

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

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



Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2005

Directors News

Greetings Chapter N Members!

Can you believe February is over? And since the ground hog failed to see his shadow in our part of the world, we are ready for an early spring.

We really enjoyed the Chili Cook Off and are already making plans for next year. Donna is already thinking of activities for our annual Valentine themed gathering.

On to March! We should begin to see wonderful riding weather and we have a lot of activities planned. Put your ride calendar where you can be reminded

of our rides and activities. The month will end with our Alabama District Rally, which sounds like it will be great fun. Watch your email or listen out for your phone call with de-



Sammy & Donna Conn

tails of our 'Rally Dinner Ride'. We really enjoy having at least one meal with all our Chapter N buddies while we are attending a rally and our goal is to plan a Chapter meal at each rally at-

tended.

March will also see the beginning of our Birthday ice cream treats. Check your calendar and join us at the Dairy Queen in East Gadsden.

By the way, Chapter N still needs a Motorist Awareness (MAD) Coordinator. If you are interested in serving, please see Sammy Conn or Rick Brothers. The ideal candidate will be willing to provide education to the community about the safety of motorcycling.

Also, we appreciate your participation in the ride survey earlier this year, (continued on next page)

District Directors News

So, Is This Your First Rally?

New member? So, is this is your first rally? Wondering what all of the excitement is about? There has to be many questions going through your mind. I can remember asking what on earth a rally was and

what do you do at a rally. Webster's dictionary defines the word rally as: *1. A calling or coming together for a common purpose; assemble. 2. To restore to order. 3. To rouse or recover from inactivity or decline.* Well, that pretty much covers it.

We all *come together for a common purpose*, our passion for motorcycles and motorcycle riding. Our Alabama District Rally comes early in the spring, usually the first weekend in April. So we are able *to restore order* in our lives by congregating together with like-minded (cont'd next page)

Directors News Continued From Previous Page

but we would like for more of our members to participate in the planning of our activities. If you have a favorite ride that you would like to share with our members, and would be willing to plan the details of that ride, please let us know.

We are looking forward to another great month with Chapter N.

Come Ride With Us,

Sammy and Donna Conn

District Directors News Continued

individuals to pull through our mutual PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome) and *rouse or recover from the inactivity or decline* of the cold and dreary winter months by hitting the pavement for a road trip!! Our Alabama GWRRA family has grown tremendously in the past few years, by over 5% in 2004 alone and we are really looking forward to meeting many of our new family members this April at the Bay Watch Rally in Mobile. Trust me, when you look back over your first rally season, you will wonder what you ever did before becoming a 'Winger'.

After sending in your rally registration and reserving your room at the hotel, you should check with your Chapter Director to find out if there are any plans for the chapter to ride as a group to the rally site.

Sometimes there will be more than one group leaving out at different times because of work schedules and/or riding styles. Hopefully your calendar will allow you to ride with others because, after all, getting there is half the fun! It would also be a good idea to find out at this time if there are any other chapter group activities planned, for example dinner rides, group tours, etc. At the Mobile rally there are plans for numerous guided tours of the bay area including Dauphin Island and South Baldwin County. So if your chapter has not pre-arranged plans that fit into your schedule, there should still be plenty of opportunities for group riding during the rally. There will be a rally schedule with the pre-registration packet that you will receive upon your arrival. Dates and times will be listed for all of the different activities and trust me, there will be no time to get bored.

There will also be several educational seminars scheduled during the rally including: Co-rider courses, leadership training classes and Road Captain courses.

(Continued on the next page)

MARCH Birthday's and Anniversaries

3-1 Harold Emery Birthday

3-3 Deborah Estes Birthday,

Gary & Betty Fuller Anniversary

3-6 John Smith Birthday

3-7 Josh and Kacey Dodd Anniversary

3-17 Shirley Allen Birthday

3-20 Rick and Laura Brothers, and Harold & Shai Emery, and

and Deborah Estes Anniversary

3-27 Joe & Vickie Smith Anniversary

3-26 Sandra Irwin Birth-
day

Opps! We missed Harry
Dennis' Birthday 12/14,
and Lesya Dennis' Birth-
day 02/27



Danny



GOLDWING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION S.E.REGION "A", ALA
DIST, CHAPTER N Gadsden, Alabama

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35901 256-547-7468 or 256-547-8973

Santosprinting@bellsouth.net

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.

District Directors News Continued

. It really is true, the more you know, the better it gets. No one can have too much knowledge when it comes to their safety and that holds especially true when riding on two wheels only. No matter how long you have been riding a motorcycle, everyone can benefit from rider education.

Whoever said that men hate to shop has never been to a motorcycle rally. Ladies, if you should happen to lose your mate, just wander over to the vendor area. Chances are that he will be found there with both arms full of shiny stuff and a look in his eyes that will remind you of the way he used to look at you in the "early days". Better yet, just be sure that you go with him when he heads that way and maybe he won't notice when you slip a couple of extras for yourself into the load he is already carrying. When he feeds you that line about needing more "safety chrome" to keep you protected, brag to all of those around you about how he takes such good care of you. It never hurts to stroke his ego every now and then, and when you are ready to start dressing up your own bike, he has already set the precedent and will not have any room to complain!

Don't forget to take time to get acquainted with some of your other relatives that you have never met and do not be surprised at all of the hugs and greetings that will be coming your way from folks that are treating you like long lost family, because you are! Over time, your chapter friends will become just like brothers and sisters and the rest of the members in the organization are all of those long lost cousins that you had only previously heard about. The only down side of attending a rally is when you have to leave. If we would all complain loud enough, maybe the home office will put more time into research and development for bottling the good feelings that abound on the rally site to take home with us to our "other life". Until then, the only known medicine is to just start planning for the next one to come. See you there!!

Bill & Dian Gulley, Alabama District Directors

March 2 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

March 5
Tech Day at Butch and Diane Harris' house. Depart Cowboys at 8:30 AM or go directly to their home in Boaz. Arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 AM. This is a do-it-yourself event with technical advise from Butch and assistance from others. No engine re-builds please. Provide your own fluids, parts, etc. We will have a cook-out for lunch. Ladies, if you have not signed up for a covered dish, please check with Diane about what is needed.

March 5
Chapter N Regular Monthly meeting at Western Sizzlin. Eat at 5 and meet at 6 PM. Please note – this is the same day as our Tech Day.

March 9 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

March 11
Birthday and Anniversary ride to the Dairy Queen in East Gadsden. Meet at the DQ at 7 PM. Those who have a birthday in March or November will receive free ice cream.

March 12
Chapter Y Fun Day. Depart Cowboys at 9:00 AM for the ride to

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 BREAKFAST	3	4	5 Tech Day Monthly
6	7	8	9 BREAKFAST	10	11 DQ Night	12 Chapter Y Fun Day
13	14	15	16 BREAKFAST	17 Florida Rally	18 Florida Rally	19 Florida Rally Dinner Ride Micks BBQ
20	21	22	23 BREAKFAST	24	25	26 Easter Weekend No Rides.
27	28	29	30 BREAKFAST	31 Alabama District Rally, Mobile	4/1 Alabama District Rally, Mobile	4/2 Alabama District Rally, Mo-

Gardendale. We will have a scenic ride back.

March 16 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM.

March 17-19 Florida District Rally.

March 19 Dinner Ride for those not attending Florida Rally – Al & Micks in Snead. Meet at Cowboys at 4:00 or at the restaurant at 5:00.

March 23 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

March 26 Open – Easter Weekend

March 30 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

March 31, April 1, and April 2, Alabama District Rally, See registration form on page 7.

Please attend the Alabama District Rally, and support our Couple of the Year Candidates, Kerry & Joyce Wilson.

**Bay Watch 2005
GWRRA REGION "A"
ALABAMA DISTRICT RALLY**

Mobile, Ala.

March 31st, April 1st & 2nd

The Lafayette Plaza Hotel

301 Government St., Mobile, Al. 36602

1-800-692-6662

Contacts

Ray & Cindy Erickson, AL.-DD / RC 334-298-8485

Bill & Dian Gulley, AL.-ADD / DT 256-229-8833

www.alabama.gwr-ra-regiona.org

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

ALABAMA GWRRA

C/O RAY & CINDY ERICKSON, AL-DD

900 LEE RD. 439, SALEM, AL. 36874

PH# or FAX 334-298-8485 racyaldd@bellsouth.net

(See the registration form on page 7)



Dinner Ride 2/26/2005 at Pasghetti's. Come join us 3/19/05 at Al & Mick's BBQ in Snead for lots of fun and good food. (Photo taken by Lesya Dennis)

APRIL 2005 CHAPTER
N RIDE SCHEDULE

March 31 – April 3

Alabama District Rally. Breakfast on your own. Depart Cowboys at 8:00 am on Thursday, March 30. Pick up others at Springville Chevron.

April 6 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

April 9 Chapter N monthly meeting at Western Sizzlin. Eat at 5 and meet at 6 PM. For those desiring to ride, meet at Cowboys at 12 noon. We will decide on a route, ride for 4-5 hours then join others at the monthly meeting.

April 7-9 Louisiana District Rally

April 13 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

April 15 Birthday and Anniversary ride to the Sonic in Oneonta. Meet at the Sonic at 7 PM. Those who have a birthday in April or December will receive free ice cream.

April 16 Chapter T Fun Day. Depart Cowboys at 8:30 AM. Further discussion at the April meeting.

April 20 Breakfast at Poor House 8:30 AM

April 23 Cornbread Festival in South Pittsburg, TN. Depart Cowboys 9:00 AM, meet others at Kmart in Albertville at 9:30 AM. We will arrive in South Pittsburg for lunch, eat, shop, eat and then depart

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				(3/31) Ala- bama Dis- trict Rally	1 Ala. District Rally	2 Ala District Rally
3	4	5	6 Breakfast	7 LA Dist Rally 4/7-9	8	9 Monthly Gathering
10	11	12	13 Breakfast	14	15 Sonic Ride Oneonta 7pm	16 Chapter T Fun Day
17	18	19	20 Breakfast	21 TN Dist Rally 21st— 23rd	22	23 Corn Bread Festival
24	25	26	27 Breakfast	28	29	30 Open

for home by 4:00 PM.

April 21-23 Tennessee District Rally

April 30 Open.

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:
ALABAMA GWRRA
C/O RAY & CINDY ERICKSON, AL-DD
900 LEE RD. 439, SALEM, AL. 36874
PH# or FAX 334-298-8485 racyaldd@bellsouth.net

Registration Form:

Riding: Wing ___ Valk ___ Trike ___ Sidecar ___ Other ___
 Rider: _____
 M/F ___ Birth Date _____ GWRRA# _____ Exp. _____
 Co-Rider: _____
 M/F ___ Birth Date _____ GWRRA# _____ Exp. _____
 Child _____ B/D _____ M/F ___ GWRRA# _____
 Child _____ B/D _____ M/F ___ GWRRA# _____
 Address: _____ City _____
 State: _____ Zip _____ Ph# _____
 Chapter: _____ Direct Miles from Home to Rally _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 1, 2005 \$5 TO CANCEL
CHILD UNDER 15 YRS. W/REG. PARENT FREE

G/P _____ 20 Tickets @ \$12.00x _____ = _____
 50/25/25 _____ 20 Tickets @ \$12.00 _____ = _____
 GWRRA MEMBER: \$20.00x _____ = _____
 AFTER MARCH 1, 2005 \$25.00x _____ = _____
 NON-MEMBERS \$25.00x _____ = _____
 AFTER MARCH 1, 2005 \$30.00x _____ = _____
 Sub Total: _____

Rally Shirt (Polo)
 ___ XXL ___ XL ___ L ___ M ___ S Shirts @ \$18 ea = _____
 ___ XXXL Shirts @ \$20 ea = _____
 Rally Shirt (Long Sleeved Tee)
 ___ XXL ___ XL ___ L ___ M ___ S Shirts @ \$16 ea = _____
 ___ XXXL Shirts @ \$18 ea = _____
 Rally Shirt (Tee)
 ___ XXL ___ XL ___ L ___ M ___ S Shirts @ \$14 ea = _____
 ___ XXXL Shirts @ \$16 ea = _____

CHECK# _____ Grand Total: _____

WAIVER: *I/WE* AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS *GWRRA* CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS AND ANY PROPERTY OWNERS FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY TO SELF OR PROPERTY IN WHICH *I/WE* MAY BECOME INVOLVED BY REASON OF PARTICIPATION IN THIS RALLY. *I/WE* HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND ACKNOWLEDGE WITH SIGNATURE(S) BELOW. DATED: _____

DRIVER _____
 CO-RIDER _____

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ALABAMA GWRRA)
1 DAY VENDOR PASS \$10 per person at entrance to vendors only!

District News

Here it is almost March and I have just got used to February. We have the Rally details worked out finally. We were in Mobile on February 11 to finalize some loose ends. We did a walk through of the Civic Center again to decide the location of different activities. I believe you are going to enjoy this location. There will be some guided walking tours and riding tours led by Chapter A Members. There are some nice sidewalk cafes nearby within walking distance and a number of other attractions I think you will enjoy. We're going to have a great time in Mobile! Hope you have made plans to join us for "Bay Watch 2005"! If you haven't you need to get your registration in ASAP in order to be in the pre-registration drawing for \$200.00.

We have visited Chapters K, D, E, and T business meetings this month. Had a great time at all of them. Dian won part of the 50/25/25 at Chapter D. Chapter T had so many folks there was standing room only. If we haven't been to your meeting yet, just hang on, we'll show up when you least expect us!

Please make a note on your Chapter meeting guide that the location for Chapter J meeting has changed. Beginning March 4th, Chapter J will meet at Rumore's Deli, call for directions. I have just finalized the Rally schedule and sent it out. Please look it over and share it with the members. I will include a schedule in the registration packet, but it will not be detailed as far as the Chapter assignments so share the one I sent out with the people who will be at the Rally working.

We will be leaving for the Florida Rally on March 15th. Hope to see some of you there. We will return on the 20th.

Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement. Without you we would not be able to get anything done in the District. I appreciate all you did to get your financial reports completed and turned in. Most of them were in good shape. A few corrections needed to be made, but overall they were in good shape. Keep up the good work. If you have not added me to your checking account yet, please do so as soon as you can.

After the Rally we will be working on getting a Chapter reactivated in the Birmingham area and a new Chapter started in the Jasper area. We still need some help locating a new Chapter Director for X. Anyone interested in these Chapters please let us know.

Until next time, hug someone you love and don't forget to wave.

Bill & Dian

MEET YOUR DISTRICT STAFF—JIM AND KAREN LEE, ADD

Karen and I are both natives of Birmingham and have been married 32 years. We have lived in San Diego California, Virginia Beach Virginia, Demopolis AL and Mobile in the 32 years; never in Birmingham. We were blessed with two children, a boy and girl and both have families that live here in Mobile. My son has a 2-year-old (almost 3) daughter and our daughter has a 5-year-old girl and a boy almost 2. When we are not riding we are taking care of the grand kids.

Karen and I started riding in San Diego and had a Suzuki 550. We traveled all over California on this bike. In 1973 that wasn't a really small bike as it would seem today. It was blue, we had matching helmets and being young rode that bike virtually everywhere. We would go to the beaches, desert, Mexico, Disney Land, Los Angeles and to the mountains. We rode it somewhere every day. It was my transportation to and from work and Karen had our car to drive. It was a great 2nd vehicle for a young married couple. At that time gas prices had sky rocketed to \$.40 per gallon and the motorcycle offered great gas mileage. I remember even then appreciating the long rides and the scenery we found off the beaten path. I'd love to take my Wing someday and ride some of the same roads.

We stopped riding when we were transferred to Virginia. I sold that bike for what I paid for it prior to leaving San Diego and I had bought it new. We had a son now and really the bike was only for me now, as three didn't fit well. After all the kids got out of the house I yearned for the feel of the road once again. The first thing I saw was the Wing and boy did I want it, but I was intimidated by its size and wanted to ease into it. I didn't know if I would still like riding, I simply had the urge. I purchased a small Kawasaki and had it for less than a week and I knew I would never ride this small bike. I went to the Honda shop and purchased a 750 Shadow Classic. What a fun bike! It was great for me but not for the two of us. The rear seat was too small and uncomfortable. I got Karen on it one time and I ordered a Corbin Seat with backrest so she would ride it. In the year I had it, I put 8000 miles on it and Karen rode it 2 times. I could have given up but I was enjoying it too much. On one visit to the Honda Shop I saw the bike I wanted on sale! I couldn't pass it up. Without even discussing it with Karen, I rode this new 2002 Illusion Red Gold Wing home. (Remember Karen still wasn't riding with me.) When I purchase this bike and had picked it up one of the GW members happened to be at the Honda Shop and told me about GW. I really wanted someone to ride with. I had only one couple that would ride with me and they had a Wing. (They weren't members of GW.) He was out of town most of the time, so they weren't good candidates. I immediately signed up and expected a call from a local representative. For 4 months I never received a call. Karen had ridden with me maybe 2 times with this other couple and I started getting desperate for someone to ride with. I found the GWRRA web site and ended up contacting the Ray and Cindy through email. 6 months after becoming a GW member I found out where the chapter met and started attending. Karen still was less than enthusiastic and refused to go to the meetings. Four more months went by and Karen finally realized I was serious about this and attended her first meeting with me. I had been telling her about the people and she decided she would go. She took her friend with her. This lady was the one that rode with her husband with us on occasion. Once there they saw what I was talking about and how genuine these people were. After all they had welcomed me and I was by myself all this time. The only meetings or rides we have missed since that date where when we were out of town. From that time on Karen has ridden with me virtually everywhere. In the last two years we have put 40,000 miles on our bike and loved every minute of it.

Since being in Chapter A, I have been the Ride Coordinator, Assistant Chapter Director and Chapter Director. I print the newsletter for the chapter and have worked on providing brochures and media coverage for the chapter.

I am a corporate partner in a company that maintains gauging equipment in the paper mills. Our company has people located in Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. My job as president is to make sure peoples problems are taken care of. Those people may be customers or employees. I do all the administrative work, provide sales presentations, organize quotes and am required to stay on top of benefits and pay. The job is challenging and riding is a stress relief.

I enjoy playing Golf but frankly haven't had much opportunity to play recently due to all the activities our Chapter has going on. GWRRA and work take up most of my time. What time is left goes to our grand children. Karen's hobby is without a doubt spending time with the Grandkids. She would rather do that than eat.