

# THE X2 FILES

GWRRR South Central Region H

Texas Chapter X2

February 2002 Edition



## REFLECTIONS

As 2002 winged its way in to our hearts, pun intended, it found Texas Chapter X-2 attending the Texas District Staff meeting in Kerrville, Texas. The staff found itself leaving there much more informed and better able to

carry on the business of running the Chapter. We also left Kerrville with a greater sense of pride in our Rider Education department. It just shows that when someone is committed and dedicated to what they believe in and what they are doing, everyone benefits from their enthusiasm.

This Chapter Director would like each of us to take a look at who and what we are as a Chapter and as Chapter members. We belong to one of the best Gold Wing organizations there is, the GWRRR. We have, in my humble opinion, one very fine Chapter. We understand that we cannot please everybody all the time. There will be things said and done that will not sit well with some folks. There will be things real, or perceived that have been spoken out of context. In all of this, I ask each of you to look at each member of the Chapter and consider us family.

There is an "I" in family. However "I" is not the first letter within the word. It is only a part to make the word have meaning and substance. We can disagree as family, have different ideas of the what, who, and when, but in the end, we support each other by attending meetings, serving on staff or committees, going on the rides, attending the Friday Night Dinners or Sunday

Morning Breakfasts and helping out on different events when we can. And you know what? When you are through digesting what your eyes just read, you are going to feel your chest swell a little with pride knowing that you are indeed an active and integral part of your Chapter.

Membership is on the climb and we now have a growth that is going to continue to do nothing but escalate. We are experiencing growth at our monthly meetings. This makes it possible for us to meet new friends and have increased participation. Our rides are increasing as more people (mainly our co-riders) want to see and do more interesting things across Texas and these United States of America.

We have been to so many places this past year that I can't even think of them all. But several rides will always come to mind. Mama Jacks, V-2 Rally in Victoria, The Oasis in Austin, Texas District Rally in Wichita Falls, Cavatore's Restaurant, Blessing Hotel, Natural Bridge Caverns, Region "H" Rally in Kerrville, Chapter "S" Kickoff, Wing Ding in South Carolina, Deals Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway, Louisiana District Rally in Lafayette, Mulates, Avery Island, Rip Van Winkle Gardens, Car Museum in Warrenton, Palotta's, Breakfast to the Burton Cafe that wasn't open, (the ride was great!), Jason's Deli, Mississippi District Rally in Biloxi, oh yes! - Crab legs, Czhlispiel, and last but not least the Texas Hill Country Tour. When you try, you can remember more than you think! How many were you as a Chapter X-2 member, able to make?

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Staff meetings are starting to become quite a social event with staff members volunteering their services and knowledge. The idea here is to allow us all to bond more closely as friends and GWRRA family. Staff meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month and, of course, are open to anyone who might want to attend.

Throughout the year many of Texas Chapter X-2's members have continued to upgrade their levels in Rider Education. This past January 26<sup>th</sup> was a fine example of that when Texas Chapter X-2 had six people taking the ERC course in Spring Branch. Judy and this Chapter Director received our Level IV's and it was a long, hard wait and when you as a member decide to go for that last level of experience and education, the triumph will be a very heartfelt moment of accomplishment.

I enjoy each and every one of you as Texas Chapter X-2 members and look forward to another successful and fun year being a part of your lives in some small measure and hopefully mine yours. And what was it a winning Super Bowl coach wrote on the chalkboard for the next year? "Let's do it again!" Maybe that can be a motto for us this year, "doing it again", or as the Beach Boys sing....."And we'll have fun, fun, fun"!

Steve Mueller  
Your Chapter Director

## **Remember**

On all of our rides, we meet prior to departure at the Exxon Station located at the corner of Hwy 290 and Huffmiester.

## Introductions.....

### I'd like to introduce...

Buck and Camille Huddle.

The very first X2 meeting I attended I happened to sit across from Buck and Camille. When Buck started talking to me you would have thought we had known each other for years. That's Buck, willing to share his knowledge with anyone.

Buck's riding days started with a Vespa motor scooter and then upgraded to a Sears Allstate. When he was sixteen his father bought Buck a 650 Triumph. Buck was a little nervous about riding such a large motorcycle, but his father said that he wasn't going to waste money on a smaller bike. Two weeks later Buck was riding the motorcycle like he had had it for years. He was the only guy in high school that had a motorcycle that big. I imagine this caught the eyes of a lot of the high school beauties. One of Buck's favorite bikes was a Honda CB 750 right out of the crate. The engine was the original sand cast type. At the time Buck was riding a Triumph Bonneville and almost got blown off the road so straight to the Honda dealer and traded for the CB 750. Buck has owned many motorcycles including a Royal Infield.

A few years ago Buck purchased his first Gold Wing. This brought him into the world of GWRRA. Prior to the Gold Wing, most of Buck's motorcycling miles were around town. Now with the Gold Wing and GWRRA, Buck got a taste of Touring. Buck now rides a 2000 Valkyrie.

Buck and Camille are Technical Coordinators for X2. They have been married four years. Camille's willingness to allow Buck to open his garage to us non-techs almost anytime of day or night makes this team complete. Buck enjoys working on motorcycles. His Valkyrie is always in top condition so he lends his technical skill to others not quite so technically inclined. He does not limit his help to X2 members but helps anyone with a question on installation of "safety equipment" or even repair of a mishap. Buck has a toolbox that would make anyone envious. To say the least, Buck is really a Technical Ambassador. When he is working on someone's motorcycle that is not familiar with GWRRA or X2 he ensures when they leave with their motorcycle they also leave with knowledge of the benefits of GWRRA and especially the camaraderie of chapter X2.

Bill



## ***Proper Riding Gear***

As our chapter family grows and more and more new members are coming aboard, I think we need to go back and review some of the basic elements of the Rider Education Program. GWRRA and the Texas Department of Public Safety, both have guidelines for the proper riding gear to be worn while riding a motorcycle. The only real law pertaining to riding gear in the state of Texas is the Helmet Law with all its confusing exceptions. In GWRRA the helmet is not an option, it is a must. GWRRA and our state strongly suggest other riding gear for our own safety.

Helmet . . . DOT approved. Remember to use the chin strap properly.

Gloves . . . Leather, full fingered. Provides warmth on cold days and protects hands in an accident.

Long Sleeve Shirt . . . One of the first things you will learn after you start riding is the art of layering your clothes so you can make adjustments at the breaks or gas stops. Make one of these layers a cotton long sleeve shirt. Your tan may suffer but your skin may stay with you in an accident.

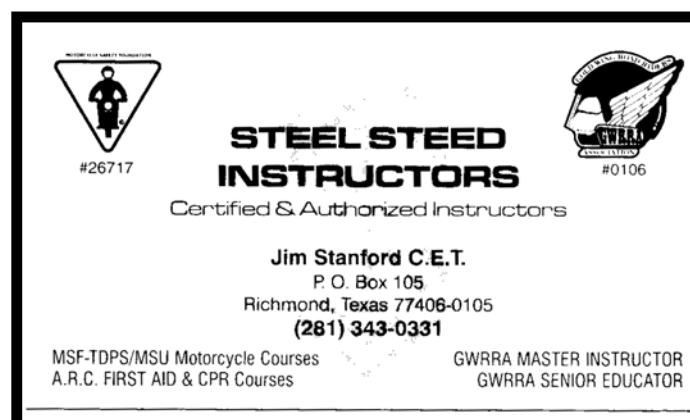
Boots . . . Leather (no pointed toes) Provides ankle support

Eye Protection . . . With Wingers, I don't think this one is as important as the rest because most of us sit behind big tall Tulsa windscreens. But a little extra safety and protection can be accomplished by wearing a shield on your helmet or safety glasses

If you show up for a ride with the above riding gear on, you will be doing your part to make others follow your example and the entire chapter will benefit from your effort. We may not be as *cool* looking as the Harley riders but by wearing the proper riding gear we may live to ride with our GWRRA family indefinitely. If involved in an accident, we may at least save a lot of skin. The only thing that is more expensive than Gold Wing plastic is real human body parts and they don't sell them at a rally. Be smart and protect yours. Get involved in all the aspects of the Rider Education Program and let's change the world's attitude about motorcycling. We can reduce the risks and still have a lot of fun.

Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge

**Safety is no accident !!!!**





# **TEXAS CHAPTER X2**

## **Third Annual Birthday Party**

### **March 30, 2002**

**Reason:** To celebrate our 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday with all our Gold Wing Friends and Family and to eat FOOD with everyone of them

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Bear Creek Park – Houston, Texas  
I-10 to Highway 6 (N) to Clay Road (R)  
290 to Highway 6 (S) to Clay Road (L)

**Activities:** FOOD  
Raffles  
50/50 Drawing  
Silent Auction  
Poker Run

**Registration Fee:**

**Advanced Registration (prior to Mar. 1, 2002):** \$12.00  
**After Mar. 1, 2002 and on site:** \$15.00

Riders Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
GWRRA #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Riders Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
GWRRA #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
GWRRA Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we agree to hold harmless Texas Chapter X2, the GWRRA, or any advertiser or participant, and any property owner for any loss or injury to self or property to which I/we may become involved by reason of participation of this event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Rich's Ramblings

Like many of you, I have had several pets over the period of my life. My first dog, Rocky, was a brindle boxer that we got when I was 12 years old. He was a great dog, gentle yet tough as nails. While playing with him, I could slug him with all my strength. He would just wag his tail, pant and drool all over the place, which was his way of letting me know he wanted to play some more. I could never tire him out when we played. There came a point in our wrestling when I became so slobbered up and worn out that I probably looked like some cocoon from a sci-fi flick. As good as he was with people, he never won an award for being any dog's best friend. After sending a couple of the neighborhood bowzers on a one way trip to the K-9 bone yard, we had to try and find him another home.

We gave him to Guido, our barber, who used to have a brindle boxer and seemed to be very appreciative to have another one. I can't remember what his real name was, so we called him Guido because, as you'll soon find out, it seemed to fit. Later we found out why he was so happy to have another boxer. Guido owned several dogs and fought them on a gambling circuit. Sadly, although Rocky was a real champion in that brutal sport and he put down all of his opponents, he eventually ran out of gas. In his last fight with the "Mike Tyson" of German Shepherds, Rocky was mortally wounded before he did ol' "Tyson" in. We found out about all of this a few months after Rocky's last fight. My mom looked up "Guido" at the barbershop. No way would I have wanted to be on the receiving end of that fuming volcano. My family still gets upset whenever Rocky's fate is remembered and it is always wished that we could have it to do over.

Later, when I had my own growing family, my brother gave us a dark tabby kitten with two white front paws named Buckles. We had the chance to do it all over with Buckles. I really don't know why we called him Buckles. Having two white paws, he should have been named something like Boots or Socks or Boxer. His purr was so loud that

the name Chainsaw would have also been a fit. He was a pretty cool cat. He came when he was called, but he answered to "Here kitty, kitty, kitty". He really never knew his official name. The signal of dry cat food hitting his bowl would also bring him running. He lived to be 19 years old and was still cranking and feisty until the day he died peacefully in his sleep last year curled up in his favorite chair. He was an outside cat – a real mouser. He preferred the delicacies of the yard to the Purina Cat Chow he would sometimes choke down. Showing up with the last of some lizard's or field mouse's tail hanging out of his mouth like a limp toothpick, he would walk around with a little extra swagger. Rabbits, squirrels and birds were also part of the outdoor menu.

Being given a second chance to make right something that had original regrettable actions brings into question whether we would really make it right or just blow it again. Buckles was very gentle with my six boys. As far back as they can remember he was always a part of their lives. They enjoyed his company on occasion but mostly Buckles was the target of, what I'm sure he thought was, a never ending source of teasing, pranks and, at times, terror from the brethren of the house.

Then, one day about five years ago, Mike (son #4) called me at the office to tell me that Buckles had been hit by a car on Cypress North Houston, a very busy four lane near our home, and was dead. Buckles had never wandered that far from home before, so I asked if they were sure it was Buckles. All agreed that it was. "Where is he now", I asked. "We left him on the side of the road", came the reply. "Well, we just can't leave him there like ordinary road kill. Go get the wheel barrow and bring him home so we can give him a proper burial in the pet cemetery in the backyard," I ordered.

Arriving home, I inspected the body and, indeed, I agreed with the verdict. It was Buckles all right, all stiff and cold and beat up. It was late, so we wrapped

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## Rich's Ramblings (cont.)

him up in a towel, put him in a box, left him outside in the wheelbarrow and I advised that we would have a burial service for him in the morning. The next day was Saturday, so we would have time to give Buckles a proper funeral. The boys were grief stricken. They just assumed that Buckles would always be there. I heard regret after regret from them that evening regarding the many times they had mistreated him. Oh how they wished they could have Buckles back for just a little while, just to pet him and hear the roar of his purr and enjoy the comfort of his presence. They would never tease him again or complain about having to clean up one of his hairballs.

The next morning I went into the garage to get something and there to my amazement was Buckles. Actually, I heard him before I saw him. I couldn't believe it. Never had I heard of an animal that came back to life after rigormortis had set in, much less walking around after having had such extensive injuries. It was a miracle! Then I went out to the burial box and realized that Buckles must have had a stand-in for his road stunts and it was the stand-in that was in the box, as stiff as ever. They were virtually identical down to the white paws and coloring. I decided to have some fun after I calmed down from the excitement of seeing him alive again and telling him how glad I was that he was still around to enjoy the yard delicacies.

The boys were stirring upstairs in their rooms waiting for me to announce the beginning of the funeral service. I quietly climbed the stairs with Buckles in tow. I carefully avoided the squeaks that gave advanced warning that someone was coming upstairs, which created all the time they usually needed to instantaneously change into perfect angels before the upstairs door was opened. I gently opened the door enough for Buckles to shoot through like a rocket and then waited for the reaction. It wasn't long before I heard, **BUCKLES!!!!**

Each in turn picked him up and, while petting him more affectionately than they had ever done in their lives, told him how happy they were that he was alive and that they would never tease him again. Buckles looked pretty annoyed and a little confused with all this rigmarole. Afterward, they all came rumbling down the stairs and wanted to know what had happened. I began to tell them that I was so sad seeing Buckles in that box that I laid my hands on him and said a little prayer. Not wanting to endure anymore of their razz, I never got any further with that yarn. It was a "no sale" from the beginning, so I told them what had really happened. Then one of the boys asked what we should do about the other cat. Another one answered, "Who cares, let's just go throw him back on the road." However, we did have a respectable funeral of sorts for the stand-in.

So, my boys had a second chance to make it right. It lasted maybe about a week. How soon we take things for granted until we lose them, maybe even a second time. It's unfortunate that most of the time we appreciate the true value of something, someone, an opportunity or a situation only after it's gone. A great bumper sticker I used to see around read something like, "If you let us have another oil boom, I promise I won't waste it this time."

It's my New Years resolution to take less for granted and take more time for family, friends, those in need and having a good laugh. Winding down stress and finding enjoyment in small things is a primary target that I know will enrich my life. None of us are getting any younger. All those things can be done in many ways, but the most fun way is by sharing my Wing with family and friends and enjoying the activities and the fellowship of X2 as well as with the other chapters of GWRRA. So, let's try and appreciate our blessings the first time around, always riding safe, not taking life for granted, not sweating the small stuff, appreciating your friendships, telling your family you love them every day and looking forward to seeing each other at the February X2 chapter meeting.

- Rich Bassi -

# FEBRUARY 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Lunch ride to Sommerville Steakhouse Leave the Exxon @ 10:00 am
3	4	5	6	7  Georgia McNaughton Birthday	8 Dinner @ Jason's Deli on Hwy 6 just north of FM 529 @ 6:30 pm	9
10 Breakfast ride to the King's Cafe. Leave the Exxon @ 9:00 am  Francine Cates Birthday	11	12	13 Monthly Chapter Meeting @ Denny's located on FM 1960 just N. of Hwy 290 @ 7:30 pm	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>  Bob & Suzanne Hinz Anniversary	15	16 Ride to the Battle- ship Texas. Leave the Exxon @ 10:00 am
17	18	19	20	21	22 Dinner @ The Hill Restraunt in Waller. Leave the Exxon @ 6:30 pm or see you there @ 7:00 pm	23
24 Breakfast ride to Neuman's Bakery in Bellville. Leave the Exxon @ 9:00 am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# MARCH 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Dinner @ Oriental Village on Hwy 290 Just east of Hollister @ 7:00 pm	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Chapter C Luck of the Irish Rally @ the Loews on Garth Rd in Baytown.
10 Breakfast @ The Buffalo Grill. Leave the Exxon @ 8:00 am	11	12	13	14 Monthly Chapter Meeting @ Denny's located on FM 1960 just N. of Hwy 290 @ 7:30 pm	15 Dinner @ Pallotta's on Jones Rd. just east of FM 1960 @ 7:00 pm	16
17	18	19 Bob Hinz Birthday	20	21	22	23 Chapter V2 Rally by the Lake in Victoria. Leave the Exxon @ 9:00 am
24 Breakfast @ Frankies. Leave the Exxon @ 8:00 am	25 Bill Wilson Birthday	26	27	28	29	30 Chapter X2 Birthday Party @ Bear Creek Park @ 10:00 am
31						





