



## Coosa Valley Wings

Chapter AL-N Newsletter – September 2010

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### CD's notes –

August has been a busy month for Debbie and me. We managed to slip in a few days of family time to visit with my sister and her family who live in Okay Oklahoma. My nephew, Jack Nolen III just recently finished a tour with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan and prior to that he had completed two tours in Iraq. We are extremely glad and thankful that he is home safe and well. Jack will be moving to Birmingham to continue his education.

The month started with a great chapter gathering on the 7<sup>th</sup> after a bike show at QC Financial earlier in the day. We were privileged to have our DD Roy and Anita Fosnight, Robert Brown ADD, District Trainers Frank and Linda Teasley and Phillip, and Roy Beall CD and Danny from chapter J.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we had a pleasant ride to the North Picnic at Wheeler State Park. The food was good and the fellowship even better. There is nothing more satisfying than a visit with old and new friends, some good food, and a great ride. As some would say, "It don't get no better n this".

We now look forward to our next ride to Big Bob Gibson's for some of that famous barbeque. Hope to see you there.

We are still having our Wednesday morning breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Highway 77. If you can make it we will save you a seat. Along with your appetite bring along a good story to tell. We eat at 8:00 and then the fun begins.

The Region A convention (rally) will be in Eufaula on the 16-18 of September. Several have reservations. If you are looking for someone to ride down with, give me or Harold a call or e-mail. At this time there are no plans for a group or chapter trip. Deb and I will be going down on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>; everyone is welcome to travel with us.

The weather is somewhat better than the 100 plus degree days we have had for quite awhile to get out and ride. Hope to see you on the road soon. Ride Safe

Gerald and Debbie

### **ACD's notes –**



Hello,

We hope the hot temperatures will soon give way to cooler and more pleasant riding weather. Although it has been hot, we did manage to participate in several events. But, I'm looking forward for the search for my Joe Rocket jacket.

It has always amazed me that the subject of weather opens our communications. I remember living in Montgomery several years ago and receiving a phone call. The call went like this, hello, hello son, hello dad. We talked about the weather for awhile, then the caller said, "I don't think you are my son", my reply was that "I don't think you are my dad". It was a wrong number. We both had a good laugh, and then said our good bye.

Well, now I'm two paragraphs into my note for the month, it's time for what's really on my mind. So, here goes. I have read the Director of GWRRA, Mike Stiger's article in the August Wing World Publication several times and I agree that it's about "... the ride." If our chapter losses our focus on riding, we risk a stop in chapter growth. In closing Mike writes, "We need to remember that our love of riding our wonderful machines is the glue that brought us together. Our Chapters' focus needs to center around this ideal. When we lose sight of this focus and perhaps find we have few other common interests, the wheels start to come off of the Chapter."

Let's check our wheels!

Harold & Shari

### **Rider Educator's notes –**

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to travel out into the Wild-Wild West. It didn't take long till I realized their culture varied from ours tremendously. In talking with several people, one theme rang true: "No reigns on me. "

I saw very few groups of riders, but countless individual riders riding without helmets, gloves, and even shirts. The culture of living in the wide open range, living how they pleased, translated to the way they protected themselves.

That got me to thinking; everyone is a product of their culture. How can you change their thinking? Can you change their thinking? The answer that I came up with is rarely.

Think about this truth!!! Is someone who you barely know going to change your mind about something you have done over and over again without any failure?

What is it that is going to change your mind?

Will it be the loss of a friend, a close call, or logic from friends? Each person is different with different motivations. We can present good sound logic to people, but they don't have to receive it. In the end, we are responsible for our own actions and our own ride. How do you choose to protect yourself? How do you choose to ride?

GWRRA has an excellent level program for those who choose to commit to the program. Our district is dedicated to educating our riders because they care. It is your choice to participate and become a better rider. Think on these things and commit to excellence and safety.

Special notice: Rider Education Weekend is scheduled for 2 October -- ARC, TRC, Medic First Aid, Road Captain Course, Crash Scene Response, Mature Rider, Co-Rider, Team Riding, or a Trailer seminar. The weekend will be held in the Anniston, Al area. Alabama GWRRA members will be free outside of state it will be \$20.00 for ARC, TRC, MFA.

Bryan & Leslie White

## Featured Couple of the Month – Harold & Shari Emery



Hello, we are excited over the opportunity of telling everyone about our past, our present, and our hopes for the future. We finished high school together, but were not sweet hearts. Harold joined the Air Force just after getting his HS diploma (he did get one) and was soon doing duty in Southeast Asia as many did in late 60's and early 70's. We remained in contact because of a family connection – my sister was married to his cousin. After returning to the states Harold was stationed in Panama City Florida. He made a lot of trips home to see his Mom, Dad, Sister, and his cousin. After a short period of time, his trips were to see me. In about six months we married. Before we married, he promised that if I would join him in Panama City while he finished his remaining 18 months of AF obligations, we would return to Blount County Alabama and live happily ever after. He lied! It was 18 years later before we returned. During our 20 year AF career we did a lot of traveling which we both have mostly fond memories of. Harold's Pacific Area travel includes Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. Together we have traveled in England, Scotland, Wales, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and most recently in 2008 we motorcycled in Canada.

About 10-years ago Harold changed hobbies. It had been hunting, fishing, and flying his RC airplanes. He gave all this up to fall in love with the motorcycle. And, soon thereafter I began to co-ride. Our silver 2002 GL1800 has carried us through 23 states and Canada.

We enjoy GWRRA and Chapter N events. Our favorite is overnight rides to the Smokey Mountains. We look forward to many more rides (now on our Tike) and the friendship of our chapter and GWRRA.

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

Calvin Blansit  
Wayne Gargus  
Skip Kittrell  
Gerald Russell



### Anniversaries

Calvin & Marie Blansit  
Sammy & Donna Conn  
Gary & Linda Luther  
Richard & Sue Wheeler

## September Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	8 AM	Attalla Cracker Barrel	Breakfast
4 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	5 PM	Western Sizzlin	Dinner/Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8 AM	Attalla Cracker Barrel	Breakfast
11 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	3:30 PM	Beans & Greens	Dinner Ride
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8 AM	Attalla Cracker Barrel	Breakfast
16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday		Lake Point SP	Region A Rally
17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		Lake Point SP	Region A Rally
18 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday		Lake Point SP	Region A Rally
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		Lake Point SP	Region A Rally
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday	8 AM	Attalla Cracker Barrel	Breakfast
25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	3:30 PM	Desoto SP Lodge	Dinner Ride

27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	6:30 PM	Boaz Ryan's	Staff Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8 AM	Attalla Cracker Barrel	Breakfast

Note: Please read Richard's weekly email for any schedule changes.

## Chapter Picture of the Month-

Here is Alabama District traveling Owl named "It". This loveable character visited with Chapter N folks for 3 weeks. During his visit he enjoyed the Hamburger Run, got to meet a State Senator and the Mayor of Gadsden. Gerald and Debbie carried him horesback riding and swimming. In this picture, "It" is doing a little bream fishing.



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### Newsletter Editors

-Open-

## ***Appendixes***

### **Notes from Alabama District Director's –**

We woke up this morning to a nice 67 degrees and thought fall was finally here. It is suppose to be 93 later today but for this morning it was a nice change. We hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy the cool mornings that are coming.

We have had a really nice August. We visited several Chapters and a fun day in Georgia. The North Picnic went really good, we had 13 Chapters and 130 people. We had some really good food and some great camaraderie. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success.

We are having our last Officer's Certification Course on 28-29 August. We would like to thank Frank and Linda for all their work and we would especially like to thank all the Officers and members who gave us their time to attend. I have not received any bad comments from the people who attended.

Please remember the Region A Rally in Eufaula on the 16-18 Sep, it will be a really good time and Lake Point has been completely renovated. If you have not tried to get a room, you might be able to get one now. Remember to put the Chap J motorcycle Rodeo on your schedule for October 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Palmore Park. Roy and Diane Beall and the rest of Chapter J put on a really good Rodeo.

A special request from Anita and I to please support the Ride for Kids at Barber Motor Speedway in Leeds, AL. It will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Registration is from 8:00 – 9:45 with departure on the ride at 10:00. When we return to the Speedway we will do a couple of parade laps around the track. Please come and ride with us.

For information on AL activities and pictures of what we are doing please go to our web site, <http://www.alabama-gwrra.org/> and enjoy.

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 riding, call a friend, they are probably thinking the same thing.

Please ride Safe and Often,

Roy and Anita

## **Notes from Alabama Assistant District Directors – Central**

Hello Fellow Wingers;

This month I would like to continue my talk with you about our new GWRRA. Last month I mentioned our Organization is changing many of its terms and position titles. This month I'd like to talk about some of the things we do, but don't know why and the things we don't do, but are supposed to.

For example:

How many of us know that there are strict guidelines for the designs we put on our chapter shirts?

Why is our Organization considered "Not for Profit", and which rule do we fall under?

There are at least 8 different "Membership Benefits". How many can you list?

How many Officers are there in a Chapter? Can you name them?

For those of you who wish to find out the answers to these questions and more, look at the Alabama District Web Site Home page and click on Links>Officers Resources>Officers Guide Book.

Please take a little time, now and then, to look at the GWRRA Web Page, and our District Page. You will find something interesting there???

Remember: "Keep the Rubber Down, It Works Best that Way".

Ron and Corky

## **Notes from Alabama Assistant District Directors – Central**

Thanks to all the members of Alabama GWRRA that attended the North Picnic at Joe Wheeler State Park. There were 130 members present and everyone had a good time. The park and facilities are very nice. If you visit and use the State Parks in Alabama I suggest you put this one on your list.

The Region A Convention is approaching and we hope to see all of you there. As usual the Alabama District has its assignment for this year. We have been assigned to do the Vendor Security Thursday thru Saturday, Lighted Bike Parade on Friday evening and Bike Show on Saturday morning. The Alabama Staff that is available will handle the

vendor gates on Thursday. Saturday is covered but we still need workers for Friday. For those that will be there on Friday just let us know what you can do.

The Snowball Convention will be January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Doster Community Center in Prattville. We are going to try something different this year. We will have a poster board with the preliminary schedule for the Alabama District Convention. We are asking the chapter directors to decide what their chapter would like to do during the convention. During the Officers Conference at Snowball you can just put it on the board at that time. Have more than one choice in mind or as many as you would be willing to do. This is something that has not been tried that we are aware of. Hopefully it will give the chapters an opportunity to participate in the area of their choice. We will be sending this information to the Chapter Directors so that they can be talking to the members. Hotel information is on the District website if you plan to stay in Prattville.

We would like to thank everyone for their time and dedication to GWRRA and especially helping make the Alabama District the best it can be. If we can do anything or answer any questions please feel free to call or e-mail us.

Robert & Gail Brown

*"The more you know the better it gets."*

## **Notes from Alabama District Retention & Recruiting Coordinator's –**

### Tools for Getting & Keeping

Be sure and contact the members whose membership is coming up for renewal. By contacting those individuals they will know you care about keeping them as a member and as a Friend. Retention of people is not an easy task.

Always carry TOOLS with you. The tools we are talking about are: A GWRRA application, a copy of an old Wing World Magazine, handle bar hangers with your card attached showing your name and phone number, newsletters from your Chapter to show what your chapter is doing, and a Alabama District Rally/Convention flyer.

Sometimes when we are out having fun---we get to talking to other folks and find out they enjoy riding also, but they have never gotten involved with a chapter or attended a Rally/Convention. By having a few TOOLS to give to them just may help to get them involved. Then there are those people who do not ride YET, but look forward to riding someday and our tools may help them decide to try it sooner.

Recruit means GET!

Retention means KEEP!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Region "A" Rally Sept. 16-17-18.

Dewey & Alice Cole

## **Notes from Alabama District Motorcycle Awareness Coordinator's –**

Hello everyone,

Has it been hot enough for y'all the last month or so? I am ready for some cooler temps so I can ride. I sure hope fall is just around the corner. With schools back in session it can't be far off. The start of school also brings on added risk to the motorcycle rider. We now have to contend with School busses and the dreaded teenager who is late for class or maybe just trying to impress someone. So please be extra careful when riding your bike during school time.

Have you seen a motorcycle today? More than likely if you are reading this then you most likely own one. But what about your neighbor or co-worker or just the stranger you meet at the store. If they don't own one then how do you know if they have seen one. The only way to find out is to ask them. And if you ask them, maybe it will help make them more aware the next time they see one. This in turn could help prevent an accident from happening. Just a simple question from you to your neighbor, co-worker or stranger at the store could have a huge impact on someone riding a bike. So please, ask this question to anyone, have you seen a motorcycle today?

Terry & Barbie