



Goldwing Road Riders Association



Mississippi District Newsletter April 2011



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2011 Mississippi District Directors

Bobby & Lori Bryant

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LET THE CHAPTER FUN DAYS/CONVENTIONS BEGIN!

Hello MS Teams! I hope your chapters have been able to put together rides during this wonderful spring weather. We have been riding as much as possible and just returned from a fun filled week at the Florida District Convention. Those guys in Florida sure know how to have a fun convention. Mississippi was well represented with 23 folks from our MS Teams throughout the state. A big thanks for those of you who attended. Please let's remember to support our Region 'A' Districts as we will be looking for their support and attendance during our convention in October. Check out the calendar of events for those upcoming conventions and support our Region 'A' team! (you can also check out LA. and TN conventions scheduled for this month).

There are several "fun days" taking place throughout MS this month. Please remember to mark your calendars for April 9th for Chapter 'C', and April 30th for Chapter 'E'. These chapters will be expecting a big crowd and we sure do not want to disappoint them!

We hope that every chapter is getting plans together to participate, participate, participate at the Convention this year in Tupelo. We will be having a "Chapter Pride" competition this year. This will take place immediately following the chapter shirt/best dressed ect. competitions. The idea is to get your chapter together and come up with a unique idea to show your chapter's pride! Chapters will want to remember the convention theme for this competition, as Chapter Pride will replace the costume contest! Your guys can dress in costume, do skits, cheers, and readings, anything that will show your chapter's pride and relates to the theme of the convention! The time limit will be 4 minutes for each chapter to present their "Chapter Pride, Hillbilly style! Have fun with it...this is what it is all about, participation! We thought that this change would be better due to most chapters were doing a "Skit" more than just costumes in the past, so here it is, get your thinking caps on, your costumes together and get to it!

Do not confuse the "chapter pride" competition with the annual talent show that will be held Friday night. As usual, we are expecting some of the best talent in the Region!

The MS DISTRICT has added a competition to the Pass Port Program sent out by nationals. All you need to do to compete is have 20 entries in your pass port booklet and show your pass port to a district team member. We will keep a list of these folks and have a drawing for a prize at closing ceremonies in Tupelo!

So little time, and so much to do....remember to get those reservations made for your MS DISTRICT CONVENTION in October and send those registration forms to Debra Baldwin! Hope to see you there!

We are *YOUR MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT DIRECTORS*,
Bobby and Lori Bryant

Mississippi Assistant Director
Vendor Coordinator
Goodie Shop
Mike & Joyce Rist
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Hello to you all! We are still attending Chapter gatherings in the District.

On March, 1, we attended Chapter C 's business gathering in Columbus at the Bartahatchie Outback. There were 19 of their members attending. The gathering was an interesting and fun filled time. The food was great there also. It is always nice to go to a place that is familiar with the folks they are serving. You seem to get the royal treatment. Great gathering Daniel and TEAM.

This gathering was in adjacent to our meeting earlier that day in Tupelo with the Chamber of Commerce folks, Linda and Kara. We were going over some planning for the Mississippi District Convention. Looking for some Hillbillies, reckon where we can find some?

The following Thursday, we went to the business gathering of MS-Q. It was held in Greenville at Shermans Restaurant. There were some 20+ folks attending this gathering. The gathering was a good one . We enjoyed meeting some new faces and of course always good to see familiar faces. Thanks Beverly, great gathering.

The next business gathering we attended was in Laurel. Chapter L's business gathering was at the Calhoun Community Center on March 7. We enjoyed the gathering. We got to meet new people. We always enjoy seeing old friends again. Congratulations on being **Mississippi District 2010 Chapter of the Year!!!** –Thanks for all your hard work!!

March 12th, we, along with 15 other folks, made a trip to Kissimmee, Florida. Our intent was to enjoy a little of the Florida sunshine before the Florida District Convention began. Bobby Bryant took us to see some Manatees at an Observation Deck outside of Daytona. Then we traveled to Alligator Alley. It is a bird reserve where there are numerous alligators that are allowed to roam free. We saw several small and some real big ones. We made a pit stop and met several nice folks from other parts of the country – they said they come down each year to see the alligators. They said they did not see as many as they usually did. We did the entire route, as there was only **one way in & one way out.**

We rode to Plant City, home of the Strawberry Festival held each year. We ate a fresh strawberry shortcake at a Fresh Farmers market type place. It was very popular to that area.

We were staying at a resort close to the Convention in Kissimmee. There were all kinds of amenities there. We played putt-putt golf each day and went to the on grounds theatre. There were many things to do, not enough time to do all . We had such a great time with our friends.

We attended the Convention. Bill and Gina Berry, Florida District Directors, and their TEAM put on a good one. We enjoyed meeting folks we have not seen before. We visited with a lot of new vendors – gave them forms for our convention. We are trying to get some new vendors to attend. We are very optimistic about this.

GOODY SHOP NEWS:

I have your Assistant Directors rockers and the new 4 inch blue/gold griffins for your officers. Just let me know how many you will need – to whom I will need to mail them to – that would be a big help.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!!! Ride Safe and Keep the Shiny Side UP!!!!

Mike and Joyce Rist
Mississippi Assistant District Directors

Mississippi Assistant Riders Ed.

Ruth Ann & Lomax Rosamond

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Leaning New Skills on My Birthday Present

For those who haven't heard about the big surprise that I got for my birthday back in January, well let me tell you what it was. It was a beautiful new 2010 Orbital Blue Can-Am Spyder. I was thrilled to have this beautiful ride and to know that GWRRRA now allows the Spyder to take part in the GWRRRA Trike course. After taking the Experienced and Advanced riding courses on my Burgman 400 scooter, I knew how these courses helped me improve my riding skills. So the first chance I got to take a Trike course, my Spyder and I jumped right in.

February 19th was my day to refine my Trike skills and have fun with the good folks from MS-B and MS-O. There were 11 range exercises that help reinforce riding skills that you use on the road. The only exercise that I did not do was #11 (optional) which is a wheel lift caused by too hard cornering. The reason I did not take the option to do this was that the Spyder's Vehicle Stability System is designed to prevent a wheel lift.

As all Trike riders know the steering control on a Trike is a Push/Pull Technique, so coming from a two wheeler this was one of the skills that this course help me to learn and improve on. Another exercise that improved my riding skills was the Tight Corners. This improved my awareness of where my wheels are as I made the turns into the corners. I did have an advantage to all the other Trikes at the course since my two wheels are on the front, but I still had to know where they were in the turns.

This course got me started in the right direction of being a good rider on my Spyder. I know that practice will keep me refining these riding skills so this will not be my one and only GWRRRA Trike riding course. I have already signed up for the course at Wing Ding and will practice and practice.

Whether you ride a 2 or 3 wheeler, I encourage each owner to take one of the GWRRRA riding courses. We can always refine some skills that we have collected rust on.

Be safe, Have fun and I will see you down the road.

Ruth Ann
MS Assistant District Educator





Membership Enhancement Chapter of the Year Coordinators

Lemuel & Jane Jones

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We had a great crowd to attend the Chapter of the Year Seminar back at the first of March. There were lots of questions about the new guidelines. If your Chapter is participating and did not get to attend, go to www.gwrra.org and look under Membership Enhancement and you will find the “New” 2011 Guidelines along with the Score Sheet.

We can't say enough about participating and the CHOY program is a great way to get your Chapter members involved.

In March, we attended the Florida District Rally/Convention in Kissimmee for the first time. Boy! Was it a long-long-long way down there and back. (We did it in 31/2 days) The Florida District couldn't have asked for more perfect weather. They seemed to have had a very good turn out and everyone had lots of fun. Our next Rally/Convention to attend will be the Louisiana District Rally/Convention in Lafayette. If you have ever attended this one, you know there will be lots of fun-fun-fun. Come on down and join us.

Besides the District Rallies/Conventions, let's not forget about all the Chapter Events that will be starting in April. This is a good time to plan a Chapter ride to visit and support your fellow GWRRRA members. You can't have fun unless you – PARTICIPATE.

Now for our own MS District Rally/Convention this October, Chapter's – you need to start making plans for all the different competitions that will be offered at the Convention this year. Let's get started on those crazy hats, mascots, Chapter banners, scrapbooks, Chapter picture, Best Dressed, and Chapter shirts. Remember our theme this year is “*Hillbilly Wings.*” But let us not forget, our own, Willie and Tillie, they will be back again this year, too. So, Chapter's - let's get out and help Willie and Tillie collect those tee-shirts.

Remember the GWRRRA motto: Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

See you down the road, but until then, ride safe.

*Lemuel and Jane
MS District MEC*

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Leadership Training
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Happy Spring to Everyone,

The weather is wonderful, the bikes are ready and the road is waiting. I am so happy with the amount of support our training classes have had in the last three months. We have truly enjoyed the classes as well as the fellowship that accompanied them. Our most recent class, Horizons, was followed by a Mardi Gras gumbo cook off and believe me, it was GOOD!!

Bobby and I took CPR/First Aid in Greenville, March 19th. Thanks Beverly and Joey for great fun and great food and Lomax and Ruth Ann for a lot of good information. I had a hard time trying to get my partner (Bobby) in the rescue position, but we are working on it! LOL

As far as leadership training, we have several classes coming up in the summer:

June 11 – Life Skills Program

July 23 – Chapter Leadership Skills

August 20 – Intermediate Leadership Skills

Please join us for these classes, I promise that it will be well worth your time. See everyone at the air show in Meridian!

Bobby and Coleen Knight





2010-2011 Couple of the Year
 Couple of the Year Coordinators
 Motorist Awareness—MAD
Woody & Debbie Jones
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We have some Chapters who don't have a Couple Of The Year and that's real sad. A couple is missing out on one of the greatest ventures they will ever experience.

I hope every Chapter Director will get behind this program and really push it this year. The Chapters that do have Couples Of The Year, I hope you and the Chapter will encourage them to participate in the District Selection in Tupelo MS. in October 2011. We are looking forward in getting out and visiting other Chapters and Districts. If anyone in our District needs me or Debbie for anything please call or email us. We are here to help you to be successful in your Chapter and to be a great Couple Of The Year. If you are a Chapter Couple and you are reading this article.....the position you have in GWRRA is to "Have Fun"

District MAP Coordinator

Motorist Awareness, Your Key To Compliance

The issue of 501c4 compliance is important to every Chapter and District who operates within the USA. This issue is very important in that without compliance, you're Chapter and District is open for review by the Internal Revenue Service.

We have a very easy method for you to document your activities and stay within compliance while having FUN!

How do we get compliant? It is as easy as recording all of your Rider Education activities on the N.23 (Quarterly activity report) and N.6(Rider Education Activity report) each month. The N.23 should be used to list your activities, starting date, location, event, and number of participants. ONLY the number of events and participants go on the N.6 report.

The N.23 is sent once a month by the Chapter to the District MA Coordinator, who will then forward them to the Region Coordinator every Quarter. The Region Coordinator will file a quarterly report to the International Director Of MAP.

It is highly suggested that each Chapter and District keep a copy of the N.23 and N.6 that they submit. Attach it at the end of the year to your financial records which should be kept 7 years.

Most of you have been doing compliant activities every month that are not being recorded. This is where we are asking for your help by ensuring everyone is recording these, and reporting properly to the Educator and Motorist Coordinator.

Simply stated, when your Chapter or District does something that is considered complaint, record it immediately. Remember, if it isn't documented, it did not happen.

Motorist Awareness is Motorcycle Safety, and we need to get the word out to the public that we are SHARING THE ROAD. Remember you have to have 51% of activity to be compliant.



Under the Leather & Behind the Shades
(author unknown)

Contributed by Randy Herrington

We ride for the sense of
freedom it gives us. The
encouragement

to take the road less traveled in the chance that we may encounter something new.

We ride for the friendships we make along the way, as well as the solitude

of the open road. We don't really care what you ride, just that you do.

Under the leather & behind the shades is... a beating heart. A heart filled with compassion that on any given day will be riding for those in need. Ask one of us for help, but don't be surprised when all of us show up.

Under the leather & behind the shades stands... a proud American. We are as diverse a group of people that you could assemble. We are men, women, trades- men, doctors, lawyers, retirees, military, civilian & on, & on, & on.

We stand silently with reverence & one voice that, in the silence, can be overwhelming.

Under the leather & behind the shades stands... an invited guest to a funeral of a soldier that we most likely have never met. We hold the flag of our nation as a tribute to the greatest sacrifice anyone can make. Out of respect for the fallen, we travel to stand firm for a family, a community & a nation to lean on.

Under the leather & behind the shades stands... a biker with sons, daugh- ters, brothers & sisters of our own. Beneath the rough exterior we tremble & weep at your loss. You may not see that, for we are there to support you.

That's why we stand so silently under the leather & behind the shades.

Under the leather & behind the shades stands... a biker.

Webmaster & Newsletter Editors
District Treasurer (Debra)
Ronnie & Debra Baldwin
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We have a visitor to Chapter N who will be with us for 2 weeks. We have the honor of having Billy Bob, the District traveling Bear. We meet Chapter J at Spuds in Pontotoc Saturday the 12th. We had 11 Chapter N folks go, that was great since it was such short notice. I only found out Friday morning. They were Ronny & Susan, Randy & Janice, Andy & Teresa, Brooks & Dorothy, Tim, Lee and Sarah. Sunday the 13th we went to the Mingo's meeting and took Billy Bob who really enjoyed the Pizza at Cici's. We left there and took Billy Bob to meet Elvis at his Birth Place they gave him a pen and put it on his coveralls. He had to have his picture made on the front porch of Elvis's house, he's such a Ham. Susan had him sign the Guest Book at the Museum.

When we left I gave Billy Bob to Randy and Janice to take some where during the week. Andy took him to the Car Museum and Billy Bob loved the old cars and motorcycles and of course had to have his picture made. He came with a back pack to put stuff in and a jump drive to put all his pictures on.

(Article by Chapter MS-N)



*A Word or Two From
Region "A"*



Region "A" Directors

Bob & Nancy Shrader

We'd like to thank our Region "A" Leadership Trainer, Dave and Sharon Aikens together with the District LT and their instructors for the great job they've been doing getting the Officer Certification Program implemented throughout the Region. This was no small undertaking and we appreciate the hard work at the Region and District level that has gone into locating venues, scheduling the classes and preparing the materials for these important events. So far, the vast majority of the feed back we've received has been positive and we are encouraged to see the great turnout of officers and members in attendance. We appreciate your dedication to GWRRA.

Things are going along smoothly for our upcoming Region A rally at the Lakepoint Lodge in Eufaula, AL. Pre-registrations are up substantially from last year and we're looking for a great attendance. Jim and Sue Jackson are lining up a selection of good vendors and Nan is planning a pajama party that promises to be real fun. You'll also be treated to a seated meal prepared by the Lakepoint Lodge staff. While our host hotel (the Lakepoint) has been sold out for some time, we have a good selection of over-flow hotels in the Eufaula area and the campground still has openings. It's still 6 months away, but we're looking forward to the rally and hope you join us for the first GWRRA at the newly rebuilt Lakepoint Lodge. The dates are September 16th-18th, 2010. See ya there!



From National's Newsletter

Do You Have A Successful Chapter?

What makes a GWRRA Chapter successful? Why do some Chapters seem to thrive, grow, and remain active? When talking with Chapter Directors who have growing, healthy Chapters, we always ask the question, "What makes your Chapter successful?" The answer usually centers on the same basic points, points which may be successful for your Chapter.

Successful Chapter Directors tell us they start by selecting the right person for each TEAM position. Many times a Chapter Director simply asks for volunteers at a Chapter Gathering to fill a vacant position; other times the position will be listed in the Chapter newsletter. In many cases, no one volunteers and the Chapter Director simply says, "No one is willing to help, I have to do it all myself". The successful Chapter Director looks for and seeks out an individual's strengths. They get to know their Participants, their interests, their hobbies, etc. Then they approach the individual to review with them some of the tasks they wish to accomplish. They handle this on a one-on-one basis. A volunteer must know what they are being asked to do and what is expected in the position for which they are being considered. It's more than just having a warm body to fill a position. Putting the right person in the right TEAM position can make you successful. The volunteer will enjoy performing the task and help make the Chapter successful.

Chapter Directors tell us another way to be successful is to stay in touch with ALL Chapter Participants. Successful Chapter Directors tell us this is very important. Not only do they contact the New and Prospective Members, they stay in touch with every Chapter Participant on a regular basis. A telephone call or email usually does the job. Successful Chapter Directors tell us they contact Participants who miss a Gathering, ride, or event. This lets Participants know they are missed and are an important part of the Chapter. Members who do not participate on a regular basis are contacted quarterly just to check on them and let them know what is going on. With today's technology, it's easy to keep Chapter newsletters and other information flowing to them. Chapter Participants may, at one time or another, have health issues, financial issues, or other difficulties and may not be able to attend Chapter activities. If this occurs, staying in touch with these members will let them know they are important to the Chapter and increase the chances that they will return and participate with the Chapter again.

There are some Chapters that have Participants who just want to attend Gatherings and eat. There is nothing wrong with this. That is why it is important to know what Participants like and want to do so you can schedule events and activities accordingly. Other Chapter Participants join GWRRA to ride with others and make new friends. As leaders, we need to provide activities for everyone.

Successful Chapter Directors tell us they are always looking for new ideas and ways to increase participation. Many times they tell us they turn to the Chapter of the Year Program to provide new ideas for participation in the Chapter. This Program provides them with many suggestions and opportunities to promote FUN and renew participation for their Chapter. The Chapter of the Year Program also provides a way for the Chapter to be recognized for its accomplishments. One successful Chapter Director stated, "If a Chapter participates in the Chapter of the Year Program, they will be successful".

Ed & Linda Johnson
Director, Membership Enhancement Program

CHAPTERS HAVING AN EVENT IN 2011

CHAPTER F – ANNUAL “SPRING FLING” – **MARCH 26TH**
CHAPTER C - WILL PARTICIPATE IN GRILLIN ON THE RIVER PEOPLES CHOICE
- BIKE SHOW **APRIL 9TH**
CHAPTER Z - DIAMONDHEAD – LUAU THEME – **APRIL 16**
CHAPTER E - **APRIL 30TH** – POKER RUN
CHAPTER N – TUPELO HONDA OPEN HOUSE - **MAY 7TH**
CHAPTER L – Fun Day in NORTH FORREST COMMUNITY CENTER - EATONVILLE
RD. HATTISBURG, MS - **MAY 14TH**
CHAPTER M - BIG TOP AT BUCK & JOAN BOZEMAN – **MAY 21ST**
CHAPTER O – **JUNE 4TH**
CHAPTER D - **JUNE 25TH** – FUN DAY
CHAPTER F – FUN DAY - **SEPTEMBER 10TH**
CHAPTER Q –CHARITY EVENT - **SEPTEMBER 24TH**
MS District Conv. (rally) **OCTOBER 13-15TH**

[More Dates on page 13](#)

THESE ARE THE OPEN DATES FOR FUN DAY EVENTS

MARCH - NOTHING OPEN

APRIL - ONLY WEEKEND OPEN IS THE EASTER WEEKEND, **THE 23RD**

MAY - NOTHING OPEN

JUNE - NOTHING OPEN

JULY - **1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH** WEEKEND IS OPEN

AUGUST - **2ND** WEEKEND IS OPEN

SEPTEMBER - **1ST** WEEKEND IS OPEN

THE ABOVE DATES ARE WHAT WE HAVE WHERE THE DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE FUNCTIONS.

2/21/2011

Thanks to Joyce Rist for getting this together.

NEW Dates

August 6 **District Picnic South**—Paul B Johnson Park (2/24)

August 27 **District Picnic North**—Grenada Lake (2/24)



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

5-6 Horizon Program—MS Realtors Bldg.-Flowood, MS

17-19 Florida District Conv. Kissimmee, FL <http://fla.gwrra-regiona.org/rally.html>

31-Apr 2 Alabama District Conv. Huntsville, AL <http://rally.alabama-gwrra.org/>

APRIL

7-9 Louisiana District Conv. Lafayette, LA <http://www.gwrra-la.org/Flyer/>

14-16 Tennessee District Conv. Sevierville, TN <http://www.tngwrra.org/>

28-30 South Carolina District Conv. Charleston, SC <http://www.gwrrasc.org/>

MAY

21 Member Orientation Program—MS Realtors Bldg.-Flowood, MS

JUNE

11 Life Skills Program TBA

16-18 Georgia District Conv. Duluth, GA <http://www.gwrra-ga.com/events/>

JULY

6-9 WING DING 33, Knoxville, TN <http://www.wing-ding.org/>

23 Chapter Leadership Skills Program TBA

AUGUST

20 Intermediate Leadership Skills Program TBA

SEPTEMBER

15-17 Region “A” Conv. Eufaula, AL <http://www.gwrra-regiona.org/RArally.shtml>

22-24 North Carolina District Conv. Fletcher, NC <http://www.gwrranc.org/wos2011.htm>

OCTOBER

13-15 Mississippi District Conv. Tupelo, MS <http://www.miss.gwrra-regiona.org/>
Chapter Life Program at the Conv.

NOVEMBER

5 Advanced Leadership Skills TBA

[More Dates on page 12](#)