

Zoo Group Gazette

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 05

TEXAS CHAPTER Z

MAY, 2010

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CAJUN COUNTRY RALLY -- aka THE LOUISIANA DISTRICT RALLY

By Everett Hunt

It was a great day for a ride to Lafayette, Louisiana for the Louisiana District Rally on April 8, 9 & 10. It was a little chilly starting off but warmed up about the time we stopped for lunch. There were 7 bikes/trikes that showed up at the Kroger parking lot in La Porte for jump off at 8:30 am. The Geier's, Fogarty's, McTigue's, Robbins', Joe Hile and Fay and I were eager and ready to go. We met up with the Tice's and Johnstone's in Baytown to increase our group to 15 participants.

Since this was Connie Robbins first really long ride with the "Z" Group, we tried not to wear her out and stopped in Beaumont for refreshments; then it was back on I-10 and straight to Steamboat Bills in Lake Charles for lunch. Fay and I had never had the opportunity to eat there because we usually take the coast highway to Lafayette (somewhat more scenic than I-10 and less hectic trying to deal with the traffic.). The service was a little slow but the Cajun food was excellent! Since we were running a little behind schedule, we decided to stay on I-10 rather than taking 90 into Lafayette.

Upon arrival we all scrambled to get in our rooms and pick up our Rally registration packets. There are usually some good brochures included in the packets and Patrice found one that sounded interesting enough that most of the group decided to go on a short ride across town to the Arcadian Village on Friday morning. Ken Robbins had signed up for a trike course on Friday and Connie decided to stay at the Holiday Inn to rest and shop the vendors.

Join Us at our next Gatherings:

05/12—Chapter Gathering
05/31— ~~Planning Meeting~~ **Cancelled**
Due to Holiday
06/09—Chapter Gathering



Texas Chapter Z Officers and Staff

www.zoogroup.org

Chapter Directors

Ted & Carrie Geier
713-473-5693

cgeier1@sbcglobal.net

Asst. Chapter Directors

Greg & Kris Johnstone
281-864-5368

gjohnstone1@msn.com

Asst. Chapter Directors

Lonnie & Deanna Hebert
281-331-1348

lhebert@earthlink.net

Chapter Educators

Joe & Denise Hile
281-542-0033

gczshark@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Fay Eger & Everett Hunt
(409) 925-5672

egerfn@earthlink.net

Communications Coordinator

Mike & Patrice Fogarty
281-337-4015

pfogarty@missouricitytx.gov

Membership Enhancement Coordinator

Ken Robbins

713-944-7501

k.robbins@sbcglobal.net

Ride Coordinator

Mike & Patrice Fogarty
281-337-4015

pfogarty@missouricitytx.gov

Motorist Awareness Division

Bob Curtis & Debbie Hanlin
281-838-8150

eaglequest55@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Butch & Bobbie Haines
281-476-0138

bobbie.haines@earthlink.net

Merchandising Coordinator

Pat & Joyce McTigue
281-481-3078

pmctigue@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster

Ken Robbins
7133-944-7501

k.robbins@sbcglobal.net

Technical Coordinator

Lonnie Hebert
281-331-1348

lhebert@earthlink.net

Couple of the Year 2010

Lonnie & Deanna Hebert
281-331-1348

lhebert@earthlink.net

Texas District Staff

www.gwrri-tx.org

District Director

Ken & Barbie Peterson
817-791-6685

TexasDD@gwrri-tx.org

Asst. District Director

Fred & Mandy Mew
972-425-3077

TexasADD@gwrri-tx.org

District Educators

Chet Roby & Maria Collins
254-718-3977

TxED@gwrri-tx.org

Asst. District Educator

Collen Campbell
713-907-8700 cell

AsstED@gwrri-tx.org

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor & Patch Diva

Pamela Meyer
281-578-8371 home
713-823-4053 cell

treasurer@gwrri-tx.org

Membership Enhancement Division-Activities Coordinator

Carolyn Barton
254-578-3353 home
903-879-4188 cell

txmedac@gwrri-tx.org

District Webmaster

Mark Heene
512-288-4152 home
512-694-3064 cell

webmaster@gwrri-tx.org

Membership Enhancement Division-COY Coordinators

John & Lena Bryant
817-741-5216

txmedcoy@gwrri-tx.org

Asst. Membership Enhancement Division

Donna Holley
940-231-4026 cell

asstmec@gwrri-tx.org

District Trainers

Lynn Heene
512-288-4152 home
512-694-3064 cell

TxTrainer@gwrri-tx.org

Vendor Coordinators

Jim & Ruby Seale
903-856-5153 home
903-767-1022 cell

TxVendor@gwrri-tx.org

Membership enhancement Division—COY Coordinators

John & Lena Bryant
817-741-5216 home
817-791-8918 cell

txmedcoy@gwrri-tx.org

Texas District Couple of the Year 2010

Dave & Gene Simmons
325-382-4469

TxCOY@gwrri-tx.org

Chapter Z Monthly Gathering
(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



Be a Promoter: Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge



Hello everyone.

I was thinking the other day (I know that's usually not a good thing) about something Carrie and I try to do as often as we can when we see a fellow Winger when we are out and about. We always try to make an effort to say hi and find out if they are a member of GWRRA and what chapter they are with. If they are not a member we try to let them know about GWRRA and some of the benefits that go along with belonging to the largest Gold Wing and Valkyrie association in the world:

Wing World Magazine: our award-winning, premier magazine for the Gold Wing touring enthusiast.

Gold Book Service Directory: a listing of over 30,000 GWRRA members who have indicated their willingness to help a fellow member in time of need while on the highway. NEVER leave home without it.

GWRRA Rider Education Program: offers specialized training for riders and co-riders of bikes and trikes. Working hand in hand with such organizations as the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and the national association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA), our riders are exposed to a plethora of entertaining riding and informative classroom sessions to improve your riding skills and safety.

Rescue Emergency Roadside Assistance: 24-hour/7 day a week assistance for our members

Rescue Plus Emergency Roadside Assistance: for \$25/year more you towing coverage includes all your vehicles.

Leadership Training: many formalized training programs are available to provide opportunities for new learning experiences.

Interactive Website: gives you access to the latest GWRRA news and info. about GWRRA.

Motorcycle Insurance & Retail Discounts: offered by many insurance agencies for completed Rider Education courses. Many Honda dealers offer up to 10% discount on products.

Travel Discount Hotel Program: over 9,000 negotiated hotel rates with 1,200 vacation rental properties. Guaranteed lowest rates for discounted hotel room, car rentals and airfares. Book through GWRRA Travel Now!

Chapter Life: in a word, us. For many members this is the single most important benefit of belonging to GWRRA. Getting to hang out with like-minded individuals in family atmosphere that promotes safety and rider education is awesome.

Okay, so I don't expect you to remember all these benefits to tell others, but remember some and when you see a fellow winger in a parking lot or a restaurant, ask them if they are a member and talk to them a bit. Maybe they will become our next new Chapter Z members.

Till next month, remember, it's not about the destination, it's about the ride!

Ted & Carrie Geier Chapter Directors
Master Tour Riders #7317 & 7216



Riding in Style and Safety



Whether you participate or not in the Rider Education programs is strictly a matter of choice. The program does involve a commitment to take courses every 2-3 years which are designed to promote and hopefully enhance your riding skills. But regardless of whether or not you are interested in participating in “RE” through the levels program, hopefully you have a whole-hearted commitment to your individual safety and that of your passenger.

Many hobbies and sports have personal safety equipment and devices and obviously motorcycle riding is no exception. Although women often are thinking more of making a fashion statement than the functionality of protective clothing and gear, ultimately our clothing should be able to achieve its purpose, that being safety and comfort.

During the cooler fall and winter months it’s much easier to comply with the recommendations made by the various motorcycle safety foundations to wear the leather boots, gloves and coats, and regardless of how cumbersome it is, we are all much better off for it. But one piece of equipment stands “head and shoulders” above all others and that is a helmet.

Certain basic equipment is really a necessity, and in many states, required by law. Above all else a motorcycle helmet should be worn at all times, whether you are riding down to the corner or across country. Despite the arguments made against wearing a helmet, such as impaired hearing, obstructed vision and even causing a broken neck, these are not valid reasons for not wearing a helmet when compared to the grim statistics which show that motorcyclist not wearing a helmet are three times more likely to suffer a traumatic brain injury than those riders that do. The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) estimates that that motorcycle helmets reduce the possibility of crash fatalities by 37-39%. Further statistics accumulated on a state-by-state basis, and at national level, prove that fatalities from motorcycle crashes skyrocketed when motorcycle helmet laws were repealed and helmet use declined. Further studies showed that 18% of impacts to a helmet occur to the front with the balance being to the sides and back. This would indicate that most collisions occur from the sides or from the rear, which would make these incidents beyond the rider’s control.

Motorcycle helmets come in several shapes; those being the ½ shell, ¾ open faced and full face. The half-shell provides very little protection, other than the top half of the skull, and little or no protection for the facial area. Whatever your preference, a helmet should provide adequate protection and shock absorbing capability as well as eye protection via a snap-on or pull-down shield. As an alternative, goggles or shatterproof glasses may be a viable choice.

While full body protection is certainly desirable year round it is not necessarily a practical options in Texas when summer temperatures can reach 100 degrees or greater. Still at the very least it is recommended that a rider and passenger wear blue jeans, durable boots covering the ankles, and a long sleeve shirt for protection. Unfortunately, the elastic sleeves used for sun protection don’t provide enough protection in the event of a “get off”.

A motorcycle rider may have little or no control over some of the riding conditions and situations encountered that may involve road hazards and other drivers, or even his own faulty actions. Being properly prepared and protected for the possibility of an accident can make the difference between walking away with a few scrapes and bruises and not surviving at all.




Joe and Denise Hile
Chapter Educators
Master Rider #7545

Lafayette...Continued From Page 1

The Arcadian Village consisted of several rustic and well preserved homes from the 1800's and included many antiques from that era. The landscaping was absolutely beautiful as the azaleas were in full bloom and we all took advantage of them by snapping lots of pictures. What a gorgeous day it was! After our tour of the homes, Kris and Patrice feed the many turtles and fish in the ponds while we all watched and relaxed under the patio area. Back on our bikes/trikes, we decided to ride over to Grand Coteau for lunch. As you all know, Louisiana roads are notorious for being full of potholes and extremely rough. I think we found one of the roughest roads around! It was suppose to be a 30 minute trip to Grand Coteau from Arcadia; but it took a lot longer because we had to go so slow. To our dismay, the sandwich shop was no longer there and had been turned into an expensive restaurant. So, we headed back to the Holiday Inn area and stopped at Chris' for lunch. Their sandwiches and fries are really delicious. Fay and I have eaten there every time we go to the Louisiana Rally because we like it s-o-o-o much. Back at the Rally, we all went our separate ways. Fay and I checked out the vendors; and of course, they ended up with some of our money --- new boots and suspenders for me, belts and jewelry for Fay. We were kind of disappointed in the number of vendors that were in Lafayette this year. There seemed to be about half the number of last year. Friday evening Fay and I took Cajun dance lessons so we could "cut-a-rug" Friday evening at the big dance and costume party only the Louisiana District knows how to throw! But before the party, Ted and Ken took off to pick up Popeye's chicken and trimmings for everyone in the Zoo Group to enjoy. For the last two years, we have had a great picnic under the umbrellas in the pool patio area. What a great tradition this is becoming! After satisfying our tummies, Fay and I went to see how the party was progressing. We did get some dancing in but never got to use our dance lessons as the band didn't play any Cajun music. Once the party started winding down, Fay and I joined some of the group in Mike and Patrice's room to plan our next adventure.

Saturday, Fay and I decided we'd stay around the Inn and shop the vendors one more time and get our names painted on our helmets. After Ken Robbins had finished the field portion of his trike class on Friday, it was discovered that his front tire had been severely worn down, enough that he felt it needed to be replaced before heading home on Sunday. He got a great deal on a tire at the Rally but there was no one there to mount it for him. After much searching, he found a motorcycle repair shop in Abbeville that would mount it for him while he waited. So, the Geier's, McTigue's, Fogarty's, Joe Hile and Ken Robbins took off for Abbeville so that Ken could get his tire replaced. Apparently, that took a lot longer than expected, as the group cancelled their sightseeing tour of another Cajun/Creole village in the area (Vermilionville) and came on back to the Inn so they would all be present for the closing ceremonies --- just in case anyone in our group happened to win the Grand Prize -- which didn't happen. Fay and I were going to go with N-2's group to Mulate's; but since the closing was a lot shorter than usual, the group decided they would stay at the Inn and eat there. That didn't sound too appealing to us, so we decided we were still going to Mulate's for dinner and dancing. After mentioning this to the Z group, they changed their plans and rode with us. Unfortunately, they seated us right next to the band and we were unable to carry on a conversation without screaming at each other. Fay and I hadn't been there in two years and were very disappointed in the food. Not as good as before and the portions had really shrunk!

Now that the Rally was over it was time to head back home. After breakfast for some, we regrouped and headed back west on I-10. I believe we all had FUN!! The weather was great, we were on our bikes/trikes, and we were with good friends. What could be better? See you at the next Rally! *

District Coming Events				
Date	Chapter	Event	Location	Contact/E-Mail
May 6-8, 2010		Texas District Rally "Let's Rally The Troops"	Marshall, TX	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 31	Iowa Events Center Des Moines, Iowa	http://www.wing-ding.org/
Aug. 13-14, 2010	I	Chapter I Rally	Marshall Civic Center, Marshall, TX	rubyseale@suddenlink.net 903-856-5153
Aug. 21, 2010	M	Chapter M Fun Run	Stay tuned for Details	
Aug. 27-28, 2010	★	Kansas Dist Rally	El Dorado KS	
Sept. 17-18, 2010	Y-2	Chapter Y-2 Rally		http://texasy2.org or Joe Milton 903-593-2220
Oct. 7-9, 2010	★	Oklahoma District Rally		gwrraokla.org/index.html
March 24-26, 2011		Region H Rally	Plano, Texas	

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 April 2010 Chapter Z Participation Report

Attendance Report:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total</u>
4/3/2010	Chapter J's Fool's Rally	8	0	8
4/4/2010	Breakfast at Frank's	3	0	3
4/8,9,10/2010	Louisiana District Rally, Lafayette	15	0	15
4/14/2010	Chapter Z's Monthly Gathering	29	1	30
4/16/2010	Smith Defensive Driving Course	10	0	10
4/18/2010	Breakfast at Frank's	7	0	7
4/23/2010	Sonic Gathering	3	0	3
4/25/2010	Breakfast at Frank's	2	0	2
4/26/2010	Planning Gathering	9	0	9
Total				87



Ken Robbins
Chapter Z
Membership Enhancement Coordinator

The "Zee" Store

Chapter Caps \$10

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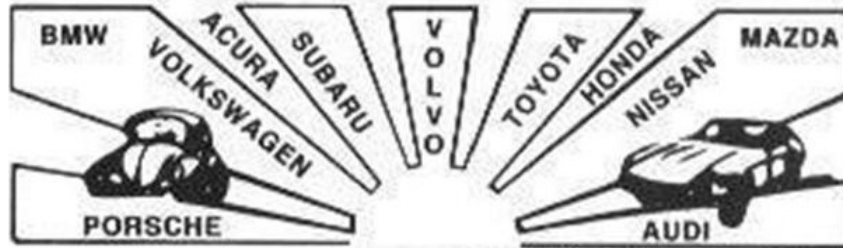
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MAY 2010

Chapter Z GWRRA

Pasadena, Texas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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 for possible changes in the location of our Breakfast meeting and any updates.</p> <p>www.zoogroup.org</p>						<p>1 Blue Bonnet Ride 8:30 AM JO at Z's Mid JO AMC Gulf Point 30 Theater 1801 S Sam Houston Toll Way</p>
<p>2 Meet at Joe's in Alvin 8:00 AM</p>	3	4	5	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Texas District Rally in Killeen</p>
<p>9 Happy Mother's Day</p>	10	11	<p>12 Z's Monthly Gathering 7:30 PM at Golden Corral</p>	13	<p>14 Sonic Ride 7: PM Meet at the Sonic in Santa Fe Hwy 6 & FM 1764</p>	<p>15 Wrench Day 9-12 AM at Ms. LaVern's- 1406 Orrel Dr. in Pasadena</p>
16	17	18	19	20	<p>21 Wounded Warrior Ride Contact Lonnie Hebert</p>	<p>22 Ride to Sam Moon on I -45 9AM MID JO at AMC Gulf Point 30</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						<p>Arkansas District Rally, Rogers, AR</p>
30	<p>31 Z Planning Mtg. 7:15 PM at Pepper's</p> <p>CANCELLED</p>					

JUNE 2010

Chapter Z GWRRA

Pasadena, Texas

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5 McTigue's Luau on the Lake KSU at Z Regular JO 9:30 AM
6	7	8	9 Z Monthly Gathering at 7:30 PM at Golden Corral On Spencer in Pasadena	10	11	12 Everett Hunt's Open House- Houston Trikes & Trailers 10-2PM
13 Breakfast Ride to Original Mexican Rest. In Galveston KSU 7:15 AM Z-Mid JO	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Z Planning Meeting 7:15 PM – Pepper's on Fairmont in Pasadena	29	30 <i>Wing Ding 32 Des Moines, IA 06-30—07-03</i>	<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 for possible changes in the location of our Breakfast meeting and any updates.</p>		

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



MAY

- 04—Patrice Fogarty
- 05—Janet Whelan
- 09—Jan Elzey
- 10—Susan Pierce
- 11—Bob Curtis
- 13—Barbara Edwards

Happy Anniversary

MAY

- 11—Sandy & Julie Bryson
- 24—Dave & Janet Wheylon
- 26—David & Petie Lebanowski



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!





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