

Next Gathering is: 21 September 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
Ken & Connie Jordan
Kenj1@att.net



We know that all of us--staff and members--want Chapter U to be a fun, friendly and safety-oriented group. So hang in there with us and, with member input and help, we'll sure try our best. Be sure to join us on our next ride and Chapter meeting **AND BRING A FRIEND.**

"Don't forget our next "Chapter Gathering" is **Wednesday, 21 September!!**

Ride safe,

Ken and Connie Jordan, Chapter "U" CDs



The Chapter is having what you may call a "new beginning" again. It really was a new beginning when Brad and Jill Severe were CD's. The Chapter was just getting started in the area. The next "new beginning" occurred when Brad and Jill left the CD position after three years and Steve and Susan Ochs stepped up. When Steve and Susan moved from the area, Duke and Chela Thompson took over as CD's—another "new beginning".

And now Duke and Chela have given us the chance to be CD's for another "new beginning". We are excited and anxious about this new responsibility. Since our old position as ACD's was vacated, we are happy to say that Court and Diane van Sickler have accepted the ACD spot. We are very fortunate that all other staff members are staying in their respective positions.

We are saddened by the fact that Brad and Jill are leaving their current position as Chapter Educators as of August 31, but they will stay active as members, as will Duke and Chela. Brad and Jill are now certified by GWRRA and the state of Texas as trainers in various programs and are available to help members with training when requested.

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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 21 Sept 11.

From the ACDs

Court & Diane
VanSickler

Kenj1@att.net



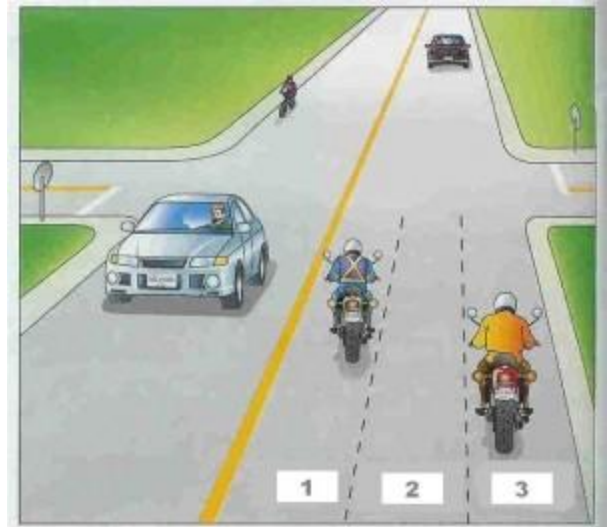
Rider Education

Brad & Jill Severe

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Lane Positioning



First, we want to say that we've been privileged to have served as the Chapter Educators then flattered to have been selected as the Chapter's Couple of the Year. Now we're honored to be asked to serve as the Chapter's Assistant Directors.

The position of ACD is to support the Chapter Director to ensure the Chapter's events run smoothly, and we plan on doing all we can to make that possible. However, we also want to make sure that every Chapter member, as well as other GWRRA members know that we are here to provide whatever assistance we can to make Chapter 'U' the best GWRRA Chapter.

With immense gratitude, and wishing you Safe Riding,

Court & Diane VanSickler, ACD's – TX Chapter U

There are 3 positions within most lanes that you can ride in. For purposes here we will call them lane position 1, lane position 2 and lane position 3. (Some call them A, B, C) Most freeway lanes are at least 12 feet wide so there is lots of room. Side roads may have lanes as narrow as 9 feet and it may feel a bit tight! There has been some misunderstanding about the advantages/disadvantages of each of these positions. After reading this, we hope you will better able to position yourself to best advantage. **Keep in mind that this applies while riding individually, or in single file, not as a group in staggered formation.**

The lane position you choose to ride in should increase your **conspicuity** (ability of others to see you and avoid blind spots), **visibility** (ability for you to see, preferably 360 degrees) and **dominance** (claim to your piece of the road and protect your lane from other drivers). It can also help in communicating your intentions to the other drivers, avoid wind blasts and provide a potential escape route.

The 3 position concept does not fully apply to trikes since a trike is considered taking the full lane. I will cover a bit about trikes further on. For most chapter (group) riding we use just 2 lane positions; left and right track. We also use a staggered formation throughout the ride so this article would not apply to chapter rides. For single file group formations, this could in theory be appropriate.

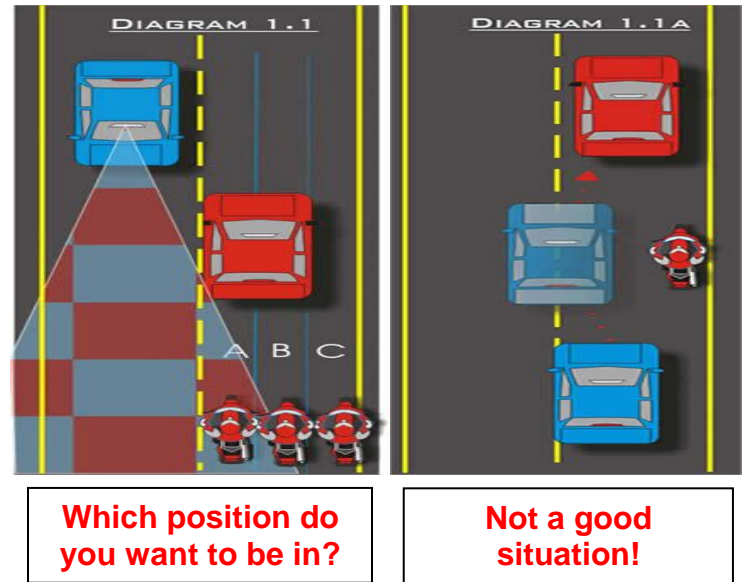
2-Lane Roads:

Lane Position 1: General rule of thumb is that we always ride in the left hand portion of the lane; lane position 1. (The lead in a chapter formation will always ride in the left track.) On a typical 2 lane road, lane position 1 would be correct. In this position the rider is able to scan further ahead and behind to determine hazards. Drivers behind and ahead have the driver in the primary view mirror or in full frontal view. Oncoming traffic can see the rider much sooner than if he was “hidden” in another position by the car in front. You can also look at lane position 1 as having the most room to avoid hazards since there is more pavement to the left and right. Lane position 1 gives you the highest conspicuity, visibility and most dominance of any other position. It is also the best position to be in to make a left hand turn. You would have to move to 3 to make a right turn.

Lane Position 2: The center of the road is viewed by most of us as the grease strip and to be avoided. At intersections this may be true but on the open road and busy streets with few intersections the center can be clean. So what are the advantages of lane position 2? You are further away from oncoming traffic than you would be in 1 and further away from the curb than you would be in 3. It is also a good place to be coming up on a blind hill or rounding a blind curve. The disadvantages would be less visibility. There are also cases where there may be more debris in the center than other areas of the road. You would also need to move to 1 to make a left turn and 3 to make a right turn.

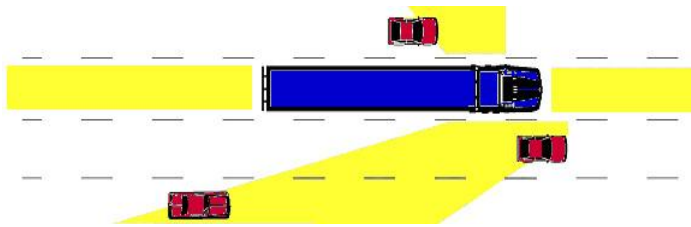
Lane Position 3: This position is the least desirable position to ride in because of poor visibility, conspicuity and dominance. Lane position 3 puts you close to parked cars (and car doors!), curbs and the debris that always seems to sit at the edge of the road. It would a good place to be in on blind hills and

corners if it were not for the potential of hidden hazards on the curbside rounding that corner or hill. There is also less time to avoid the unseen pedestrian, bicycle or anything else coming out from the right. On the highway it may “invite” vehicles to share your lane because of the perception of extra space. Lane position 3 is the best position to be in if you are making a right hand turn.



Four Or More Lane Roads: With more lanes come more cars. On 4 lane roads it is best to stay to the right except when passing. In many states (not Texas), it is illegal to stay in the left lane unless passing. Always try to stay visible and out of blind spots. This may require slowing down or speeding up. On 6 (or more) lane roads, stay out of the middle lane(s) as much as you can. In the middle you have to worry about vehicles on both sides of you. In the left or right lane, you only have one vehicle to worry about except for merging traffic when using the right lane. When group riding on interstates such as I35, we have found it best to break up in pairs and use the buddy system to move through traffic. Then regroup later.

Trucks: As mentioned in a recent weekly update, always stay out of the truck’s blind spots! If you can’t see his mirrors, he can’t see you. Not passing a truck on the right is always a good rule of thumb. He generally has the least visibility on that side and a sudden right turn can be disastrous!



This gives you an idea of what a truck can and cannot see

Trikes: Trikes own the whole lane just like a car. You should generally ride just a little to the left or right of center. Most roads develop a small hump and riding in the center can be a pain not to mention the hazards of oil and other debris. As with bikes, you should move more to the left when making a left turn and to the right when making a right turn.

Summary: Lane position 1 is normally the best position to ride in. There are always unusual situations that come up while riding that may make any of the 3 positions the correct one for that situation. Always look around you and position yourself in the lane position (and lane on multilane highways) that gives you the best visibility and most space around you. Change your lane position as the traffic situation changes around you. By the way, even though it *is* legal in Texas for 2 motorcyclists to ride abreast in the same lane, it is not a safe idea!

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



JOKE OF THE MONTH - Bad Conductor

A man is working on the buses in the US collecting tickets. He rings the bell for the driver to set off when there's a woman half getting on the bus. The driver sets off, the woman falls from the bus and is killed. At the trial the man is sent down for murder and seeing as it's Texas he's sent to the electric chair. On the day of his execution he's sat in the chair and the executioner grants him a final wish.

"Well" says the man, "is that your packed lunch over there?"
 "Yes" answers the executioner. "Can I have that green banana?"
 The executioner gives the man his green banana and waits till he's eaten it. When the man's finished, the executioner flips the switch sending hundreds of thousands of volts through the man. When the smoke clears the man is still alive. The executioner can't believe it. "Can I go?" the man asks. "I suppose so" says the executioner, "that's never happened before."
 The man leaves and eventually gets a job back on the buses selling tickets. Again he rings the bell for the driver to go when people are still getting on. A man falls under the wheels and is killed. The bloke is sent down for murder again and sent to the electric chair. The executioner is determined to do it right this time so rigs the chair up to the electric supply for the whole of Texas.

The bloke is again sat in the chair. "What is your final wish?" asks the executioner. "Can I have that green banana in your packed lunch?" says the condemned man. The executioner sighs and reluctantly gives up his banana. The bloke eats the banana all up and the executioner flips the switch. Millions of volts course through the chair blacking out Texas. When the smoke clears the man is still sat there smiling in the chair. The executioner can't believe it and lets the man go. Well, would you believe, the bloke gets his job back on the buses. Once again he rings the bell whilst passengers are still getting on, this time killing three of them. He is sent to the electric chair again. The executioner rigs up all United States electricity supply to The chair, determined to get his man this time. The man sits down in the chair smiling. "What's your final wish?" asks the executioner. "Well" says the man, "Can I have that green banana out of your packed lunch?" The executioner hands over his banana and the man eats it all, skin included. The executioner pulls the handle and a brazillion volts go through the chair. When the smoke rises, the man still sat there alive without even a burn mark.

"I give up" says the executioner, "I don't understand how you can still be alive after all that?". He stroked his chin. "It's something to do with that green banana isn't it" he asked.

Nahh" said the bloke, "I'm just a really bad conductor"

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"Meet & Eat" Coordinators
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Upcoming Events

Saturday, 17 September -
 Ride to Comfort for some shopping at the Antique shops and other stores. Depart Exxon on 46/281 at **8:00 AM**. Lunch at PO PO's.

Wednesday, 21 September -
 "Chapter Gathering" will be at the **La Cabana Restaurant at 170 Buffalo PI Cibolo, TX 78108**. Meet to eat at 6:00 PM with information sharing beginning at 7:00 PM.

Friday, 23 September - Meet "N"
 Eat will be at **Kowloons Chinese** located at **950-FM 78 Schertz TX**. Meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM.

Saturday, 24 September - Ride to Medina Lake Cajun Festival. Depart Exxon on 46/281 at 9:30 AM ride to Cajun Festival at Lakehills Civic Center. Admission is \$10 per person and parking is free. For more information go <http://www.texaschapt eru.org>

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 and Jack & Linda Downda for helping us put together our Chapter "U" rides and Meet & Eat get togethers!!!

Don't forget to check out the Goldwing Accessory products at [Cowhide Covers](#)



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September

John Curtis	3rd
Guy Custer	11th
Martha Alderson	12th

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



September

Jim & Shannon Brown	3rd
J.D. & Millie Kvapil	24th
Gary & Melissa Skorman	26th

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



Chapter "U" Officers & Staff



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