



THE X FILES

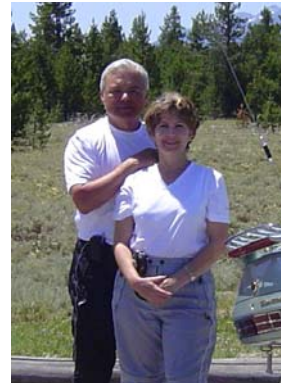
Corner Office

by David Nuñez

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From the

October brings cooler weather, which makes our rides more pleasurable. It feels so good to ride without having to deal with the sweltering heat. October was a busy month for X2, starting with a picnic ride to Bastrop Park. Unfortunately, Gail and I weren't able to attend as we had other family plans scheduled, but the report was that everyone had a great ride and really enjoyed the route I put together. For some reason they decided not to use my return route and that's unfortunate, because they would have really enjoyed it over the gravel roads they ran into. But as I have said many times, it not just a ride, it's an adventure.



www.txx2.org

Upcoming Meetings

November 11—Chapter

The following week we rode to the Scarecrow Festival in Chappell Hill. As always, we had a good turnout for this event. I believe the chapter ladies were a little disappointed though because no one brought a trailer along, which severely limited their shopping. Sorry ladies.

October is also the month X2 has their annual "Guys' Ride". This year we had the largest attendance ever—14 bikes riding the beautiful roads of the Ozarks Mountains in Arkansas. Be sure you also read Kurt Massey's article in this month's issue of the newsletter and check out our website for more photos.

We finished off October with a visit to the Last Concert Café to watch Kurt's brother—lead guitar and singer of The Steepwater Band—and enjoy some good Mexican food. The café is a neat little place on the edge of downtown, with a beach-like setting where you sit and watch the concerts.

Reminder—our annual Christmas party is December 11 at the Deerfield Village community center. The Toy Run is on December 19 at the Sheraton Hotel Airport. Our Chapter has once again volunteered to do the decoration for the event and everyone's participation is always much appreciated. More details will follow on both these events.



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Unless otherwise noted, all X2 rides leave from the Shell station at the corner of Highway 290 and Hwy 6 North. Departure times vary, so please check the X2 calendar at www.TXX2.org for individual ride details.



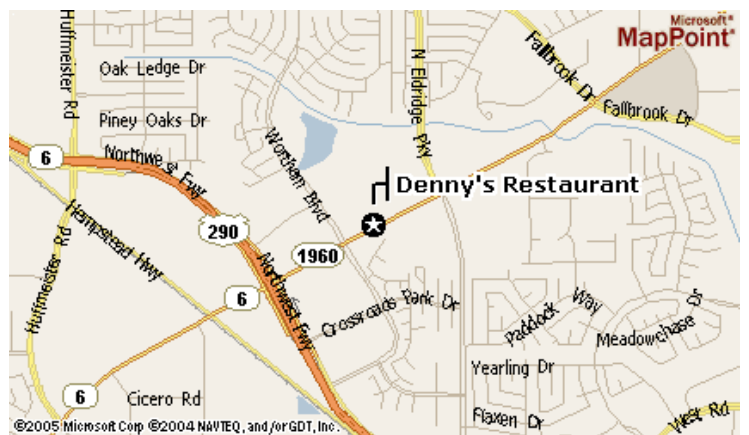
X2 MEETING DETAILS:

2nd Thursday - 7:30 PM
Chapter Mtg

4th Thursday - 7:00 PM
Staff & Planning Mtg
(Only if scheduled on calendar)

Location:

Denny's Restaurant
13031 FM 1960 West
(281) 897-8050





R.E.A.D.

Rest, Eat And Drive!



A Little Practice Could Keep from Ruining Your Day

by Greg Decker

Many thanks to Steve Rhoden for providing this excellent article!

In all of our safety classes (ERC, BRC, etc) we are taught to use both our front and rear brakes properly and to practice emergency stops. Having just recently returned from a long weekend in the Hill Country, an incident that happened has brought this advice a much greater meaning.

To set the scene, a friend of mine and I had just pulled out of the motel for a beautiful morning of riding the various roads around Kerrville and Fredericksburg. We had gone maybe a half block when, upon approaching an intersection, the light turned yellow. While stopping for the light would require something a bit more significant than a leisurely stop, it was by no means a panic stop. Nonetheless, as I began to stop for the upcoming red signal, I instinctively moved over to my left (I was leading) to give my friend as much stopping distance as possible just in case.

As I was about to a full stop, I heard a loud thud and watched in my rear view mirror the approach of my friend's bike, lying on its side, sliding and spinning past me and into the intersection. I looked around and saw my friend in a crumpled heap lying in the middle of the street about 30 ft. behind me. My immediate concern was him being run over by an oncoming car so I parked my Wing and ran back to block traffic. Fortunately, only moments later the driver of a large wrecker truck (the ones that tow semis) whipped his rig between us and the oncoming traffic to completely block the area. Of course the first words from my friend were "how's the bike?" (typical)!! I could tell he was not too seriously injured as he was conscience, conversant and sitting up, so while the wrecker driver called 911, I went to retrieve his bike from the intersection lest someone run it over. I won't bore you with the details, but thanks to the proper riding gear, my friend was able to limp away from this incident with only some road rash and bruises. The bike, while significantly scratched up, was still rideable, and after suitable time to shake off the shock and apply first aid to his road rash, he was able to ride the bike home.

Once home, we sat down and discussed what had happened that morning. The roads were in pretty good shape with only very light, if any, dew on the road. We were traveling below the posted limit and my friend has been riding over 35 years, so he has significant experience. So, with all of that, how could this happen?

A major contributing factor would have to be the bike he was riding. It was brand new with less than 2,000 miles on it. Even though we were in day three of our trip, the bike was still relatively new to him. Even though he has ridden many 10's of thousands of miles on other bikes, the controls and balance on any new bike are different. The brakes on each bike react differently, the tires have different traction and the weight/balance of the bike affects how it handles in an emergency. In his case, we believe all of these items contributed to the accident.



*Greg Decker
Chapter Educator
Master Tour Rider
#4349*

Continued on Page 4

After reviewing and discussing the events, we both agreed that as the light turned yellow, he assumed that I was going to accelerate and make the light. However, when I did not do what he expected, his immediate reaction was to grab the brakes and come to as quick a stop as possible. Because the bike was relatively unfamiliar to him, he grabbed the front brake first while trying to apply the rear brake. Unfortunately, too much front brake, a little dew on the road and riding in the naturally oily part of the lane caused the front wheel to instantly lock. Of course, instinct also told him to move away from my side of the lane which threw off the balance of the bike, and before you could blink, he was down.

The results of this accident could have been much worse than they were, but also, the accident could have been avoided altogether. I was closer to the intersection and had time to stop, so logic would indicate that he should have been able to stop as well. So what lessons can we learn from my friend's bad fortune?

I think the first lesson is that even a little lapse of attention can be disastrous. This sport we indulge in can be invigorating and fun but is inherently dangerous. We have so many diversions on a Wing (GPS, radio, XM, etc) that take away our attention to riding. It is important to remember that we need to be alert at all times.

The second lesson is that no matter how much experience we have, there are some conditions that we may only experience a couple of times during our riding career. Unfortunately, if we are not prepared for these conditions, unexpected results can happen. One good solution for this would be to practice emergency stops in a controlled environment and learn how your bike reacts to quick braking. Remember, practice makes perfect.

Of course, lesson three would be to always wear proper safety gear. While my friend's helmet never hit the ground, his boots were heavily damaged, one glove was destroyed, his leather jacket suffered significant scuffing and his jeans were ripped in several places. Even with this type of equipment damage, his body only suffered some road rash in a couple of places (knee and elbow). If he had been wearing no gloves, no jacket and some tennis shoes, the damage to his body would likely have been much worse.

I know that Greg Decker (our Chapter Educator) would join me in encouraging everyone to always be as safe and prepared as possible. Nothing can ruin a trip faster than an accident.



X2 Holiday Party

Saturday, December 11

6:30—10:30 pm

Deerfield Village Clubhouse—1st floor

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The guys of X2 decided it was time for a guys' ride. The wives of our chapter members are always a lot of fun to have with us on our rides, but it was time for just the guys to go out to bond a little and hone our riding skills.

It was decided that Arkansas would be our destination, so a route was laid out and away we went. We started out at different times of the day on Wednesday and met up as a group at the La Quinta Inn in Longview. Our group consisted of 11 Gold Wings, two Victories and one Harley. Our gathering point ended up being the pool area for a little down time and one or two adult beverages, seeing that we were done riding for the day.

Thursday morning rolled around early and we all met up for breakfast in the hotel before heading off to Russellville. As soon as we pulled out of the hotel parking lot, the groups that were going to be riding together seemed to change in a hurry due to traffic and those silly things called stop lights. We ended up in two groups for the remainder of the trip, although the members of those groups seemed to change a little every day.



The farther north we went, the more the leaves started to change color and the roads seemed to become a little more twisted. Both events were a lot of fun to see. The lead group was where I ended up on our first day of real riding, and was, I think, the more challenging of the groups to keep up pace with. Did I mention that this was a guys' ride? So I will not say anything other than it ran at a rather brisk pace and I left a little of my floorboards and kickstand on the roads up there. It was a blast.

It was late afternoon when we pulled into Russellville and somehow we all ended up in the pool for more adult beverages. We did have one of the Victory riders licking his wounds from a slight spill that ended his trip early. I'm really glad he is okay.

Continued on Page 7

The last day of our trip was spent riding to Hot Springs. It was another amazing day of riding beautiful Arkansas and enjoying the scenery and twisted roads that snaked through a wonderful part of our great country. We hit the hot tub for the last night, then some of us headed downtown to see a little bit of Hot Springs. (No adult beverages for the ones that headed down town seeing that we were on the bikes again.) We walked the strip for awhile, seeing the sites of a great little town and having a little dinner along the way.

When we left Hot Springs and headed for home the next morning, it was a bit nippy to say the least. To say I really enjoyed my heated gear would be a understatement. I think it was in the low 40's.

On the ride home I couldn't help but think about the events of the past few days of riding. I thought about the new friendships that had been made and the friendships that had been made stronger through the common interest we all have in motorcycling. It was indeed a great experience that could not be understood by people who don't ride. All I can say is that I feel we had one of the best groups of fun, safe riders I've ever ridden with.

Rides like this is why I think GWRRA is a place where life-long friendships start and will always continue to grow.



Photographs courtesy of my bike-mounted Go Pro video cameras. Do not attempt to adjust your screen. Pictures are not leaning ... my bike is.





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It all started back in August of 2005 when the inaugural "GUYS RIDE" took place. Seven riders from Chapter TX-X2 (Vincent Dana, Greg Decker, Buck Huddle, Robert Laffitte, Wes Moore, Steve Mueller, and David Nuñez) along with a friend from Chapter TX-S (Jim Bell) headed to Colorado to beat the Texas heat. This was a wonderful adventure for all of us and the sites were beyond words. We enjoyed the time on the road and the camaraderie especially each afternoon in the pool discussing the day over a drink or two. I stored some memories from this ride.

Since this first ride, Chapter TX-X2 has made a Guys Ride every year.

In October 2006 we decided to make the ride out of Texas a little shorter, so we headed for the roads of Arkansas. We didn't have as many go this year (Greg Decker, Robert Laffitte, Mark Livingston, and David Nuñez). We had big ideas of riding the curves and enjoying a myriad of fall colors. Can you say RAIN!!! We didn't get nearly as much riding in as we planned, but we did stay in a Holiday Inn Express. In fact, we spent several days at the Holiday Inn Express before making a single day ride back to Houston. The weather was very nice for our ride back home. More memories stored.



Six riders from TX-X2 (Greg Decker, Buck Huddle, Robert Laffitte, Mark Livingston, Steve Mueller, and David Nuñez) headed back to Arkansas in November 2007. We went a little later in the year to see if the leaves would be more colorful. They were, but the fog was very bad on some mornings, making the riding more challenging. More fellowship at the end of each day's ride was enjoyed by all, and new memories were stored.

When late June 2008 rolled around, we decided it was time to go back to Colorado. Only three (Greg Decker, Robert Laffitte, and David Nuñez) were able to make this trip. Day 1 was the normal long ride out of Texas. We left around 5:30 AM and rode 600+ miles to Clovis, NM to start the trip. From there our rides were shorter until the one getting back home to Houston. We saw rain, sleet and snow, but all of this was for a very short time. Mostly we were in beautiful weather on wonderful roads with magnificent views. We made a second trip in November of 2008. This was to be a Guys Ride to Arkansas since not many could make the first one to Colorado. However, this ride deviated from the norm. You see the ladies had been looking at pictures from the previous trips to Arkansas and some of the guys had been talking about the beautiful scenery and changing fall foliage, so of course the ladies wanted to go. This trip had 11 guys and 6 gals (Jim Bell, Greg & Deborah Decker, Ken Jackson, Robert Laffitte, Jerry & Glenna Lindner, Kurt & Pam Massey, David & Gail Nuñez, Gary & Becky Wheatley, Joe Wilson, and a lovely couple on a trike from Louisiana whose names escape me). This proved to be a very nice trip but was a compromise for both the guys and the ladies. The guys rode a bit slower, a bit shorter distance and stopped a bit more, but not quite to the liking of the ladies. So the ladies decided the guys ride should remain a guy's ride going forward. The guys wouldn't say it out loud, but agreed. Cherished memories stored.

October 2009 took the guys (Greg Decker, Drew Gros, Robert Laffitte, Mark Livingston, Steve Mueller, David Nuñez) back to Arkansas. This was the first long ride for our new TX-X2 participant, Drew. He had not owned his GL1800 for very long and was a little unsure of going with this bunch, but he did and was glad. During this trip we had great weather (some fog) and the roads were great, as usual. Special memories stored.

Now it is October 2010 and we had to go somewhere, so we headed to Arkansas once again. This ride had the most participation from both TX-X2 riders as well as friends (TX-X2: Jason Bailey, Glen Case, Greg Decker, Drew Gros, Ken Jackson, Robert Laffitte, Mark Livingston, Kurt Massey, Steve Mueller, and David Nuñez - Friends: Jim Bell, Mark Magee, Rod Mueller, and Westley Smith). Mother Nature couldn't have been any kinder. New friends made and more memories stored.

As you can see, I have had some wonderful rides over the years, full of great memories with close friends. I have even made some new friends along the way. Some of the names in this article are not with TX-X2 any longer. Some have moved away and we have seen some go to be with God. But one thing is for sure, there are countless memories to draw on, and I look forward to making more. I apologize if I left any names out for the various rides; I assure you it was not intentional.

Thanks to Pam for providing this fall recipe, found on www.shineyaho.com. She claims she's not tried it out yet, but it sure sounds good!

FALL FRUIT SOUP



Ingredients:

- 1 cup cranberries (4 ounces)
- 1 medium pear, cored and cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 medium cooking apple (such as Rome, Jonathan, or Fuji), cored and cut into bite-size pieces
- 3 plums, halved, pitted and cut into thin slices
- 3 cups cranberry-apple juice
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 3-inch pieces stick cinnamon

Directions:

In a large saucepan combine cranberries, pear, apple, and plums. Stir in cranberry-apple juice, brown sugar, lemon juice, and cinnamon stick. Bring to boiling; reduce heat.

Simmer, covered, for 5 to 6 minutes or until fruit is tender and skins on cranberries pop. Remove cinnamon sticks; discard.

Makes 6 servings (6 cups)

How do you grow a chapter?

On February 19-20 2011, Chapter C of Baytown is sponsoring the GWRRA's Horizons Seminar directed by District Leadership Trainer Lynn Heene.

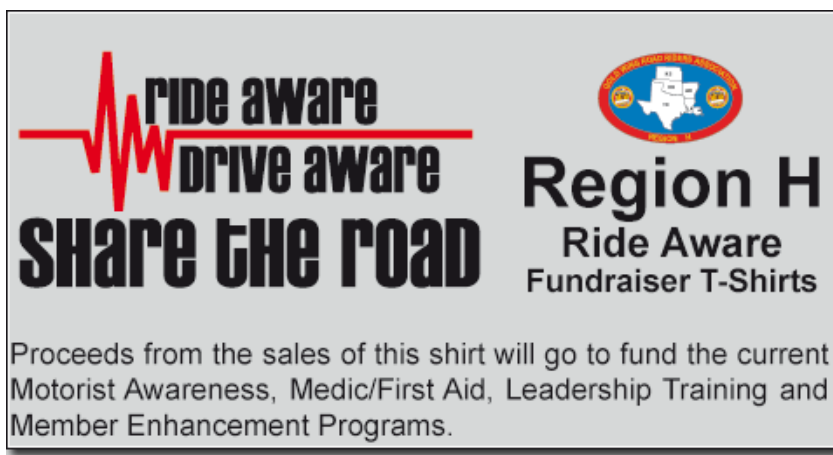
The seminar will be held at the Deer Park Masonic Lodge 1362, located at 2809 Center St. in Deer Park (next door to the police station).

We are inviting Texas GWRRA Chapter Participants to join us. Learning is one of the important ingredients for personal growth and this is a day and a half of learning that can be used not only personally, but more importantly, to grow your chapter. Some of the topics that will be covered will be Team Building, Expectations, Meeting & Gatherings and Communication. These, as well as other skills that will be learned, can be used in all aspects of your life and are basic skills for any member who is involved in a local Chapter. The program is fun filled and fast paced with exercises and games. We are asking for a small donation of \$10 for each person attending. This will cover the building fee and pay for the motel for Lynn and her husband.

We can only have 20-30 people, so let us know as soon as possible that you want to be included.

Sincerely,
Phil & Annette Lockler
Chapter Directors
Region H, Chapter TX-C
annette.harrington1@verizon.net
832-414-5830 (cell)

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NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 31	November 01	02	03	04	05 7:03 P Friday Night Dinner	06 7:30 A Lone Star Rally 5:00 P Live Oaks & Dead Folks Cemetery
07	08	09	10	11 7:30 P Monthly Chapter Meeting	12	13 5:45 A Texas Honor Ride to San Antonio
14	15	16	17	18	19 7:00 P Friday night dinner at Luigi's	20 12:00 P ERC Class
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	December 01	02	03	04

BIRTHDAYS

11/19—Catherine Danna
11/22—Ken Jackson
11/29—Bill Elliott



ANNIVERSARIES

11/10—Jim & Fran Rigell
11/24—Buck & Camille Huddle





DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 28	29	30	December 01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09 7:30 P Monthly Chapter Meeting	10	11 7:00 P X2 Christmas Party
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:00 A 20th Annual Toy Run	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	January 01

BIRTHDAYS

12/22—Deborah Decker



ANNIVERSARIES

12/16—Bill & Marty Elliott
12/31—Robert & Laura Laffitte



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