



COOSA VALLEY WINGS
GADSDEN, ALABAMA
GWRRR AL-N "THE N CROWD"
MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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GOLD WING ROAD
RIDERS ASSOCIATION
REGION A – ALABAMA

**FRIENDS FOR FUN,
SAFETY AND
KNOWLEDGE**

Notes from Bryan and Leslie

Hello to All,

I wanted to take some time to thank everyone who came out and captured the plaque. After taking 45 minutes to find the place, what a wonderful surprise to walk in and see everyone sitting together having a good time as a group. The weather was awesome; winning the plaque was great, and the friendship unbeatable. There is no better chapter than our chapter.

May is one of my favorite months of the year. The weather is not too hot, not too much rain, and kids are in school. This makes for enjoyable riding checking out new places to go. The South Carolina rally is the first weekend of May. For those who are traveling, please be careful and come back safe. We are planning a parking lot practice from 2-4 pm on the 3rd of May.

Some of us are going on an Iron-butt ride. This ride is not for the faint of heart, is over 1000 miles in less than 24 hours. The course has been planned hopefully to every detail. If you are interested in doing this, please let me know. When completed and verified, those who rode it will be recognized as the "World's Toughest Rider's". For the rest, chapter B is having a fun day at Country Cruisers in Guntersville from 10-2.

On May 17th, our chapter in cooperation with the Ogden House is sponsoring and helping organize a poker run. All of the proceeds benefit the Ogden House, so please plan on riding in this run. The route that they have picked out is beautiful so come and enjoy.

One huge advantage of being part of the GWRRR is the emphasis in training and safety. Frank Teasly has agreed to come teach our chapter the Ride Captain's Course on Saturday the 24th. Jim & Linda have agreed to hold this at their house. The emphasis of this class is to show the recommend way of riding in a group along with group size. Frank does a great job teaching and makes it very enjoyable. Certificates are given after class, not mailed.

We don't want to forget the district picnic at Roland Cooper State park the 31st of May. Lunch is \$5 for each with that money going to the chapter. But the best part about it is a good fun ride there and back. We will make this a circular course taking in some scenic routes.

May is the time where several of our members are taking a wonderful trip to Niagara Falls for about 10 days. To those who are going, please be careful, have fun, and make it back safely. For those who will be here, we have plenty going on this month. Please come out and be a part. Riding is great but riding with friends is even better.

Bryan & Leslie White, Chapter Directors

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ALABAMA DISTRICT DIRECTORS

We would like to thank the four Couples of the Year who were in the selection process. Congratulations for being selected by your Chapters and for standing on the stage and doing a great job. Congratulations to Terry and Barbie for being selected as the 2008 Alabama Couple of the Year and welcome to the Staff.

Thanks to the Staff and the workers that made everything happen in spite of the weather, thanks to the Region A staff for working all day to pull meat and then serve supper, and thanks to all the vendors who braved the tornado warnings, rain and just hung in there with us.

There is a full month of activities coming in May. We have a Motorcycle Awareness RIDE IN taking place in Montgomery on the third, Chapter B Fun Day on the tenth, and Chapter N Poker Run on the seventeenth and the south picnic on the 31 at Roland Cooper State Park in Camden.

I would like to thank Jim and Karen Lee for their endless work at the four Rallies that



Roy & Anita Fosnight

Please Ride Safe and Often

have been held in Mobile. We have always had a great time and truly enjoyed the whole experience. Thank you Chapter A and especially Al and Marilyn Manning for always going the extra mile to help the rally goers and even more for taking care of the vendors needs while the rest of us were having fun.

We have been working on a new site for the 2009 Southern Hospitality Rally. Well we have one; it will be in Pelham at the civic complex. We have 5 hotels and will have a trolley that will go from the Rally Site to the Hotels. We will put together a flyer and answer all the questions we can as all the details are worked out. The nicest thing about the road for the hotels is that when you get to the end (about a mile from I65) there is a new Diary Queen right in front of you.

Please remember that Freedom isn't Free and remember our folks who are in Harm's Way, be they Military, Law Enforcement, EMTs or Firemen.

The next time you think about going riding, call a friend; they are probably thinking the same thing.

The 2008 Alabama District Rally is history and is now just a memory, good memories. We gave away a Goldwing and the winner was from the Great State of Alabama, Jake Lawyer of AL-B is now the proud owner of this motorcycle. It is rumored that he will soon be turning this Goldwing into a trike. Congratulations and enjoy your new bike.

This Rally would not have been a success without the hard work and dedication of many people. Chapter A worked hard before and during the rally. All the Chapters and members in Alabama that were given assignments came through and made sure that their obligations were filled. The Region A Staff pulled pork and served at the cookout. Just a big THANK YOU to everyone that came and had a good time with us.

Man, I am sure glad that I was not ask to judge the Couple of the Year selection.. Alabama had 4 very deserving couples compete and the judges had a tough decision to make. Terry and Barbie Cleveland from AL-N out of Gadsden were chosen and are the new Alabama District Couple of the Year. They are already on the road visiting chapters in Alabama and will be competing at the Region A Rally in Dothan in September. Congratulations Terry and Barbie.

The South Picnic is May 31 at Roland Cooper State Park. Check the District web site for time and directions. Hope to see everyone there.

Try and get out and visit other chapters when you can. We will be out and visiting, so we hope to see you down the road.



Robert & Gail Brown

The more you know the better it gets

Hi Folks,

For the past four years I have served on the District Staff as Assistant District Director and Rally Coordinator and have enjoyed serving you the people of Alabama. We reported to two wonderful District Directors, Bill and Dian and now Roy and Anita. I assured Roy I would stay on as long as the rally remained in Mobile while encouraging him to look at other alternatives. I felt a substantial part of the membership wanted it moved.

While staying in one location allowed the staff the benefit of repetition and familiarity going to a new site will require a new learning curve and require a great deal of local effort. Everything has a time, a season and a reason. I have been asked to stay but I need to step down where I can devote more of my time to work.

Yea that's the four letter word that many dare to speak in public but while I may be ready for retirement I am not prepared. The next six years are very important for Karen and my future. I need to concentrate more on growing my businesses than extracurricular activity. I lost a close friend and partner in my business last week. Business plans have not changed only the individual workload. Next year we are planning preparation of a new office complex with ICON Properties LLC and expect no less than a 25% growth in ICON Inc this year. Both of these will require considerable attention. I hope there will be future opportunities but if not then I will simply say my time has come and gone and I enjoyed every minute of it. I step down with no regrets or shame but with a sense of peace knowing it is time.

Roy has selected a great staff that is fully capable of this transition. I wish the staff well. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with both staffs and will be there to help as you need it. I feel sure we will cross paths this year but if I don't see you before the 2009 rally I hope to see you there in a more relaxed role. The role of a JAM.

Thank you Alabama for allowing us to serve you.



Jim & Karen Lee

PRESENTING

2008-2009

ALABAMA DISTRICT COUPLE OF THE YEAR

TERRY AND BARBIE CLEVELAND

Home Chapter – Alabama N



Terry and Barbie,

We are all very proud of you. Thank you for representing Chapter N and

GOOD LUCK as you move on to the Region A Selection in Dothan.

Chapter N is behind you all the way!

CHAPTER EDUCATOR CORNER



Co-Rider Confusion

By Fred Rau

Fred Rau Adventure Tours

www.fredrau.net

My wife is addicted to those Internet chatrooms-you know, the kind where dozens of people sit and kibitz for hours on end, mostly about nothing in particular. I've never really tried it for more than a few minutes myself, and have to admit I don't really understand all the nuances. Not only do they seem to have their own shorthand language

(LOL, IMHO and other such acronyms that substitute for the arduous task of having to actually utilize the English language), but they have things like "open rooms" and "private rooms" and "instant messaging" -- sometimes, all going on at once. I find it all very confusing. To me, it would be like trying to talk on my cell phone and desk phone at the same time, while writing e-mails on my computer. I'm just not a modern, multi-tasking sort of guy. I prefer my problems one at a time, thank you.

Anyway-one day I came home to find Cherrie very upset. This is not a good thing. It usually means I'm going to be harangued all during dinner. Sure enough, I didn't even get the first mouthful chewed before-"I'm a motorcycle rider, aren't I?"

"Of course you are, dear."

"Well, this guy in the chatroom says I'm not. He was asking people how many miles they'd ridden, and I told him I had about half a million. Then he asked if that was front seat or back, and when I told him it was backseat, he said that doesn't count-that I'm just a pillion, and they don't count!"

"Why do you even listen to these dorks, dear? The jerk probably hasn't ridden as much in his lifetime as you do in an average month. What the hell do you care what he thinks?"

"Well... because no one in the chatroom disagreed with him. They seem to think it's true. They say I'm not a motorcyclist because I don't sit in the front and steer and clutch and shift and everything. You know-the hard stuff."

She went on for about an hour after that, and I have to admit I tuned out most of her ranting, but the next day, I began thinking about what she had said. In the end, I decided that the bigmouth in the chatroom was pretty much full of it.

For starters, as a co-rider, my wife has been a whole lot more than just extra weight on the rear seat. She gives me neck and backrubs when I'm tense from heavy traffic or a long day on the road, she keeps me alert when I start getting drowsy, and when I get stuck in a downhill parking slot, she pushes the bike backward for me. She is also an invaluable extra pair of eyes and ears, often detecting potential hazards before I do, and alerting me to them. She packs our saddlebags and/or trunk every morning before we take off, and somehow manages to fit about 30% more stuff in them than I ever could. Packing is an art form unto itself, I've decided, and Cherrie is a virtuoso.

But besides all that, there is her talent as a backseat rider. If you don't know the difference between an experienced, talented pillion, and a complete amateur, then you've obviously never experienced one or both of them. That's probably the case with our Internet dork.

There have been several occasions where I've had to carry passengers who have never been on a bike before, are terrified by the experience, or simply don't understand the dynamics of two-wheeling. It's a frightening experience, believe me. Ever tried to lean into a corner at speed, only to have your passenger suddenly try to counter your lean, because they thought the bike was going to fall over? Or have one fail to brace themselves for a quick stop and shove you up onto the gas tank?

A good backseat rider is a rider-period. They can't just sit back and enjoy the scenery. They have to be aware of what you and bike are doing, or are about to do, every moment. Cherrie scans the road just like I

do. She sees those railroad tracks coming up and "posts," putting her body weight down on the pegs so I have better suspension control. She keeps herself centered and online with the bike, so I'm never fighting her weight in a turn, or a stop, or under sudden acceleration. She makes certain I'm alert, fed, warm, comfortable and any number of other things that I might tend to ignore if I'm alone. She even keeps an eye on the gas gauge, because she knows I have a habit of ignoring low fuel warnings, and another eye on the weather ahead, making me stop and put on rain gear before it starts pouring-something I am always too lazy to bother with until I'm already soaked.

For over 37 years we've been a team, and I wouldn't want it any other way. My co-rider is my "better half," and in my mind, at least, deserves the moniker "motorcyclist" every bit as much as I do. And I'm betting most of you out there who regularly pack two-up know what I mean, and agree.

As for the posturing, lone wolf cretin on the internet, whose only chance of making himself feel superior seems to be by belittling others-I wish him exactly the kind of pillion partner he envisions, and deserves.

From Your Educator's Saddle.....

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:	Michey Durham	May 3
	Jim Garrard	May 17
	George Glenn	May 25

Happy Anniversary to:	Chapter Directors – Bryan and Leslie White	May 14
	District Couple of the Year - Terry and Barbie Cleveland	May 21
	George and Dorothy Glenn	May 18
	Pat and June McNew	May 5

Editor's Corner - Return to Alabama District Rally

After missing the Alabama District Rally for 2 years running, we were thrilled to return to Mobile with our buddies. The weekend began on Thursday morning for us as we joined several couples in Oneonta then traveled on to Ashville to pick up other rides for our trek down south. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed an uneventful ride to the rally. I was privileged to carry the J.A. necklace to Mobile; now I realize we don't give out that award but occasionally a Chapter Member does something that must be recognized in a special way. I couldn't find one of my gloves that morning (it was on my hand) so all present agreed that J.A. should enjoy the ride down with me. I won't take the time to detail the entire weekend but you must know that the highlights included 8 inches of rain, a rainbow parade, a very traditional Catholic parade and as always, good food, good fun and great fellowship. The return ride on Sunday was just as enjoyable as Thursday's ride with great weather. For those of you who are interested – there is very little to eat between Montgomery and Pell City if you happen to be traveling on Sunday. And contrary to popular belief Goldwingers can ride more than 2 hours without food!

**I hope you were able to enjoy the weekend as we did – but if not, I guess you will have to ask some attendees to explain the highlights. Come Ride With Us – We're Back!
Sammy and Donna Conn**

MAY RIDE SCHEDULE

May 3rd: Parking Lot Practice – 2 to 4 pm - North Glencoe Baptist Church - We will conduct basic exercises that we are used every day on the bike. Water will be provided for this. After the practice, we will ride to the meeting.

May 3rd: Monthly Meeting at Western Sizzlin

May 9th: Iron Butt Ride Pre-ride meeting- Those who want to ride this challenging ride, we will have a pre-ride meeting to discuss the particulars about the ride, take care of paper work.

May 10th – Iron Butt Ride – Leave Kangaroo’s at 6 am and pull down 1028 miles. Route is planned and details are arranged.

May 10th – Chapter “B” Fun-day – A ride to Guntersville for Chapter B’s Fun-day at country Cruisers.

Leave: 10 am from Kangaroo’s. Meet other riders at 10:30 at K-Mart in Albertville. From there ride to Country Cruisers and enjoy the festivities. *10am-2pm - Cost: \$10 - Includes: tickets (Meal, Door-Prize, Raffle, 50/50) - Adventure Ride - Country Cruisers, 1341 Gunter Ave, Guntersville - All profits benefit Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation*

May 17th: Poker Run – Guntersville – Come support our Chapter’s Poker Run. Several of us will be working at the stations.

Chapter-N is offering the plaque during our "1st Mountain Lake River Run". This Poker Run will benefit the Tennessee Valley Family Services Children's Shelter, the Ogden House. Please bring your chapter and meet the workers and residents of our sponsored charity. The Poker Run is only \$5 per rider on the bike. The ride is a beautiful scenic ride on good roads through northern Alabama. The mission and work of the Ogden House is summarized below:

Ogden House is a temporary residential shelter for youth operated by Tennessee Valley Family Services. Youth find their home at Ogden House in a variety of ways from living on the streets to DHR placements. Some children are placed at Ogden House because of parental abuse or neglect, or even abandonment. Youth who are having trouble staying in school or slight behavioral problems at home may be placed here because of the structure that staff is able to provide.

Chapter Sign in will commence at 8 am thru 2 pm. The cutoff is at 2 pm sharp. Plaque giveaway will be at 2:30 pm.

It is located at the Park Pavilion - [1500 Sunset Dr, Guntersville, AL 35976](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1500+Sunset+Dr,+Guntersville,+AL+35976)

May 24th – Training Class at Jim & Linda’s – Jim & Linda have been gracious to hold classes in their home. Much effort has been put in to setting up these classes and arranging the instructor. Best part of this class, we will ride as part of the class. Further directions to Jim’s house will be sent.

May 31st – District Rally to Roland Cooper State Park – We will meet together and ride down to Roland Cooper State Park – The cost of lunch is \$5 for each with the chapter getting reimbursed this same amount. Here are the details.

Meet at Chevron at Snead's Crossroads at 7:30. Meet up with 2nd group at Chevron in Southside at 8:15. From there we will take a very scenic trip down 77 to 21 to 231 to 22 Over to Selma down 41 to Camden and then over to the park. (Please eat breakfast before We leave)

The trip back will take 28 to 5 to 25 up to 231 at Harpersville and home thru Pell City. Of course We will stop and get ice cream on the way back. We wouldn't be wingers if we didn't.