

Next Gathering is: 17 August 11



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
 Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge
Texas Chapter "U"
 www.texaschapteru.org



Friends for FUN - SAFETY- KNOWLEDGE

From the CDs

**Duke & Chela
Thompson**

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"When I was a young father, watching my children grow up, that was the best time of my life.

"And now, friends I am seventy-three years old. I feel good, I can still ride and I am in love with Chela just as I was when we first met. This is the best time of my life."

Need I say more?

Don't forget our next "Chapter Gathering" is Wednesday, 17 August!!

Ride safe,

Duke and Chela Thompson, Chapter "U" CDs



Inside this issue:

From The CD's	1
From the ACD's	2
Rider Education	2 - 4
Joke of the Month	4
Ride Schedule	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Texas District Officers & Staff	6
Chapter U Officers & Staff	7
Sponsors Ads	7 & 8

It is August, 2011 and this month I turn seventy three. I was insecure about this time of my life and feared that my best years were now behind me. So I asked myself, "What was the best time of your life?"

"When I was a child in Michigan and everything was taken care of for me and I was nurtured by my parents, that was the best time of my life.

"When I was going to a one room school and learning the things I know today, that was the best time of my life.

"When I was in High School and playing sports and in the band, that was the best time of my life.

When I was in College acting on TV and playing football, that was the best time of my life.

When I was ordained a Methodist pastor, took my first Church and had responsibilities and got paid for my efforts, that was the best time of my life.

"When I came to Texas and met Chela, that was the best time of my life.

Ride Meeting Location

Unless otherwise specified, all Saturday rides depart from Kent Power Sports, (YOSA), 15564 I-35 N between Evans Rd and Olympia Parkway. Check the website at www.texaschapteru.org for ride information.

Friday Night Rides

Meet at your favorite place to eat, all are pre-destined rides that are scheduled every other Friday of the month. So be sure to let Jack and Linda know where you would like to see the Chapter meet up for a Friday night dinner ride!

Chap "U" Gatherings

3rd Wednesday of each month at the La Cabana Restaurant, just outside of Cibolo, TX; 170 Buffalo Pl, Cibolo, TX. 78108. We "Meet-to-Eat" at 6:00 with "Information Sharing" beginning at 7:00 pm. Hope to see "U" there! Next Chapter Gathering is 20 July 11.

<p>From the ACDs Ken & Connie Jordan Kenj1@att.net</p>	
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Have you ever looked at a map and wondered about the distance between Point A and Point B? The map may say 120 miles and you think "that's a long ride in this hot weather" or "that's a long ride and rain is in the forecast". We find that *most* of the time it's worth taking the chance of riding anyway. When we're on our trike out in the open and are looking around at everything we pass, those 120 miles just melt away. We don't notice the heat or the occasional sprinkles too much. We've had several short, early rides this past month and they have been just perfect for this time of year. Stopping now and then to view the scenery, to wait for that two ton live bull or that two pound live dog to get out of the road, to talk and eat with our riding partners helps you forget the weather. And then, there's always the DQ at the end of the trip (never miss this stop). Granted, our Texas weather is really hot right now but it won't last forever. Our July rides were short and we all made it home before it became too uncomfortably hot. The rides were to Grumpy's in Bracken, Blanco Bowling Alley and the market days in Blanco, Comal County

Tacos in Spring Branch with a ride afterwards down Rebecca Creek Road and over to Sattler, the Friesenhaus Restaurant in New Braunfels with a farmers' market next door. Cooler weather makes riding so much more enjoyable and we just can't wait for that to happen. Remember that better riding weather is coming soon in the fall.

Also, remember that any and all ride suggestions/ideas are very welcome.

Ken & Connie Jordan, ACD's – TX Chapter U

<p><i>Rider Education</i> Brad & Jill Severe txeducator@aol.com</p>	
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Riding the Winds!

Cross winds and high winds can be quite a challenge at times, especially for those that have not experienced much of it. Even the short (but sometimes powerful) blast of wind you get while passing a truck can be a terrifying experience! Jill and I started riding two-up in Hawaii in 1996. Winds there are for the most part not much of a problem. Coming to Texas in 1999 we quickly discovered what real winds were all about! One of our first experiences was on the south side of loop 410 on our Kawasaki Vulcan. The cross winds were so bad we couldn't hardly keep our helmets on! We just turned around and went back home. A month or so later we bought our first Goldwing and we headed out down to Cuero for the day. On the way back, a front began to move in and the winds picked up. They were so strong that we rode on the shoulder for several miles because we thought we would be blown into the oncoming traffic! We found out later that the winds were over 50 mph at times!

I know you are already tired of hearing about our experiences but just a couple more. By 2005 we thought we could handle winds. On the way to the Chapter X rally, there was a strong wind blowing from the south at a slight angle to the road. We found out very quickly while passing trucks that the wind

was magnified by the trucks front end. So much so that it would blast us over a couple feet toward the edge! It got to the point where we did not want to pass trucks on that trip! The experience that gave us the most confidence riding in the wind was coming back from Wing Ding in Billings, MT in 2007. On the way home we stayed overnight in Pueblo, CO but had to delay leaving in the morning because of the 60mph+ winds that came through. We waited until the winds got down to about 35-40mpt, and since we were headed the same direction, south, as the wind, it didn't seem to be a problem. Just over the border in Raton, NM we started heading East and that was when the winds hit us. I don't think we had ridden winds that strong before or after! After 50+ miles of fighting the wind we finally moved out of it.

We still don't like riding in the wind but it is no longer a big factor for us. The only way I know how to help folks to learn to ride in the wind is to experience them first hand but some basic knowledge (that Jill & I did not have) can help considerably to make sure the learning curve is as safe as possible. Riding a trike in winds seems a bit easier but puts a lot of pressure on your shoulder and back keeping the trike steered into the wind. Below is a great article on riding in the wind that should give you some insight on riding in the wind!

Riding and Dealing with Cross-Winds -- An exercise in counter-steering

By David Dirig, GWRRA Region F

Cross winds -- man they used to really scare me! Dori and I would be riding along and it would get gusty -- we'd slow down and ride it out -- weaving in our lane (mostly) and slowing down if it got too windy. That was no good -- traffic comes up behind us, we're not stable -- it just wasn't safe all around. I'm sure a number of people have felt the same. What do you do? Wait until the wind stops? If you're going cross-country, this isn't an option. If you wait for the wind to die down or for it to stop raining, you'll never make it out of California, let alone make it across the US! We had to come up with a solution before our big trip last summer or we'd never make it across the Southwestern states.

Riding in cross winds is simply another exercise in counter-steering. Slowing down never helped; it made

a difference psychologically, but the wind still blows you all over the road. What we needed to do was find a way to counter the wind effects on the line the bike tracks down the road so as to maintain a straight line regardless of speed and wind direction. You can't 'lean' quick enough to make up for a gusting 20 mph wind, but you can push on the handlebars that quick. Counter-steering was the answer. We tooled across Oklahoma (ya know 'where the winds blow') with not a moment's hesitation. I think we spent more time in that state at a 45 degree angle then we did straight up. I wanted to make sure the tires weren't worn on one side once we got to St. Louis. It was quite exciting at times; pulling a trailer, passing an 18-wheeler highway speeds with a stiff and gusting right to left cross wind. I got a kick out of seeing Dori all canted over behind me on her GL1100. Quite a sight!

When the wind blows from the side, counter steer into it. In the same way that you push left to go left, if you have a cross wind from the left, you want to push on the left bar and counter-steer into the wind to maintain a straight line. This is not a sudden extreme 'push-push' as counter-steering to avoid an obstacle, but a continuous pressure on the handlebar that the wind is blowing from. This will lean you into the wind to counter the wind's push and maintain your straight line down the road. When the wind blows harder, it takes a little more pressure on the bar on the side that the wind is coming from. One key point is to worry about the path you're taking down the road, not the angle that the bike is at. Just let the bike lean and only worry about the path you're taking down the road and the amount of pressure on the handlebars to maintain that path. If the wind is gusty or you come under an underpass or pass an 18-wheeler on the lee side, that pressure will have to change with the wind conditions, so stay alert. With a little practice, you'll be sailing that bike down the road like the best of them.

It's not easy riding in a gusty cross wind, but it is not impossibly difficult either. It is simply a matter of knowledge, education, and experience. (what part of motorcycling is not?! ;-) So the next time the winds pick up, try a little counter-steering before you get off the gas and/or call it a day. For more information on riding in the wind, check out Motorcycle Consumer News, May 1999, Page 39. Feel free to contact Dori

and I if you have further questions; remember the only bad question is the one that goes un-asked.

Ride Safe & Have Fun!
Brad & Jill Severe
TX-U Educators



JOKE OF THE MONTH - Fishermen killed

Many years ago, a fisherman's wife blessed her husband with twin sons. They loved the children very much, but couldn't think of what to name their children. Finally, after several days, the fisherman said, "Let's not decide on names right now. If we wait a little while, the names will simply occur to us."

After several weeks had passed, the fisherman and his wife noticed a peculiar fact. When left alone, one of the boys would also turn towards the sea, while the other boy would face inland. It didn't matter which way the parents positioned the children, the same child always faced the same direction. "Let's call the boys Towards and Away," suggested the fisherman.

His wife agreed, and from that point on, the boys were simply known as Towards and Away.

The years passed and the lads grew tall and strong. The day came when the aging fisherman said to his sons, "Boys, it is time that learned how to make a living from the sea." They provisioned their ship, said their goodbyes, and set sail for a three month voyage.

The three months passed quickly for the fisherman's wife, yet the ship had not returned. Another three months passed, and still no ship. Three whole years passed before the greiving woman saw a lone man walking towards her house. She recognized him as her husband. "My goodness! What has happened to my darling boys?" she cried.

The ragged fisherman began to tell his story: "We were just barely one whole day out to see when Towards hooked into a great fish. Towards fought long and hard, but the fish was more than his equal. For a whole week they wrestled upon the waves without either of them letting up. Yet eventually the great fish started to win the battle, and Towards was pulled over the side of our ship. He was swallowed whole, and we never saw either of them again."

"Oh dear, that must have been terrible! What a huge fish that must of been!"

"Yes, it was, but you should have seen the one that got Away...."



**Ride
Coordinator**

Maria Delaughter

Mariaed74@gmail.com



Plan to keep all Chapter "U" rides early and short during July & August due to high temps. Please make sure you bring plenty of water for your ride, keep those cool vest handy, and make sure you have your sun block on.

Thanks to Maria & Ron Delaughter for helping us put together our Chapter "U" rides!!!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 13 August - Depart Kent Power Sports at 7:30 AM. Ride to Castroville for breakfast at Sammy's Restaurant and to Market Trail Days for some shopping. DQ Stop on the way home.

Wednesday, 17 August - "Chapter Gathering" will be at the **La Cabana Restaurant at 170 Buffalo Pl Cibolo, TX 78108**. Meet to eat at 6:00 PM with information sharing beginning at 7:00 PM.

Friday, 19 August - Meet "N" Eat will be at **Freddies Frozen Custard** located at **8379 Agora (Forum) Selma TX**. Meet at the restaurant at **6:00 PM**.

Saturday, 27 August - Meet at Kent Power Sports at 7:30 AM for ride to Caliente Harley Davidson for "Military Freedom Run".

Don't forget to check out the Goldwing Accessory products at COWHIDE COVERS





August

Richard Watson 8th
Sharon Haley 12th
Jack Dowda 15th
Skip Surre 15th
Duke Thompson 17th
Gary Skorman 19th
Wes Lewis 21st
John Harris 22nd
Mike Mills 22nd

**If we don't have your birthday listed
 please let us know!**



August

Mike & Cindy Edmonds 1st
Archie & Sharon Haley 11th

**If we don't have your anniversary
 listed, please let us know!**



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