



# Georgia Chapter L

Region A, Georgia District

Volume 17, Issue 3

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

March 2017

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From Your Directors:

## February, A Month To Remember

Scott & Jackie Whitener, Chapter Directors



Hello everyone! I hope this finds each of you doing well and ready for a rapidly approaching riding season. I don't believe I've missed any riding time at all this winter due to bad weather as we've had a very mild one to say the least.

This past month we haven't slowed down much at all. We had visits to Chapter "S" (Sweetheart Fun Day) in Winder, Chapter "R" in Canton and to Chapter "J" in Hiawas-

see, training in Dallas, a dinner ride and an after church ride, winding up the month of February with a ride to Tunnel Hill, GA.

In Tunnel Hill we explored a Civil War Railroad Tunnel, the surrounding grounds and onsite structures. The tunnel and some structures began construction in the mid 1800's. Several updates were accomplished over the years to maintain the Tunnels integrity while maintaining all its originality and style. We each found our excursion to be very interesting and educational to say the least. I recommend you check out Tunnel Hill if you have an opportunity along with your family. Our heritage and the

South's history seems to be under attack lately with some of its history being allowed to fade away or rewritten altogether. I've always felt that you're entitled to your own opinion but not to your own facts. "Facts are facts." Embrace them.

As you are reading this Newsletter, please remember that we're supporting the I-75 Biker Coffee Break this month on March 11th and 12th at the Georgia I-75 Southbound Welcome Center in Ringgold. We will be onsite both Saturday and Sunday briefing riders and motorists about safety on the road and their need to be aware of all motorists. This is a

*(Continued on page 2)*



very worthy cause that highlights road safety and awareness to motorists about motorcycles on the road and safety in general. We're doing this to bring more attention to every motorist about road safety and to highlight some causes for distracted driving. If you have an opportunity to come out and support this effort, please do so. At least ride by and show your support for Chapters "L" and "B2."

One final comment. As I mentioned above, the riding season is upon us. Before you ride, service and check your bike from head to toe to ensure its as safe as it can be and ready to make that mountain trip or even a short ride to the local store.

We hope to see you at a Chapter gathering or on the road "real soon."



Well, February has been "Changeable." We have had Summer, Spring and Winter in this short month. We have had really cold and wet, and we have had a few days that were warm and dry. We have been able to ride a few times and we have participated in two Chapter L rides.

On the 9th of this month we met our Chapter L Family at Fat Bottom's BBQ for Dinner. It was not good weather so most everyone was in cars. As always, there was FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP....we had 15 present for a most enjoyable evening.

February 11th, Durwood and I represented Chapter L during a visit to Chapter V in Chattanooga, TN. We met 2 other COYs there...Paul and Becky Sheffield (COY for TN Ch F in Morristown, TN) and Kenny and Kare Dupree (COY for Ch V in Chattanooga, TN).

On the 13th of this month we had another great Rider Ed Seminar in Dallas, GA. The seminar

## Couple of the Year

was about "Riding with New/ Inexperienced Riders." As usual, Murry did a great job presenting the seminar....AND as usual Chapter B2 put together a great spread of food. This time it was spaghetti, lasagna, meatballs, all things Italian, plus salad and desserts. If you are not going to these seminars, you are missing a real treat. Not only the food but the education should not be missed. The seminar on March 13th will be "Team Riding." If it is at all possible, everyone should attend this one.... Just confirm that you will be there so there will be plenty of food.

Our February 23rd gathering was held at the Landmark Restaurant. We had 16 present...it was a very good gathering. We had three good sports participate in the game that was presented by our Games Master. Cathy, Al and Murry tried their hands at "Breakfast Scramble." Cathy was the lucky winner of a Goody Bag.

The 50/25/25 drawing was won by Cathy and Bill (we all decided that this was Cathy's lucky night). Of the tickets that are sold for this drawing, half the money goes to support our chapter treasury for chapter expenses...the other half goes to 2 winners of the drawing.

On the 25th of this month, ten of us met for a lovely ride to Tunnel Hill, GA, to visit the historic Western & Atlantic Railroad Tunnel & Museum there. The ride there was really beautiful and our tour guide (Ron) was very knowledgeable about everything there. We enjoyed the tour and the ride with our Chapter L family.

Please join us for our March gathering on the 23rd. We always have fun AND you could be the lucky winner of the game of the evening or the 25/25/50 drawing. Hope to see you there.

Ride Safe and Ride Often  
Durwood & Miriam Mills  
Your COY 2017

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Remember to check our  
online calendar to  
keep up with Chapter  
events.

Chapter L Calendar:  
<http://tiny.cc/amlo1w>



## Point Your Nose Where You Want To Go

Murry and Dawn Cail  
Senior Rider Educators



Vision is so basic to everyday life that it's easy to overlook your eyes' true potential. Eyes for the most part dart around, randomly picking up signals for us to direct our attention. A motorcyclist SIGHT is your secret weapon. Consciously controlling vision leads to a higher level of skill and enjoyment.

From basic training through professional racing, riders are taught that vision is crucial to directional control. How many times have you heard me or another instructor say "just look where you want to go." As if it was that easy, right?

For better or worse, when we focus on a certain spot we tend to head in that direction. This is called "target fixation." The term is commonly associated with a crash or going where you didn't want to go. When a rider goes too fast into a corner, pacis may cause them to stare at the guardrail rather than the exit of the curve. Their target fixation could cause them to end up right where they are looking—Not good!

Target fixation is at the heart of directional changes. Not all directional changes are unexpected due to a loss of concentration. We must have a target to ride correctly. Controlling our gaze directs the body and motorcycle to arrive at precise locations on purpose.

Because of this emphasis to look where you want to go, riders may go overboard and lock their stare on the corner exit or a full block down the road. This results in giving up valuable surveillance of the peripheral environment. The fear of veering off line might cause resistance to breaking the target focus.

Move those eyes. The best riders systematically scan and sweep their full field of vision ... constantly scanning and sweeping in an orderly visual search pattern is the proper technique. To do this you have to have a plan on where you want to go. Point your nose in that direction. As you focus on your target, scan and sweep your entire field of view using this pattern—straight ahead, sweep left, straight ahead, sweep right, straight ahead, check mirrors, straight ahead, etc. Direct your eyes to look for road hazards and characteristics.

At first, this excessive movement of your eyes may take some effort. But over time it will become automatic. Don't just assume that your vision will pick up vital information. Use it to proactively provide feedback so you can ride with full confidence.

Once you get good at eye control, you will develop an intuition of where both danger and enjoyment exist.

## *Getting to Know You...*

*Ron Haffner has been with Chapter L almost a year now. For those who don't know Ron, he is a quiet guy. Before he retired he worked in the Hotel/Restaurant Mgmt. Business as a Supervisor and also Director of Operations. He is from the Pittsburgh, PA, area and also lived in Port Charlotte and Raleigh, NC.*



*How long has he owned motorcycles you ask? 55 years!! Among the bikes he has ridden are Suzuki's, Honda's, and Yamaha's. You will see Ron currently on a white Can Am. He likes to repair and build computers in his spare time.*

*If you ever eat out with Ron he loves a burger with his onions! HaHa.*

## **Rider Ed Seminar for March—Team Riding (Group Riding)**

GA-Chapter B2 is hosting a Rider Education Class, "Team Riding" (we like to call it Group Riding) being held in Dallas on Monday, March 13, 2017. The class is one hour long. B2 will be providing a dinner for those who wish to arrive at 6:00 PM.

**Team Riding** – The purpose of this seminar is to educate and inform Members about the benefits of team riding (group riding) and the suggested planning and conduct of a team (group) ride. This should result in: a reduction in riding risk, an increase in riding enjoyment, and a greater sense of togetherness and pride.

Remember we are never too old to learn.

Seminar: Team Riding

Eat: 6:00 PM

Class: 7:00 PM

Instructor: Murry Cail, Senior Ride Educator

Location: Paulding Chamber of Commerce Building

455 Jimmy Campbell Hwy (US-278)

Dallas, GA

Menu: Irish Beef Stew

**Please R.S.P.V to [gailanne@bellsouth.net](mailto:gailanne@bellsouth.net)** so we know how many to cook for. Thank You.

## Fun Packed 2017!



Are all of you ready for a fun packed year? We have already had three visitations this year and are only at the end of February. The weather has been unusually warm which has been a blessing for those who love to ride.

Are you involved in Chapter L? We have something for you to do. Just speak up and we will put you to work. Don't forget the Coffee Break on March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> we, as a Chapter, are supporting.

Chapter L needs your help so please join us on these dates for a great Motorist Awareness Event! Hope to see you there.

Jackie Whitener  
Membership Enhancement Coordinator

## Sunshine And Ticketmaster News



We had 4 birthdays during the month of February. Von Agan on the 3rd, Bill Casino on the 5th, Lynn Wilson on the 11th and Noble Agan on the 25!

There were no anniversaries in the month of February. Not even a Valentine anniversary :(



3/7 Patrick Gainey  
3/15 Bill Toles  
3/21 Doug Ackerman  
3/23 Noreen Casine



3/30 Durwood & Miriam Mills



### GWRRR Anniversaries

3/1 Bill Toles (1992)  
3/4 Leslie Kleist (2009)  
3/7 Bobby & Melinda Grimes (2013)  
3/11 Ginger King (2013)

## Chapter Meeting Recap Feb. 23, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7PM, with of Pledge of Allegiance to the flag conducted.

Chapter L's COY recognized, Durwood and Miriam Mills.

### Region "A" events

March 23-25 Florida Rally

May 18-20 Alabama Rally

October 12-14 Mississippi Rally

May 6-7 South Carolina Rally

June 22-24 Georgia Rally

October 26-28 Region "A" Rally

Each Rally has a unique theme and is always different, the vendors that attend, training instructors, location, and events conducted, make sure you check them out as often as possible. Most important, our own Rally is June 22-24 right here in Dalton, Ga. Rallies are simple what "you" make them.

### Chapter Happens for the month of February

We had 3 Chapter Visitations, 1 Dinner Ride and 1 after church ride, our Chapter monthly meeting and a ride to Tunnel Hill where we walked the same grounds our ancestors walked in the Civil War. Very interesting and worth your time. Always check the Chapter website for the latest updates.

**"Remember, Biker Coffee Break March 11-12 at the Southbound GA Welcome Center."**

40 To Phoenix riders will be passing through our area March 29th. If you wish to visit with them for dinner on the 29th, they will be in Conyers GA. at 7PM. Buffington Burns Electric, 546 Smyrna Rd.

### Chapter Educator

Excellent training this past week at B2 with several Chapter attending, 32 folks attended and we had plenty to eat. We have lost our space at the Rome Airport. Future ARC courses will be held at the Paulding County Airport. Dawn is in training to become a TRC Instructor. Way to go Dawn and thanks for all you do.

### Sunshine Update

Birthdays: Von Again, Noble Again, Lynn Wilson and Bill Casino.

### M.E.C.

Everyone should've received the latest edition of the Gold Book. Take time to review its contents and get familiar with it. Lots of very good info.

Tee Shirt Drawing: Mr. Posey was not in attendance so next month's amount will be \$15.00. To qualify for this drawing all you have to do is wear your Chapter shirt.

### COY Games

Murry, Cathy and Al were quick to support a puzzle quiz. However, Cathy smoked them both and won the prize.

50/25/25: Bill Toles and Cathy Rockwell.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48PM. Make sure you make next month meeting. We miss each of you.

# Dinner Ride Recap and Upcoming Dinner Rides

This month's dinner ride was to Fat Bottom BBQ on February 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turn out with 15 members.

Our after Church lunch ride this month was on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We initially planned to go to Petros in Cedartown, but changed the location to LaParrilla because it was closer and everyone present decided to change the destination.

Our ride this month on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> was to Tunnel Hill, thank you Ron Heffner for the great suggestion. We had ten members join us for a fun and educational day.

This month's dinner ride will be held on **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**; we will meet at Landmark Restaurant in the side parking lot at 6pm and depart at 6:15pm. This month's dinner ride will be going to Homestead Restaurant 1401 Kingston Road, NE, Rome. **Please, RSVP**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Gear Ride**

The after church ride will be held Sunday **March 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the side parking lot of Landmark Restaurant at 2pm and depart at 2:15pm. This month's after church ride will be going to Geneva's located at 12135 Ga-136, Rising Fawn. **2<sup>nd</sup> Gear Ride**

Reminder, our monthly gathering will be held at **Landmark, Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>**, eat at 6pm, and meet at 7pm. *Additional note: for those participating in the bead program, first quarter beads for 2017 will be given out at this gathering.*

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, this will be a scenic ride through the countryside along the Ocoee River. We will meet at Landmark side parking lot at 9:00am and depart at 9:15am. A secondary meeting location will be at the Racetrack gas station in Calhoun, next to the interstate at 9:45am **3<sup>rd</sup> Gear Ride**

Cathy Rockwell  
Dinner Ride Coordinator

# Membership Enhancement



Many of our Chapter L members have inquired about the bead program so here is a review of how this program works.

## Events Recognition Program

Each individual will be awarded a colored bead which is placed upon a lace and affixed to either your vest, a belt loop or possibly a large pin. Laces are maintained yearly. A new lace will start 2016, 2017, etc. Each participant in the program will be awarded a bead when attending or supporting events as listed below. You do not have to ride, you simply have to participate.

National, Regional, District and Chapter events, either attending or supporting:

Gold Bead: National – Wing Ding, Reno Rendezvous, 40 to Phoenix, etc.

Silver Bead: Regional – Region A Rally, all regional events.

Blue Bead: District – Chilly Willy, Wing Fling, Wind Down.

Red Bead: Chapter – Fun Days, Plaque Attacks, Visitations, Chapter rides,  
Bike Week Coffee Break, etc.

This program is being initiated to encourage and promote individual involvement of Chapter members and to easily recognize their support with different colored beads. We hope that you will take this program as a challenge to support as many events as possible, both enthusiastically and with regularity.

Come participate with us and have some fun.

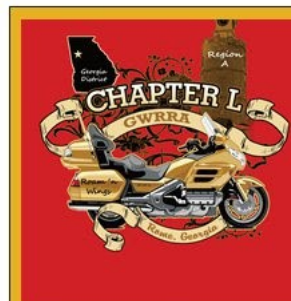
I hope this clarifies any questions you may have.

Jackie Whitener  
Membership Enhancement Coordinator  
Ride Safely and have FUN.....

### Don't forget to pass out cards!!!!

Ever been out riding and you stop for a rest. Then another group of motorcycles stops, too. And you are trying to introduce yourself and invite them to a meeting but you don't have anything to write on and your new friends forget the information you gave them.

Grab a handful of these Introduction Cards. You can write your name and email address or whatever you want of the back and start handing them out!!



The GWRRA Motorcycle Chapter of Rome GA., invites you to join us for FUN, Safety and Knowledge. Our gatherings are on the fourth Thursday of each month, and we look forward to meeting you. Please contact us on our webpage and "like" us on Facebook, to obtain more info about our Chapter, our meeting location and the many activities we have to offer.

WWW.chapterl.gwrra-ga.com

Facebook gwrra chapter ga-l rome

"ALL Bikers Welcome."



## Biker Questionnaire

- A- Age you most want to be?
- B- Bike you most want?
- C- Current Bike?
- D- Destination you most want to ride?
- E- Ever dropped your bike?
- F- Favorite twisty?
- G- GWRRA, what could make it better?
- H- How often do you want to ride?
- I- In Love with?
- J- Jealous of?
- K- Kind of riding you most like?
- L- Lazy thing you most often do?
- M- Measure of success?
- N- Number of Bikes you've owned?
- O- One Wish?
- P- Place you most want to ride your bike?
- Q- Question you most want answered?
- R- Reason to smile?
- T- Time to do what?
- U- Underwear color? Don't look!
- V- Vacation destination?
- W- Worst habit?
- X- X Factor for riders?
- Y- Your favorite dinner ride destination?
- Z- Zodiac Sign?



## Chapter L Ride Rating System

### First Gear Ride.

Mostly four lane roads. Some fairly straight two lane roads. No Interstates.

### Second Gear Ride.

Two lane roads that are straight or may have gentle curves. Some four lane roads are possible. No Interstates.

### Third Gear Ride.

Mostly two lane roads with gentle to moderate curves. Some four lane roads are possible.

### Fourth Gear Ride.

Mostly two lane roads with moderate to aggressive curves. Some Interstate roads may be planned.

### Fifth Gear Ride.

Mostly Interstate route or route may have very aggressive curves.

## Please, Please, Please RSVP



**RSVP:** This is an ongoing issue. If you receive a request email or text for your participation or support, we ask that everyone at least respond to the requestor with a yes/no/maybe. Leaving them in limbo is frustrating to say the least.

**IMPORTANT:** If we have planned a ride and you have not responded or do not meet us at the departure point but do show up at what was the original destination, you may be there alone. We could possibly change the ride destination if we have what we understand to be all participants at the departure point.

We also need to know in advance how many are attending to alert the eatery on how many to expect. Arriving with more or less could cause undue expense for the eatery.



## Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

We were asked this question at church the other night and I had to really think about my position. Of course, the preacher was asking us to search our hearts about our Godly beliefs and level of discipleship.

In turn I ask, why do you belong to a group or organization and what is your level of support given to ensure its success? I look at some members and wonder why a lot of folks stay on the Chapter's role; for that matter why they even own a motorcycle. Is it because they're looking for friendships, training or even a little more fun in their lives from time to time? I hope it's at least some or maybe all of these things.

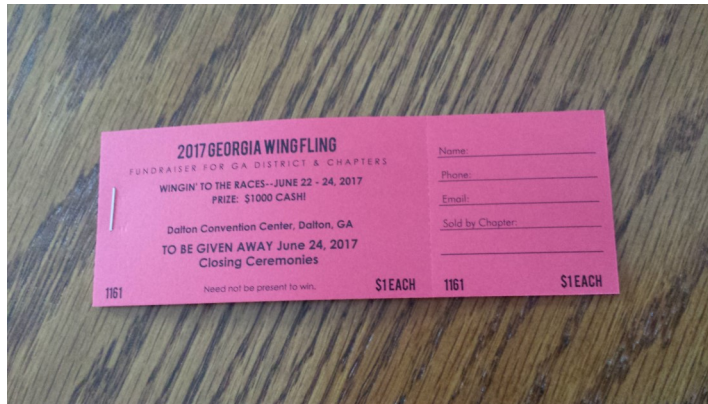
We at the Rome GWRRA Chapter "L" go out of our way to plan events, rides, training, Chapter meetings and hands-on courses. These efforts along with classroom training events can be advanced for some members based upon their knowledge and abilities but to some it can be elementary. Whichever it is for you, each of these activities helps all riders to better ride the motorcycle of their choice more safely. In addition to the basics, we also make available courses and information that teaches you advanced riding skills, first aid and even life saving CPR training.

I ask each of you to examine why you belong to any group (not just GWRRA) and while you're at it, evaluate your personal level of support and why or why not it is what it is. If you find that you have a marginal interest in riding, then you will probably be a marginal supporter of our/your Chapter and not taking full advantage of what we as a Chapter have to offer. If you love to ride your bike, look forward to training, want to make new friends and eagerly participate in one of our advanced rider courses or motorcycle training events, then your beliefs and heart may be in the right place.

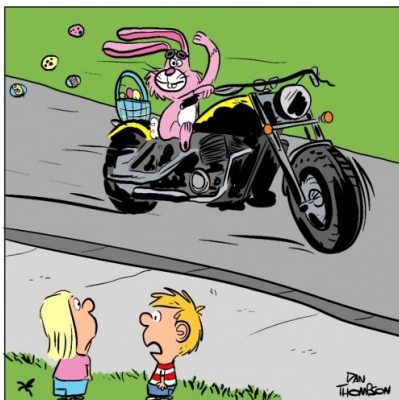
Whatever the desire or level of support we individually have, there's a spot for each of us to fill in a Chapter like ours.

Why not make a decision to get involved with your Rome GWRRA Chapter today.





Chapter L is selling tickets for a chance to win \$1000.00 at GWRRA’s 2017 Georgia Wing Fling in Dalton, GA. Tickets are \$1.00 apiece and you do not have to be present to win. Drawing will be held June 24, 2017. Chapter L will receive \$1.00 for every \$5.00 sold. Please see Scott or Jackie Whitener for ticket purchases. Remember you do not have to be present to win.



"HUH-WHO KNEW!?"



With a little twist on the sidecar concept, Harold was able to ride his motorcycle well into his later years.

We are looking for you to make an appearance at our next monthly gathering.

**March 23, 2017**  
**Landmark Family Restaurant, 2740 Martha Berry Highway, NE, Rome, GA**

**Eat at 6:00 pm. Meet at 7:00 pm.**

Come have FUN and FELLOWSHIP with Chapter L!!



Join us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/177915772332367/>

## Word Search # 8

# St. Patrick's Day



Holiday fun downloaded from [www.Creativity-Portal.com](http://www.Creativity-Portal.com)

Q N R O D A D N A L E R I E C  
 H I E D M A R C H E I N G H O  
 A E S E Z O M S I E P H R A R  
 S D L V R L E H T Y O E A A N  
 T C O R H G N A F K T O I M E  
 C A B B A G E M A C O S N R D  
 L A M A K S M R M U G V B R B  
 O N Y U D G I O O L O K O G E  
 V B S M T N A C U M L Y W L E  
 E E U I B T O K R Y D T U E F  
 R R L E P R E C H A U N G N G  
 U R V D A N H C O O M S O I T  
 C Y O H O S T P A T R I C K F  
 F O S T E L E G E N D S M E I  
 F X I R I S H E R S M R A H C

Find these words:

Cabbage

Clover

Charms

Corned Beef

Food

Green

Irish

Ireland

Legends

Leprechaun

Lucky

March

Pot o Gold

Rainbow

Shamrock

St. Patrick

Symbols



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### March 2017

**Thurs., March 9—Dinner Ride to Homestead Restaurant.** Meet in the Landmark Restaurant side parking lot at 6:00 pm with KSU at 6:15 pm. We will ride to Homestead Restaurant, 1401 Kingston Road, NE, Rome, GA. **THIS WILL BE A 1ST GEAR RIDE**

**Sat. & Sun., March 11 & 12—Coffee Break at Visitor Center on I-75 S.** We will be hosting the Coffee Break for bikers and cages travelling south on I-75 during this first weekend of Daytona Bike Week. We will be offering drinks, snacks and Motorist Awareness materials. We will be there both days from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. The address is the Georgia Visitor Information Center, 2726 I-75 South, Ringgold, GA. Please plan to attend this event!!!!

**Mon., March 13—Rider Ed Seminar—Team (Group) Riding.** Paulding Chamber of Commerce, 455 Jimmy Carter Pkwy, Dallas, GA. Chapter B-2 will provide an Irish Stew dinner at 6pm, seminar at 7pm.

**Sun., March 19—After Church Ride to Geneva's Restaurant in Rising Fawn, GA.** Meet in the side parking lot Landmark Restaurant at 1:30 pm with KSU at 1:45 pm. We will ride to Geneva's Restaurant, 12136 GA Hwy 136, Rising Fawn, GA. **THIS WILL BE A 2ND GEAR RIDE**

**Thurs., March 23—Chapter Gathering.** Landmark Restaurant, 2740 Martha Berry Highway, Rome, GA. Eat at 6pm, meet at 7pm.

**Sat., March 25—Ride to Bear's Den BBQ in Oconee, TN.** Meet in the side parking lot of Landmark Restaurant at 9:00 am with KSU at 9:15 am. We will ride to Bear's Den BBQ, 130 US 64, Oconee, TN. **THIS WILL BE A 3RD GEAR RIDE**

### Mark your calendar for April 2017 Events:

- 4/8 Chapter T Spring Fling, Blacks Creek Baptist Church, 3754 Blacks Creek Baptist Church Road, Commerce, GA
- 4/10 Rider Ed Seminar—Dealing With Different Elements
- 4/13 Dinner Ride to Roma Mia Restaurant
- 4/15 Chapter Ride to McCaysville, GA
- 4/16 Easter Day
- 4/23 After Church ride to Johnny Mitchell's Smokehouse in Cartersville, GA
- 4/29 3rd Annual Chapter B-2 Scavenger Hunt

**Got an idea for a Chapter Ride?  
Let an Officer know and we'll make it happen!!**

# ARTICLES NEEDED!



This is YOUR newsletter. It provides a great opportunity to announce any news or information you may have—motorcycle related or not. Let us hear about new additions to your family—or to your bike. Your fellow members are interested. Got information your fellow riders need to know about? Recalls? New safety chrome available? Local events? Got something to sell? Let us list it and get the news out—bike stuff, home stuff, whatever stuff! Got family news you would like to share? Grandbabies? Recognitions? Promotions? Job change?

Got pictures we can share? New gardens? Bike additions? Babies (2 legged or 4 legged)? Use your imagination. What would you be interested in seeing. We need input, input, input! Be active with your Chapter and support your newsletter.

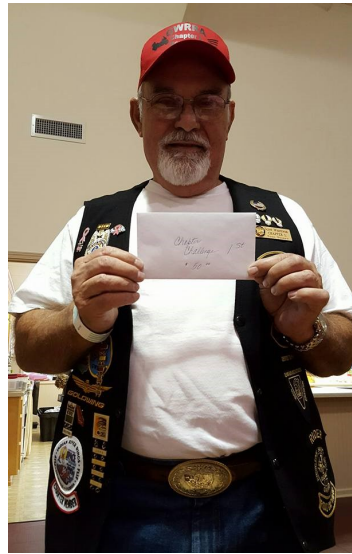
## Dinner Ride to Fat Bottoms BBQ

Feb. 9, 2017



# Chapter S Sweetheart Fun Day

## Feb. 11, 2017



# Rider Ed Seminar

## Feb. 13, 2017





### Chapter Gathering

Feb. 23, 2017



### Ride to Western & Atlantic Railroad

Tunnel Exhibit

February 25, 2017





From GWRRA International:

## What Is A Chapter?



A GWRRA Chapter is home. It's the warmth and comfort of meeting with friends and sharing stories and what happened since we saw them last, catching up with the family and then talking about the bike or the ride we last went on.

It's the adventures we share on a ride together. The best bonding in the world happens on an over-nighter. As you sit at a social later in the year, it's the fun, ride and adventure shared together on that over-nighter that you hear people talking about. One of my most favorite memories was disco black light bowling somewhere in a little city on the California coast!

This is why GWRRA started and then created a motto, "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge."

Our Chapters are the main focus for our organization because this is where the Membership gathers. My question to all of the Chapter leadership is have you asked the Members who participate with your Chapter if they enjoy the meeting/gathering? If they don't, how Insight would they like to see it change? By asking questions, listening to answers and deciding what we can do with those comments, we will be more responsive leaders to our Members.

If a Member stops coming to your Chapter activities, do you reach out to see why? This is critical so we understand and then can better help this Member get the most from their GWRRA Membership. Every Member counts and they could be the next leader in your Chapter.



From my perspective and I'm sure others, a Chapter is FUN! It's where we come to laugh, laugh at ourselves or others (all in good fun), and spread some joy and some jokes. As the saying goes, "Laughter is the best medicine," and when we're laughing and having fun, you just can't be upset. Let's make sure our Chapters are FUN and laughing.

This part of our Association, the Chapter, is so very important to us at Home Office that we want to make certain that you know that are leader resources are at your fingertips, <http://gwrri.org/oconnect/officerresources.html>. You can also phone or computer call (Zoom video call) your District Director. They are in position to help you and to share with you things that have worked for others. We are not alone as Chapter Directors. Many have come before and you will be part of that fraternity one day to offer ideas to other new Chapter Directors.

So my request to all of you today is to think about how you can help those Chapter Directors and then reach out your hand and actually offer the help. Maybe you reach out to a Chapter near you, not your own, because we are always an expert 5 miles from home.

My request to Chapter Directors, reach out for help but also for ideas. Your TEAM is a great place to start but just remember those resources! Then accept the ideas with gratitude, use what you can and embrace all the participants in many different ways to grow your Chapter for FUN, Safety and Knowledge! Enjoy!

Anita & JR Akin  
President, GWRRA

From Region A:



## How to have FUN at a Rally!



If you haven't been paying attention, the 2017 Region "A" Rally season kicks off with the Florida District Rally in March! This means, if you haven't started planning which ones you are attending we believe you are behind the power curve. If you don't plan in advance you may not get the most out of the rally or rallies you will be attending.

So do you know when each of the different rallies are in Region "A"? In case you don't here they are:

- March 23-25: Florida
- May 6-7: South Carolina
- May 18-20: Alabama
- June 22-24: Georgia
- October 12-14: Mississippi
- October 26-28: Region "A"

We bring this up for a couple of reasons. First, it is just another reminder that you need to mark your calendars and set those dates aside to attend one or more of these rallies. The second, and probably most important reason is, having listened to people over the last few years it is apparent that there are a lot of people who don't know "How to have FUN at a Rally". We say this because of comments people are making. The most commonly heard comment or statements made to us why people don't attend these Rallies are...they are all the same!

Our first reaction to this statement is always the same..."really"? Are there similarities to a rally each year? Yes! There are Vendors, Indoor Games, Contests, Challenges, Poker Runs, Talent Shows, Food, 50/50 & Grand Prizes and Seminars. The rally may even be at the same location. However that is where the similarities stop.

So what are the differences?

- The Theme... Each year a rally has a different theme. The theme sets the tone for the rally and is there to add to the FUN especially when it comes to events like Talent Shows, Costume Contests, Challenges and Mascots to name a few.
- The Vendors... Though some of the vendors may be the same from previous years, odds are there will be new vendors with different items. The advantage to having vendors on site is you get to really look at the things you might want to buy. You may have seen something online or in a magazine but when you get a look at it you might find out it's not what you are looking for. You may find the item you want cheaper online but if you talk with the vendor odds are they will give you the same price.
- The Location... It may be the same as in previous years but with a few exceptions we are sure that most people have gone around and seen what is in the local area. If nothing else, this would be a great time to go out and ride roads that you may not have had the opportunity to previously.
- Training & Seminars... Each rally you will find a range of training whether it relates to Rider Education, Motorist Aware, MEDIC First Aid, Leadership or Membership Enhancement Training. The great thing about this training or seminars is you learn something and they are FUN to attend.
- The People... If nothing else, a rally provides an opportunity to meet new people. One goal we have with attending the different rallies over the years is to meet at least 2 new people. For us we have exceeded this goal at every rally. If you are from Alabama and you attend the South Carolina rally we guarantee you will meet someone new. If you don't it is because you didn't take the initiative to talk with anyone except people you already know.

If you still think all the rallies are the same after reading just some of the differences, well there is probably nothing we can do for you. If you are expecting someone to provide you with FUN the entire rally...there is probably nothing we can do for you.

A rally is what you make of it. If you go into a rally with the mindset that they are all the same you will probably have the same experience. If you go into a rally with a plan on How to have Fun at a Rally, you will have Fun!

Until Next Month, Be Safe Out There and have FUN!

Rick & Madalena

From the Georgia District:

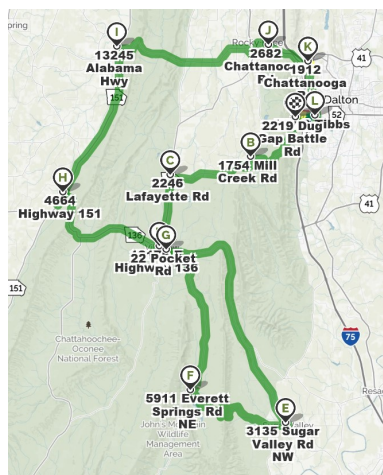


## What's a Riding Poker Run and How Do I Participate?

The riding poker run will be a part of the Georgia Wing Fling Rally in June 2017. Right now it is scheduled for 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Friday (check final schedule). This ride is sponsored by Rider Education and GA Chapter L in Rome.

The ride is self-guided. You can go anytime as long as you are back by 2:00 pm. It is 60 miles of scenic riding, which takes about 1-1/2 hours to complete. In order to participate, sign up at the Rider Education table in the lower concourse. The cost is \$5 to play. Pick up your map and ride. That's it! Almost. You need to study the map, and it will direct you to 4 locations on the ride. At the first location you pick up a token (may be a bean or button or such). Then, ride to the second, third and fourth locations and pick up a different token at each place. When you have all 4 tokens return to the Rider Education Table and pick your poker hand.

The money for participating will be placed in a 50/25/15/10 drawing. 25% for Best Hand; 15% for 2nd Best Hand; and 10% for worst hand. Encourage your friends to ride the Poker Run! The more money in the kitty, the more you can win!



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