

**GOLD WING
ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

The X Chapter

FUN - SAFETY - KNOWLEDGE

**Oklahoma District - Stillwater, Oklahoma
Region H - www.xchapterok.org**



**X-Chapter
Newsletter**

February 2010

Chapter Director
Lynn & Marc Hughes
lmhugh@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Chapter Director
John and Shaun Irons
ironline3414@brightok.net

Ride Coordinator
Marc Hughes
mahugh@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer
Char Sadler
char.sadler@gmail.com

Rider Educator
Ron Sadler
char.sadler@gmail.com

Couple of the Year
David and Cindy Hudgins
cindyhudgins@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster & Photographer
Kim & Tim Sweeden
tksweeden@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter and Care & Concern
G. Ann Kinder
diamond@brightok.net

Letter from Lynn

By Lynn Hughes, X-Chapter Director

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for your support in me as your new Chapter Director! It is an honor and privilege to serve all of you as X-Chapter "participants". GWRRA is not considered a club; we don't pay dues and we don't elect officers; and "members" are considered "participants"--you can participate in any chapter in any state or country. You can "participant" in any GWRRA activity anywhere, anytime. What an awesome opportunity that provides us for meeting new friends, learning more safety techniques, and soaking up knowledge to help us be better informed riders and co-riders. I urge you to participate in as many GWRRA activities that your schedule allows you this year. I can't believe it has been almost three years since Marc and I walked into our first GWRRA meeting, greeted with smiles, hugs and handshakes and now we are serving the chapter in leadership capacities that we really enjoy. I encourage each of you to not sit back and let the action go by--- jump in and get your feet (or tires!) wet to keep the X-Chapter growing into the best "different" chapter in the state!! What a great group---and it's all because of a beautiful motorcycle!!! Who would have thought?!

Thanks for participating!

Eat, sleep, and ride safe!

Lynn



Figure 1 District Directors Rick and Robin Greninger install new X-Chapter Directors Lynn and Marc Hughes and Assistant Chapter Directors John and Shawn Irons at the February 13 chapter meeting. Six visiting chapters were present to witness the installation.

Photo by Tim Sweeden

Safety First

By Ron Sadler, Rider Educator

General Guidelines For Riding A Motorcycle Safely

Be visible:

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have.
- Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.

Dress for safety:

- Wear a quality helmet and eye protection.
- Wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet.
- Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing.
- Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.
- Remember – the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.

Apply effective mental strategies:

- Constantly search the road for changing conditions. Use MSF's Search, Evaluate, Execute strategy (SEESM) to increase time and space safety margins.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions.
- Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Use lane positioning to be seen; ride in the part of a lane where you are most visible.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Signal your next move in advance.
- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to the speed limit.

Know your bike and how to use it:

- Get formal training and take refresher courses.
 - Practice. Develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle your bike in conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.
- Remember: Give yourself space. People driving cars often just don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do see you, chances are they've never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed.
- Another riding season is just around the corner and I am looking forward to it. The X Chapter has many plans and major trips scheduled. Lets make sure our motorcycles and equipment is in good working order and we are mentally ready to take the road.

Ride safe and we will catch you down the road.

Ron Sadler
Rider Educator



Char Sadler giving Rider Ed report at the February chapter meeting in absence of Ron who was attending their grandson's basketball game. Rick Greninger, District Director, right, listens intently.

Photo by Tim Sweeden

X-Chapter Meetings
Second Saturday of the Month
Sirloin Stockade, Stillwater, OK
Eat at 8:00 a.m., Meet at 9:00 a.m.
Ride or training to follow meeting

X-Chapter Planning Meetings
First Friday of the Month
China Buffet, Stillwater, OK
Eat at 6:30 p.m., Meet at 7:00 p.m.

Restaurant Review

By Steve and Sam Verbos

Hey Everyone,

It is once again time for a restaurant review. I thought this month I would chose a place a little closer to Stillwater-- TOBY KEITH'S I LOVE THIS BAR AND GRILL in Oklahoma City.

If you like chicken fried steak, rotisserie chicken, meatloaf, and rib-eye steak you are bound to like Toby's place. The atmosphere is great. When you go in you are greeted by the hostess and if you have to wait for a table you will get to sit on the tailgates of old Ford pick-up trucks. To your left by the stage there is a front of an old bus coming through the wall.

There is seating in the bar area where you have to be over 21 to sit. If you don't have any children with you and there is just 2-4 people in your group you may want to sit in the bar area. It is just a little quieter and you can see sports on the televisions in the bar.

In the regular dining area the tables are round and will seat about 6 people. There is country music playing on the sound system. You can watch some kind of show from numerous televisions. There is always one playing Toby Keith videos.

There is some dining space in a small area upstairs. This is also where Toby displays all the gifts that he has received while visiting our Troops, here and overseas. You can usually go up and look around if it isn't busy.

The appetizer menu has calf fries (\$7.99), nachos, cheese fries and tumbleweed onions (\$8.99) and several other items.

The sides menu (\$3.25 each) has "freedom fries", cowboy caviar (black-eyed peas), sw-cream corn, and your usual baked or mashed potatoes along with green beans, cowboy beans and sautéed mushrooms. We love the sw-cream corn, which is sweet corn mixed with peppers, onions, bacon and cream cheese. This stuff is awesome. It is not too spicy, but it does have a little bite to it. The mashed potatoes have garlic in them and are really creamy and good.

The main menu consist of salads (house \$4.25, shrimp Caesar \$9.99), steaks (10 oz. sirloin \$17.99, 20 oz. rib-eye \$32.99) , prime rib (\$1.99 p/oz - 8 oz min.), St. Louis style ribs (\$18.99), chicken fried steak (\$13.99) and catfish (\$14.99). All the items on the main menu, with the exception of salads, come with 2 sides.

There is also a sandwich section that has a Fried Bologna sandwich (\$7.99). All the sandwiches are served with fries.

We tend to lean towards the chicken fried steak and rotisserie chicken(\$13.99), or ribs (\$18.99), or fried chicken (\$13.99) when we go. The chicken fried steak takes up most of the plate, and you get more than enough for you to eat then, and if you can't finish it all you can take what you have left, home for lunch the next day. The rotisserie chicken is juicy and tender. The ribs are finger lickin' good. And you can never go wrong with fried chicken.

They have a kids menu (\$5.99) that has steak, ribs, grilled cheese and chicken tenders all served with freedom fries.

We know they have desserts, but we are always so full that we've only had it one time and then we had the brownie sundae. It is enough for two and very rich.

For the soldiers with ID you can get a burger and fries on the house.

We have never had anything we didn't like. The service is awesome and they always make you feel at home.

There are now 2 Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill in Oklahoma. The one in Bricktown next to the Bass Pro Shop and the newest one in Tulsa at the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel (formerly Cherokee Casino). We have not eaten at the one in the Hard Rock Casino yet.

They also have concerts and bands that play. A list of these can be found on the web site.

You can see the full menu on the web site below. The menus are in Adobe PDF form.

<http://www.tobykeithsbar.com/>

Oklahoma City Bricktown

310 Johnny Bench Drive
Oklahoma City, OK, 73104
(405) 231-0254

Hard Rock Casino and Hotel

777 West Cherokee Street
Catoosa, OK, 74015
(918) 739-4888

So, if you want to take some family from out of town to some place where the atmosphere says "I'm Country" then you need to try Toby's.

Next month will be all about the places we eat in Mississippi and Louisiana while we are at Mardi Gras.

So until then Ride Safe and Happy Eating!
Steve and Sam

X-Chapter Restaurant Review Team

What A Ride!

By Cindi and David Hudgins
Chapter Couple of the Year 2009-2010

Cindi and I had intended to get away on Christmas break again this year like we did last year. But Old Man Winter put a stop to it this year. Last year on a whim, we packed up and took off for Padre Island. Santa gave Cindi a Tour Master Synergy heated vest, since she is always cold. And this gave us a chance to see if it helped. It was a nice mid 50's when we left. We went down to OKC and down the HE Bailey turnpike to Wichita Falls. We actually stopped at the Falls and rested for a bit. Cindi lounged around on the rocks by the falls.

The further south we went, of course, the warmer the weather was. We continued down highway 281, thru Jacksboro, Stephenville, and spent the first night at Marble Falls. We stayed at the Best Western motel. We asked the receptionist for a ground floor room so we could be close to our wing, and she upgraded us to a bigger room with a whirlpool tub. We wanted to eat at a very popular restaurant called the Blue Bonnet Café. However, it was closed when we got there. So the next morning we continued on south. I did not want to go thru San Antonio, so we detoured over to San Marcus, then continued south on highway 181. We followed 181 to Port Aransas then took the ferry over to Padre Island.

We stayed the night at the Raddison Hotel on the beach. It is right by the Lexington Aircraft Carrier Museum. We were tired of riding so we walked across the street to Black Beards café for dinner. Then we walked down the water front toward the museum and ate ice cream at a little corner shop. The next morning we walked the beach and enjoyed the cool weather. Seems we were not meant to get to see the sun this trip in south Texas. We started getting light rain and clouds about 100 miles from the coast. And this morning again it was cloudy and windy, not what we had our hopes set on.

We walked over to the museum and got there just as the gates opened. We spent about three and a half hours touring the museum and talking to the veterans who volunteer their time to help make the event more informative and enjoyable. After eating lunch on the Lexington, we headed back to the hotel and loaded up the bike and headed out to try and find the famous King Ranch. The head quarters is located in Kingsville. Just our luck, everything was closed. Seems they shutdown all the stores and museum for the Christmas holidays. Disappointed we decided to head back toward home.

We went to San Antonio and spent the night. Cindi has a problem with helmet cords. She had lost hers on the way down and wanted to stop and see if we could get one. (Darn, there goes the peace and quiet). It seems there are only two Honda dealerships in San Antonio and the one we stopped at didn't have one. (yea!) So we continued on towards home. It looked like the best route home, without taking the interstate, was back the way we came. What a perfect excuse to stop by the Blue Bonnet Café in Marble

Falls. We got there around noon and there was a line out the door and cars circling the parking lot. Thank to it being easier to park a wing than a car, we beat a lot of people to the door. The place was a mad house but boy was the food worth the wait. And the deserts were some of the best looking pies, cakes, cookies and cinnamon rolls I have ever seen. I had a piece of the pecan pie. Wow! It was worth the trip just to experience this place.

Stuffed to the gills we rolled our way back to the wing and headed north. The weather had turned to partly cloudy and the temps were back in the 70's and the road seemed to fly by. Before we knew it we were back to Jacksboro. Here we decided to head east towards Denton to catch I35. We stopped and eat supper, then decided to see if we could make it home. So back on I35 and headed north, the weather started to turn cold. The further we got north the colder we got. By the time we got the OKC, it was 40 degrees and starting to get foggy. We hit the Turner Turnpike to Chandler and up highway 18. Now it was 37 degrees and so foggy we were having trouble seeing 30 feet in front of us. Cindi's vest was working fine, but I was freezing to death. We were driving slowly and it took forever to get to Cushing. We finally made it home around midnight me froze stiff and Cindi warm as toast.

We had an enjoyable trip and looked forward to getting away again this year, planning to go down the east side of Texas and over into Mississippi by way of the coast road. But Old man winter stopped us cold or snowed in our tracks. O well, maybe next year!

David n Cindi

Couple of the Year 2009-2010

Submit your own ride story to share with others right here in the X-Chapter Newsletter. Don't worry about editing, spelling, and all that stuff. We will take care of that for you. Just email your story (and pictures if you have some—please make them small and in jpg format) to Ann Kinder at diamond@brightok.net Please put "Ride Story for X Chapter Newsletter" in your subject line so she knows it is legitimate and not spam. THANKS!



Tech Tips

By Tim Sweeden, Service Manager, Honda of Stillwater

Cleaning your windshield

Cleaning the windshield on your gold wing is not as easy as your car windshield.

If your windshield becomes scratched it can become hazed so driving into bright light or headlights can become a problem. These scratches are difficult to impossible to remove. There are some windshields on the market now that are hard to scratch but very expensive.

Always clean your windshield wet and never use paper products. Do not use gas station squeegees. Do not use gas station paper towels, this works fine on your car, but not the bike.

Do not use any of the X's, Windex, and Rainx, nothing with petroleum base. These will take off the finish on your windshield.

Use a clean soft cloth such a micro fiber cloth. I carry one on trips in a zip lock bag with a wet micro fiber cloth in it. When I stop for gas I put the wet cloth on the windshield and then a good cleaner is sprayed all over the shield and then wiped down. I use Honda spray cleaner --it is cheap and good and has a good smell. Showtime is a good cleaner as well as diamond 210. There are several that are good ones and made for plastic.

When not in use the windshield can be covered by sliding an X-Chapter windshield cover over it--"YEA"—or an old soft T Shirt over it.

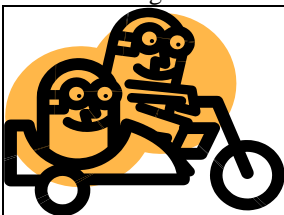
Taking care of your windshield is important and makes the bike look so much better.

This is the time of the year to make sure your bike is ready for the riding season. Make sure your tires are good and your oil and filter and air filter are fresh and ready.

February there are service specials going on so check with your service dept and "Get Err Done". Honda of Stillwater is running service specials in Feb.

Tim Sweeden

Service Manager Honda



Riding, riding, riding.....



Tim Sweeden proudly accepting the "X-Factor" February 13. Tim had just been "sworn in" as chapter photographer but forgot to take a picture during the meeting! Presenting the X Factor is Steve Sumpter (previous X-Factor winner), left, and Lynn Hughes, CD, right. Congratulations, Tim!

Photo by Kim Sweeden



Jack Wagner, left, District Leadership Trainer, presenting Lynn Hughes, right, X-Chapter Director, with her Leadership Training completion certificate, patch and pin. Lynn completed the training in December along with several other OK, KS and AR GWRRA members who can now serve as workshop trainers/facilitators.

Photo by Tim Sweeden

Official X-Chapter shirts were made available to chapter members through February 15, 2010, and members will be sporting their new shirts/hats/dew rags soon. The X-Chapter will provide the opportunity for members to get official shirts (and any other clothing article they want) twice a year (February 15 and August 15) in order to share the cost of the set-up fee among several people instead of just one or two. Stillwater Screenprinting (405.372.7600) (on 6th street behind Quizno's) is handling the production of the official shirts—gray polo shirts with screen print on back and embroidery on the front, including the member's first name. These shirts will be the "competition" shirts at district rallies. Thanks to Tim and Kim Sweeden for setting this up for the X-Chapter.

- ☺ Check the www.GWRRRA.org website for national, regional, district and local activities and contacts.
- ☺ X-Chapter activities and contact information are available at www.xchapterok.org
- ☺ Upcoming X-Chapter events:

March 5 - X Chapter Planning Meeting – China Buffet, Stillwater 6:30 pm eat, 7:00 meet

March 5—Steve Verbos, knee replacement surgery. Five weeks later, the other knee. Best Wishes, friend!

March 7 - Chapter E Anniversary and Swap Meet- Jenks, OK - St James Presbyterian Church - 2pm to 4pm - See District website for flyer www.gwrraokla.org Watch email for ride details.

March 13 - X Chapter Monthly Chapter Meeting—Sirloin Stockade, Stillwater 8:00 am eat; 9:00 am meet with ride to follow weather permitting

March 25 - 27 - Region H Rally - Marshall, Texas

April 3 - X Chapter CPR/First Aid Training, Sangre Ridge Elementary School, Stillwater, arrive by 8:45 to start at 9:00 sharp! Bring a crock-pot of soup and your beverage of choice. Homemade bread, bowls and spoons will be provided.

April 8 - 10 - Louisiana District Rally - Lafayette, LA

April 17 - Chapter B Anniversary - See District website for flyer www.gwrraokla.org

April 23 - 24 - Oklahoma District Camp-out - Okmulgee State Park - Red Oak Campground.

May 6 - 8 - Texas District Rally - Killeen, Texas

May 27 - 29 - Arkansas District Rally - Rogers, AR

June 4 - 6 - X Chapter X-Travaganza/Anniversary - New Mannford Ramp. We will be camping Friday thru Sunday with BBQ Brisket Lunch on Saturday. Contact Char to reserve electric/water site. First come first served. Tent campers free; RV's \$18/night.

June 12th - Chapter N Anniversary - Goodrich Methodist Church, Norman - 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

June 27 - Hobo Ride - Details to follow.

June 30 - July 3 - Wing Ding - Des Moines, Iowa

July 24 - Chapter S Anniversary

August 21 - Chapter E Bug Gut Ride

August 27 - 28 - Kansas District Rally

September 10 - 11 - Chapter G 9-11 Campout - Tenkiller State Park

September 19 - Chapter G Anniversary -

Washington County Fairgrounds in Dewey

September 24 - 26 - Chapter W Anniversary

Campout - Red Rock Canyon State Park at Hinton. Anniversary meal on Saturday 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

October 7 - 9 - Oklahoma District Rally, Muskogee. Assist with CPR and Medallion Hunt.

October 22 - 24 - X Chapter Fall Foliage Ride

October 30 - 31 - Chapter E Fall Foliage Ride

November 5 - 6 - Chapter P 15th Annual Crock Pot Campout - Natural Falls State Park.

Ride, Sally, Ride!

NOTE:

If you are camping in a BUNKHOUSE, QUIKCAMP, OR OTHER TENT TRAINER at the x-travaganza at the New Mannford Ramp at Keystone Lake June 4-6, 2010, AND ARE IN NEED OF ELECTRICITY AND/OR WATER, CALL CHAR SADLER TODAY to reserve your site.

Sites will be reserved on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. Sites are free for tent campers but not all sites have electricity and water.

SITES ARE VERY LIMITED---CALL TODAY!

918-223-5688 OR char.sadler@gmail.com

“Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind.” ~ Seneca