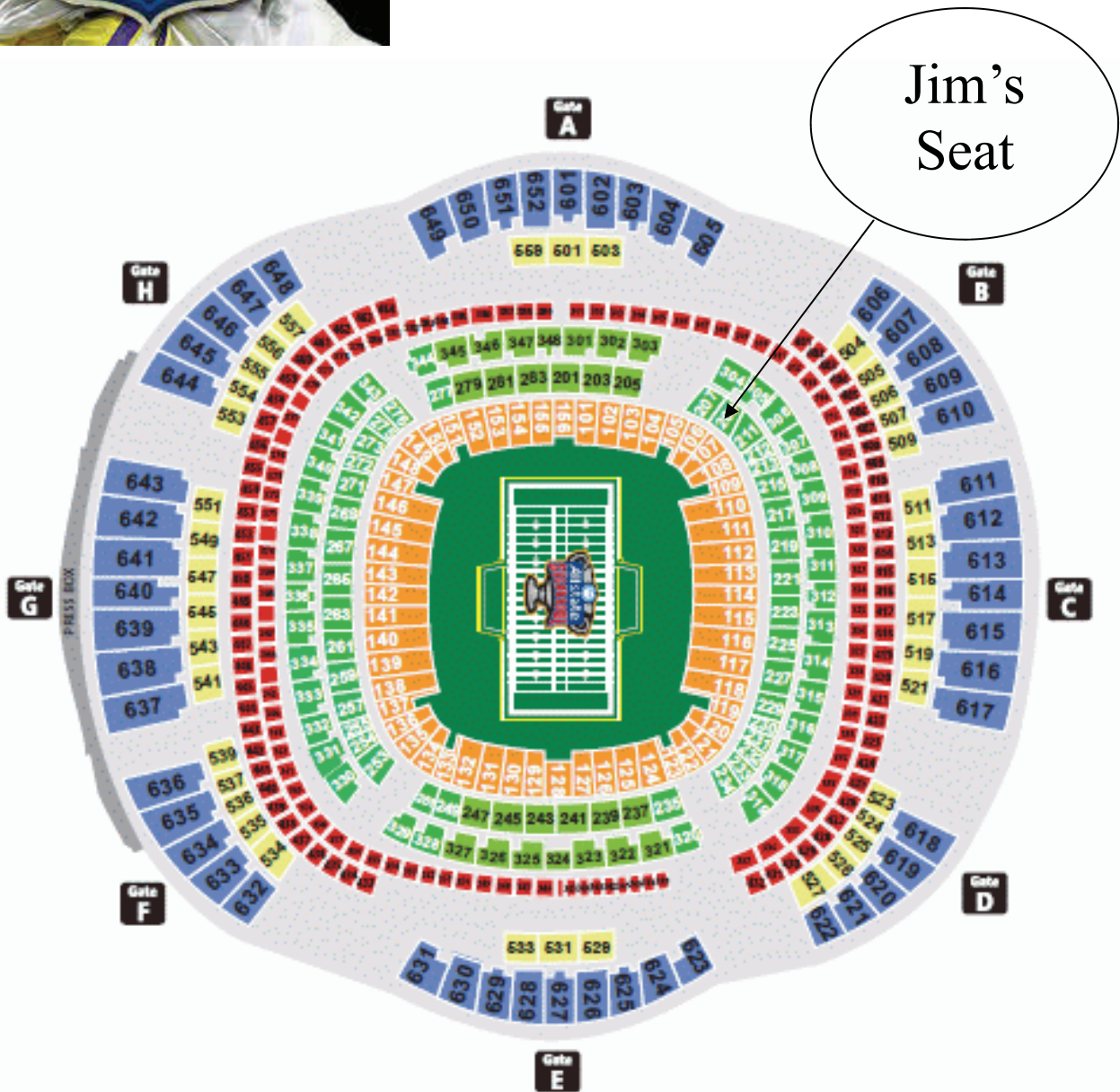




LSU vs. Ala-dang-bama
 Monday, January 9, 2012, 7:30 pm.

Find Jim Berry in the crowd, note his shirt, jacket and cap. What is he wearing? Then at the February gathering place your entry in the box for a chance to win a “HENWAY”!

P.S. Hope you’re not a BAMA fan.



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Upcoming Events

New Year's Day Ride - 1/1 Pilot in WM on Well Road, 10:00am

District Staff Meeting - 1/20 Holiday Inn Lafayette, LA 8:00

Wingless Weekend - 2/10-11, Pineville, LA

Chapter D Inaugural "Wing Thing" - 3/9-11, Jimmie Davis State Park, Chatham, LA

Region H Conv. - 3/29-31 Marshall, TX- "The Fabulous 50's"

LA Conv. - 4/12-14 Lafayette, LA "Mardi Gras Madness"

Chapter J Gator Run - 4/28 Lake Charles

Chapter H Progressive Dinner Ride - 5/5 Houma

TX Conv. - 5/17-19 New Braunfels, TX "Texas Derby Days"

Chapter M Mudbug Rally - 5/19 DeRidder

AR Conv. - 5/26-28 Harrison, AR "Ride North ARK"

Wing Ding 34 - 7/4-7 Ft. Wayne, IN "Fun in the Fort"

KS Conv. - 8/24-25 Manhattan, KS "The Little Apple"

OK Conv. - 10/4-6 McAlester, OK "Gone with the Wing"

MS Conv. - 10/11-13 Biloxi, MS "Back to the Beach"

Chapter "D" Leadership Team

Chapter Directors

Steve and Faye Alexander

fayealex01@comcast.net

Assistant Chapter Directors

Bo and Phyllis Pepper

Chapter Educator

Allen Verdick

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Chapter Motorist Awareness Coordinators

Rick and Susan Stagg

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Jim and Reba Berry

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Membership Enhancement Coord.

Missi Verdick

m.verdick@yahoo.com

Chapter Couple

Ron and Paulette Eubanks

Check out the District Webpage for events going on throughout

At the December gathering:



December birthdays: Allen Ledford, Jean Peavy, Faye Alexander and Earl Keshner



December anniversaries: Wanda and Allen Ledford. I guess if you marry in December your pretty much have to wear the sweater, huh Allen?



These ladies were all smiles for the Christmas party.



Dale introduces Missi in her new "Tent" Sweater.



Uh oh! What did I say now?



That is a mischievous grin if I ever saw one! Wonder what he was up to?

The Bawcomville Red Neck Christmas Parade



Bo without a co-rider.



Elf Rick and his motorist awareness trailer.



Was Jean the parade queen?



What colorful bikes!



We do not recommend this for a long trip.



James Jones is his familiar “drag position”.

Chapter Educators - Allen and Missi Verdick

Riding in Wet Weather



Virtually every touring motorcycle rider both expects and experiences some rain while out on the road. It is generally true that if it is raining before you start riding, you will postpone that ride segment, but once on the road that choice is no longer available. When out on a trip and it starts to rain, we need to re-evaluate our riding strategy. Here are a few things I have learned about riding in wet weather:

When it is drizzling (no depth of standing water on the roadway) we were perfectly happy to ride at or near speed limits. Though often posted at 70 MPH, we tended to ride between 60 to 65 MPH in these conditions. Traction was NOT a problem, but visibility often was.

When you are riding at 65 MPH and an 18-wheeler is doing 65+ MPH in the opposite direction with light rain, you can be sure that that 18-wheeler is kicking up a MAJOR rooster-tail. That wall of water is approaching you at 130 MPH!!!! When you hit it your visibility will be reduced to ZERO and stay that way for about 5 seconds. The water on your windscreen will NOT be merely on the outside - it will also cover the inside of your windscreen!

*That same 18-wheeler when passing is going to do more than drop your visibility to zero. That 130 MPH mass of turbulence that you run into WILL abruptly slow your bike down! Indeed, your bike will lose a few MPH instantly, but *YOU* will not - and your body will abruptly move forward relative to your bike as a result!!! Then, just as abruptly, it will move back to its normal position relative to the bike. DO NOT FREAK OUT - EXPECT IT AND SIMPLY RIDE IT OUT.*

Because rain and drizzle (and MUD) will collect on your windscreen, and on your face shield, (and possibly on your glasses as well) you will not be able to see through those layers of water. So, you MUST look over your windscreen until conditions change. If the windscreen is positioned properly, you need only 'stretch' your back/neck to do that, but that effort is very taxing and you will find that you cannot do it for more than perhaps an hour before you must either stop or do something else to help you see. What else? STANDING ON YOUR PEGS!! .

We are both now totally convinced that people who opt for extra long windscreens have no idea how

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disastrous that can be to their ability to see in the rain as the extra tall ones, because they come well back over the rider's head, CANNOT be seen over by standing on the pegs - they are in the way.

Altitude and cold are synonymous. If it's raining and cold and if your direction is to a higher elevation, you are best advised to STOP for the night. If your direction is to a lower elevation, you are probably better off continuing to the lower elevation.

No matter how well clothed you are, no matter how many layers, if your hands get too cold you will not be able to safely handle your motorcycle. Your fingers will not be able to squeeze the brake or clutch levers effectively or with subtlety. You MUST keep your hands warm to handle a motorcycle safely. Glove liners as your first layer, rubber (surgical) gloves as your second layer, and finally your gloves make what would otherwise be impossible, tolerable.

Keeping your CHEST warm will greatly help in keeping your hands warm!!!! Your body protects its chest cavity (core) by restricting circulation from your extremities (hands and feet) so keeping your chest warm is a MAJOR AID in cold weather, not just from a comfort point of view.

Cramps (remember upper thighs from partially standing on the pegs?) can be eliminated almost instantly by the consumption of GATORADE!!!! We always carry water and now, when riding in cold weather or high altitudes, we also carry some GATORADE.

You cannot count on gasoline always being available when you need it while out on a tour. When planning a trip make sure you know where your gas stops will be and make sure they will be open when you get there.

You should always carry a set of rain gear with you even if you don't or won't ride in the rain!

Rain gear does not keep your feet warm. You should always wear waterproof boots or make sure you have a pair of dry shoes and socks available.

Remember, in the end, you are responsible for your own safety. So let's be careful and enjoy the ride.

Chapter Educator

Allen Verdick

GWRRRA LA-D

Christmas Party Babes. Whoo Whoo!





By The Book

Gold Wing Road Rider Association



Region H Trainer
Steve & Carolyn Cotton
 Sand Springs, OK
 (918) 245-7111



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 - 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.

Thanks to Eddie Mauterer (former Region H Trainer) for the inspiration to write this month’s article based on ideas he wrote in May 2001. Revisions have been made to keep it current.

Me and Mine

Me and Mine – Yes, there actually is a section in the Officer’s Handbook (page F-1) that is titled “Me and Mine”. And for a section that is only one paragraph long, it is one of the most important sections for Chapter Directors. Unfortunately, even though many will read this section, most will totally miss the real understanding of this section. This one paragraph lays out the essence of what a Chapter Director’s job really is.

This is one time that I must quote sections of the actual text in the Officer’s Handbook. It actually says it best:

“Remember that you are providing a service for the Members of GWRRA. Selfish and possessive attitudes have

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absolutely no place in this environment. While it is not a grievous error to refer to the Chapter as “Mine”, it is the first step down a path of many pitfalls.”

The primary obstacle you will encounter on this path is one of possession. Your concern for the participants becomes clouded by the “Me and Mine” syndrome.

“The only way to avoid this dilemma is to keep the convenience of the Member first, and foremost, in your mind. Your role is to serve the Membership.”

As a Chapter Director, your actual role should be one of a “coordinator”, and not a “director”. Your primary function is to coordinate activities for the Chapter participants. Don’t lose focus that this is a hobby. People want to enjoy activities that involve riding their motorcycles with their friends.

Too often, Chapter Directors and their Teams get caught up in working on activities that they want to do, and not what the Members are interested in doing. They end up planning activities that the Chapter participants may not have a desire to do. Eventually, the Chapter participants become disinterested, and attendance at gatherings and activities begins to decline.

This may be a bit of a reality check, but please take a moment to think about it. Are you doing what the Members want, or are you trying to impose what you want to do on the Chapter?

So, in conclusion – listen carefully to the Members, and seek their input for the activities regarding the Chapter. The Member is what our Association is all about.

Learn Something New...Then Teach Someone!

Steve and Carolyn Cotton

Region H Trainers

District Couple Coordinators - Amy and Allen Strain

Hello Louisiana

It has been one busy and exciting year representing Louisiana as your District Couple of the Year. We have traveled together and apart to all of the District Conventions plus a few other events in our neighboring Region A region. We have met a lot of friendly faces and made some new long lasting friendships during our travels. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing us to represent Louisiana and GWRRA this past year as your District Couple of the Year. We hope that the next District Couple has just as much fun as we have had. We have traveled to places that we have always wanted to travel to and just had not gotten around to yet plus some! We were always



Amy & Allen Strain

welcomed with open arms and smiles of welcome everywhere we went. We were also honored to be in a group picture at the Kansas Convention with all of the District Couples for Region H plus our Region Couple. It is a rare occurrence to have the entire Couple's in one place at the same time. We enjoyed spending time with each one of them!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Merlin and Beverly Mayon along with the rest of the Louisiana District Team for their support and advice throughout this year. We had a wonderful time traveling and working with you.

To all of the Chapter Couples, remember it is always an honor and a privilege to represent your Chapters and Louisiana as the Couple of the Year. Please join us in Lafayette in April for your chance at being our next District Couple of the Year. It is an experience of a lifetime not to be missed!

As always, friends for fun, safety and knowledge.
Allen and Amy Strain

District Couple of the Year