

Zoo Group Gazette

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 01

TEXAS CHAPTER Z

JANUARY, 2010

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District News

RIDER EDUCATION UPDATES

- Full Length sleeves
- Full finger gloves
- Long pants
- Boots or shoes that cover the ankles
- A helmet that meets (at a minimum) D O T standards

This should not be a problem as we normally dress like this when we ride anytime (right). But, we will also be required to wear some type of reflective outerwear over our jackets. We will also be required to wear eye protection. However; the military does not consider windshields, fairings, or eyeglasses as eye protection. This should not be a problem for most of us as we wear helmets with face shields. If you happen to be one of the few who don't use face shields you will need a pair of goggles, or wraparound safety glasses.

One other thing that was brought to my attention by a concerned member a few weeks before the horrible shooting at Ft. Hood. That is an active Military Reservation and weapons of any kind are positively prohibited. I know some Wingers have carry license and have weapons with them. Please don't even think about carrying while on Base. In light of the recent tragedy, I can imagine that security will be stepped up on the Base for a while.

So, in closing let me borrow the words from a once popular country song, "Don't take your guns to town son, leave your guns at home son." Until next time:

Ride Safe—Ride Aware—Ride Respectfully

Michael & Suzanne Elrod
District Educator
Master Tour Riders
6680 & 6679



Join Us at our next meetings:

01/13—Chapter Meeting
01/25—Planning Meeting
02/10—Chapter Meeting
02/22— Planning Meeting

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www.zoogroup.org

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Couple of the Year 2010

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Texas District Couple of the Year 2009

Don & Linda Holley
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**Chapter Z Monthly Meeting
(Second Wednesday of the month)**

Meets at the Golden Corral 4021 Spencer in
Pasadena at 7:30PM

Come early and eat with us

**Chapter Z Planning Meeting
(Last Monday of the month)**

Meets at 7:15 PM at Pepper's Grill located at
3604 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX

*Unless otherwise stated, ALL RIDES depart from
the southwest corner of the Summit Parking lot
on Beltway 8 and Red Bluff behind the Exxon
Station*

Director's Corner

Director's Corner

Old Man Winter

It's that time of year again.....It's COLD!!!!

Winter time is probably the worst time of year for us as motorcyclists. Yeah, it's cold out, but typically this time of year it is unfortunately also very rainy. We can always "fleece up" or "Gerbing up" and make life a little more tolerable in the extreme cold, but in the rain and cold together it is just miserable. So, watch the weather reports and pick your days and ride when you can. Sometimes winter can bring those days that we dream about in the summer when it's 95 degrees out. A nice sunny 60 degree day with no wind is lovely weather for a bike ride together with you.... (okay, I wrote this right after Christmas and I still have carols in my head). My New Year's wish for you all is.....RIDE!

We will be going to the Mid-Winter Round Up soon. This is a first of the year meeting for officers, staff and Couples of the Year. There is a big "general meeting" early in the day and then "break out" group meetings to follow. The Chapter Directors have a closed, "Directors only" meeting where we discuss all things pertinent to GWRRA both good and bad. No subject is taboo. Even unpopular subjects are discussed and we are told how to deal with them. It's an eye opener sometimes, but everyone learns a lot and there is always useful information to help us better do our high paying jobs. There are also meetings for the Chapter Educators, Assistant Directors, Membership Enhancement, Couples of the Year, well you get the idea, lots of groups and classes to help us make GWRRA a better organization and experience for you. I would like to strongly encourage EVERYONE to come to the gatherings and planning meetings. PARTICIPATE. We need YOU to make Chapter Z a fun place to be. The old phrase "the more the merrier" really applies to chapter life. Have you ever been to a chapter event where there were too many people? It can't happen. Happy New Year Y'all.

Come ride with us in 2010.
Ted & Carrie Geier Chapter Directors
Master Tour Riders # 7127 &7126





All Good Kids Love Milk

What has milk got to do with Rider Education and/or safety? Well, in a word EVERYTHING. This is a little pneumonic device that helps you remember the 5 keys in the “Smith System” of defensive driving.

I was a defensive driving instructor at FedEx for several years. We teach the “Smith System.” It is a very simple and easy way to remember some defensive driving techniques that may one day save your life!

As a motorcyclist we must always be aware of driving defensively. Even the smallest lapse in our judgment may result in a serious injury. This system has been taught to automobile drivers for years and it works great for bikes too.

The five keys are: aim high in steering, get the big picture, keep your eyes moving, leave yourself an out, and make sure you are seen. (All Good Kids Love Milk.... A G K L M) Now let’s look at these individually and see how they can help us as bikers.

Aim high in steering:

It really means what it says. Look as far down the road as possible. Don’t just focus on the vehicle directly in front of you. What’s in front of him? By using this key we anticipate possible problems before they occur. This is VERY helpful for the lead bike in a group ride. If you aim high and look ahead you will be able to move your group more safely by noticing possible problems well in advance (stalled cars, lanes closing etc...) and taking the appropriate action while it is still safe to do so.

Ever have trouble staying in your “track” while riding or coming to a stop? If you aim high it will help keep you centered in the part of the lane you wish to stay in.

Get the big picture:

This key is telling you to look at yourself in traffic as if looking down from a helicopter. Look at where you are in traffic and where you are in relationship to all the other vehicles around you. Be alert to possible changes in your “space cushion.”

Keep your eyes moving:

This key reminds us not to focus just on what is in front of us. Don’t forget to check those mirrors... often! As bikers we many times don’t spend enough time in our rear-view mirrors to see what might be approaching from behind. Even at a stop sign or stop light watch for cars coming up behind you. Pulse those brake lights as they approach to get their attention.

See AllContinued On Page 14

HANDBOOK 2010**Health:**

- 1.. Drink plenty of water.
2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
3. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants..
4. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy
5. Make time to pray.
6. Play more games
7. Read more books than you did in 2009 .
8. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day
9. Sleep for 7 hours.
10. Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. And while you walk, smile.

Personality:

11. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
12. Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
13. Don't over do. Keep your limits.
14. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
15. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
16. Dream more while you are awake
17. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need..
18. Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner with His/her mistakes of the past. That will ruin your present happiness.
19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Don't hate others.
20. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
21. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
22. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
23. Smile and laugh more.
24. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree...

Society:





25. Call your family often.
26. Each day give something good to others.
27. Forgive everyone for everything..
- 28.. Spend time w/ people over the age of 70 & under the age of 6.
29. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
30. What other people think of you is none of your business.
31. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.

Life:

32. Do the right thing!
33. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
34. God heals everything.
35. However good or bad a situation is, it will change...
36. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
37. The best is yet to come..
38. When you awake alive in the morning, thank God for it.
39. Your Inner most is always happy. So, be happy.

Last but not the least:

40. Please share -- your heart, mind, faith and talents! Touch someone's life in a positive manner!

District Coming Events				
Date	Chapter	Event	Location	Contact/E-Mail
Jan. 09, 2010		Mid-Winter Round UP	Host Hotel Shilo Inns, Killeen, TX	www.gwrra-tx.org
Feb. 6-7, 2010	C	Horizon TX-C	Deer Park Masonic Lodge #1362 2809 Center St. Deer Park, TX	Contact: Lynn Heene TX Dist Trainer 512-694-3064
Mar. 6, 2010	C	Annual "Luck of the Irish" Rally	Stay Tuned For Details	Contact: Rick Lowe 281-471-0150
Mar. 20, 2010	X-2	Annua; X-2 Birthday Party	Bear Creek Park off Clay Rd	David & Gail Nunez 281-213-3223
Mar. 25-27, 2010		Region-H "Be A Sport In Marshall	Marshall Civic Center, Marshall, TX	www.gwrra-tx.org
April 3, 2010	J	24th Annual Fool's Run Rally	Cowboy Honda, Beaumont, TX	
April 8-10, 2010		Louisiana District Madigras Madness	Holiday Inn, Lafayette, LA	Gene & Nelda Stanley dgstanley1@suddenlink.net 337-478-1670
May 6-8, 2010		Texas District Rally "Let's Rally The Troops"	Marshall, TX 155791-01	Ken & Babie Peterson 817-293-4667 kenandbarbie@att.net
May 27-29, 2010		Arkansas Distraict Rally	Stay Tuned For Details	
June 30-July 3, 2010		Wing Ding 32	Iowa Events Center Des Moines, Iowa	

This information is provided for the convenience of Chapter Z members. Information is obtained from the Texas District web page and various sources. No warrantee is made with respect to the accuracy of any information on this page or any other page in this newsletter, and the staff of Chapter Z shall not be liable if any information is incorrect. You are advised to verify the accuracy of this information prior to attending any listed event. This information contained herein is subject to change without notice.

Membership Enhancement Coordinator's

December 2009 Chapter Z Participation Report

Attendance Report:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/6/2009	Breakfast @ Spanish Flower	8	0	8
12/6/2009	Wrap party for Foster Kids	6	0	6
12/9/2009	Chapter Z Monthly Gathering	20	3	23
12/12/2009	Foster Kids Christmas Party	6	0	6
12/13/2009	Breakfast @ Frank's	5	0	5
12/19/2009	Chapter Z Christmas Party	20	0	20
12/20/2009	Breakfast @ Joe's	8	0	8
12/27/2009	Breakfast @ Frank's	12	4	16
	Total			92

The "Zee" Store

Chapter Caps \$10

Chapter T-Shirt \$10

Chapter Polo Shirts \$ 25

Chapter Long-Sleeve T-Shirt \$25

Zoo Group Orange Jacket w/Reflective Stripe \$35

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WINTER WEATHER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM) reminds motorists that when temperatures reach at or just above 32-degrees, a thin layer of water on the roads and highways can turn to slick ice, making for dangerous driving conditions.

OHSEM offers the following driving tips to motorists traveling slick or icy roads:

Know your vehicle and how it operates. Not all cars respond the same to slippery roads. Knowing how to handle your vehicle and how it responds in various weather conditions is important.

Always maintain a good distance from vehicles in front of you.

The most important thing to remember when driving on slick roads is that you must travel, steer and brake more slowly than usual.

The distance needed to stop under slick conditions is much greater than you would need to brake under normal driving circumstances. Leave yourself plenty of room to stop.

Recognize Danger Zones:

Intersections -- Slow down before reaching an intersection. Scan all directions for cars and pedestrians.

Curves -- Reduce speed before entering a curve.

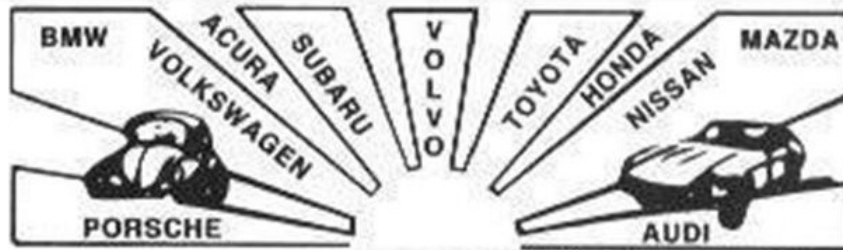
Bridges - Ice forms on bridges and freeways so reduce speed and use precaution.

Never brake while driving on ice. If you are approaching a patch of ice, brake during your approach. Applying pressure to your brakes while on ice will only throw you into a skid.

Finally, always buckle up and use extra caution when driving in slick or icy conditions.

(Sources: American Automobile Association, Texas Department of Transportation, FEMA)

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC



Operating Hours:
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Happy New Year From Greg and Kris

Well, by the time this newsletter makes it to everyone we will have celebrated yet another New Year. My how time flies. We hope that everyone was safe and had fun ringing in the New Year.

It was a little over a year ago that we found our way to GWRRA and Chapter Z and what a year it has been. We have participated in a great many rides, rallies, and events thru the year and each one have left us wanting more. When the occasion presents itself and we are not able to attend a function or ride that is going on we feel like we really missed out. We so look forward to gathering with the group! It truly is a great thing spending time with people who share your passion for riding and it is even better when they turn out to be great people who you are proud to call friends. The chapter has been there for us and offered support when we needed it the most. We can't wait to see what lies ahead for us!!

With the New Year comes some changes. I am sure that most everybody has heard by now there are going to be some changes in the staff of Chapter Z. There are a few officers and staff members that are "retiring" from their duties. We would like to THANK them for their commitment during their tenure; the chapter would not be the same without their leadership and contributions.

As the saying goes when one door closes another opens. Kris and I were surprised and flattered when we were approached and asked to become Assistant Chapter Directors (filling one of the "retiree spots). We are honored to accept and only hope we can give back to the chapter as much as we have received. We look forward to serving you, the chapter, and the organization.

We are babies in the organization and still trying to figure out how things work. One thing we know for sure is it's all about the participants, this chapter exists for the people and we are ready to do all we can to make it as much fun as we can. We will be counting on everyone to give us guidance and suggestions as to what you would like to see and do this year and we will do everything we can to exceed your expectations. We are all in this together so let's see what new and exciting things we can do this year. (We are also hoping that some of our past leaders will be there to mentor us along the way)

Greg and Kris Johnstone
Assistant Chapter Directors

Ride For Kids



Our own Mr. Everett Hunt will have World's Finest Chocolate Candy for you to buy and sell to benefit the Ride For Kids. He will be ordering 25 cases of chocolates. Please contact Ev if you would be interested in selling (or buying) some candy to help support the Ride For Kids 2010. His Email address is: elhunt47@earthlink.net or you may call him at work at: 281/488-3686.

The Funnies

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kemo Sabe, look towards sky; what you see?"

The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."
"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it tell you, Tonto?"

"You dumber than buffalo pattie. Someone stole tent."

New Year's Day Party - That Never Was?

As in many homes on New Year's Day, Janet and Nigel, a happily married couple, faced the annual conflict of which was more important: the football match on television, or the lunch itself.

Hoping to keep the peace Nigel ate lunch with the rest of the family, and even lingered for some pleasant after-lunch chat before retiring to the lounge to turn on the television.

Some minutes later, Janet looked in to see how he was and graciously even bought a cold beer for Nigel. She smiled, kissed him on the cheek and asked what the score was. Nigel told her it was half time and that the score was still 0-0.

'See?' Janet said happily, 'You didn't miss a thing.'

Bio Spot!

Hi , my name is Joe Hile and my wife is Denise , and we are assuming the role of Chapter Educators for Chapter Z . I have been a member of Chapter Z since 2005 and Denise came on board in 2006 .

I have been riding Gold Wings since 1979 and am a firm believer in Safety . I have played many roles as a trainer in my " Day Job" but my key role has been driver safety . I have been a D.O.T. instructor and point person . I am also a certified instructor for Smith Systems which is a system that teaches safe driving techniques on both private and commercial levels .

Motorcycle riding is the most fun when it is safe , and we hope to share our knowledge and the knowledge of our members, to give each of our members what he or she needs to have a safe and enjoyable riding experience .

Joe and Denise Hile
Master Tour Rider #7545



Twelve Important Things My Motorcycle Has Taught Me

Submitted by Bubba Tice

1. The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rear view mirror.
 2. Four wheels move the body; two wheels move the soul.
 3. I'd rather be riding my motorcycle and thinking about God, than sitting in church thinking about my bike.
 4. Life may begin at 30, but it doesn't get real interesting until about 75 mph.
 5. Midnight bugs taste just as bad as Noon time bugs.
 6. Sometimes it takes a whole tank full of gas before you can think straight.
 7. A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.
 8. Young riders pick a destination and go; old riders pick a direction and go.
 9. When you're riding lead, don't spit.
 10. Catching a yellow jacket in your shirt at 75 mph can double your vocabulary.
 11. If you can't get it going with bungee cords and duct tape, it's serious.
 12. Only a biker knows why a dog sticks his head out of a car window.
-

JANUARY 2010

Chapter Z GWRRA

Pasadena, Texas

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 Happy New Year	2 Meet at 6PM for dinner- location TBD- then to Radio Music Theatre Fertle Family
3 KSU 7:30AM-Z'a S. JO- Ride to Sunflower Bakery	4	5	6	7	8		9 TX Dist Mid-Winter Roundup in Killeen - details at www.zoogroup.org
10	11	12	13 Z Monthly Mtg. 7:30PM- Golden Corral on Spencer	14	15		16 KSU 9:AM-Z's S. JO Lunch ride to Angleton
17	18	19	20	21	22		23 KSU S. JO @ 10AM- Lunch ride to Judge's in San Leon
24	25 Z Planning Mtg 7:15PM @ Pepper's on Fairmont	26	27	28	29		30 KSU 10:AM N. JO-Ride to Potato Patch Restaurant
31			<p>Have BREAKFAST with the ZOO GROUP ...Every Sunday morning at Frank's Grill 3807 Spencer Hwy in Pasadena 8:00AM</p> <p>Please check our website 296014 for possible changes in the location of our Breakfast meeting and any updates.</p> <p>www.zoogroup.org</p>				

All....Continued From Page 4

Leave yourself an out:

This is a very important key for us bikers. We can't just "take a hit" from a car that comes over into our lane and then pull to the side to exchange information with the other driver. We must be better than the other drivers. Keep a space cushion all around you if possible. Leave yourself enough room in front of you so that if the vehicle ahead of you brakes quickly, you have plenty of space to make a safe stop. Leave space to the sides as "escape routes" if you are unable to stop quickly enough to avoid the vehicle in front of you. This may mean using the "shoulder" of the road as an escape route. Try to stay far enough ahead of the vehicle behind you to give them space to stop if you have to brake quickly. Pulse those brake lights if needed to keep him off your back. We don't have the luxury of a rear bumper.

Make sure you are seen:

This is the most important key for us bikers. In almost every motorcycle versus car collision you will hear the car driver say "I never saw him." We have to do our part to make sure this does not happen!

At intersections, look both ways before you cross. Are the cars stopped? Make eye contact with the other drivers, directly or indirectly in their mirrors. Use your horn, just a small tap to get attention. If someone looking at you seems upset, smile and wave. At least they saw you.

Wear light colored clothing and a helmet. Install a "back-off" style brake modulator on your brakes and a headlight modulator on your headlight. Put some lights on the sides of your bikes for greater visibility. In other words "light 'em up". Show off that magnificent piece of machinery! Make sure every car, truck and pedestrian knows you are there. The life you save will be yours!

I just want to take a minute to say how proud it makes Carrie and I feel when we see more and more of our members all ATGATTed up on their bikes. I think GWRRA sets the standard for safety for the motorcycle community. Hopefully others will follow!

Till next time....think safe....act safe.....ride safe. It's not about the destination, it's about the RIDE!

Ted and Carrie Geier

Chapter Directors
Master Tour Riders #7127 and 7126
ATGATT wearers

GWRRA Texas Chapter Z
Meets the 2nd
Wednesday of each month at
Golden Corral
4021 Spencer Hwy.
7:30 pm

Z's (North) Jump Off:
All rides depart from the
parking lot on the
southwest corner of
Beltway 8 @ Red Bluff
behind the Exxon station

Z's SOUTH Jump Off:
Kroger on I-45 @ FM 517 in
Dickinson

Z's MID Jump Off:
AMC Gulf Pointe Parking Lot
I-45 & Beltway 8

Chapter Z meets every
Sunday for breakfast at
Frank's Grill
3807 Spencer Hwy. 8:00AM
**CHECK CALENDAR FOR CHANGES IN
LOCATION**

Reminder

This is your newsletter, please feel free to write an article about a ride, a rally or other pertinent matter and submit it for publication on or before the next planning meeting.

Ya'll come back!

Zoo Group Celebrations



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

January
04—Pat McTigue
16—Billy Miller
23—Cindy Montgomery
25—Jerry Steward
29—Bobbie Haines

*Happy
Anniversary*

January
05—Maxie & Earline Hill

Find your Number!

Each month there will be a GWRRA member number embedded somewhere within the newsletter. It could be yours. There will be a prize waiting for you at the next meeting if you find your number. Good Luck!



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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