

**GOLD WING
ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

The X Chapter

FUN - SAFETY - KNOWLEDGE

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

**X-Chapter
Newsletter**

June 2009

Chapter Director Tim & Kim Sweeden
405-372-6288
tksweeden@sbcglobal.net

Asst CD Ed Hites
405-377-3064
edhites@hotmail.com

Treasurer Char Sadler
918-225-5022
char.sadler@gmail.com

Chapter Educator Ron Sadler
918-225-5022
rsadler@cowboy.net

Couple Of Year Marc & Lynn Hughes
405-747-5782
lmhugh@sbcglobal.net

Ride Coordinator Ed Hites
405-377-3064
edhites@hotmail.com

Activities John Hoover
405-377-2313
hooverj@okstate.edu

Newsletter Lynn Hughes
405-747-6019
lmhugh@sbcglobal.net

From Your Chapter Director

BY TIM SWEEDEN, CD

Once again we were able to have a great Mini-Rally. I was afraid that it was rain for sure, but it held off and we had the same attendance as the previous year. X Chapter rules, and we have fun. Thanks so much to all of you that worked so hard, it has been so busy for me here lately, and I really appreciate all that you guys do.

Chapter there is a lot to go this riding season.

Tim and Kim Sweeden
X Chapter Directors
We'll see ya' on the road.

Inside this issue:

From Your Director By Tim Sweeden	1
Safety First By Ron Sadler	2
Couple Connections By Marc & Lynn Hughes Bat Ride Reminder	3
Rock and Roll By Ed Hites	3
Ride Pictures	1-4
Pictures T-Shirt Information	4
On the Calendar	5-6

The X Chapter was the largest out-of-state chapter by pre-registration at the Texas Rally in Amarillo. We had a great time and the ride was really good, thanks to John Hoover for leading there and back, and to Ron Sadler for leading around Amarillo. It was nice not to lead but just mindlessly follow. And I do that well. The dinner in the Canyon was really neat. It was a nice place to visit and be with our friends.

I will tell you that being retired was a lot more fun than working. However I work around motorcycles and motorcycle people. So I guess that can't be so bad but it is work. You can always come by and visit me and we will talk bikes.

We had some X Chapter members go over to the Arkansas Rally. I am sure it was a good time, I heard that it rained some on the ride, but anytime you can ride is OK. Hang on X



X-Chapter members at the Palo Duro Canyon at Texas Rally May 14-16, 2009.

Photo provided by John Hoover aka "Dr. John"

CHAPTER MEETING

**2nd Saturday—Sirloin Stockade,
Stillwater, 8:00 am eat 9:00 am meet
Ride following meeting
PLANNING MEETING**

1ST FRIDAY

**6:00 PM eat 7:00 PM meet
Watch E-mail and website for location**

Safety First

BY RON SADLER, SAFETY COORDINATOR

MAKING A PASS (and I'm not talking about flirting here!)

Don't believe everything you hear or read, like "If you can see my mirrors I can see you". You seeing the mirrors will not mean the driver can see you. The driver must be looking for you, to see you. Yes he may look in his mirrors every few seconds but there is a lot going on in front and the driver may miss you before you are in the "No Zone". The driver is looking for the same items as a Gold Wing rider; up coming hazards and how to avoid them. Scan for paths that will allow you the least problems. Maintain a space cushion, do not tail gate, and allow time to stop. A lot of similarities? Truck drivers are as busy as motorcyclists to avoid the road problems.

When you follow a large vehicle there is a lot of assumption that the driver can see you. If you are about ¼ mile to the rear they **may** see your headlight. If you are closer, the blind spot grows to where you **must** be in another lane for them to see you. The right side of the vehicle is the **worst** side for blind spots. If you decide to pass a vehicle on the right side remember to move far right and pass with speed and hopefully your eyes will make contact with the drivers. Large vehicles start with SUV's and grow. Even cars have blind spots.

Passing a truck is something I think I have been doing OK. Have you ever started to pass a truck and he comes into your lane in a hurry? You get upset and hopefully you have time to avoid the collision or having to take to the berm of the road. The truck is loaded 30,000 to maybe 60,000 (30 ton). Trucks are on the move as the job usually has a time frame for delivery. They don't see you as well as you may think.

Remember we ride defensively not offensively.

- Move to the left lane after checking the lane with your mirror and doing a head check.
- Next watch to see if the vehicle you are passing may be closer to the vehicle in front of them, which they may be also getting ready to pass.
- Move as far left, of the vehicle you are passing, as you can.
- If you are in a staggered formation, form a single file as you pass.
- If you are the lead bike, pick up the speed and go far enough

to allow the entire group to pass the vehicle. As the lead bike increases speed, the gap between each motorcycle will increase the reaction time, just remember to re-adjust your spacing when you get back to the staggered formation.

- Once the rear bike is at least 400 feet in front of the vehicle you just passed, and it is safe, move back to the right lane.

I have mentioned speed and the reason to speed up is to get rid of the hazard as soon as you can. You must speed up to a comfortable and desirable legal speed. The drivers like for us to get out of their problem areas quickly also. Six or eight bikes passing on cruise control can create a hazard for all. If you get to the point you are not passing the vehicle and just hanging beside it, either speed up to pass or slow to drop back behind the vehicle, if it is safe to do. Check the mirrors and head check for a fellow winger or unwanted tailgater.

RIDE SAFE AND WE WILL CATCH YOU DOWN THE ROAD

Ron



Is this "passing" or "flirting"? John and Linda Hoover checking out the big rocker at the Big Texan May 16.

Photo provided by John Hoover aka "Dr. John"

Last month, Ron Sadler asked the X-Chapter: are you wearing a good well fitting helmet or is this an item you have tried to save a few dollars on? If you have had the same helmet for a number of years, maybe it is time to upgrade. There are now several new modular helmets on GWRRA members in Oklahoma purchased at the Arkansas Rally in Rogers May 22-23. Members took the time with the vendors to be sure the fit was correct, had their communication devices transferred or added on, and then took the helmets for test drives to be sure they were what they wanted. Helmets can be expensive, but what is the value of your head? "Five dollar helmet for a five dollar head?"



Thanks for the suggestion, Ron.

Couple Connections

BY MARC AND LYNN HUGHES, COUPLE OF THE YEAR 2008 AND 2009

May was a busy month for lots of chapter members beginning with our planning meeting, our regular Saturday meeting, our Second Annual Mini-Rally (weren't those sandwiches and ice cream delicious?), the Texas Rally in Amarillo, the Arkansas Rally in Rogers, the chapter ride to Cookson Smoke House and Muskogee on a motel hunt for state meeting lodging, and the ride to Marietta for fish and chips. I know there were others that made personal rides, too, to maybe catch some of the State Parks for the Tour Oklahoma ride or just plain ol' ridin'. WHEW! June doesn't look as busy right now with Discoveryland as our only destination ride scheduled for the month, but we plan to ride every chance we get, especially now that our trailer has a new set of lights installed on them (Marc did a super job!) since we have a new bike that we didn't have prewired for towing a trailer. Our next plan is to get our trailer painted to match, or at least compliment, our new bike. Green (trailer) and blue (bike) make purple, right? We are Kansas State University graduates so purple is fine with us but not this way. The trailer will still work just fine no matter what color it is, but after riding with Steve and Carolyn Cotton and Jack Wagner, whom each towed a trailer to the Arkansas Rally, we decided any overnight trip now will include a trailer for the ease of stashing our leathers, helmets, and any goodies purchased along the way. One thing not towing a trailer does is keep your shopping in check, but I was reminded by several ladies at the rally that there is a post office in every town! I'm not a big shopper so I didn't pass up anything I thought I couldn't live without but it is nice to have that option. I keep telling Marc that I could sleep in the trailer on rainy days as we motor down the road but he isn't willing to let me try that—yet!

I am hoping some of you have pictures from the Mini-Rally. I am still learning about my digital camera and apparently I didn't have the settings correct as I don't have any pictures saved on my media card. If you have some pictures you would share with us, I would love to publish them in the chapter newsletter for others to see. You can email them to me at lmhugh@sbcglobal.net THANKS!

Came across a handy reminder service provided by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety—they will email you a notice 45 days in advance and then every four years of the date your Oklahoma driver's license expires. I miss the reminder postcards we used to get in Kansas that came about two months before your license expired—don't know if they ever had them in Oklahoma or not, but it sure was handy for people like me who forget those kinds of things. If you want to sign up for the reminder, go to <http://www.dps.state.ok.us/renewal/>

Ride safe,
Marc and Lynn, COY 2008-2009

Rock and Roll On Down The Highway

BY: ED HITES, RIDE COODINATOR

John and Linda Hoover, David and Cindy Hudgens, Steve and Carolyn Cotton and I made the ride to COOKSON SMOKEHOUSE Saturday, May 30. It was a beautiful day to ride! We rode around Tenkiller and stopped for photos at Tenkiller State Park and Greenleaf State Park. Going through Muskogee, we saw five nice motels in one area about two miles from the Rally Site. Any one of these should work—let's see what kind of "deals" they will be making for GWRRA. We should have plenty of time to make a decision and get reservations before the rally. Everyone seemed to enjoy the beautiful weather and beautiful scenery and the food was good, too. The apple dumplings received praise and the peach cobbler was also great!

John and Linda Hoover were the only riders to show up for the ride to Chapter J so they stopped at Woody's (east of Guthrie on Highway 33) and said the food was good. Hopefully the chapter can ride there some evening for dinner.

Ride safe and have some fun along the way!!
Ed



Watch your email and the chapter website for details on the chapter ride to see the bats at Alabaster Caverns—if we are accepted!

***Fun, Safety and Knowledge
The X-Chapter Way!***



X-Chapter members at Texas Rally—living it up bigger and better!
Photos provided by John Hoover aka “Dr. John”



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT GROWING OLD.....










Well, shoot!

Now I forgot what I was gonna tell ya! (Submitted by anonymous member)

To purchase X-Chapter t-shirts, hats or other apparel, you can choose from either S E & M Monogramming at 906 S. Main, Downtown Stillwater or Stillwater Screenprinting and Embroidery at 520 W. 6th , Stillwater. Each of these businesses have the chapter logo available to make whatever you would like to purchase.

Advertise for chapter membership by wearing a chapter shirt or hat when you ride.




Check chapter website for calendar updates and details at www.xchapterokla.org

 July 2009 X-Chapter Activities 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wing Ding--Tulsa 	2 Wing Ding--Tulsa 	3 Wing Ding--Tulsa 	4 Wing Ding--Tulsa 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 X-Chapter Meeting Sirloin Stockade Stillwater 8:30 eat 9:00 meet. Ride to follow
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Tentative Bat Run-- HOLD 
19	20	21	22 Newsletter Items Due To Lynn Hugl 	23	24	25 Tentative Bat Run-- HOLD 
26 S Chapter Anniversary	27	28	29	30	31	



August 2009 X-Chapter Activities



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Planning Meeting 6:00 at Perkins Family Restau- rant or Tim/Kim Sweedens	8 X-Chapter Meeting Sir'loin Stockade Stillwater 8:30 eat 9:00 meet. Ride to follow
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Chapter E Buggut Ride to Stillwater 
16 Chapter P Anniversary	17	18	19	20	21	22 Chapter J Watermelon Anniversary 
23	24	25 Newsletter items Due To Lynn Hughes	26 	27	28	29
30	31					