

# The Hospitality Region



## GWRRA REGION H The South Central Region



Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2003

### Motorcycle Safety: Street Strategies

#### *Seeing and Being Seen*

Motorcycles have a profile that's about one-third the size of a car. If a motorcycle and an eighteen-wheeler are side by side, which vehicle will be seen first? The small size of a motorcycle is a large problem when it comes to being seen, but there are some strategies a motorcyclist can use to improve their visibility.

The first thing a motorcyclist can do is wear

*(Continued on page 3)*

#### **Article continued on**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| <i>By The Book</i>           | 4   |
| <i>Calendar</i>              | 6   |
| <i>The Director's Chair</i>  | 3   |
| <i>Off to a great start</i>  | 2   |
| <i>Seeing and Being Seen</i> | 3,5 |

### From the Director's Chair *Ed and Carol Nahl*



It's Rally Season. In Region H we have three seasons. Riding Season, Not Riding Season (thankfully this one is very short) and Rally Season which occupies part of Riding Season. Louisiana is following their usual strategy of being the first rally in the Region. Always a good time - seeing friends we haven't seen since the winter, eating good food (not always identifiable but good nonetheless), and "passing a good time" with some of the friendliest people in the world. If you've never been you've missed a great weekend.

After Louisiana we

have a month off before we head to Texas and the hill country around Kerrville. An-

other great rally - Breeze and his staff pull out all the stops to show everyone a great time.

June is very busy with Oklahoma and Arkansas in the same month. Just a short break and then we're off to Wing Ding in Madison, WI. Then a couple of months without District Rallies but lots of local events and it's time for the Region H Rally.

If you recall a couple of rallies ago we went exploring on safari, then we went rolling on the river. Well this year we're going exploring again but not where there are exotic animals but animals

*(Continued on page 3)*

### BY THE BOOK

*By: Harry Dollarhide  
Region H Trainer*

The "By The Book" articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer's Guidebook. Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.

Does your chapter have goals? Does your chapter have a plan to accomplish these goals? This month I will address the need for a Chapter Plan and discuss the financial aspects of the plan.

Before you "tune-out" on this subject, goals and plans do not necessarily need to be big formal, cumbersome things. A simple comprehensive set of goals and plan that is flexible

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Off to a Great Start

*Bob and MaryJo Meloy*

Thank you Louisiana for getting this year's rally season off to a great start. If you didn't have a good time you had to work hard not to. Congratulations to the new Louisiana District Couple Brent and Roxie Comeaux. It was great to see all the Couples up on stage. I heard someone from the audience say that they were glad that they didn't have to judge because all of the couples did a great job. We were part of the judging team and I can tell you that it was a tough choice to make. All of the couples are outstanding ambassadors for GWRRA and all represented themselves and their Chapters well. Once again the Chapters chose their Couples well.

This month is a quiet month for District Rallies in Region H – there are none. However, I am sure no matter which District you are in there are several Chapter Rallies that you can attend. So, CDs and Chapter Members grab your COY and go to a few rallies. Chapters, if you are aware that a COY is visiting your rally the *Couple of the Year Guide* suggests that you treat

them as a "house guest". Also to "Ask them if they would like to help in judging events, 50/50 sales, etc. or if they would prefer to kick back, relax and just socialize." Again from the *Couple of the Year Guide*: "Being selected as a COY should be viewed as an honor. Recognition should be afforded COYs at all events, preferential seating provided when feasible..."

For the Couples of the Year, when you get to the rallies participate! When you do, you open the door to a lot more fun. On Friday at the Louisiana Rally I heard some music being played so stuck my head into a room and there were about 40 people learning to dance. I grabbed my agenda and looked to see just what was going on. It said Cajun dance lessons. Well the music certainly was Cajun and everyone was having a ball. I couldn't stay long, but it was fun just to watch. As you attend the various rallies, make the effort to meet as many new people as you can. You won't regret it. From the COY perspective the Louisiana Rally was a target rich environment for meeting COYS, The National COY Coordinators, Vern and Verna Dudley, were in attendance along with the current International Couple of the Year Bruce and Julia Malson. If that wasn't enough, the current

Region B Couple of the Year, Hampton and Sharon Conway, were also in present along with the Texas District Couple of the Year, Robert and Bonnie Ballon. Remember if you aren't having fun you are doing it wrong.

Chapter Members, now is the time to work with your COY and help them prepare for the District COY selection. If they will let you, help them prepare their presentation. Have them speak at Chapter Meetings to help them face and audience. It is up to you to help make them successful. Be proud of them for their effort no matter what the outcome of the selection process. Remember, they gave their all representing you and your Chapter. For some it is very difficult for them to stand up in front of a group of people that they know and talk about themselves yourself let alone a larger group that they don't know at all. If it is at all possible for you to be in the audience be there for them. They need to see your friendly faces in the audience. When the selection process is complete take a little time and congratulate all the participating COYs for their hard work in preparing for the selection.

## **From the Director's Chair continued** *Ed and Carol Nahl*

*(Continued from page 1)*

we're all familiar with. The year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. A large portion of Region H was bought in this big real estate deal. How big was it? How about buying 828,000 square miles for only \$15 million? That's even better the \$24 paid for Manhattan. Anyway, back to the exploring. Lewis and Clark explored the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean and back. All that way and they didn't even have a Gold Wing. No

wonder it took over two years.

Oh, did we forget to mention where the rally will be? We're going back to Shreveport, Louisiana. The dates are October 2 - 4, 2003. Come see us, bring your explorer outfit for the theme dress competition and get ready for plenty of hospitality region fun.

The Rally Pin/Shirt Design contest is open until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Get your paper and crayons out and send in an entry. Winner gets free registration to next year's

rally.

Keep checking the web site <http://region-h.org> for more information, schedules and competition guidelines.

See you at the rallies.  
Ed and Carol

## **Motorcycle Safety: Street Strategies continued** *Seeing and Being Seen*

*(Continued from page 1)*

bright colored clothing. Black leather does not fit into this category, yet most every motorcyclist has at least one black leather jacket. Contrast the jacket with a light-colored helmet, or put reflective stripes on you helmet. Some of the newer biker gear has reflective stripes built into it that do not ruin the overall look of the gear. It is the biker's ultimate responsibility to ensure they are seen by other road users.

When riding during the day it is a good idea to use the high beam of the motorcycles headlight. If someone flashes their lights because your high beam is on, wave and say "Thanks for see-

ing me!" The high beam will not hurt anyone in the daytime, just remember to switch it back to the low beam as the sun sets. Some motorcyclist install a modulator on their headlight. The modulator varies the low beam between dim and normal so the headlight looks as if it's pulsing or flashing. A flashing light will attract most driver's attention.

Turn signals let other people know your intentions. Signal well in advance of the turn, and remember to cancel the signal after making the turn.... Otherwise drivers may pull out or turn in front of you because they think you are turning. Sometimes it helps to use a hand sig-

nal in conjunction with a turn signal - anything to get the driver's attention (except that familiar single digit hand signal that will only hurt the image of motorcyclist).

When preparing to stop, flashing the brake light will also improve visibility. Be conspicuous! The horn is useful only in limited situations: pedestrians, animals, and cars with the drivers window rolled down. Otherwise, don't rely or depend on it. If the horn sounds like a truck horn, drivers may instinctively look for a truck, and not see the motorcycle.

If the motorcyclist is doing all of

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **BY THE BOOK** continued

*By: Harry Dollarhide, Region H Trainer*

*(Continued from page 1)*

will serve the chapter just fine. Success in our personal life, business and chapter life relies on having established goals and a plan for reaching those goals. If we do not have goals and a plan, we are trusting to fortune or good luck to improve or accomplish things in life.

The Chapter Officers and Staff should ask where, as a chapter, do we want to be next year. What, as a chapter, do we want to accomplish. What are our financial, Recruitment, Retention, Rider Education, Couple of the Year program and communication goals. Do we have any special events planned that require funding. Does the Chapter Director have a clearly understood prudent, reasonable, and fair fiscal policy. Do we have an established plan to accomplish those goals. And most important, has the chapter staff communicated these goals clearly to the chapter participants? Have the chapter participants "bought into" these goals. The chapter should establish goals that have broad support from the participants.

The bedrock of the chapter plan must be financial. Without a sound fiscal plan the chapter will not have the resources to accomplish its goals. So first the chapter must set goals and determine how to reach those goals, only then can a financial plan be



chapter is required to submit the annual financial report along with the annual chartering fee. This is an excellent opportunity for the chapter staff to plan for the next year.

developed. First determine how much funding it will take to operate for the next year. Include estimated expenses for all planned activities and expenditures. Then determine your estimated income for the next year. This is where your past financial records are invaluable. What was your historical income from all sources, is it still a good estimate? Determine if the estimated income and current treasury balance are adequate. Do you have an estimated shortfall? Do you have estimated excess? A shortfall will require a new plan; How to raise the required funds. Excess will bring a new set of decisions. What constitutes excess funds? The "Book" answer is "moneys in excess of approximately one (1) years operating expense. This is a guide, not a rule. What do you do with excess funds? A good approach is to return excess funds to the participants by providing "no cost" social activities.

Bottom line; the chapter staff should work together to develop goals and a plan for the next year. An opportune time is at the end of the year when the

## Motorcycle Safety: Street Strategies continued

### *Seeing and Being Seen*

*(Continued from page 3)*

the above, they may not be doing enough. They need to aggressively scan ahead for traffic, road conditions or pedestrians that may be a potential hazard. Scan at least 12 seconds ahead for potential hazards. This will allow enough time to prepare for the hazard. Any hazards of situations that are within four (4) seconds of the motorcyclist take top priority since these are in the biker's immediate path of travel.

What constitutes a hazard? The biggest concern is other traffic: the person driving while talking on his cell phone; the van with a broken left side view mirror; the car that's erratically changing lanes. All traffic is a hazard! Some require more preparation than others.

One of the most Frequent statements after an automobile and motorcycle collision is "I never saw the motorcycle." Cars have blind spots into which motorcycles fit very easily (and vice-versa). If your are riding next to a car and you cannot see the driver's eyes in his side view mirror, then he cannot see you. Many drivers do not turn their heads before changing lanes, so riding in someone's blind spot is the worst thing a motorcyclist can do.

Automobiles have been known to turn left in front of an approaching motorcyclist. Again,

because they did not see the motorcycle or was unable to judge it speed. When approaching such a situation it might be a good idea to slow down and look directly at that driver. Try to make eye contact if possible. Be prepared to stop quickly. Cover the brakes and clutch to reduce your reaction time. Always prepare for the worst. Flashing your high beam light is not idea because the driver might think you are giving them the go ahead. Change you lane position, give yourself some extra space in case the driver starts to make the turn, then stops part- way in your lane. Sometimes the front tires are an indication of whether the driver sees the motorcycle: if the wheels begin to turn or the car is creeping forward, they may not have seen the motorcycle. Always be extra cautious in these situations.

Next month we will talk about "Space Cushioning". Until then Ride Safe and Keep the Shiny Side Up.

Larry & Donna Marsh  
Region H Educator





Ed and Carol Nahl  
Senior Region Director  
405.321.6467  
405.364.2734 fax

Email: [hdirector@region-h.org](mailto:hdirector@region-h.org)

Website: <http://www.region-h.org>

Newsletter deadline is the 21st of each month.  
Please send your articles to:  
[newsletter@region-h.org](mailto:newsletter@region-h.org)

This newsletter is meant to be a resource for the Districts and their Chapter participants. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

**District contacts:**

**Arkansas District Director**

Charlie and Kay Fortson  
[Fortteal@aol.com](mailto:Fortteal@aol.com)

**Louisiana District Director**

Eugene and Kathy Wyble  
[Cajunwinger@centurytel.net](mailto:Cajunwinger@centurytel.net)

**Oklahoma District Director**

Stephen and Carolyn Cotton  
[Cotton01@swbell.net](mailto:Cotton01@swbell.net)

**Texas District Director**

Louis R. (Breeze) and Carolyn Hoadley  
[Breezech@gte.net](mailto:Breezech@gte.net)

## 2003 Calendar of Events



District Rally June 19, 20, 21  
Best Western In of the Ozarks  
P O Box 431  
Eureka Spring, AR  
479.253.9768



District Rally June 6,7  
Marriott Hotel  
3233 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK  
1.800.228.9290



Region H Rally October 2,3,4  
Holiday Inn—Financial Plaza  
5555 Financial Plaza  
Shreveport, LA 71129  
1.318.688.3000



District Rally March 20, 21, 22  
Hotel Acadiana  
1801 West Pinhook Road  
Lafayette, LA  
1.800.826.8386



District Rally May 15, 16,17  
Inn of the Hills  
1001 Junction Highway  
Kerrville, TX  
1.800.292.5690



Wing Ding XXV  
Madison, WI

To register call 1.800.843.9460 or go online to [www.gwrra.org](http://www.gwrra.org)