



# *Bama Wings*

*Chapter AL-J  
Tuscaloosa Alabama  
Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
South East Region "A"*



*Some of our Friends from North Highland School*

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**Chapter J Traditions**

Baxter & Wanda Pate  
Roy & Diane Beall  
Van & Peggy Kelly  
Larry & Pat Davis (X2)  
JR & Betty MaHarrey  
Dwight & Judy Kizziah  
Dewey & CJ Williams

**Next Chapter Meeting**

Christmas Party at the Phelps Center  
**December 2, 2007**  
2:00-5:00

## Director Corner



We had 35 members at the November Meeting. As most of you know that was our last meeting as Chapter Directors. That was also our last meeting at North River Restaurant. Don't forget the ride on New Years day to Ezell's to meet with all the riders from all over. There will be a ride to Eldridge children's Home on December 1<sup>st</sup> leaving Northport Civic Center at 9:00 am. The Christmas party will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Phelps Center. The party is at the same place as last year. Diner winner was Johnny Koontz; Door prize winners were Barbara Booth and Margaret Rains, Terry Raymond, Rick Bailey and Andrew Cambrom; Dipstick winner is Danny Mullinex. Door prizes for January are to be furnished by Bill Raymond, Wayne Coats and Vergie Cokerin. We had 13 riders go to Chapter "A" Fun day. All had a good time and the food was ok. On the return trip we made a stop at Smoking Jacks. The food there was very ok. I hope to see everyone on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have enjoyed the past three years and I hope everyone will get behind Roy and Diane as they start a new era for Chapter "J". Until later ride often and ride safe because we all want to ride with you again.

Johnny and Jean Koontz

# November Rides

October 31<sup>st</sup>

Halloween Ride to North Highland School

We were led from the Northport Civic Center by Bill Raymond heading to North Highland School for our annual Halloween visit. Bill did a good job getting us up there until he got to the point where there was directional signs pointing the way to the school. It seems as though he likes to go a few blocks out of the way to get to his destination. When we did arrive there, we were met by the students, teachers, and senior citizens from the community center from across the way. After treating the Children with the bags of goodies, they enjoyed a time of fellowship with the riders and their bikes. Some concern was expressed about the children revving up the bikes. They could go in gear and leap forward causing injury and damage. James and Jeri Duncan's Goldwing with the side car was a big hit. So much that it was feared that a stowaway might be catching a trip to Tuscaloosa. After a while, we all gathered in the cafeteria for a snack. We said our good-bys and headed to Jim and Nicks for lunch. All made it safe back to Tuscaloosa. If you have never gone on this ride, you need to. You will get more out of it than the children do.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fall Cookout

We had a good turnout for the third annual fall cookout. There was a TV set outside as well as the one in the house to watch the LSU/Alabama game. For some reason, the ladies ended up watching inside while the guys watched outside. We also had a fire pit manned by Johnny Koontz. Not much could be said about the game but the food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. If you did not make it, come and join us next year.

November 17

TOP OF THE RIVER - Gadsden

A good group met at Northport Civic Center at 2:00 Saturday to ride in the pleasant fall afternoon. We rode the southern route for about 3 hours and totally enjoyed the beautiful colors. Everyone commented on how much better the color was than was predicted. We got to the restaurant right after opening and got in pretty quickly to eat their skillet cornbread, coleslaw and gooooooood catfish.

We suited up in our Gerbings and rode back to Tuscaloosa comfortably.

We enjoyed the companionship of friends and got home safely.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Our thoughts and prayers go to Doyle and Bonnie Harkey for the death of their Grandson.

Thank-You Johnny and Jean Koontz

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Johnny and Jean for their leadership as Chapter Directors for the last three years. They were instrumental in insuring that the paper work was done on time; having smooth and informative meetings; and keeping all loose ends tied together so that the chapter member could relax and enjoy the camaraderie that Chapter J has to offer. Next time you see them, thank them for their time and commitment.

## Chapter J Christmas Party

The annual Chapter J Christmas Party will be on December 2, 2007 at the Phelps Center. The time will be from 2:00-5:00. We will have our Dirty Santa gift exchange. Therefore, men are asked to bring a men's gift and ladies bring a lady's gift. The Chapter will supply the meat for the meal. Members are asked to a side dish.

## Next Regular Chapter Meeting

At our next regular chapter meeting on January 4, 2008, Roy and Diane Beall will take over the leadership of the chapter. The new meeting location will be the Front Porch on Highway 43 north in Northport. We'll eat at 6:00 pm and meet at 7:00. All come and support Roy and Diane.

## Up Coming Events

**December 1, 2007-** Eldridge Children's Home-NPCC 8 am

**December 2, 2007-Chapter J Event-**Christmas Party-Phelps Center-2pm-5pm

**December 9, 2007-Chapter J Event-**All Stake-Cullman-NPCC-10 am

**December 15, 2007-Chapter J Event-**Mystery Ride-NPCC-10 am

**December 25, 2007- MARRY CHRISTMAS**

**January 1, 2008-** New Year's Day Ride-Ezell's on the River- Winn Dixie 69 south 9am

**January 5, 2008** Snowball Run-Montgomery-RBC Bank-8am

# Riding Tip

## THE OFF RAMP DARTER

You are riding on a suburban freeway in the far left lane. Just as you are about to pass an off ramp, a car, in the lane to your right, darts across your path and brakes really hard to make the exit. You have no time or space to react and a crash may be imminent. By looking and thinking well ahead and scanning, you could have observed the off ramp approaching and should have anticipated that cars around you would exit. Riding in the exit lane, drivers may assume you are going to ride off the exit too. Off ramps and on ramps are prime locations for collisions. You should have decided to move away from the exit lane. You should always be aware of the driver's blind spot and stay out of them whenever possible.

There are many collisions occurring every day and usually if one can analyze the events leading up to the collision, there is a point in time where perhaps the rider used the wrong strategy or failed to use any, which contributed to the collision.

By predicting and anticipating **WHAT IF** we can stay out of trouble on the roads.

Ridingupright.com

## A Little of This and That

1. "The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."  
~ Burton Hillis
2. "If there is no joyous way to give a festive gift, give love away."  
~ Unknown
3. "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."  
~ Charles Dickens
4. "The magi, as you know, were wise men - wonderfully wise men who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents."  
~ O. Henry
5. "Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

~ Dale Evans Rogers

6. "Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect."

~ Oren Arnold

7. "Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

~ Norman Vincent Peale

8. "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

~ Hamilton Wright Mabi

9. "I have always thought of Christmas as a good time; a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time; a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely, and so I say, God bless Christmas!"

~ Charles Dickens

10. "Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

Calvin Coolidge

11. "Love came down at Christmas; love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign."

~ Christina G. Rossetti

12. "Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door the dark night wakes - the glory breaks, Christmas comes once more."

-- Phillips Brooks

13. "Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home! "

--Charles Dickens

14. "The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

Helen Keller

15. "Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; Teach us to be patient and always to be kind."

-- Helen Steiner Rice

16. "There is no name so sweet on earth, no name so sweet in heaven, The name, before His wondrous birth, to Christ the Savior given."

-- George W. Bethune

17. "Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

Washington Irving

18. "Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance - each beautiful, unique and too soon gone."

-- Deborah Whipp

19. "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself"

Charles Dickens

20. A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; It makes no noise at all, But softly gives itself away; While quite unselfish, it grows small.

-- Eva K. Logue

21. "May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!"

-- Unknown

22. Christmas carolers sing about peace on earth, but they don't tell us where.

Unknown

23. It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.

- W. T. Ellis

24. I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.

- Harlan Miller

25. "The mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the 'today' of the Liturgy," the Pope clarified. "The Word who found a dwelling in Mary's womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas."

Pope John Paul II

26. At Christmas I no more desire a rose

Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows,

But like of each thing that in season grows.

William Shakespeare.

## *Alabama District Director's Article*

**As I sit here the day after Thanksgiving, I am reflecting on the things I am thankful for in our lives. First we are thankful for the freedoms we enjoy in this the greatest country on earth. We are thankful that God has blessed us with a wonderful immediate family. We are thankful for the privilege of meeting and being a part of all of you, our GWRRA family. We are thankful for the love and support of every member in the State of Alabama as well as all**

**the friends we have made from other Districts. We are humbled by the privilege of serving you in the capacity of District Directors and hope we have been able to meet your approval. We want every member and Chapter Officer to know how much we treasure your friendship and all the help you have given us over the past 3 years! Without you we could not have accomplished any of these things. Thanks for the memories!**

**We look forward to seeing all of you at the Snowball Social on January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Quality Inn on South Boulevard in Montgomery. If you plan to spend the night, the number for reservations is 1-866-535-5392, use code [Gold Wing Group](#). We will be stepping down as District Directors at that time. But we are not going anywhere. We will still be around and you just might see us at your Chapter meeting when you least expect it. I know there will be a number of new Chapter Directors beginning the first of the year and we look forward to seeing you at the Officers Conference following the Snowball activities.**

**We wish each of you and your family the Merriest of Christmas' and we hope you have a Happy, Prosperous, and Safe New Year! We hope you have loads of Safe Fun on your Gold Wing with Friends in the coming year! Maybe we will still see some of you this year.**

**If you haven't registered for the 2008 Rally yet, times running out. The dates are April 3-5, 2008. We are giving away a new Gold Wing and we need to sell sufficient tickets to cover the cost, so come on out and get in the running to be the new owner of the Gold Wing. This is a very important event for the District and we need the support of every member in order for it to be a success. This is the only fund raising event for the District during the year. You will receive 1 ticket with your registration. You may also purchase tickets with your registration. Remember you must be present to win the Gold Wing. We are providing ice cream on Thursday evening and Bar-B-Que on Friday evening as part of your registration. We will have entertainment on Friday evening. This promises to be the best Rally yet in Mobile. Come on down and join all your friends for some great Fun and good times! Make plans for the swamp boat tours. Start getting your NASCAR gear together. Come on down to Mobile and party with us!**

**Remember the 2008 Region A Rally will be held in Dothan, Alabama at the Holiday Inn. They have 143 rooms and I hear they are already over half full for the Rally. You do not have to be registered for the Rally to make a reservation. The Holiday Inn is located at the corner of 231 South and Ross Clark Circle. The address is 2195 Ross Clark Circle SE. For reservations call 1-800-777-6611. The dates are Sept. 11-13, 2008.**

**Please keep our Military people and our country's leaders in your prayers, as well as those who are sick or recovering and those who have lost loved ones. Till next time, hug someone you love and don't forget to wave.**

### *Bill & Dian*

It's that time of year when new Directors will start taking over and chapters acquire new leadership. It takes special people to handle the directors position. After all, you have to be a diplomat at all times, a parent most of the time, and someone that is willing to follow as much as lead. You cannot be selfish and you must think at all times what is best for the people you are leading. You see to be a good leader you must be willing to follow the wishes of the people you are leading and wisely determine when to go against those wishes. It is tough to be right all the time yet that is what people demand. The job can seem thankless and certainly with the pay seem unrewarding so why do people do it? There are many reasons but in most cases it is because they care for the people and the values this organization represent. Thank you to all the officers that have served for the last three years as you have been great to work with.

Being an Assistant District Director for me has been a privilege. We have enjoyed serving the State and think the leadership of Bill and Dian has been great. Bill has been willing to lead as well as make tough decisions with help from his staff. I'd like to remark on some of the accomplishments.

The District Picnics didn't exist before. The first two years we only had one each year but they went over rather nicely. The District paid for everything all you had to do is show up. This last year we had two but charged a \$5 admission to be given back to the chapters. Were they successful? I think so, we had good crowds and everyone had a good time.

There was "IT" in 2006 and the Wandering Plaque this year. Both were remarkable successes. With "IT" we played the game of Tag with a stuffed monkey. Each chapter had to take IT to the next destination. The monkey started out with a vest but acquired a full wardrobe and suitcase before the end of the year Yes we had fun with IT but all the chapters could not participate as "IT" had to be taken to the chapter. This year the Wandering Plaque replaced "IT". All the chapters didn't participate but it was by their choice. It helped raise money for each chapter that had it by bringing in multiple chapters each time it was given away. Was it successful? Absolutely! It helped chapters get together inside our state and become better acquainted. Can some changes be made to enhance this? Sure.

We actively pursued the ability to provide ERC and Trike courses to all the people in the state. Freddy Wheeler, Leo Mechler and Kay Leonard were trained to train

others. Freddy worked diligently on laying out an approved course in Mobile and Leo is working on other locations in the state. Last year we were able to provide our first ERC and Trike Courses at our Rally. This is an accomplishment that no other district does in Region A. In addition the cost was held to a minimum. Was that successful? For the people that attended it certainly was. Leo, Freddy and Kay are planning to provide these courses throughout the state in the future.

This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year we will have had the Rally in Mobile. We now have more vendors that will be here than ever before. We will have more activity than we have ever done before. We will have more giveaways than ever before. We will have ERC and Trike courses. We will have live entertainment and we will give away a 2008 Gold Wing for the first time. Is the Rally on the right track? We will see by the attendance this year. Will it be in Mobile in 2009? Will we give away another Gold Wing in 2009? I don't know but I am sure the results this year will help determine those answers.

2008 will mark a new leadership in the State. A new District Director will take over at Snowball with new leadership and new vision for the state. Karen and I plan to be with you through this rally. I don't know what the future will hold after that. It may be time to let someone else contribute with new ideas. In any case we have enjoyed the ride.

Jim & Karen Lee

MAD about Preparation:

My uncle whom I love dearly told me early when I first began helping him lay linoleum tile that 90% of the job was in the preparation. Due largely to this belief on his part he was one of the most successful tile businesses in the Chicago area and at 80 he is still in demand in the Branson Missouri area. I believe that what I learned from him that day is true with almost anything we do on a regular basis including riding motorcycles. You must prepare every time you get on your bike to ride no mater how far, from the trip around the block to the store to the cross country trip to Wing Ding. You should take time to check your **Tires** which as I am painfully aware are the most important thing on your bike or trike, one encounter with rapid deflation will make you aware too. **Controls** which for wing owners translates into hydraulic lines from the master cylinders to the final component should be inspected regularly for damage and age as rubber products begin to deteriorate from the day they are made. Remember to look at your throttle response as well since a broken cable can ruin any trip. **Lights** on most wings is not a problem due to the amount most wingers add, but is it operating properly? Make sure your turn signals work, make sure your brake lights work and though they are not necessary to drive make sure your cornering lights work as they can alert you to

hidden dangers you may not see with your headlights. **Oil** levels and yes that is multiple since your hydraulic fluid used for brakes and clutch is a hydrocarbon it is considered an oil. **Chassis** is important as many an 1800 owner can attest imagine the consequences of a broken frame and the things that having frame problems may impact. **Stands** again this is both center and side there are a variety of things here that help the safety switch that prevents you from driving off with the side stand down as well as the spring and condition of the stand it's self will keep you from being embarrassed, your center stand needs to support a tremendous amount of weight so inspect it so you are sure that will happen too. The one element left out of the **T-CLOCS** I just outlined is **YOU**, take an account of your self before you ride are you ready to ride both mentally and physically. Have you been taking medicines that may impair you? Benadryl different types of cough syrup and other things that we obtain as over the counter drugs have warning labels about driving and taking those medications. Are you well rested? Are you angry or other wise distracted all these things effect how **YOU** ride. So each time you make preparations to ride look not only at your motorcycle but also your self that way you can really enjoy the ride. Remember

Ride Safe, Straight and Aware

Freddy & Doris Wheeler

5th ANNUAL  
ELDRIDGE CHILDREN'S HOME  
TOY RUN  
[www.eldridge-toy-run.com](http://www.eldridge-toy-run.com)  
Saturday, December 1, 2007  
Northport Civic Center  
Kickstands up at 8:30 am (rain or shine)

Leave Northport and travel to Sulligent where we will meet up with a group from Amory, Ms, escorted by the Blue Knights and travel to Eldridge. Lunch will be provided and gifts presented to the children.

**DONATIONS:** 501c tax deductible:  
Gift cards (please mark amount on the card)  
Cash or Check (payable to Eldridge Children's Home)  
Wrapped gift (marked girl or boy for ages 5 to 18)

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