

GOLDWING ROAD RIDERS
ASSOCIATION S.E.REGION
"A", ALA DIST, CHAPTER
N GADSDEN, ALABAMA



"The N Crowd" Newsletter
COOSA VALLEY WINGS
GWRRA CHAPTER AL-N



Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2004

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Directors News

Hello,
The year is coming to a close and so is our tenure as Al-N chapter directors. Being chapter directors has given us the opportunity to meet allot of new friends. It has also taught us allot about dealing with people. Over all it has been a wonderful learning experience that we will cherish from now on. We would like to thank our staff who has helped us tremendously the past

two years, and thanks to each and every participant of chapter N without



Terry & Barbie Cleveland

ward we believe that chapter N will do nothing but continue to grow under the capable leadership of the new directors Sammy & Donna Conn. We hope everyone will give them their full support. So for the last time in this space we will say so long and ride safe.

who there would be no need for a chapter director. We still think that chapter N is the best chapter around. Looking for-

ward we believe that chapter N will do nothing but continue to grow under the capable leadership of the new directors Sammy & Donna Conn. We hope everyone will give them their full support. So for the last time in this space we will say so long and ride safe.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!

Assistant Directors News

Wow! Holidays sure make the days fly by. November was here - and gone - before we knew it. As usual, the month started with our Chapter meeting. Sammy and I joined 14 other Chapter N members for our dinner ride on the 13th. We ate at my sister and brother-in-law's restaurant in Lincoln - Clear Springs

Marina. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal, especially the homemade apple cobbler and ice cream. The owners and staff of the restaurant really enjoyed our company and asked us to return real soon. Chapter N took the weekend off for Thanksgiving. I'm sure everyone had good food and good



fellowship with their families. December is here and will begin with our annual Christmas Party. (Continued on page 6)

2004 Veterans Day Parade

ALABAMA GWRRA VETERANS DAY PARADE RIDE NOVEMBER 11, 2004

(By Wayne Gargus, AL-N)

Rain rain go away, come again another day. Those were my first thoughts of the day. Would any of the 25-40 Gold Wing riders come to Birmingham and ride in the annual Veterans Day Parade in the rain?? Probably not, so I won't go either. However, it was I who asked our DD to make it a state wide ride and I who volunteered to coordinate it for AL GWRRA. Now if I don't go, what will they do? Give me that darned JA award probably. A quick check of the local radar indicated the rain was moving East and would stop before the parade started at 1:30 PM. Then Alice Cole called and said if I was going she & Dewey, Butch Harris, and Rick/Laura Brothers would go. So, on went the Frog Toggs and I was off to Birmingham in a pouring rain.

Along the way, a radio D.J. was talking about why would it rain on Veterans Day when so many celebrations and our annual parade were planned. Then she said, you know, maybe it's "TEARDROPS OF GRATITUDE FROM HEAVEN." All of a sudden I forgot about the rain and felt that I had made the right decision to participate in the parade.

When I arrived at Home Depot in Trussville, the other 3 GW's from AL-N were already there taking shelter in a storage building. We went to Arby's, got sandwiches and drinks to go, then departed at 11:30 as planned. (Cont'd on page 3)

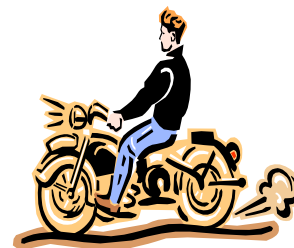
Rider Education



TRAILER SAFETY

Hitch lubricant Read the can. If it says *axle lubricant*, not *hitch lubricant*, we guarantee that the black grease will seek out your clothing and skin, and attempt to attach itself to you. Besides that, when you unhitch your trailer, you'll have one heck

of a mess to clean up. Similarly, don't bother with Vaseline. It can quickly turn to liquid and flow right out of the hitch. Vaseline is best left in the wife's makeup kit. (Cont'd page 6)



I AM A WHISPER ON THE WIND

-I am a whisper on the wind, of times past and places long forgotten; Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Batan, Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Seoul, Saigon, Laos, Kuwait, Iraq.

-I am the heart of countless numbers of scared and maimed American Veterans and the soul of the buried unknowns.

-I am an integral part of each white cross in Flanders Field, and I am sealed within each name on the WALL.

-I am part of each and every headstone of every American soldier in every cemetery around the world.

-I am deeply enmeshed in each tiny undiscovered bone fragment of American Soldiers left behind on foreign soil.

(Cont'd on page 6).



GOLDWING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION S.E.REGION "A", ALA
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Chapter N meets the 1st Saturday of Each Month, (except July, which is the 2nd Saturday), at Western Sizzlin 209 Grand Ave (Hwy 77) Rainbow City, AL. Eat 5:00 P.M. Meet 6:00 P.M. Breakfast Meeting every Wed. 8:30 A.M. at Poor House Rest.

12th & Meighan Blvd. Gadsden, AL. Visit Chapter

N on the web: [http://www.kerrywilson.com/](http://www.kerrywilson.com/coosavalleywings.htm)

coosavalleywings.htm where you can find photo

albums, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Newsletters,

Links, Message Board, & Reminders of Meetings.

Chapter N Serves over 450 members in Northeast

Alabama.

Veterans Parade Cont'd

No sooner had we got underway when 4 more GW's from AL-D called on the CB. George/Dorothy Glen, Paul/Brenda McBrayer, Jay/Susan Lollar, & Mike/Pat Clark, joined us for the short ride to downtown Birmingham.

At our assigned staging area, we lined up the 8 Gold Wings with 14 people and guess what? The rain had stopped. So we visited with other parade participants including Popeye The Sailor Man. He was a hoot riding his scooter, and several Police Officers riding Gold Wing 1800's stopped to chat. A food vendor was directly across the street from us, so everyone had lunch. The parade started at 1:30 but since we were in section 8, it was another 30 minutes before we got underway. There were not as many spectators or parade participants as in the past couple of years, but everyone was waving, giving us the thumbs up, and cheering us on. Our Gold Wings (including 2 trikes) really looked sharp. Rick/Laura's Corvette trailer attracted a lot of attention, finger pointing, and conversation along the entire parade route through downtown. We completed the ride with **NO MORE RAIN** but as we departed a fog and light mist was moving in. That's all we had to contend with weather wise on the way home. The 4 couples from AL-D decided to eat in Birmingham before returning to the Anniston area. Many thanks to all of you who were brave enough to endure the weather to help say thanks to our men and women on duty in Afghanistan Iraq, and other places around the world, as well as our living and deceased veterans who have served their country. **GOD BLESS AMERICA AND THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE**

DECEMBER, 2004

12/1 – Breakfast at the Poor House 8:30 AM.

12/2 – (Thursday) Oneonta Christmas Parade. Meet in Oneonta at the BP station on Hwy 75 going North out of Oneonta at 6 PM. Parade starts at 7 PM but we need to be in line by 6-6:30 PM. Dinner at Uncle Sam's BBQ in front of Wal-Mart following the parade. We will try to get toward the front of the parade again.

12/3 – (Friday) Boaz Christmas Parade. Meet at Wendy's in Boaz on Hwy 431 at 4:30 PM. Parade starts at 5:30 PM. Dinner at Ryan's following the parade. We will also try to get close to the front of this one too.

12/4 – Hokes Bluff Christmas Parade. Line up at H.B. Middle School at 1:00. Parade at 2:00. Chapter N Christmas Party & gathering at the Rainbow City Community Center. This is another of those good "pot luck" dinners that we all love so much. The Chapter will provide the turkey/dressing and ham. Bring side dishes, desserts, and drinks. Paper & plastic ware & cups will also be

provided. Eat at 5:30 PM followed by a short meeting and "dirty Santa." Men bring a men's gift of at least a \$10-15 value and ladies bring a ladies gift of the same value. Rules for dirty Santa will be handed out at the party.
 12/8 – Breakfast at the Poor House 8:30 AM.
 12/11 – Dinner ride to Logan's Steak House Gadsden. Meet at the restaurant 5 PM. It's located on Hwy 411 just North of the Mall.
 12/12 – N Staff Meeting Western Sizzlin. Eat at 2, meet at 3. (Feb – Apr. 05 Events by the Chapter's new officers and staff for 2005)
 12/15 – Breakfast at the Poor House 8:30 AM.
 12/22 – Breakfast at the Poor House 8:30 Am.

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Breakfast	2 Oneonta Pa- rade	3 Boaz Parade	4 Monthly Gathering Christmas Party
5	6	7	8 Breakfast	9	10	11 Diner Ride Logans Steak House
12 N Staff Meet- ing 2:00 P.M.	13	14	15 Breakfast	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Breakfast	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29 Breakfast	30	31	Happy New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

12/29 – Breakfast at the Poor House.

HAVE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Note: Birthday's & Anniversaries for entire year at: www.kerrywilson.com/

1/1 – **HAPPY NEW YEAR..... WATCH THE BALLGAMES AND HAVE A SAFE DAY....**

1/5 – Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

1/7-9 – **International Motorcycle Show** at Cobb Galleria Centre Atlanta, GA. Since our Chapter Gathering is on this Saturday, no Chapter ride is planned. Individuals can get together and go on Friday or leave early on Sat. & return in time for the gathering or go on Sunday.

1/8 – Chapter N monthly gathering at Western Sizzlin Rainbow City. Eat at 5 & meet at 6 PM.

1/12 – Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

1/15 - **Alabama District Annual "Snowball Run"**. This is also the annual AL District Officers meeting, and will be held again at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery. To receive the discounted rate of \$89/night, reservations must be made before 12/15/04. Chapter Officers will probably stay overnight, but

January 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Breakfast	6	7 Int'l National Motorcycle Show	8 Monthly Gathering Int'l National Motorcycle
9 Int'l National Motorcycle Show	10	11	12 Breakfast	13	14	15 Ala. District Snowball Run Montgomery
16	17	18	19 Breakfast	20	21	22 Dinner Ride "Top of the River"
23	24	25	26 Breakfast	27	28	29
30	31					

the remainder of us can ride down and back the same day. Activities start about 10 AM, so breakfast on your own and depart Cowboys at 7:30 AM. Meet others at the Chevron in Springville and depart at 8:00. I-65 South to Montgomery. The return departure time will be around 3 PM. Dinner as a group on the return trip optional.

1/19 – Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

1/22 – Dinner Ride to "TOP OF THE RIVER" in Gadsden. Meet at the restaurant at 5:30 PM.

1/26 – Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

December Safety Article (Cont'd)

Buy a small tub of white lithium grease at your auto supply store. It's heat tolerant, stays put where you smear it, and won't stain if it gets on your clothes.

Hitch adjustment Just because the tongue attaches to the ball doesn't mean that it will actually stay there. There is an adjustment mechanism on the underside of the tongue that is used to keep the ball in the socket when locked, and prevent its untimely departure. To adjust it, connect the trailer tongue to the ball, then using a ratchet and socket, and tighten the mechanism until there is a very small amount of vertical free play when in the locked position. Make sure you can't lift the locked tongue off the ball. Be careful to not over tighten it, which can produce adverse handling characteristics, all while destroying the nice chrome finish on the ball.

Lid latch Don't take a chance on having your unmentionables strewn about while dragging a trailer. Secure the lid with the latch, and make certain it cannot open itself without your express written permission.

Wheel bearings Ah-ha! We've found a use for the axle grease we told you to avoid earlier! When was the last time you had those bearings packed? If you don't remember, then they're past due.

Some of these trailers use very small wheels, therefore must spin at high RPMs while at highway speeds (and above). Sure, you've got high-speed bearings in those hubs, but they'll live a short life without lubrication. **Safety chains** Chains are functional safety devices, so forget about ornate cosmetics. Fashion statements don't save lives. Make sure the chain is strong enough to support the weight of a law enforcement officer should he/she decides to step down on them. Always use two chains, as you'll be legal in all states, even those that require only one. Furthermore, always cross those chains so that they will catch the tongue should the union between bike and trailer fail. When crossed, the chains will be at their tightest when the trailer is aligned with your motorcycle. Avoid unnecessary chain slack. Keep in mind that the trailer's tongue is aligned with the motorcycle's rear tire. Keep the chains short enough to prevent the trailer's tongue from reaching the tire following an unexpected disconnect. Conversely, avoid overly tight chains that can bind. (Cont'd page 9).

Assistant Directors News (Continued from Page 1)

We hope to see everyone there. We are looking forward to a great New Year with Chapter N. Be sure to join us on December 12 for staff meeting. We will be planning rides and activities for the first few months of 2005. Everyone is invited to participate in this planning process - we need your ideas and input!

Happy Holidays!

Sammy and Donna Conn

Technical Tips

With cold weather approaching, it is time to think about the battery. When the bike sets up for a long period of time, the computer and clock will pull the battery down. If possible a battery tender should be used during the winter months. You may purchase a Battery Tender model for around \$40, or you may purchase a Schumaker trickle charger from Wal-Mart for around \$16.

If you are unsure of the condition of the battery, there is a simple test you can perform. Place a volt meter across your battery, turn the ignition on, operate the kill switch and turn the engine over for 20 seconds. If the voltage drops to 10 volts or less it is time for a new battery.

Wayne Gaston
Technical Coordinator Chapter AL-A

Tannehill Flea Market Ride 11/20/04 (By Wayne Gargus)

What was supposed to be rain all day started with bright sunshine and scattered clouds. Dewey/Alice, Butch/Dianne believed Butch (Our weatherman) when he said it was not going to rain, and they rode their GW's. Harold/Shari & Liz and I weren't quiet as confident so we 4 wheeled it. We began the day with a great breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Trussville. With the sun still shining, (part time) we made it to the park in spite of a long back up of Iron Bowl traffic on I-459. The flea market grounds were a bit soggy in places but the vendors were there in mass as they usually are every 3rd weekend from March through November each year. We shopped, looked, and repeated that process through the entire vendor area. We finally found the leather vendor and the Cole's and Gargus's purchased new vest for \$15 each. Can't beat that price for the looks and quality of the vest. We found some of the best Salsa I've ever tasted. Naturally I purchased some after the vendor offered 5 pints for \$20 which was a \$5 savings. After almost 2 hours of shopping, sampling and looking, it began to sprinkle. Vendors began covering up their goods as we made our way back to our vehicles. While 2 couples scrambled into their Frog Toggs, the sprinkles turned into a slow rain. It rained on us almost all the way back to Trussville where we decided to eat at Paul's Hot Dog's. Those on 2 wheels decided to take advantage of the slack in rain and kept on rolling toward home. After each of us had a couple of great "dogs" (Shari had only one & Liz said later she really wanted a 3rd one), we ventured on home. Harold/Shari went into Radio Shack next door to the restaurant to look at a portable CB. He said he was tired of us talking about them on the CB, so everyone be fore warned, he may have a CB in his 4 wheeler now. All in all it was a great day.

I am a Whisper on the Wind (Cont'd from page 2).

-I am the unseen shadows, the unheard voices in those many empty cells that once held my brothers in unspeakable torture.

-I am the unbearable pain in the hearts of every Mother, Father, Wife, Husband, Brother, Sister, and Child of missing soldiers from all wars.

-I am within each and every tear drop shed by those family members for their unaccounted for loved ones.

-I am the essence of each and every drop of blood shed in the past or in the future, by an American Soldier in the name of FREEDOM.

-I am the life blood of the colors of the American Flag; Blue for my loyalty and unwavering dedication; White for my steadfastness; and Red for my pride and love of Country.

-I am the spirit of those names on the Black Granite Wall, of all those unaccounted for in every war, of those who went away to war as gallant young men and women and came back older than time.....or not at all.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND HOME OF THE BRAVE

(Author unknown).

Safety Article Cont'd from page 6

Tires No guessing! Make sure you know how much pressure you have in the trailer tires. If those tires just "*look about right*", then they're not, until you've checked them with a gauge. Nothing is more difficult to lug than a loaded trailer with low tire pressure.

Indicator lights When you put a trailer behind your ride, you're probably hiding some of your motorcycle's indicator lights especially the ones on the saddlebags. Therefore, check all your trailer lights immediately after establishing an electrical connection. If you can't convey your stopping or turning intentions to following drivers, a good riding day may quickly become dreadful.

Loading and weight distribution Never exceed your trailer's weight limitation specifications when packing it. But equally important, make sure you are cognizant of *how* you pack it, so you will achieve a desirable tongue weight. The rule of thumb is that you should have 10% of the total loaded trailer weight at the tongue. For example, if your empty trailer weighs 150lbs, and you've added another 75lbs to it, pack it so that the tongue weight is about 22-23lbs. Use bathroom scales if necessary, and weigh the tongue while supporting it with a short stick. On our trailer we usually try to keep the tongue weight at 15-20lbs, regardless of the trailer's load. Common sense should prevail. NEVER pull with a trailer with zero or negative tongue weight, unless you are willing to engage in the most unforgettably unpleasant experience of your life.

Driving Tugging a trailer can noticeably affect your motorcycle's performance. Be sure to allow for the slower acceleration and increased braking distances. Remember how far back the end of your trailer is when navigating corners and when passing others. Riders often say they "*don't even know it's back there*". That's good, because it means that trailering can be enjoyable and effortless. But it's also bad, because forgetting about your trailer can be treacherous. Don't let yourself forget about it.

Rick and Laura Brothers
AL-N Rider Educators

Dinner Ride 11/03/2004. We had approximately 18 Chapter N members on a cold November evenings attend the dinner ride at Clear Springs Marina, Lincoln . Only 6 members rode on a motorcycle, the others came by car.



**Chapter N Monthly Gatering & Awards Program: Saturday
January 8th 2005. Eat at 5:00 P.M. Meet at 6:00 P.M. West-
ern Sizzlin, Hwy 77 Rainbow City, AL**

**2005 Alabama District “Snowball Run”
January 15th, 2005 – 9:00 AM till 2:00 PM**

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center
300 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, Al. 36104

For Reservations, Phone 1-800-362-2779

Group Code for Reservations: **GWR**

Free Admission & Year Bar. Head Pin available for small charge

GAMES: 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Check the temperature before leaving home as a plaque will be awarded for coldest temperature, on a wing, valkrye, and in a car.

Grand Prize: Char-Broil 7000 series, 35,000 BTU w/side burner and tank. Set of tires for 1500 or 1800 from Honda of Montgomery. Others TBA

Join us for fun and games, door prizes, awards for the rally pin contest, recruiter of the year and Joe Sellers award.

Remember, the Officers Conference will follow the Snowball activities. Officers Conference will begin at 4 PM. All CDs, ACDs and Rider Ed. Are expected to attend. See you there!

Contact Bill and Dian Gulley: 256-229-8833