

GWRRA
Friends For Fun,
Safety, and
Knowledge

Alabama B
Rocket City Wings
Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 1 Issue 4

May 2013



Happy Fathers Day

To all our Dads





CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAPTER B

We are the International Chap-
ter of the Year.

We have the International Cou-
ple of the Year

And We have the International
Recruiter of the year

Our Chapter Directors

Steve & Shirley Kremer & their Team

Chapter Educators / News Letter
Editors Aaron & Pat Lambert

MEC/Photographer Avery Howard

Treasurer Kathy & Jake Lawyer

Historian/Scrapbook Faye & Walter
Gersch

Couple of the Year Faye & Walter
Gersch

Webmaster John & Elizabeth Gris-
wold

Country Store /Ride Coordina-
tors
Kevin & Darlene Kennemer

Ways & Means Jay & Connie Jensen

Social Dinners Jim & Joy Hall

Technical Coordinator Michael
Kremer



Visit us out at
www.rocketcitywings.org

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What's Missing from this page?

Please send us some articles and pictures from your rides.

I am sure we would all like to see them and hear about your rides.

Help make this your news letter.

Send them to

aaronlambert@msn.com

This is De Soto Falls..Roger & Peggy led us there.



Director Notes

Okay let us try this again. This is my second attempt, after spending an hour and a half on the first newsletter, and then losing it to cyberspace. Well anyway I think I started out with busy, busy, and busy. Summer is upon us. Finally the weather seems to be getting hotter and hotter and then I think I talked about; Oh yeah, May 2012 will be remembered for quite some time as it was the month that we were selected the International Chapter of 2012. It is not without saying that this was a chapter effort and active members are to be congratulated in sacrificing **and contributing they're** time. I really hope everyone had fun in the process (although I think it was difficult at times). Special thanks go to the leaders who initiated their efforts in making this happen. That would be the International Chapter of the Year Coordinators, Steven and Tammy Hollingsworth (International Couple of the Year Coordinators), and Greg and René Dempsey (International Couple of the Year), District Couple of the Year Coordinators. On top of being selected with this award, Jake Lawyer was selected as the International Recruiter of the

Year for 2012. I think this record is going to be hard to beat for many years to come. If you look back at it, we took all three GWRRA International awards for 2012. I guess that means the staff can get a **raise is year and we'll just** add a few more zeros on the end of their paycheck. I am really proud to be in the chapter with so many active participants and that goes without saying to all the members of Chapter B. And folks, this **usually means that we're** having fun or attempting to have fun somewhere, somehow. I am sure we will be talking about this for quite some time and of course we do get recognition at Wing Ding and reserved seating at opening ceremonies. There are a few other perks, I believe like a banner that we get to have and ½ off at next **years Wing Ding.. I'd like** to get some T-shirts made up and some other things that have something to recognize us as the International Chapter of the Year for 2012.

Well, let's see about upcoming events for June and if anybody has access to the website, please check out everything in the calendar. I think the most important one, right now would be Wng Ding and we have to think about all of the fun days

chapters are putting on in the area. June 8th, Chapter L Fun Day (Return of Scratch Ankle Hoedown) - 10am-2pm - Issac Creek Campgrounds - 5030 Lock & Dam Rd, Franklin, AL (\$10 Registration (includes lunch & one grandprize ticket) Prizes, Games, T-Shirt Competition. June 14th, the Georgia rally taking place in Dillard, Georgia, and of course Wing Ding the week of the Fourth of July, in Greenville, South Carolina.

On another note, May seemed to be a month of folks getting sick and going to the hospital. I am pretty sure everyone is it home and feeling better now. Shirley went in for a foot operation toward the end of the month and ended up coming out with **a pacemaker (and it wasn't** even for her foot). She seems to be doing a whole lot better now and all we can do is hope this will have a positive long term affect on her health.

Well, remember, when you are out on the road, watch out for those motorists and be safe on the road when you are riding or driving. Hope to see you all at the next meeting on 11 June. We appreciate everyone in the Chapter, for supporting us, your

friends, and we're looking forward to seeing you at the next Chapter event. **Ride safe and ride often....** Thanks again!



Thanks,
Steve & Shirley Kremer

Do you have an article that should have been posted here?



Faye and Walter Gersch 2013 Couple of the Year



May Newsletter from 2013 Couple of the Year

Hello again. Lots of interesting things have happened the month of May. We went out as usual for dinner quite often. The Couples Rendezvous was the first weekend. It was at Spring Creek Park Resort in Donalsonville, Georgia. It was another rainy weekend and it rained all day on Saturday but Walt and I fished anyway. I gave up but he kept on since it was a pier under a roof. We ate and ate and played games and believe it or not, Walt won the prize for catching the most fish and for the largest fish. Not a whole lot but it was fun. Avery was the only one that wasn't a couple but I think he had fun anyway. Someone had to take pictures. We went in the car again.

On the next weekend, the 11th we went to Chapter Z in Tenn. and Walt

and I took away the money for 50/50. Nice. Avery helped us to get that by standing up for us because we had four out of five tickets. Nice.

Our Chapter Gathering on the 14th was a wonderful surprise. We got first of all, the Region Chapter of the Year and at our gathering we celebrated being International Chapter of the Year. Our hard work paid off. What an honor. Lots of visitors to help us celebrate. A warm, Thank You, from the heart of us all. May Newsletter from 2013 Couple of the Year. The next weekend was MAD day and as previously mentioned we bought a new Bushtec trailer to match our trike at the Spring Fling and made a commitment to pick it up on their Customer Appreciation Day, the 18th. So we headed out. We kept trying to stay ahead of the storms on the way up but we did ride the bike. Did not get wet on the way, but don't you know, on Friday night, it caught up with us and stormed. Luckily, we were at the hotel, but it did not go away. We rode to breakfast in the rain and it poured while

Continued...

we were inside waiting to get the trike and trailer wired up. Sad to say we did not stay for the food and the band. Met lots of friends, old and new. Two inches of water in my seat and cushions were wet but we had rain suits, so what if it did rain! Made it back safely. Next weekend was nice and we were supposed to go to Lookout Mtn. There was Ron Thomas, Avery Howard, Walt and I. Made a miss turn and wound up in Mentone. What a beautiful ride. Ron led the ride and did a great job. Found another great place to eat in Crossville. Of course, in Mentone, we had to get the famous ice cream. The holiday weekend was next, and sorry to say, I got an abscessed tooth and suffered through most of the weekend. Walt went without me several times, which is not usual. I guess he missed me? Now we are preparing for Wing Ding and plan to ride with our new trailer to Greenville, SC, so that we can get some pin striping and ornaments on it. Looking for more pretty weekends to ride. You all be safe out there and Have Fun. Walt and Faye





Avery Howard
Membership Enhancement Coordinator

Ride safe.....Ride often.

There were a couple of great rides. Tommy Keener led a ride on some back roads that were very scenic. Ron Thomas lead a ride in which we were supposed to go to Lookout Mountain, but ended up in Crossville, AL. We found a nice restaurant on a side street and had a great meal. They even gave us 10% off for being on our bikes.

I'm sure there's stuff I'm forgetting, but that's how it is when you're a senior. LOL. Until next time, get out, have fun and ride safe.

May started off with a trip to Donalsonville, GA. Once again, we had to go in cars due to the weather. Still everyone had a good time. Thanks to the staff at Spring Creek Resort who put up with us. Our own Walter Gersch won two awards. He got an award for catching the biggest fish and the most fish. Congratulations Walter.

Next was our chapter meeting. We had 52 in attendance. Mr. Greg Hopkins was

our guest speaker for the month. Also in attendance were Frank & Linda Teasley, Harry & Sarah, and Robert Brown from District. Larry & Penny Anthony from Chapter T, Bill & Julie from Chapter Y & Phillip Teasley. Cake was served after the meeting in celebration of Chapter B getting awarded International Chapter of the Year.

A photo session was held on the 22nd of May at the Huntsville Christian Academy. Another session will be held in June. The two photos will be combined and then sent to GWRRA HQ.

Shirley Kremer went into the hospital for foot surgery, but ended up getting a pace maker. She is out of the hospital and back home. **Let's keep her in our** prayers for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Jake Lawyer for getting International Recruiter of the Year.





Hello again

Wow how time flies when we are having fun.

We have had another busy month. Pat's mother has been in the hospital, to rehab and then back to the hospital. She is out now and back with us.

We have been to different events with our granddaughters in Huntsville and in Columbia, TN.

We did go on a ride to Fort Payne area and on to De Soto State Park and Falls and thru the little river canyon area. We want to thank Roger and Peggy Allen for being such wonderful tour guides for the trip.

We had a good time at the MAD day with everyone and greeting the public. Pat has come out of her shell and loved talking with anyone that would take the time to stop by and visit and look at the bikes and trikes that were there.

Here are some tips on how to enjoy your next ride. Pat and I have had enough experience this year to attest to the importance of going over the check list before and after each ride .

Checking The Bike Before The Ride

Who knows when Murphy's Law may strike or what nail your tire might have picked up just before you pulled in the other evening. It's not fun to have things go wrong on a motorcycle, but if you spend a minute before you go off on a ride, you can increase the chances that nothing will.

Any information you'll need, such as correct tire pressures or chain adjustment, you'll find in your owner's manual. As soon as you finish this booklet, read the manual thoroughly. You will be much more acquainted with all the specifics of your motorcycle, since it might be slightly different from some other make or model.

#1 Check the tires. They are the most important parts of your bike. If your engine quits, you roll to a stop. If a tire quits - trouble! Make the effort to check the surface of the tires, looking for cuts in the rubber or foreign objects - like a nail. Check the tire pressures with a good gauge. If a tire is low every time you check it, even though you have added the proper amount of air each time, you have a slow leak. Fix it before it becomes a fast leak.

#2 Check the controls. Cables are quite strong and rarely break, but look for kinking or stiffness or anything unusual in their operation.

#3 Check your lights, including

brake light, headlights, and turn signals to make sure everything works. Also check your horn and adjust the mirrors

#4 Check the oil and fuel and, if the bike is liquid-cooled, the coolant levels.

#5 If your motorcycle has chain-drive to the rear wheel, make sure that the chain is properly tensioned and in good shape. Chains do need an occasional cleaning and dose of lubrication.

#6 Make sure the side stand and center stand fold up properly, and stay up. If one of the retraction springs is weak or broken or missing, replace it.

#7 As you roll off, check your brakes. Just to make sure they haven't gone away.



Ride Safe and Ride Often

Technical Corner

Michael Kremer

This month I'm going to talk about a highly controversial subject: Engine Oil.

Oil is the life blood of your engine, so it is very important to keep an eye on the level and mileage on it. The type of oil you choose to use is a matter of personal preference. For some of the best information on oil, I use the website of Bob is the Oil Guy; <http://www.bobistheoilguy.com/> .

In my opinion the best oil to use is synthetic oil because they **are more stable over time, in other words they don't break** down as fast as mineral based oils. Synthetic oil is also more resistant to shear than mineral based oils, and shear is wear in the motor. With modern oils, both mineral and synthetic, as long as they are the correct weight for the area you ride in, either will be fine to use in your bike as long as they are **designed for a motorcycle. Don't use any automotive oil in your** bike, automotive oil has friction modifiers which can ruin the wet clutches in our bikes.

In the end, it all comes down to personal choice whether to run synthetic or mineral base oils in your bike. The synthetic **oil doesn't need to be changed as often, but costs more.** The mineral based oil has to be changed more often and costs less. The main thing we all need to remember is that we need to change the oil as often as recommended in the owners manual if not more often.

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News from Region “A”

As we go to print with this edition of the Region “A” newsletter, we're between rallies in the Region. We enjoyed both Alabama and South Carolina, but May is where we sort of catch our breath between events. We resume in June with the Georgia District rally in Dillard, GA.

We know this is a long way off, but the dates for our Winter Officers Meeting at the Lakepoint Lodge have been set. The reason we're mentioning it now is so everyone can make plans to attend. In December when we traditionally hold this meeting, there are all sorts of Holiday Season parties and family events that can fill the calendar so we wanted to give everyone sufficient advance notice. The dates will be December 7th and 8th. We ask that attendees arrive Friday evening (the 6th) so that we can begin on Saturday morning. We'll meet all day Saturday and a half day Sunday. Our group number at the Lakepoint Lodge is 2246. Please use that when making your reservations.

We recently received the quarterly report from National Recruiting and Retention reference contacts by the Districts of all New, Prospective and Trial Members. Once again, all the Districts in the Region contacted 100% of these folks! Thanks for keeping up the enthusiasm and reaching out to these people. Our recruitment efforts continue to be among the best in the entire Association, as well so we're doing something right!

We'd like to congratulate Alabama Chapter B (Huntsville) for being selected the International Chapter of the year! These guys have done a fantastic job and certainly deserved the award. See Bob and Karla Greer's article in this newsletter for more details. **Of the last six awards of the International CHOY, Region “A” has had the distinction of winning four of them.** Not bad at all! Chapter FL1-A (my and Nan's home Chapter) was the First Runner-up in Region “A”.

We received the April Drop Letter Summary from the Home Office. The Drop Letter is sent out by National to all members who do not renew their membership. Among other things, it asks the expired member why they elected to not renew. Unfortunately, most folks don't bother to return it, but of those mailed out some 72 former members responded. **We reviewed all of the responses from Region “A” and found 19 total.** We read each of the 19 respondents reasons for not renewing (a few gave no reason) and all but one cited reasons of age, health, finances, death or sold their Gold Wing. Only one seemed to indicate an issue with their former Chapter and that one is unclear. We will look further into the circumstances. While this is admittedly only a small sample of all the members who do not renew, it does seem to indicate that there are some factors at work we may not be able to control.

Region “A” has done a consistently good job of recruiting New Members, with an

overall recruitment rate of some 4.65% year to date in 2013. This puts us in First Place among all Regions in the continental U. S. Good job everyone; let's keep looking for those New Member prospects. We know how discouraging it can be to lose existing members "through the back door" but one of the best ways available to mitigate that is by aggressive recruitment of New Members.

We're all interested in things we can do to make ourselves better volunteer leaders. We have every confidence in our current District and Chapter leaders and know most of them personally. But, each of us should be alert and conscious of complacency in our jobs as volunteer leaders. This is NOT intended as a disguised admonishment of any currently serving leader, just a reminder that as time goes by, the tendency to "burn out" can surface causing our desire to serve the members to wane. This is not a situation any of us want to see, so please be aware of your feelings about your position as a volunteer leader (at any level) and if you reach a point that you think the membership and GWRRA would be better served by stepping down, by all means contact your appointing officer. With coaching and mentoring, you may be able to rejuvenate your attitude and outlook and continue doing a good job. Being a successful volunteer leader generally requires an upbeat and positive attitude coupled with a strong desire to do the job and serve the members. We are here to assist any volunteer leader who feels they need help with any aspect of their job. We all want to do the right thing for the members of GWRRA (that includes us, too) by keeping it fun and enjoyable; an experience that folks will want to stay with. Thanks for listening.

Finally, the ultimate key to enjoyment of all that GWRRA has to offer is PARTICIPATION. The folks who join us but who (for whatever reason) don't participate seem to lose interest pretty soon and drop away. Let's remember that this is an area where leading by example is so important. As volunteer leaders, we should participate at whatever level(s) we can and thereby encourage the membership to join us. I know we all have work, family and other obligations and we certainly don't advocate that you compromise or ignore any of the other important areas of your life. Just do your best to participate in as many of the available GWRRA functions as you can. Ideally, our membership will see you having fun and follow suit, then we'll all benefit.

Nan and I are going to attend the Georgia District rally in Dillard this month (June) and look forward to seeing you there. It's always a nice event in the North Georgia Mountains, so come out and join us.

from the previous staff stayed on while others stepped down with Charles and Betty.

Nan and I along with the Region staff would like to extend a big Thank You to Charles and Betty for the great job they've done in South Carolina. They will still be in charge of Wing Ding arrangements previously assigned to the SC District by the Home Office to ensure continuity and completion of these matters. At closing ceremonies, Nan and I presented Charles and Betty with their Former rockers (well earned) and a plaque from the Region acknowledging them for their service to GWRRA and the members in SC.

This was a great rally, with good attendance. Food service was provided by the Charleston Southern University campus cafeteria where the service and quality are outstanding. Dinner was served to the delegates there on Thursday evening and delegates who wanted to eat there throughout the rally could purchase inexpensive meal tickets that put you at the head of the line. At closing ceremonies a \$5,000 grand prize was awarded to a lucky delegate. Nan and I really enjoyed ourselves and thank the entire South Carolina staff for a great job hosting this event!

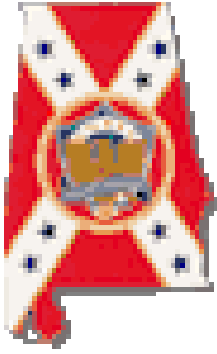
We hope to see you at a rally in Region "A" soon; Georgia, Wing Ding 35, Region A rally and Mississippi rallies are all coming up within the next few months.

Bob & Nan



Senior Region "A" Directors

Bob& Nancy Shrader



-- District Directors

Robert & Gail Brown

This year seems to be on the fast track. It is already June and speeding toward July. We want to thank everyone that participated in the Mad Weekend. Although the weather was really nasty, all of the welcome centers were manned. Gail & I spent time with Chapters U & G. They had the welcome center on Highway 231 just before the Florida State line. This center was busy and many contacts were made. Thanks again to everyone that participated.

Talking of participating, we hope you are getting your "Everyone is a Participant" card signed. This month is full of opportunities to visit because of all the Chapter Fun Days.

Following is a schedule of the dates:

Chapter T is June 1 in McCalla, and they always have a great Fun Day with plenty of surprises.

Chapter L is June 8th. This will be Paul & Gladys Luker's first Fun Day. Round up as many of your chapter members as you can, and go support them. I am sure they will be glad to see everyone.

The Georgia District Rally is back in Dillard this year. It is truly a beautiful place; good places to ride and plenty to do.

June 22 is Chapter J and they will be Rollin' & Rockin'. This should give everyone a chance to get their cards signed and a good motorcycle ride to boot.

Please check the District website for all the information and the location for all of these events.

Once again, thanks for all that you do, and please ride safely when you are out on your bikes. As usual, always enjoy the ride.

Come ride with Us!



June, 2013

Sat 8th Chapter Ride the Swanee Loop -- Ride the Swanee Loop.
Meet at Gurley Hardee's to leave at 8am. ***Arrive early to eat before leaving.***

Sat 15th GA Rally

Chapter Overnight Ride to Memphis -- Overnight Ride to Memphis.
Meet at CB/Shell to leave at 9am. Come early to eat before leaving.
Will notify everyone of the motel to make reservations at shortly.

Sat 22nd Chapter Ride to AL-J Fun day -- Ride to AL-J's Fun day in Coaker, AL
from 10am - 4pm. Meet at CB/Shell to leave at 8am. ***Arrive early to eat before leaving.***

Sat 29nd Moonlight ride/bug run meet at Obryan's for dinner @ 7pm