Motorcyclists Against Staying Home

Next Gathering
January 6th,
7:15pm at
IHOP in
The Woodlands

January 2017

Texas District
Chapter M2
Spring, Texas

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge
South Central Region H

POLAR BEAR RIDE

Table of Contents

Page 1	Polar Bear Ride
Page 4	Director's Corner
Page 5	Zach & Meghan's Wedding Photo
Page 6	Upcoming Events
Page 7	Rider Ed Ramblings
Page 9	QBC
Page 10	MASH Christmas Party
Page 13	Chapter Team
Page 14	Painting with a Twist
Page 16	National Team; Region 'H' Team; Texas District Team
Page 17	Chapter M2 Information, Texas District Chapter Information

Thanks To Our Sponsors

Page 3	Central Business Marketing, Freedom Equity Group
Page 9	Bob Lunsford's Northwest Honda
Page 13	Motorcycle Maintenance, Computer Maintenance by Howard

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Director's Corner

Bart & Cheryl Harris

Look Back / Look Forward

As we wind up another year and get ready for a new one, it is traditional to take a look back at the previous year and look forward to the next. Who are we to break tradition? So here you go:

2016 was another really active year for M2. In addition to monthly gatherings, activities, day rides, and rallies we had one four-day campout event combing some good Hill Country riding with Chapter O's Rally.

Do you like statistics? I like statistics. So here is some for your perusal:

- Chapter Gatherings – 12 with an average attendance of 17.6
- Team Meetings – 12 with an average attendance of 8.5
- Chapter Rides – 23 with an average attendance of 9.7
- Chapter Events (Christmas party, game nights, bowling, etc.) – 14 with an average attendance of 15.7

So that is a total of 61 official M2 activities in 2016 – an average of over 5 a month. Not too bad if I do say so myself!

So what's up for 2017? We all know the big news is that Wing Ding is returning to Grapevine this year. I know many have already made plans to attend the national rally. Of course we have the Region H rally and the Ride for Kids event coming up in April and the District rally in May. What else do you want to do? As you may recall, I asked in the December meeting if anyone had thoughts or suggestions for an M2 trip in 2017. We are still looking for feedback from the chapter on that front. As always the Chapter Team is looking for and open to suggestions of new activities and places to go. Don't be shy! If you have an idea, please share it with any member of the Chapter Team and we will try to get it on the schedule.

As far as goals for 2017 go, they are the same as every year. That is, continue to promote safe riding and have fun! We would like to see attendance up at the Chapter Gatherings. Most of the time, we had between 15-20 people there but we had a couple of really low attendance months. November & December were really good with 25 in attendance both months. Hope that trend continues! Of course, we are still looking to get another couple lined up to assume the role of CD. This year I am determined to get it done! ☺

Coming up still this month we have the Midwinter Round-up in Wichita Falls, our annual Bowling Tournament at AMF Diamond Lanes on Sunday the 22nd, and the Woodard's are hosting a game night at their home on Saturday the 28th. We always have a good time with Chapter N2 at our bowling event. We have four lanes reserved and I will be trying to get a

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pretty good head count here in early January as I need to make final payment a few days prior to the event. We have a great time at our game nights so we are also looking forward to that.

Until next time, ride

smart, ride safe!

PLAN AHEAD!:

January 14, 2017 – Midwinter Round-up, Wichita Falls, TX

April 27-29, 2017 – Region H Rally, Marshall, TX

April 30, 2017 – Houston Ride for Kids

May 18-20, 2017 – Texas District Rally, Wichita Falls, TX

WEDDINGBELLS

Congratulations goes to
Rex & Michele West

their little girl Meghan married

Zach Hood on 12/10/16

January Journeys

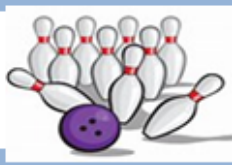
Jan. 2nd — **Monday**
Polar Bear Ride to Sodolaks Beefmasters in Bryan
Meet at Stripes at 9:30 a.m. (if the weather is bad, we may choose a closer place)

Jan. 6th — **Friday**
M*A*S*H Chapter Gathering at IHOP, The Woodlands
Come early and visit, meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 11th — **Wednesday**
Team Meeting at Red Lobster, The Woodlands
Eat at 6:30 p.m. / Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 14th — **Saturday**
TX District Mid-Winter Roundup in Wichita Falls

Jan. 22nd — **Sunday**
Annual Bowling Tournament AMF Diamond Lanes
Be at the bowling alley 1:45 p.m. sharp!



Jan. 28th — **Saturday**
Game Night at the Woodards
Meet there at 5:00 p.m.

Coming Up in February 2017

Feb. 3rd — **Friday**
M*A*S*H Chapter Gathering at IHOP, The Woodlands
Come early and visit, meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 8th — **Wednesday**
Team Meeting at Red Lobster, The Woodlands
Eat at 6:30 p.m. / Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 11th — **Saturday**
Valentines Day Lunch
Salt Grass in The Woodlands, 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 19th — **Sunday**
Putt Putt Golf at Shankz
Meet there at 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 25th — **Saturday**
Hemi Hideout in Brookshire
TBD

RIDER Education Ramblings

Who is the Boss?
by tim bryan

This article inspired by writing from Joe & Judy Pirillo of Iowa.

Many of us ride with a passenger if only occasionally. Most of the time that passenger is either a spouse or a long time co-rider. However on occasion we get the opportunity to bring along the company of another passenger without experience in riding. Perhaps even if this person rides with someone often, but not with us. Today, I am discussing two important elements when choosing to ride with a passenger. How to act while riding. And, what to discuss before and during the ride. Some of this I learned from flying but it is so relevant in this situation also.

How we act during this ride can literally make or break the desire of this person to ever ride again. If the passenger is new to riding, they may already be a bit reluctant to ride and even more so if they don't know you too well. I had the opportunity to take quite a few passengers in my airplane whom had never flown before or at least not in a small plane. The last thing I wanted to do was show off or scare them. Take offs were gradual acceleration, climbs were gradual as was any turns or maneuvers. This should hold true to riding a motorcycle with a passenger. Remember they have no control over your actions while seated on the back. Can you start out from a stop without lurching or weaving? Can you shift without whipping the riders head back? Can you stop without their head hitting the back of your helmet or the bike starting to lean sideways? These should be the goals for this ride. You can ride more aggressive when you are alone and the situation provides for your safe actions. I really doubt they will be impressed with any aggressive riding even if it seems so to the rider. There is one thing I particularly find important that is not related to a passenger is how we demonstrate our riding etiquette. I see quite a few motorcycle riders on the road dodging and weaving, taking off and passing others on the shoulders of the road and such. When I ride, I would prefer other cars around me not have any reason to think of me or my riding negatively. I prefer this for any passengers as well.

According to the article written by Joe and Judy, they suggest the passenger is the boss. If they are not comfortable for any reason and wish that you stop or slow down, they get to dictate. This is certainly a good way to look at it. So with this, let me suggest some ideas about what to discuss with them before they get on the bike.

The passenger does not need to worry about leaning. The bike will naturally

(Continued on page 8)

lean in the corners and if they are just sitting in the seat, they will naturally lean with the bike but will still be sitting straight away from the bike. They may find it easier if they look in the direction of the turn. If the bike has an intercom system then they are free to participate in a discussion with me during the ride; encourage actually. If there is a CB communication, then they may need to yield to that conversation, but otherwise just speak as desired. These are simple examples of instructions to help them feel welcome and comfortable.

How to mount and dismount from the motorcycle. I like to have my feet both firmly planted on the ground with the motorcycle standing directly upright. I typically leave the side stand down in the event my left foot slips during the mount, but that has not happened as of yet. With a new passenger it is difficult to understand how to stand up on the foot board while keeping their weight up over the motorcycle. Be prepared for that, but you should attempt to brief them on this. Dismounting is the reverse but equally as important. You could and probably should ask them not to mount or dismount without some communication letting you know or your acknowledgement that you are ready.

I believe it is a good idea to discuss that while there is no expectation of an accident, what they should do if the bike is to fall over. Show them the side guards on the bike and explain how they are designed to keep the bike off the ground enough to protect the legs and feet. If your passenger attempts to put their feet out to stop the fall, they are more likely to get injured. Keeping them on the floorboards is much more likely to reduce injury.

One final thing to discuss is how to enjoy the ride. Take in the scenery, the smells, and sensations of being out and away from daily activity. Encourage them to wave at other motorcycles passing by and to others watching from the side of the road. Hopefully, they will get the sense this will be a fun and enjoyable time and they should develop trust for you and your ability to ride in a safe and predictable manner.

So then, who is the boss? I would suggest you both are. If either of you need to stop you should stop. If either of you need to slow down or ride different, then so be it. Perhaps that differs from Joe & Judy Pirillo, but I think it really doesn't change the point. If your rider has a need, you have that need then also.

Have fun, ride safe, be a role model.

January Birthdays

13th	Paul Rich
17th	David Lamb
23rd	Kim Lamb
28th	Timothy Bryan

January Anniversaries

12th	Dennis & Nancy Kwiecien
30th	Steve & Billie Fleming

Quote by Claudia

"Mountains are Earth's undecaying monuments."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Bob Lunsford's

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Always wear a helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing and respect the environment. Obey the law and read your owners manual thoroughly. For rider information call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Chapter M2 held our annual Christmas Party on December 4th. This year, we had a bit of a Tex-Mex theme with the party being held at Cilantros Mexican Grill in Spring. Thirty-seven participates celebrated Christmas with good fajitas and fixings, a rousing round of our annual gift exchange (battle), some thank-you's and just plain fun.

Here are some selected photos of the event. You can find many more photos under our pictures library at www.themashchapter.com.

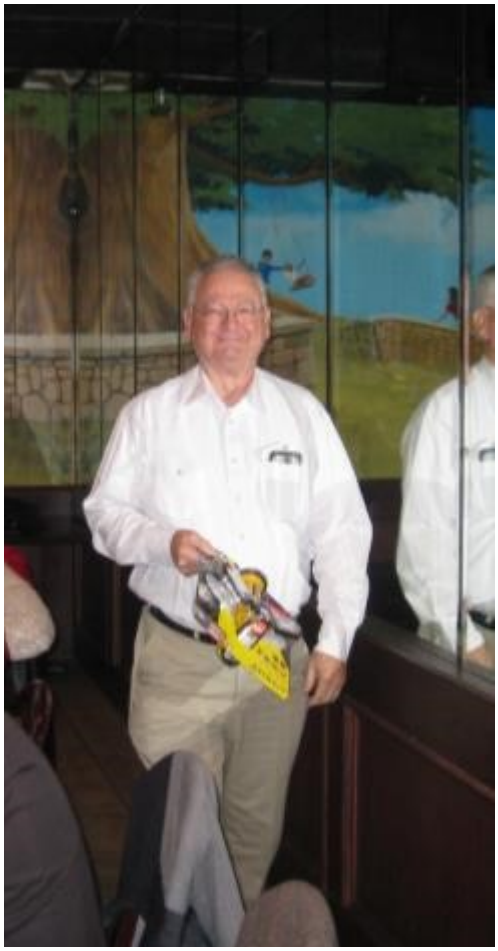
CHERYL AND "THE BOYS"

BART AND "THE GIRLS"

DEBBIE KEEPS EVERYONE IN-LINE

HOWARD UN-WRAPS YET ANOTHER GIFT

SCOTT IS HAPPY WITH HIS CHOICE
(but not for long)



STEVE IS HAPPY WITH HIS STEAL
(but not for long)

INTRODUCING M2'S 2017 COY
Andy & Claudia Woodard

The M*A*S*H Chapter Team

OFFICERS

Chapter Directors (CD)	**Bart Harris** **Cheryl Harris**	cd@themashchapter.com	281 814 2051 281 814 2049
Chapter Educators (CE)	**Tim & Kathy Bryan**	educator@themashchapter.com	903 721 0941
Chapter Treasurer (CT)	**Andy Woodard**	treasurer@themashchapter.com	281 802 2915
Chapter Membership Enhancement (CME)	**Linda Gresak** **Scott Gresak**	membership@themashchapter.com swgresak@yahoo.com	281 813 9991 281 386 7800

Activities Coordinator	**Kim & David Lamb**	events@themashchapter.com	832 298 7281
Chapter Coordinators	**Debbie Grieger** **Britt Grieger**	gwtriker@ymail.com	713 775 8972 713 775 8973
Newsletter Coordinator	**Kathy Bryan**	newsletter@themashchapter.com	903 284 1418
Correspondence Secretary	**Claudia Woodard**	twonutsonawing@att.net	281 288 9119
Webmaster	**Tim Bryan**	webmaster@themashchapter.com	903 721 0941
Couple of the Year - 2017	**Andy Woodard** **Claudia Woodard**	twonutsonawing@att.net	281 802 2915 281 288 9119
Communications Coordinator	**Cheryl Harris**	communications@themashchapter.com	281 814 2049

Girls Night Out

November went by way too fast for me to get this in our December newsletter. So this is a little late but I felt it was "news-worthy".

It's a Saturday night and the girls are on the loose! We decided to do something a little different this time. We booked a room at Painting With a Twist. If you haven't tried this yet, we highly recommend it. Book your room, pick your picture, get people to sign up (which is always a challenge!), show up & paint. It's really that simple … or not so simple.

Debbie, with a help from a few of her friends, picked out our design. It was simple enough. I mean really, it was snow with signs. How hard could it be to paint? (or so we thought) With a little bit of arm twisting, we were able to get enough people to sign up for the event.

Several of us brought in snacks for everyone to enjoy as we all painted. We had tons of chips, crackers, dips and a few other items. There was plenty for all! We had a break or two while we were painting to let our masterpieces dry a bit before continuing so we had to fill the breaks with something… it might as well be food, right?!

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

With our artists hard at work, they did make time to stop to pose for a quick picture. The instructor was very friendly and was quite helpful. She gave us lots of good tips on how to make our paintings look very professional.

After our two hour time limit on the paintings most of us had completed our paintings. I believe we all did an absolute great job. I think if we had another hour everyone could have finished up. I know I could have tweaked mine for a bit to make it a little more "smooth around the edges".

All that was left to make the evening a complete success was dinner! We can't end an evening without more food, laughs and bragging on what a wonderful job we did. We will have to do this again someday. Be looking for a repeat on our calendar.

GWRRA

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

National Team

Director of GWRRA
Ray & Sandi Garris

Rider Education Director
Bob & Althea Berry

Leadership Training Director
Fred & Clara Boldt

Member Enhancement Director
Larry & Penny Anthony

Global Affairs Director
Dan Sanderovich

Wing World, Editor in Chief
Anita Stienstra

International Deputy Director (Regions D, H &K)
Jack Wagner

Region H Team

Region Directors / Newsletter
Jim & Reba Berry

Asst. Region Directors / Pins and Patches
Steve & Billie Fleming

Region Educator & MFA Coordinators
Ricky & Karen Frazier

Region Treasurer & Chapter of the Year Coordinator
Ed & Ann Nahl

Region Membership Enhancement & COY Coordinator
Tim & Becky Dinnel

Region Trainer
Jack Wagner

Region Motorist Awareness
Mike & Becky Stevenson

Region Couple of the Year
Randy & Kathy Reese

Region Webmaster
Sam Belinoski

Region Vendor Coordinator
Ruby Seale

Texas District Team

District Directors
Mike & Robin Thacker

Assistant District Directors
Tom & Dawn Sprague

Membership Enhancement & COY Coordinators
Lyle & Sheri Altes

District Educators
Randy & Kathy Reese

District Trainer
Cliff & Gillian Allen

District Treasurer
Diane Shults

Chapter of Year Coordinator
Sheri Altos

District COY 2016-2017
Scott & Linda Gresak

Newsletter Editor
Tom Sprague

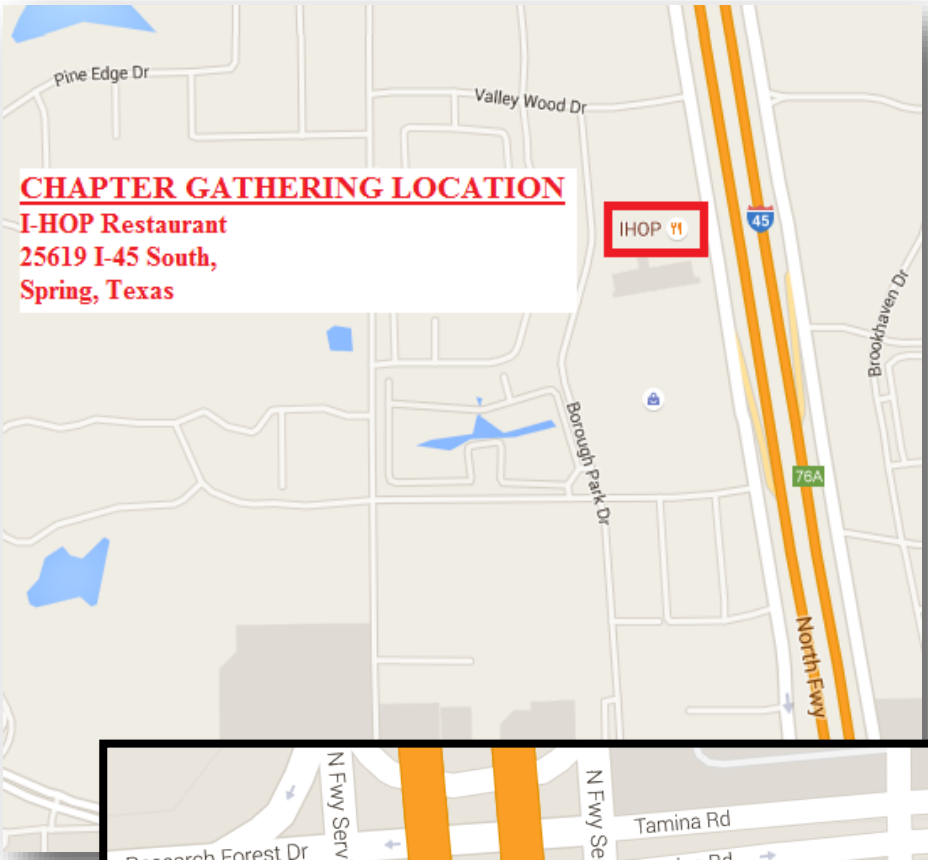
District Webmaster
Tom Sprague

Entertainment Coordinator
Kenny Shults

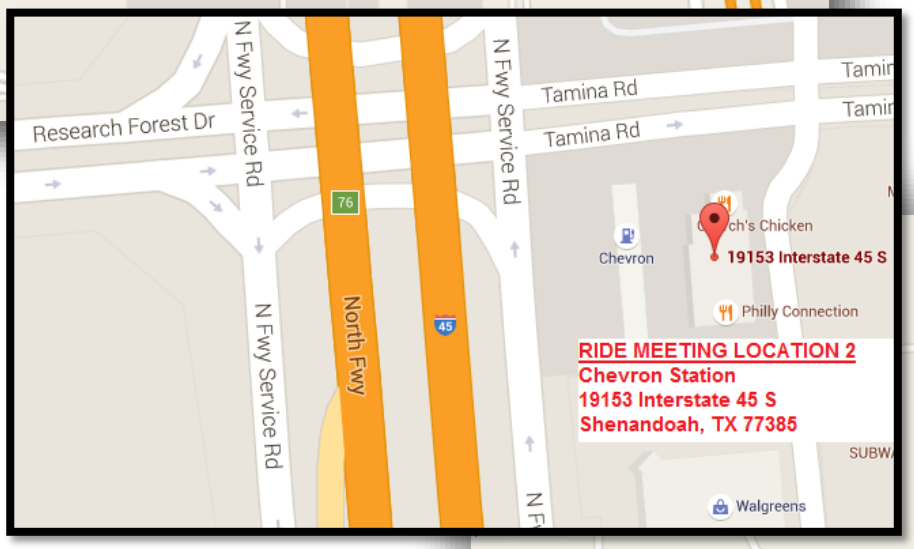
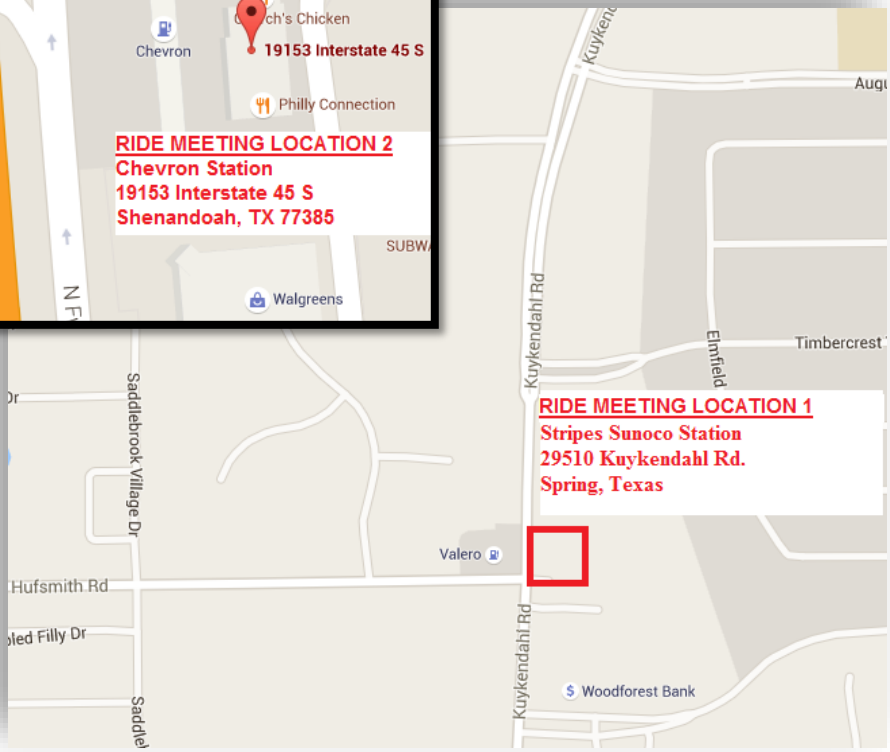
Vendor Coordinator
Kenny Shults

Activities Coordinator
Open Position

Come have some fun with your friends and neighbors, Join us on a ride or at our Monthly Chapter Gathering



Traveling around Texas? Pay a visit to some of our friends.

Go to the Texas District Website for links to other GWRRA local chapters:

http://www.gwrra-tx.org/chapters/chapters.php