

GWRRA
Friends For Fun,
Safety, and
Knowledge

Alabama B
Rocket City Wings
Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 1 Issue 3

April 2013



Join Us in Mobile



Our new 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

Nation, Regional and District Team

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What's Missing from this page?

Since this is your newsletter,
your articles and pictures are
what's missing!!!!

Send them to
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DIRECTOR NOTES

-- FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Hi friends (for fun, safety and knowledge), welcome to another chapter in "Chapter B". I guess everyone has realized that the weather is tending to get a little bit warmer with a few more pollens floating around in the air. Now you know what pollens are, they're those little bugs that tend to rest on our vehicles and make everything yellow (and no, that other stuff is not pollen on your vehicle). Initially, we are somewhat surprised that the irritating effects of pollen. There, I had to use that word, and now my eyes are itching in my nose is running. All of a sudden it is time to put away the Gerbings and start taking antihistamines. This time of year we're all juggling our calendars and bank accounts to figure out which rides, rallies, and events to attend. Besides the warmer weather, we can look forward to being a part of attending chapter events and rides just to have fun. Some of us may already be making plans to go to the AL District Convention in Mobile. Remember, there will probably always be some shortcomings in hotels and motels, no matter where we go. Some of our folks usually wait until they return home to enjoy some quiet time. There is usually some confusion in scheduling at seminars and other training sometimes. A few people are always able to overcome the confusion and benefit from the FUN, free seminars and training Alabama has to offer.

Well, before I get started on any new upcoming things in April, let me recap some of the highlights of March. On March 2nd quite a few of us visited "Chapter Y"'s fun day where "Chapter B" was awarded the Chapter of the Year for 2012. The credit for this award goes to all the members that dedicated their time to get involved. Because we won this, Chapter "B" will have a reserved table at the Region Rally in Mobile. Let me say that I had a great time along with plenty of other "Chapter B" folks. On March 12, we had a great turnout at our chapter meeting. We also had three chapter directors attend. And what are the chances for two chapter directors from "Chapter s Q" in Tennessee and Alabama in attendance. Richard Chapman, from "Chapter H" (Athens, Al), was there to present Avery Howard with his level 4, Master Tour Rider, certificate and patch. Congratulations, Avery! On March 21, we had some folks go to the Florida rally. And all I heard was everyone had a great time. Hopefully one day, Shirley and I will be able to get out to most of these rallies, but right now, my work, schedule sometimes gets in the way. Overall, March was a fairly a tricky month with the weather and temperature, rising and dipping, raining and snowing. Well, that brings us into April, which promises to bring more rain, but definitely nicer temperatures. We have a Gunter'sville ride this weekend, the 6th, the district rally in Mobile, 11 through the 14th, and the

Tennessee/South Carolina rally the 25th through the 27th. I'm planning to try and also make the Tennessee rally. Well folks, looks to me like there is lots planned on the calendar and lots of opportunities to have fun. Your participation is important in order to have fun, so let me encourage you to have some. Join us in as many activities that your mind, body, and soul can tolerate and hope to see you at the next chapter meeting.

"Don't ever give up on life. Go out and make mistakes, make a mess, make a fuss, make a noise, but most of all make the most of your life!"

Steve & Shirley Kremer



Faye and Walter Gersch 2013 Couple of the Year



Hello again from Walter and Faye.

What a surprise this has been. The couple of the year has quite a bit to do. Last month, I was planning on riding the bike to the Florida rally but they kept predicting storms for the trip back on Sunday, so we decided to go in the car. What a good decision. It did storm heavily on the way back but we had great, warm, humid weather in Kissimmee. It was like we had been let out of our cabin and went wild. We bought lots of new stuff for the bike and still trying to get it all put on so our baby will be prettier than it already was. As always, the Florida group was very good to us.

I have the scrapbook to do so I will be getting it up to date with the pictures we made and show all the fun we had. FUN, FUN, FUN. The scrap book will be entered in the Alabama District Convention and we sure would like to win 1st place this year for our AL B Chapter.

Next on the agenda is the Couple of the Year **Basket which we made the theme, "Rock n Roll"**. I hope it will be a nice surprise when it is finished. The weather has been kind of ugly on the weekends so rides still have not gotten back to normal yet. **We can't wait. Our bike is torn apart now and**

Walt is doing the additions to it. We have a ride scheduled for Saturday to ride to Guntersville Lake and the weather is supposed to be sunny and in the seventies. That will be just right for a beautiful ride. You know we have to eat when we ride all day so I am sure we can find a good place with good food to eat. Top of the River would be nice.

Our own Kathy and Jake Lawyer will be in the District Couple selection and we want to wish them well and cheer them on. It is an exciting time of the year with lots going on. I have to learn to type better and use spell check, as I **noticed a few errors that I didn't catch** in the proofing. Anyway, hopefully, you knew what I meant. We have learned in our leadership training how to have fun and be safe in our rides and now to apply what we learned. We did win Chapter of the Year, so that was a great accomplishment. Thanks to everyone in our Chapter. We are looking forward to our Alabama rally next week. Hope to see all of you there. Till we meet again.

Faye and Walter Gersch



It's that time once again.The time for the Alabama District Rally has arrived.A chapter skit for the talent show would be a great way to get members involved and having fun.We need to keep our members involved in **all activities.****The more you're involved, the more fun you can have.** I hope to see a lot of our chapter at the

District Rally.Alabama District Rally April 11, 12, & 13.

Avery Howard
Membership Enhancement Coordinator
Ride safe.....Ride often.

Hello from your Chapter Educators
We have had colds around here . We are better now , I think the warmer weather will help us feel much better. I will be in Tennessee April 6th teaching one of three trike courses they are having that day(Clarksville, Smyrna and Winchester). Roy is helping teach in Winchester while I am in Smyrna.

I found this article online and thought I would share it with you.

RIDER ED 'GIMME 5'

Stay Awake, Stay Alert, Stay Alive...

Rider fatigue can be deadly. It can happen any time, but it is most frequent on long rides after dark. Along with feeling drowsy, other signs of rider fatigue are back tension, burning eyes, shallow breathing, inattentiveness, and erratic riding.

One aggravating factor is alcohol. Alcohol is a



Aaron & Pat Lambert

depressant, and even one drink can be enough to produce a drowsy rider. Other **culprits include today's Gold Wings themselves.** They are smoother, quieter, and more comfortable. Cruise control is a wonderful feature but can contribute to falling asleep while riding.

The National Safety Council recommends the following tips for staying awake – and staying safe – when you are riding. Get enough rest. This may seem obvious, but if you have not had a restful sleep, you are inviting rider fatigue.

If possible, do not ride alone.

Try to avoid riding long distances at night.

Use the audio on your radio to help keep you awake and alert.

Use the cruise control sparingly.

Watch ergonomic factors. Ride with your head and eyes up along with a good riding posture.

In the daytime wear sunglasses to fight glare and help prevent eye fatigue.

Take frequent breaks.

Avoid overeating; have light meals and **snacks. Don't drink any alcohol.**

If you still find yourself getting drowsy riding, pull over into a rest stop or just stop for the night at the next motel.

GOLDEN RULE: Listen to your **Co-Rider who may well know what's going** on better than you. Co-Rider, watch for the warning signs for fatigue and tell the rider **YOU** need a break. Once stopped, visit about your observations.

Remember, safe riding is important and demands your full attention

...stay awake, stay alert, and stay alive.

Iowa Senior District Educators
Joe and Judy Pirillo

Technical Corner

As the weather warms up and we start ridding more often, we need to do a few little checks. Some **things people don't often think** about, all the little things that are attached to the bikes and trikes. Hopefully everyone remembers the T-CLOCK acronym, tires, controls, oil, chassis, and kickstand. Well what I want to remind everyone **of is the second "C", the chassis**. We all need to remember that ridding down the road the chassis is subjected to a lot of vibration and shaking thanks to the well maintained road we ride.

It's usually the little things we forget about that come loose and create problems. Things like the side panel that we hardly ever take **off that's held on with that little** rubber grommets or the screws that hold the front mud flap on. Not only is it annoying that you can loose it, it is also a safety issue. If that part falls off or comes loose it can cause problems. A friend of mine had bought a used bike and was out riding, as he slowed down to turn into his neighborhood he **noticed that the bike wouldn't** turn. He had already committed

to the turn and ended up dropping the bike. When he went and picked the bike to see what happened, he found the problem, he had lost the bolt that holds the steering damper in place and it had wedged in the forks keeping them from turning.

Sometimes it's the little things that can make a big difference so remember to check things that can come loose and things that might come loose just to be on the safe side. Be safe out there and keep the rubber side down.

Technical Coordinator
Michael Kremer



Registrations continue to pour in and are up substantially compared to last year at this time so be sure to join your friends, and make new ones, at what is bound to be a great event - Wing Ding 35 this July 3-6, 2013 in Greenville, South Carolina!

Welcome Party hosted by the City of Greenville!

4th of July celebration at Charter Amphitheater in Simpsonville - Symphony Orchestra, Light parade, Fireworks, and more!

Vocal Trash Returns!

(SOLD-OUT) J&M Corporation presents Kermet Apio!

More Demo's than ever before!

Pancake fundraiser and morning Grand Parade!

Wing Ding 35 Official T-Shirts!

Much More!

During staging, you can enjoy a pancake breakfast hosted by the Downtown Greenville Airport's Runway Cafe in an effort to raise funds for their new outdoor aviation-themed children's play and exercise park! You can enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee (one trip) for just \$7.00 each to help a good cause! The park project was conceived to fill a need since over 10,000 school children a year used to visit the area's local commercial airport, Greenville-Spartanburg International before 9/11. Now, due to heightened security measures, they can no longer do that. The Greenville Downtown Airport receives many inquiries from large groups that would like to come out to the airport for a tour and this new venue will provide that opportunity to educate the children and let them experience the world of aviation up close! Tickets for the breakfast are available in advance only. Register for Wing Ding online or by calling and be sure to select the breakfast option! Already registered? Simply call GWRRA Member Services at 800-843-9460 and add the breakfast option onto your registration today!

The breakfast is being offered as an option and EVERYONE is welcome to ride in the parade

as we head over to the TD Convention Center just

as the trade show opens at 9:00 a.m.! NEW! Each parade participant will also receive a free commemorative pin!*

*While supplies last

News from Region “A”

As we write this the Florida District rally has just successfully concluded in Kissimmee, FL (more details to follow) and we also received the February Growth Management Report from the Home Office.

Nan and I along with members of the Region “A” staff attended the first District rally of the 2013 season in Kissimmee, that being the Florida District rally. Bill and Gina Berry, along with their staff held a fantastic event at the World Gate Resort. Attendance was good but there was some rain, but most of it was at night. Lots of fun games and activities. At the closing ceremonies, a new 2013 GL1800 was raffled off to support Rider Education in the Florida District. It was won by a GWRRA member from Jacksonville, FL. This has been a many-year tradition in Florida and is why they have such an extensive Rider Ed program there. Bill and Gina were also appointed Senior District Directors for their many years of service to the Florida District. Congratulations to Bill and Gina. We all had a fantastic time and look forward to the next District rally, Alabama (see below). And as an added enjoyment, our Home Chapter (FL1-A) achieved the distinction of being named Florida District Chapter of the Year.

The next District rally is Alabama, held April 11th-13 in Mobile and South Carolina, held April 25th-27th in North Charleston. These all promise to be great events so come on out and support them. Nan and I have never been to a GWRRA rally we didn't enjoy. Sure, some may be more to your individual liking than others but for the most part, there is no better way to entertain yourself than an old fashioned GWRRA rally.

More important news reference the OCP; as you know it was modified from a two day class to a one day event. This was done to accommodate those members who found it difficult to devote two days away from their job or family. In response to concerns about the mandatory aspect of the OCP, it is now **OPTIONAL** for all officer candidates. This is not to say that the OCP has gone away, quite the contrary. OCP is still highly encouraged for officer candidates. It remains a very useful and valuable class and we strongly encourage anyone considering accepting an officer position to take it. It's never been easier, since it's been consolidated into a one day class and can also be taken on line.

We're proud to report that for the second consecutive month, Region “A” has attained positive growth instead of losing members. We grew in both January and February. We can't say how proud we are of all our volunteer leaders and members who worked so hard to make this happen. To each of you who recruited a new member or who got an expiring member to renew or who reached out to a new, trial or prospective member and made them feel welcome and got them involved in GWRRA, we extend our heartiest **THANK YOU**. We know that we'll not always have positive growth months. We know that there will be frustrating and discouraging times, but all we ask is continued..

News from Region "A" continued..

that you don't give up. Just do your best.

A reminder to all District Directors; please be sure that all officer applicants who must sign an MOU use the new document as found on the Officers Connection web site. It includes a statement about holding officer positions in competing Gold Wing organizations. Please discard any of the old forms you may have in stock. Thanks.

One last thought; probably the best thing we can all do to keep the members active in GWRRA is to keep the chapter meetings and other events fun and entertaining. We realize that you're no doubt aware of that but try to not lose sight of it. There are lots of things that folks can do on a weekend evening besides attending a boring meeting. Once they get in the habit of doing other things, it can be difficult to entice them back. Before you know it, they've let their membership expire and are gone on to other things. Please try to keep your gatherings fun, vibrant and entertaining. Offer as many activities as you can during the month and do your best to keep it FUN.

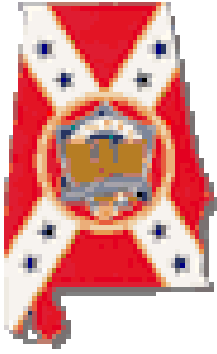
Don't forget to register for Wing Ding coming up this July in Greenville, SC. It's **gonna be great! See the latest edition of WingWorld for details. Our Region "A" Couple of the Year**, Dana and Jo Voight will be competing in International Couple of the Year selection. **In addition, Region "A" has its usual duties in support of Wing Ding and we ask for your help.**

We hope to see you at a GWRRA event soon,

Bob & Nan



Senior Region "A" Directors
Bob & Nancy Shrader



District News

-- District Director



Robert & Gail Brown

I would like to begin this month's article with a "Thank You" to Alabama Chapter A for a job well done. Max & Kathy Tanner, Chapter Directors, and Jim & Karen Lee put together a memory making trip. The invitation was open to all and several chapters from Mississippi, Florida and Alabama participated. If you don't know what Swamp Gravy is then you need to make a trip to Colquitt, Georgia to find out. It is a trip worth making and participation with other chapters is what this organization is all about. The more we participate, the more FUN we have so, get out and have FUN and make memories.

The Florida Convention is the weekend of March 22-24. Several members of Alabama will be trekking down to Kissimmee to hang out and have a good time. Bill & Gina Berry, along with their team, always put together a good Convention. We hope to see as many of you as possible who can make it to the convention.

The Alabama District Convention is next on the calendar, April 11-13 in Mobile at the Ashbury hotel. There will be seminars, games, plenty to see and do in Mobile. We have some new vendors that will be with us so, if you need some new safety chrome or just want to update your ride, wait before you buy. Come and see what you can find. We need to support our vendors as much as we can.

Our Couple of the Year Selection will be back at the Convention. This will take place on Friday morning and several couples will be in the selection process. If your chapter has a couple in the selection, **be there to support them** and let them know how special they are to you.

The chapter assignments for the convention have been sent to each of the chapter directors. We cannot put this event on without your help. We want to thank you for all that you do. Please make sure your area is covered. Also, we might have a couple of things that we may need some extra help with.

Whatever you need, please let us know because we are here to support you and your chapter. We thank you again for all you do.

Come ride with Us!



April, 2013

Saturday 4/6/2013 Meet at the Kangaroo Gas Station on S. Memorial Parkway to leave at 9:00am to ride to Gunterville State Park and ride around the lake.

Thursday -Saturday 4/11-13/2013 Alabama District Convention

Saturday 4/20/2013 Meet at CB/Shell to leave at 9:00am for a Ride to Dismals Canyon

Thursday -

Saturday 4/25-27/2013 Tennessee and S. Carolina District Conventions

Saturday 4/27/2013 Ride to S. Pittsburg Cornbread Festival. Meet at the Gurley Hardee's on 72 E to leave at 8:00am

May, 2013

Saturday 5/4/2013 Ride to the Poke Salad Festival in Arab, AL. Meet at S. Memorial Pkwy Kangaroo to leave at 9:00am

Couple's Weekend in Donaldsonville, GA at Lake Seminole.

Saturday 5/11/2013 Meet at S. Memorial Pkwy Kangaroo to leave at 9:00am for a ride to Bushytail Lake/Bankhead Picnic Area for a scenic ride and picnic.

Saturday 5/18/2013 MAD Day at Ardmore Welcome Center (1st Rest Stop south of state line on I-65) from 12 noon till 4:00pm.

Saturday 5/25/2013 Ride the Lookout Mountain Parkway. Meet at S. Memorial Pkwy Kangaroo to leave at 9:00am.