



**“The N Crowd” Newsletter**  
**Coosa Valley Wings GWRRA**  
**Chapter AL-N Gadsden Alabama**



**December 2006**

**CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

David & Lisa Entrekin  
 256-547-1922  
 256-504-0908

[dentrekin@buffalorock.com](mailto:dentrekin@buffalorock.com)  
[lisaanddavid98@comcast.net](mailto:lisaanddavid98@comcast.net)

**ASSISTANT  
 CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

Dewey & Alice Cole  
 256-442-2458

[travelercac@netscape.net](mailto:travelercac@netscape.net)

**ASSISTANT  
 CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

Butch & Dianne Harris  
 256-593-7053

**CHAPTER EDUCATOR**

Wayne & Liz Gargus  
 205-274-8670

[wayne@otelco.net](mailto:wayne@otelco.net)

**CHAPTER SECRETARY  
 TREASURER**

Leslie & Brian White  
 256-442-3625

[bwhite@peoplepc.com](mailto:bwhite@peoplepc.com)

**R&R COORDINATORS**

Kerry Wilson & Billy Billingsley & Joe Smith

256-546-2811

[kwilson@kerrywilson.com](mailto:kwilson@kerrywilson.com)

**CORRESPONDENCE  
 SECRETARY, NEWSLETTER  
 EDITOR, WEBMASTER**

Kerry & Joyce Wilson  
 256-546-2811

[kwilson@kerrywilson.com](mailto:kwilson@kerrywilson.com)

**DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

Bill & Dian Gully  
 256-229-8833

[bamawing@netzero.com](mailto:bamawing@netzero.com)

**REGION A DIRECTORS**

Larry & Patty Lingo

[regiondirector@gwrta-regiona.org](mailto:regiondirector@gwrta-regiona.org)

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS  
 ASSOCIATION  
 REGION A. ALABAMA  
 DISTRICT.

CHAPTER N GADSDEN, ALA.  
 FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY,  
 AND KNOWLEDGE

**WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2006**

*Saturday* was our monthly dinner ride. Due to that day also being the annual Iron Bowl football game between Alabama and Auburn, the times were changed so that the dinner ride would be after the ball game. That proved to be a good decision as 11 hungry folks converged to Al and Mick's BBQ in Snead at 6:30 PM. As usual, the food was excellent and we enjoyed seeing some of our Chapter participants whom we haven't seen much of recently, such as Jimmy/JoAnn Larue, and Sammy/Donna Conn. It was good to see you and we hope to see you more often in 2007. You'll never guess who was the only one to ride their Gold Wing to the dinner.....Yes, believe it or not, it was me. A cool but comfortable ride. Wayne Gargus

**Sunday Afternoon**, eight of our Chapter N folks attended the Chapter D social sponsored by, and at the home of, their new Assistant Chapter Directors, Richie & Elaine Lackey. There were about 25 people in attendance from Chapters D, N, & R. Food, food, and more food was everywhere. Our unofficial motto of "ride to eat, and eat to ride" was certainly fulfilled on this cool but sunny Sunday afternoon. There were several bikes there, but did not include mine this time. However, Kerry Wilson did ride his. Several door prizes were given away and our own Kerry Wilson and Dianne Harris each won a bag with a surprise gift. The 50-25-25 jackpot was \$29.00 twice, and I was lucky enough to win one and the other by someone in Chapter D.

I want to convey a special word of appreciation to a remarkable lady in Chapter N. We can all learn a very valuable lesson on determination from the example our own "lady of steel," Alice Cole, is demonstrating by refusing to let a little thing like total knee replacement less than 3 weeks ago, keep her from participating in Chapter events. In addition, it's been only about 3 months since her other knee was totally replaced. She and Dewey were there Sunday, but did not make the dinner ride Saturday night only because of the problem of walking up the stairs at the restaurant. She was at the Wednesday breakfast meeting the week following surgery. Talk about grit and determination, she has an abundant supply. Alice, we all love you and admire your commitment to the hobby that you and Dewey apparently love so much. By summertime, some of your "older" friends may have problems keeping up with you, our "bionic lady." Dewey, did she come from the hospital equipped with a "remote control??" You wish huh!! Good luck in your continuing recuperation. Wayne Gargus

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**Birthdays:****Anniversaries:**

12-14 Harry Dennis  
12-17 Kelly Clough

12-19 Lon & Liz Broyles  
12-20 Jimmy & JoAnn Larue

## Ride and Event Schedule

### About Chapter N

**Chapter N** meets for breakfast every Wednesday morning at 8:30 A.M. at the Poor House Restaurant, 12<sup>th</sup> & Meighan Blvd., Gadsden, AL. Chapter N's Monthly Gathering: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month (unless otherwise published below). Eat at 5:00 P.M.; Meet at 6:00 P.M. at Western Sizzlin Restaurant, Hwy 77 just north of Hwy 411, at 209 W. Grand Ave, Rainbow City, Alabama phone: 256-442-5061 . Chapter N serves over 150 members in Northeast Alabama.

For more information about Chapter N on the web visit: <http://www.kerrywilson.com/chapterN.htm>

Or email [kwilson@kerrywilson.com](mailto:kwilson@kerrywilson.com) Kerry & Joyce Wilson, Chapter AL-N Newsletter Editors, and Webmaster. 1-800-57KERRY. Once published, all events will be held, and will not be cancelled due to weather or participation.

### Ride & Event Schedule

November 2006 thru January 2007

Coordinators November – Wayne & Liz      December – Sammy & Donna      January – Harold & Shari

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## December 2006

- 12/09/2006 Visit to the Ogden House followed by a dinner ride to Top of the River in Guntersville. Our Chapter Director will present our annual charity donation check. Anyone who would like to bring toiletry items, you are encouraged to do so. We will depart Kangaroo at 3:30 PM; meet others at K Mart in Albertville at 4 PM, and others at Ogden House at 4:30 PM.
- No other chapter events are planned for the month of December. Enjoy Christmas and New Years with family and friends.

## January 2007

**(NOTICE: Chapter meeting will be on Jan 13)**

- 01/01/2007 New Year's Day ride. Lets meet after church for a short ride within the Gadsden area, then an afternoon stop at Cracker Barrel for black eyed peas. Meet at Kangaroo at 1:30 PM.
- 01/06/2007 Alabama District "Snowball Run", 9 AM till 1 PM, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, 300 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, Al. For reservations (group code GWR) call 1/800/362-2779. Some of us will stay over night, others will be returning home after the social events and before the officer meeting which begins at 4:30 PM. We will depart Kangaroo at 7 AM, join others at the Springville Chevron at 7:30 AM, and then ride/drive to Montgomery. For those returning home on Saturday, let's have an afternoon dinner at the Prattville Cracker Barrel.
- 01/13/2007 Chapter N monthly gathering at the Western Sizzlin in Rainbow City. Eat at 5 PM, with our meeting beginning at 6 PM.
- 01/20/2007 No chapter event scheduled.
- 01/27/2007 Dinner ride/drive to El Tapito, Hwy 77/411 in Rainbow City. Meet at the restaurant at 5 PM. We will enjoy Mexican food on a cold winter evening.

**SAFE RIDING TIPS:** *Slow speed riding.* Riding a motorcycle at slow speeds is much more challenging most times than riding at speed on the highway. Slow speed riding and turning requires:

**Proper Balance.** The rider should be comfortably seated, knees tucked into the tank, firmly – but not too tightly – holding the handgrips with all four fingers.

**Good Clutch – Throttle Control.** The rider should always maintain good, smooth throttle control. The clutch varies the power to the rear wheel while the throttle controls the engine power. During slow speed maneuvers, the throttle should be on, with sufficient fuel to reasonably propel the motorcycle. The rider's wrist should be relatively flat to avoid pulling back on the throttle. The clutch should never be all the way in or all the way out, but would vary depending on the required speed. The rear brake would be tapped slightly, as necessary, to slow the motorcycle before turning.

**Look Into The Turn.** The rider should turn his/her head in the direction of the turn. The secret to doing good, smooth slow speed riding is keeping good balance, maintaining good clutch/throttle control with strategic braking, using smooth steering inputs, and looking in the direction of the turn. In tight cornering or circles, it may be appropriate to use counter-positioning, i.e. moving the body to counter-balance the lean angle of the motorcycle.

**TIDBITS TO REMEMBER:**

Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.

You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.

A hug is a great gift. One size fits all & can be given at any occasion and it is easier to exchange.

Take time to laugh. It is the music of the soul.

If someone speaks badly of you, live so no one will believe it.

Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.

**SIX KEY STEPS TO REDUCE HEART ATTACK RISK:**

Stop smoking

Lower high blood pressure

Reduce high blood cholesterol

Aim for a healthy weight

Be physically active each day

Manage diabetes

**BE B.A.D.**

While shopping at a local store, a woman spotted a man with an acronym on his shirt that had B.A.D. Being the person that she was (curious), she stopped the man and asked, "what does B.A.D. stand for?" He replied B.A.D. stands for "BLESSED AND DELIVERED". That thought stuck with her and she came up with a little advice for us all:

When the enemy tries to attack you, be B.A.D.

When things don't seem to be going right on your job, be B.A.D.

When things are not looking good in your marriage, be B.A.D.

When folks scandalize your name, just be B.A.D.

Get with somebody who you know that you can be B.A.D. with!!!

May God Bless you and have a B.A.D. day !!

**REMEMBER: SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE; GET A GOOD ONE. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.**

## **NATIONAL VETERANS DAY PARADE IN BIRMINGHAM 11/11/06**

This year was the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day parade and the largest ever in attendance by GWRRA members. We had a total of 32 beautiful bikes (all but 5 were Gold Wings), with a total of 49 people. We had a good mixture of trikes, trailers, and customized bikes, and were honored to have 5 bikes from AL Chapter B in Huntsville who's riders were in Military Uniform leading our group.

Representatives from Chapters B, D, N, R, T, Y, and the AL District Staff made us proud as we rode with pride & enthusiasm displaying our bikes decorated with many flags and lots of red, white, and blue colors. Birmingham's motorcycle police force ride Gold Wings too, and at one point during the parade, we met 2 of them traveling along the sidelines. As they approached us, they began to sound their siren's and we all answered by sounding our horns, some of them air horns. We made quiet a noise which seemed to be enjoyed by the spectators.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year that weather conditions have not been favorable for a parade. Last year it rained until just before the parade started, then resumed raining when the parade ended. This year, the rain ended about 2 hours before parade time, then the temperature began to drop rapidly. Anyway, I think we all enjoyed the ride and were proud to see all of the spectators who lined the streets paying their respects to our service men and women past and present.

I want to extend my personal thanks to all GWRRA members and friends who braved the elements and made our efforts successful. I've had calls from members from both ends of Alabama who regrettably had to turn back due to the weather, and we all appreciate their efforts as well. Had the weather been as beautiful on that Saturday as it was the Friday before, we would have exceeded our goal of 50 motorcycles. Our numbers have grown each of the past 4 years that I have been trying to coordinate this effort, so our challenge for all of the AL District in 2007 will be to exceed this years record of 32 and hopefully exceed our 2007 goal of 60 motorcycles.

Veterans Day in 2007 is on a Sunday, and I don't know at this time if the parade will be held on that day or not. However, I suspect it will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November regardless of the day of the week it falls on. I will attempt to find out and let you know. Looking ahead, if in fact it is on Sunday next year, I would like to hear your thoughts on what we can do as a GWRRA family on Saturday afternoon/evening on Nov. 10, 2007. Those who live outside the Birmingham area could ride in on Saturday, spend the night, and we in the area could set up a schedule of events for Saturday PM and Sunday AM. 2007 being the 60<sup>th</sup> year, there may be additional Veterans activities prior to the parade for those interested. Each year there is a Veterans Awards Dinner the evening prior to the parade, and a World Peace Luncheon on the day of the parade. If it's nothing more than a good dinner and fellowshiping on Saturday evening, and possibly the option of attending early Church Services on Sunday morning, that might be enough. Think about it and let me know if you think this is a workable idea that would be appealing to our Alabama membership, and what other activities/events you would like to see included. [wayneg@otelco.net](mailto:wayneg@otelco.net) or 205-274-8670. All help appreciated..

Thanks again for your Support.

Wayne Gargus  
AL Chapter N

To celebrate growing older, Regina Brett, a writer in Cleveland, Ohio once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolls over to 50 this week, so here's an update:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.
17. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
18. A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, and then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.

29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
36. Growing old beats the alternative—dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
38. Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
42. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
43. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
44. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
45. The best is yet to come.
46. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
47. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
48. If you don't ask, you don't get.
49. Yield.
50. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

#### November 06 District News

Just a reminder about the ERC and Trike course at the 2007 Rally. If you desire to go on one of the cruises at the Rally, or participate in one of the rider courses, you need to send your registration to Jim Lee indicating that interest. They are first come, first served.

This year was the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day parade and the largest ever in attendance by GWRRA members. We had a total of 34 beautiful bikes (all but 5 were Gold Wings), with a total of 49 people. We had a good mixture of trikes, trailers, and customized bikes, and were honored to have 5 bikes from AL Chapter B in Huntsville who's riders were in Military Uniform leading our group. Representatives from Chapters B, D, K, N, R, T, Y, and the AL District Staff made us proud as we rode with pride & enthusiasm displaying our bikes decorated with many flags and lots of red, white, and blue. Birmingham's motorcycle officers ride Gold Wings too.

Once again the Snowball/Officer Conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Officers Conference will start at 4:30 PM. All CDs, ACDs, and Educators are required to be there for this once a year meeting. There will be door prizes, free registration, awards and more. You will receive a free year bar and the Snowball head pin will be available for \$4.00 if you don't already have one. Come on down and start the year off right with your friends. For you CDs, the financial report and Chapter inventory is due at that time also. You are not required to send a copy of the bank statements this year. Please keep them on file for future reference.

Most of you will be full of turkey by the time you receive this. We hope you had a great Thanksgiving and had the opportunity to enjoy time with your family. We have so much to be thankful for in this great country of ours! We may not always agree with the actions of our elected officials, but it's still the greatest country on earth, in my opinion.

We will be reactivating Chapter H in Athens in January. I will send you the details in the near future so you can plan on attending the organizational meeting.

We are investigating some different sites for the Rally. Please survey your people about their thoughts on remaining in Mobile, or moving the Rally to another location. We will discuss this topic at the Officers Conference and we need your input. After all, it is your Rally. We merely make the arrangements for you.

Please keep our Military folks and all those who are sick and recovering in your prayers. Till next time, hug someone you love and don't forget to wave.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** & **HAPPY NEW YEAR** from your District Staff!

*Bill & Dian*



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<http://www.kerrywilson.com> <http://www.kerrywilson.com/gwrro.htm>

Kerry Wilson, Kerry Wilson Insurance  
108 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Gadsden, Alabama 35901  
Phone: 256-546-2811 Fax: 256-546-2812