

GWRRA CHAPTER - M

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION "H"

TEXAS DISTRICT

ARLINGTON, TEXAS



THE MOONLIGHTERS

OCTOBER 2006



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CD's Corner

"M" IS ON THE GROW!

If you miss one or two meetings, you may not recognize some of the people in the room. This is so encouraging to us because any organization that is not growing is on the road to decline. After a period of time, we tend to get complacent and become satisfied with the status quo. When you have new people coming in, who are excited about being a part of the Chapter, you will have new energy and new ideas to contribute to even more growth. We would like to say to all the

new M's "welcome and don't be afraid to get involved." To the old M's we would like to say "meet these new people, make them welcome and show them that they have come to the right place. Chapter M is truly their home Chapter."

The Ride to the Ditch was a really great trip. If you enjoy touring on your motorcycle, I would like to encourage you to join us on one of our Chapter Overnight Rides. The next "Overnighter" will be a Hill Country Thanksgiving Ride. We will leave early Friday morning, after Thanksgiving, to embark

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on a Hill Country Adventure. We will cover as much of the Texas Hill Country as is possible on a three-day adventure. A few of the destinations are HICO, Lampasas, Austin, Marble Falls, Luckenbach, Kerrville, Medina, Bandera and Camp Wood. There will be others such as Fredericksburg and Johnson City. If you have never been to the Texas Hill Country, you will be surprised at the beautiful scenery to be found there. There will be more information on Hotel and times of departure.

We will be having our Christmas Party at the same place as last year. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped

gift valued at about \$15.00 to \$20.00. Choose a gift that you would like to take home yourself because you may just do that. We will be doing something different this year, thank you Fay Tolson for suggesting this to us. It will be a surprise and I think everyone will enjoy it. The meat has been taken care of. Each family is asked to bring a side dish and desert to go with the brisket and ham. There will be more information coming as time grows near. With everyone helping, we will have a great party without a lot of effort.

The weather is cooling down and the riding is getting better. We are very fortunate to have as few mishaps as we have had while on Chapter

Ye Ole Ride Schedule

October

Breakfast Ride - Sam & Cathy	Sun	1 st	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Chapter Meeting	Thurs	5th	Spring Creek	7:00 PM
Ride to Hillsboro Pioneer Days	Sat	7 th	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Ride for Kids - Warren Burt Leads	Sun	8 th	LV FINA	7:00 AM
Staff Meeting	Wed	11th	Spring Creek	7:00 PM
Lunch Ride - Tommy Renken Leads	Sun	15 th	LV FINA	TBD
Tag Team Ride to Oklahoma (McGehee's)	Sat	22 nd	LV FINA	9:00 AM
Lunch Ride - Gary Lewis Leads	Sat	28 th	LV FINA	10:00 AM

November

Chapter Meeting	Thurs	2nd	Spring Creek	7:00 PM
Texas District Education & Training	Sat	4 th	Lufkin, TX	Adlib
LCR Ride	Sun	5 th	LV FINA	9:00 AM
Chapter Z 17 th Annual Birthday Party	Sat	11 th	LV FINA	8:00 AM
ERC Course at Tarrant County JC Sign up for course through the college	Sat	11 th	TCJC	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Lunch Ride	Sun	12 th	LV FINA	10:00 AM
Ride to International Motorcycle Show in Ft Worth; Lunch at Lucille's 3:30PM	Sat	19 th	LV FINA	11:00 AM
Chapter M Hill Country Ride - Gary Leads	Fri - Sun	24 - 26	LV HICO	8:00 AM

FINA Station - 1721 FM 157 West of US-287, Mansfield, TX

**Chapter Meeting 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM,
Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM**

Spring Creek Barbeque, 1724 HWY 287 (at Debbie Lane), Mansfield, TX



OCTOBER 2006

GWRRA CHAPTER M EVENT CALENDAR



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday																																																																																		
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23	24	25	26	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> 10:00 AM @ Fina; Lunch Ride somewhere west; Gary Lewis Leads </div>	29 Daylight Savings Time Ends																																																																																		
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NOVEMBER 2006

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SPECIAL DATES

October 2006

Birthdays

James Carpenter	1st
Sherry Myers	3rd
Keith Tyler	4th
Carolyn Martini	6th
Kevin Lynch	9th
Cozette Lawrence	13th
Bill Terry	15th
Wayne Hogan	22nd
Mike Fuller	25th
Sheila Norton	25th
Larry Rodgers	28th

Anniversaries

Lonnie and Harolyn Ellis	2nd
Fred and Sherry Myers	5th
Randy and Shirley Simpson	6th
Rowdy and Joanne Hickox	10th
Ed and Jean Kelley	12th

Rides. I attribute this to the training and knowledge of safety. There is a great opportunity to keep this going as Bill has set up an ERC course for Chapter M. If we need to, we can have two courses to accommodate everyone that wants to take advantage of the training that will help keep us safe.

If you have not signed up for this class, contact Bill and he will help you get set up. The cost is \$80.00 but if you join Honda Riders Club of America, they will reimburse you \$75.00 for taking the course. This can be done on line if you want.

Ride often and ride safe,
Gary and Bev

The Ditch Ride

(From a Wing's point of view)

Andrews' Wing notes:

Well, time was finally here to go on the Ditch Ride. I was so excited. I could see the excitement in Marvin and Sylvia's eyes as they loaded up their trailer (two weeks early). I was smiling and I was happy. My first big ride! We got



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Find your GWRRA Number in this Newsletter and you can win a free Raffle Ticket if you show a current GWRRA Membership card to the CD at the Chapter M meeting. There are two GWRRA numbers in this newsletter.

an early start on Saturday morning and stopped for breakfast at Denny's in Fort Worth. I think it was about 3:30 AM. We rode up to the DQ parking lot in Decatur and waited for the rest of the bikes to arrive.

I looked over the hill...here they come, here they come!! Boy, they looked good. Shiny, elegant, their windshields posed high, riding with pride. This was going to be fun.



I didn't feel good but I wasn't about to tell anybody. I didn't want to let anybody down.

We rode up to Wichita Falls, stopped and everyone had to put on their rain gear. The rain felt good. We had ridden in such hot weather lately, that this nice cool rain was wonderful.

Then something horrible happened. I passed out.....when I came to I was on the shoulder of the road. Sick. I think I had a fever. DQ Denny, Caroline, Donald and Charlene were all huddled around me to see if I was OK. The rest of the group decided they had better go on to Clarendon and wait for us. Marvin very carefully rode me into town. I clanked all the way but I made it. Finally in Clarendon, there were my friends. They had found a Subway...wouldn't you know it? I knew Wings could smell good food, even in the rain.


As I passed by the group of Wings in the parking lot, they gave me the "Wing Sign"...it's a fast blink of the headlight. This blink is almost impossible for humans to see but we Wings have

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no problem in recognizing "Our Sign". This gave me courage to hold my fenders high. I knew with them behind me I would be ok.

I talked with Hussy Hauler and she promised she would tell me all about the Ditch Ride because I didn't think I would be able to go on. Sure enough, I had to be trailered home the next day. Marvin and Sylvia's son, Scotty brought their PT Cruiser and the CB. We went on to Amarillo and meet up with the group late that night.

Hussy Hauler notes:

After the group had breakfast at the hotel, we left Amarillo and we were on our way to Alamosa, CO. We rode in some rain and Suzy was later dubbed a trick rider when she showed her

skills at riding her Wing sideways down the road. There was just too much water on the road. We were careful and made it to Colorado by evening. Most of the Wings were covered up for the night and the group was shuttled to a great Mexican restaurant by the Vickers pickup and the Cruiser best known as the group's two chase cars.

Smith's Wing notes:

Someone had put a license plate on my trailer. It made me feel ...kinda funny; kinda silly....It made me want to swish around in the lane. You know, from side to side like I was "you know".....Why was I made the "Tail gunner" or "Backdoor" that day? I felt funny all day until the license plate was finally taken off. Whatever happened to that license plate

anyway?????.....hummmmm

Carpenter's Wing notes:

We got up early Monday morning and off we went.....in the wrong direction....We had to make a U-turn...that made it an official ride. I got tired, so I layed down. ...Twice. I was fine, just a little weak and I needed to rest for a little while. So, we then headed toward Utah. The Lowery's two Wings left the group in Colorado to go visit their daughter. We flashed our "Wing Sign", smiled and off they rode up into the beautiful mountains. The group stopped in 4-corners and took some pictures. (9782-01) They watched Navajo frybread being cooked and had lots of time to visit the little shops full of souvenirs. We were having fun!

Martini's Wing notes:

We rode into Mexican Hat, Utah to beautiful scenery and cool weather. The group covered their bikes and walked about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down the road where they ate outdoors and watched as their steaks were cooked to perfection over a pit on a real swinging grill. What a delicious dinner at the Swinging Steak. What a fun evening with the group. It was a good night.

Watkins' Wing notes:

When we arrived in Page AZ, we had a beautiful view over looking the mountains. The group went on a paddle boat dinner cruise around Lake Powell. It was gorgeous. The next day the Vickers had tickets to see David Copperfield in Las Vegas, so they were off in another direction. The majority of the group went on a float trip down the Colorado

River. The rains came again but the river captain Diane had planned ahead. On board were muffins, cold drinks, iced water and chocolate chip cookies that were "air lifted" in. Actually it was another river float passing by that hurled a bag of cookies to the captain. The winds picked up and it started raining. The captain also had poncho's on board which she passed out to all of her passengers. Craig was up front and had a really hard time getting covered up. The entire group was entertained by Craig's attempts to put on his thin poncho in high winds. Once he had it on.....the rain stopped. He was the onboard entertainment for the afternoon. Suzy ended up with her poncho on backwards....how did she breathe????

The next day the group headed to the North Rim.....their final destination. What a magnificent view of the Grand Canyon. Words cannot describe the beauty of this natural wonder.

We would like to thank Sam, Cathy, Gary, Beverly and everyone else responsible for planning such a great ride to the Ditch. And we tip our hats to the leaders and tail gunners for each day's safe ride.

And, thanks to Mary and Beverly for presenting me with a really big pencil from the Grand Canyon. This will be used to take more notes on the up coming trips. I promise to put it to good use.

Sylvia

The Day I Was Gay

We had a great trip last week to the ditch,
It all was great except one hitch.
The clowns with which we went all the way,
Decided one day that I was gay.

It all began with my unregistered trailer,
The day I learned I was traveling with 8 strange fellers.
They decorated my tag-a-long with an unusual plate,
The day these guys hunted me a man date.

Oh, I was out numbered so I had to play along,
Even though I new these guys were quite wrong.
Well, I keep saying guys but their wives all joined in,
Even the one I use to call "Next of kin".

The jokes and the stories and the innuendos did fly,
One of em told a group of strangers, heck these guys
weren't shy.
Then I noticed a trend that made me worry,
That's the purpose of this poem and the rest of the
story.

You see, all these guys on my condition were well versed,
So I soon realized I wasn't the one that was cursed.
Their mannerisms were perfect, their lisps were in tact,
I soon learned I was the only one who didn't cry at
"Broke Back".

It was Don and Dennis and Gene and Gary,
Yes, they accused me of being a ferry.
Craig and Butch and Jim with Marvin,
All for my attention were starving.

Well after a day their fun came to an end,
But it was too late I had uncovered the trend.
Yeah, It's true I was gay for a day,
But their shenanigans proved without a doubt that they
are still gay.

♥ SAMMIE ♥

INTERESTING TIPS.....

Reheating Pizza

Heat up leftover pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.

The Road to Wing Ding 2006 for the Directionally Challenged

By Bodil Overstreet

This is the second part of the two part series of James and Bodil Overstreet's ride to Wing Ding. In the first part, Bodil and James traveled to Pennsylvania to see their grandchildren. The second part picks up when they leave Pennsylvania to continue their trip to Wind Ding.

Days 15 through 19 - To Wing Ding

The good people of Pennsylvania should probably try to think of some way to discourage visits by the Overtrees. The rain began to clear as we left. Go figure.

All day, as we rode out of Delaware, across Maryland, through a little bit of West Virginia, and into Virginia, the only moisture problem we encountered was our very, very, very damp saddle. Ewwwww!. But it would eventually dry out; as would we. James stuck to the Interstates (I-95 to I-695 to I-70 to I-81) in an effort to avoid flooding. It worked.

We started the day in a fairly urban area (northern Delaware), skirted a heavily urban area (Baltimore), and then headed for the hinterlands. The road rose and fell, twisted and curved, and the scenery became more and more spectacular as we went along. Harrisonburg, Virginia, our day's destination, lies in the Shenandoah River Valley and just west of Skyline Drive. It had rained there, too, though not as much. The rivers and creeks were running full, but the fields were nicely green, featuring puddles rather than lakes.

The next day featured beautiful clear skies and delightfully cool weather again! The streams and rivers that we passed were still swollen, well over their banks, but it would be hard to guess where all that water came from. As if we didn't know.

All across Virginia, roadside signs warned, "Speed limits enforced by aircraft." Not monitored, enforced. Sorta makes you envision the distinctive whop-whop-whop of a rotary-wing aircraft, perhaps with a swelling "Ride of the Valkyries." Just how else would an aircraft



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enforce compliance?

We traveled down the Shenandoah River Valley, traversed an area characterized by narrow gaps between quite steep slopes, and then entered the New River Valley. Not quite so broad or so long as the valley of the Shenandoah, the New River Valley is at a slightly higher elevation. From both valleys, the Blue Ridge is visible to the east, layers of blue-tinged mountain ridges stretching out of sight. Mountains, forests, rushing streams - I wish I had the right words to describe it.

The next day, we headed down I-81 to I-40. We left the Interstate behind there (rather than revisit the Knoxville construction zone) and traveled several scenic byways to connect with I-75, which led us into Chattanooga.

The scenery was, once again, lovely. My only worries (over the last several days, as a matter of fact) were several sightings of deer by

the roadside. They had been just quietly browsing, not at all interested in the busy Interstate traffic so near them, but no deer is exactly rocket scientist material and any of them could burst out of the woods and onto the road for no apparent reason. Fortunately, on the Interstates, most of the time, the deer would have to dodge a couple of large tractor-trailers before they could reach us.

We did meet some other cyclists at a rest stop. A couple, just returning from Virginia Beach, was most curious about various things on the 'Wing. They seemed to be worried about the effects of exhaust heat on one thing and another. Apparently, on their Harley, the exhaust is a major discomfort factor. Another cyclist, a man whose wife used to ride but was in a 4-wheeler because of back problems, was headed to the casino at Cherokee. They had just moved to Tennessee from Nevada, and he was on his first

extensive ride. He hadn't heard of Skyline Drive, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Tail of the Dragon, or the Cherohala Skyway - wow, does he have some riding to do!

We spent a day in Chattanooga visiting the Tennessee Aquarium. Although we had visited part of it before, the aquarium has recently expanded. In addition to the original building housing a river exhibit (the Tennessee River from its origins in mountain springs through the TVA lakes and dams to the Mississippi delta), the aquarium now includes a whole new building that provides the same kind of spectacular exhibits for sea/salt water fishes. Both are absolutely wonderful.

James piloted us to downtown Chattanooga, where the aquariums are, by way of Lookout Mountain - home of the famous Rock City and Ruby Falls. It is a great twisty road, with shade. It was nice! The only downer of the day (which was no fault of the aquarium) was the huge holiday crowd of visitors. Well, duh, a great venue on a July 4 weekend. We will plan a better date for our next visit.

The next morning, Sunday, July 2, we were up and out of Chattanooga betimes. Wing Ding on July 3!

The road (I-24) was terrific. Several times, we saw warning signs of roadwork, but it either did not materialize or was almost completed and not a problem. And no one was working on a Sunday morning or a holiday weekend. At one point, we swept upward from about 600 feet to about 1800 feet, with rocky cliffs on one side and forest on the other side of the road. Really neat.

I had time to do some thinking. (Something about that statement usually makes James nervous, but this particular thought process shouldn't involve any work for him.) It seems to me that riding on a motorcycle involves two equal and opposite phenomena. The first is something that can also be experienced by a co-rider. It is the sensation of riding right through the sights and sounds and smells, with nothing between you and scene you are a part of, and it is a full sensory experience. Mostly it's beautiful, sometimes it's scary, but always it involves every sense, every nerve ending, all the

time. Second, and it seems to me this can only be experienced by the rider, is being fully involved in the act of riding. No automatic transmission, no power brakes, no comfort-tuned suspension come between you and the feel of the road. Leaning, shifting gears, watching ahead, behind, and to the side involve every sense, every nerve ending, all the time. That still doesn't explain it adequately, but it was just a thought.

After our very short jaunt, we arrived at our favorite hotel in Nashville, the one that has a good Mexican restaurant onsite, quite early in the day. We settled in and then rode over to the Gaylord Opryland to pick up our registration packet for Wing Ding. Lots of folks! Lots of bikes! Lots to see and do! We found out that our first aid/CPR class would kick off at 9:00 a.m. the next morning. Alrighty, then. That's early for us!

Days 20 through 22 - Wing Ding at Last!

We made it to our training class on time! Not even a problem.

As soon as we completed our training, we were off to the vendor booths. Boy, was it crowded. I thought that more people might be at this Wing Ding than at previous gatherings, but James opined that the exhibit area was smaller, or more vendors were present, or both. Whatever, it was very busy and very crowded, and people seemed to be spending freely.

Most of our purchases were fairly small. We acquired new socks, some new won't-let-go clasps for vest pins, and a new dew rag. But, not to worry, Wing Ding (and the opportunities to spend money) were just getting underway. We left fairly early - pooped out too quickly - and returned to our hotel.

The next day, we went "twinkies" to Wing Ding, dressed in our chapter shirts and vests. Sure made it easier to keep up with one another! We hung out in the vendor area for quite a while - and bought some more stuff. (Surprise!) James acquired new in-helmet audio. His microphone capability had been getting less and less reliable as we have ridden along, so that he sometimes could talk to me and sometimes could not. And I *finally* acquired a tee shirt with a 1500 Gold Wing, all done in sparklies. I have been

thinking about getting such a shirt since our first rally. I'm a little slow.

I also attended a co-rider seminar, and we both went to a "Wing World" open forum. Both were interesting (my opinion), and I picked up information that I had not known before in both cases. Although it makes sense, it had not occurred to me before that the way to keep from bumping helmets with the rider at stops is to set your feet firmly and place hands on thighs. Well, duh. I also had not known that a magazine tries to maintain a 60-40 ratio of editorial content to advertising because of postal rate rules.

It was a very hot day (well, July 4!), so decided to skip sitting on the bike for several hours staging up for the grand parade, riding through the downtown area, and then sweating for another several hours waiting for the fireworks. We returned to the hotel, ordered pizza, and watched the fireworks on television in our room. They were absolutely stupendous - all set to music by the Nashville symphony and lasting for more than 30 minutes.

July 5 dawned wet and rainy - and stayed that way. We hung around our hotel room, waiting for a break in the weather so that we could ride over to the Gaylord. It finally came, just before noon.

Once there, we went shopping for a new full cover for the bike. We were fully tired of wet seats with every rainstorm. Fortunately, we only met heavy rain twice on this trip. Unfortunately, it wasn't much fun either time. So, with the extra storage space gained by having the Pak-It Rak (last year's major 'Wing addition), we now have room for the bigger cover. Let us hope this one will be worth its weight in dryness.

Days 23 through 25 - Back to Reality

Homeward bound!

After the rain on July 5 came an absolutely beautiful day on July 6, if a bit windy, with clear blue skies and cool temperatures. We headed west through lovely, wooded, rolling country. As we traveled, we started seeing a few Texas license plates. They were the first we had seen in a long time. Either Texans don't travel, or

they don't travel eastward.

The weather remained beautiful the next day as we crossed over the Mississippi. On the Arkansas side of the river, the nature of the topography really changed. Suddenly, it was flat; a really vary flat river delta. We saw a few areas of trees and small hills, but mostly it was flat and, in some places, swampy. (Where it wasn't swampy, it was farmland - miles and miles and miles of rice, corn, etc.) As we approached Little Rock, the land became a little more varied, but the farmland continued almost to the city limits.

That good weather was indeed fortunate, because we were stopped by an accident just west of Little Rock, in Benton, Arkansas. Had it been the usual 90+ degrees, we would have been miserable. Someone ahead of us had flipped a travel trailer....across both lanes of I-30. Alrighty, then! We had to sit for quite a while and then travel through the grass median to get around the problem. Gold Wing motorcycle as dirt bike? James managed to pull it off. Not something I want to pursue.

The bulk of truck traffic could not get by. We left behind just about every vehicle with more than two axles. The rest of our day, we saw little traffic. Just the 'Wing and the road; and, the road was very nice - wooded, cool, rural.

Our last day on the road - back home in Texas - was fairly uneventful and fairly cool, right up to our approach to Dallas. We began to encounter signs reading, "Loose Gravel," "Fresh Oil," "No Centerline," "Next 33 Miles." Not good news. However, the highway department was exaggerating. Only one lane was messed up, and not for the entire 33 miles either. We did make a note that we will not use I-30 to exit Dallas for a while. We'll let them finish that construction project before we try that road again.

The cats greeted us with great joy when we finally pulled into our own driveway, our own garage, in the early afternoon. What was a lovely 3,500+ miles! And I'm ready to go again, but not right away. My forehead has a helmet line that needs some time to disappear.

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