



CAPITOL CITY WINGS CHAPTER CHATTER

AL-F MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
REGION A - ALABAMA DISTRICT
Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge!
WEBSITE: WWW.AL-F.MYGWRA.ORG

DECEMBER 2008

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Next Monthly Meeting will be **Thursday**
Jan. 15, 2009 at Chappy's 8139 Vaughn Rd.
6:00pm to eat – 7:00pm to meet

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FALL HAS FELL FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS Monty and Sue Scott

From weeks of wonderful riding weather we have seen some cold and very windy weekends lately. Our trip to the Fort Rucker Air Museum was overcome by rain in the area, cold in the air, and gusting winds that made it not able to happen this time. Since a lot of the things to see are outside, we will reschedule that ride

DECEMBER RIDE SCHEDULE

DETAILS OF SCHEDULE

Rides for December (Due to the variable weather we may encounter, all rides will go either 2 and 3 wheels or 4 wheels.)

Friday, December 5th – Montgomery Christmas Parade – Meet downtown by 5:15pm

Sunday, December 6th – Christmas Production at Eastern Hills Baptist Church. 2 performances with one at 3:00pm and one at 6:00pm.

Saturday, December 13th – Wetumpka Christmas Parade – Meet at Fred's by 12:30pm.

Saturday, December 13th – Chapter Christmas Party – Meet at Julia Russell dining hall at Huntingdon around 6:00pm. Pay for meal there and bring your gift to swap.

Prayer and Praise

Our Praise and Prayers for Members, Families, and Friends:

PRAYER:

Gordon family: Various illnesses.
Continue to pray for our Armed Forces.
Mary and Donnie Puckett.
Tom and Brigitte Davisson with health.
Jewell McGee with surgery and health.
Lem and Jerri Adams
Karen Seale, Hamilton's daughter, and her triplet girls.
Our webmasters Phil and Cheryl Smith on their upcoming adoption.
Woodall's son in law Marvin in deployment to Iraq.
Bernie's brother Wayne Wiggins.

PRAISE:

For all our many blessings.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cathy Graydon-----December 2
Robert Carr-----December 4
Mickey McGee-----December 14

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Buck and Alice Buchanan-----December 29



SAFETY CORNER

These tips are the opinion of the author. They do not necessarily represent the views of GWRRA. As always, you are responsible for your action, both mental and physical, as regards to your safety. Only you can make safety happen by improving your riding proficiencies.

The Decision to Ride -- Accepting the Risk part 2 of 2

Managing risk: knowing the limits of the rider

Motorcycle trainers often comment that questioning a motorcycle rider's skill is embarrassingly confrontational. Yet one of the most important parts of understanding risk management is knowing the limits of the rider.

Though some natural coordination is required, most of a rider's skill comes through knowledge and experience. Knowledge can be gained through formal training -- learning riding risks in the classroom and physical skills in guided on-cycle practice supervised by a professional instructor. Knowledge through training can make the experience we gain through riding less painful and expensive.

But even the most experienced rider's skill level varies. There are the physical limitations of age,

sight, hearing, and coordination. There also can be physical impairments due to alcohol and other drugs.

Limits vary. Limits are not the same at the end of a long day or at the start of a new riding season. Limits can vary with a new or unfamiliar motorcycle.

Managing risk: knowing the law and limits of the environment

The environment provides limits. Things like weather, temperature and light can affect the level of risk. Riders are also responsible for knowing specific licensing, vehicle equipment, and military requirements.

Managing risk: knowing the limits of the motorcycle

Riders on new or unfamiliar motorcycles are over-represented in accidents. Through design and purpose, motorcycles have different handling characteristics, size, and control operation. Cornering clearance is not the same -- a sport bike has different handling characteristics than a cruiser. Because of limited engine displacement, some motorcycles may not be legal on interstates or freeways.

In addition to being careful when riding a new or unfamiliar motorcycle, it is probably best not to loan your motorcycle to a friend. Because of the frequency and severity of accidents, some military installations specifically prohibit anyone, other than the registered owner, from operating a motorcycle.

Managing risk: riding strategies

Riding a motorcycle is mostly mental. Strategies define the way our minds deal with the hazards in the riding environment. One of the most important strategies is to see and be seen.

Equally important is the ability to react to what we see. Strategies can help you anticipate and avoid problems before they occur. Riding strategies are the most effective way of recognizing and lowering risk.

Managing risk: in summary

Motorcycling is an activity with a high level of risk. Once recognized, the first step in lowering risk is to prepare our minds, our body, and our motorcycle.

The second step in risk management is knowing limits of the rider, motorcycle, environment, and law. We come to understand the changing nature of these limits, and their impact on the risk we accept.

Finally, our attitude provides the basis for using this knowledge effectively. We understand the risk, know the limits, and ride within these limits, using our mental strategies. Sometimes this means deciding not to ride.

Rider responsibility: who is responsible?

A typical traffic scenario: A rider is on a two-lane roadway. A car turns left in front of the rider. The rider overbrakes on the rear brake, uses no front brake, and collides with the car. Who is responsible?

Regardless of who was responsible, who had the most to lose?

Making the decision: Evaluate yourself based on how you would answer each of these questions.

- Riding a motorcycle requires a higher level of acquired physical and mental skills. Research tells us, "more than half of all motorcycle accidents involve riders with less than five months experience. More than 90% of the riders involved in accidents are self-taught." Am I willing to accept the responsibility to develop the skills?
- "Studies indicate that in crashes, motorcycle riders and passengers are more likely to be seriously injured or killed than automobile operators or passengers. Injury can often be avoided by wearing protective gear." What are the consequences in increased vulnerability to my work, family, others?
- "Many motorcycle crashes are single-vehicle accidents. Crashes with other vehicles also occur because either or both drivers make errors in judgment. Injury can often be avoided by knowing when and how to swerve and brake." Why is a motorcyclist's judgment potentially more critical than a car driver's?
- What are the "perfect" times to ride?

- When might motorcycling not be my best choice of transportation (especially if there is not an alternate mode of transportation)?

Summary

There are many reasons for wanting to ride a motorcycle - and there are motorcycles and riding styles for almost everyone. But the prime consideration in deciding to ride is a decision to accept the risk inherent to motorcycling. This risk can be lowered. But motorcycling is still a high-risk activity. In an accident, we have a high chance of personal injury.

We can also apply the basic principles of risk management to other high risk activities. By definition, high risk activities represent increased chance of personal injury or property loss. We can sometimes lower the risk to acceptable levels, and participate in the activity.

However, there are activities, or even times within activities, where the risk is simply too high -- you can't afford the loss. Then, the best decision is not to participate. It's a personal decision. But the better you understand the risk and how it can be lowered, the better chance of making a responsible decision.

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CHAPTER F CHRISTMAS PARTY

The chapter Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Huntingdon College. The meal will be catered so all you need to bring is your appetite and your gift for the gift exchange.

The cost is \$16.50 per person. Kids meals will be picked up by the chapter. You will pay when you come to the party.

The gifts are to be valued at \$15-\$20 each and the ladies should bring a gift suitable for a female and the men should bring a gift suitable for a male. Please wrap these gifts. Any gifts brought for Santa to hand out to children should be wrapped and the child's name should be legible for Santa to read.

We'll be in the Julia Russell Dining Hall which is marked as "8" on the map.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Marcia at 244-6801.

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MONTGOMERY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The chapter will be riding in the Montgomery Christmas Parade on Friday night December 5th. If you plan on participating, you need to plan on being downtown by 5:15pm in the line-up area. The exact location will be found out later and the info passed along. The parade is to start at 6:00pm. Come on out and have some fun. Throwing candy is encouraged.

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WETUMPKA CHRISTMAS PARADE

The chapter will be riding in the Wetumpka Christmas Parade on Saturday afternoon on December 13th. If you plan on participating, you need to get in touch with Fred Rattan concerning where to meet for line-up. You can meet at his house ahead of time or find out where the line-up will be. You have to lined up by 1:00pm with the parade starting at 1:30pm. You can still ride in this parade and have plenty of time to make it to the Chapter Christmas Party that evening. Throwing candy is not allowed.

2008 Sweet Potato Rally

John & Sara Davis

This was the 25th year of the Sweet Potato Rally in Ocilla, Georgia. On Thursday, October 23rd we met Meady Hilyer, Boone Davis, Ralph and Glenda Forbus, and Buck & Alice Buchanan in Opelika. Meady took the lead and off we went. We stopped at a small café and had a country

buffet lunch. Mickey McGee and his friend Wayne hooked up with us on the way. On to Fitzgerald, GA to check into our motel rooms and settle in.

We awoke to rain on Friday. A day of pool, dominoes, TV, internet, and chatting with fellow riders filled the hours. Friday was a long day but we enjoyed the fellowship and made the best out of the wet weather. Saturday was an absolutely beautiful day. Boone, Ralph & Glenda, and John & I rode in the Sweet Potato Parade. We had plenty of candy to throw to the little ones. It was a pleasure to watch those sweet little faces light up with smiles as they scrambled for candy. We were first in the line up so when we finished we found Meady and watched the remainder of the parade. After the events were over we ate seafood at a restaurant in Ocilla. After lunch we rode to the rally. We strolled through the vendors and spent some money. I asked one vendor if he made his living from going to the various rallies. He told me he was retired and this helped pay the bills.

Interestingly, he also told me his business was off about 60% this year. He had hoped to do well at this rally but I'm sure the rain hurt him. We enjoyed boiled peanuts and oldie music by a live band. Met lots of nice folks and just had a great time. They gave an award to the rider for the furthest distant. The man rode over 1,600 miles and was from New Mexico. Not much to do but you sure have a good time doing nothing. Hope to go back in the future. We were told that the city of Fitzgerald, Ga. will be taking over the planning and work of the Rally.

The South Georgia Touring Club will work for a couple of years with the city to make sure things run smoothly and things stay the same. They do not want anything to change including the site of the rally.

We left Sunday and started for home. About half way Mickey, Wayne, and Ralph & Glenda split off. Another great trip for our memories.



Foliage Ride

John & Sara Davis

Cool crisp fall weather was in the air as we rode off on the foliage ride to Fort Payne and Dahlonega, Ga. We were in the first group which experienced a frightening motorcycle wreck by one of our riders. Thanks to God he was not injured beyond repair.

We were serenaded with guitar playing and singing performed by none other than our own Tom Mechler and Mike Woodall. They did a great job of entertaining us by the pool. As we rode to Georgia we passed the great pumpkin patch. All you could see was orange pumpkins by the hundreds. It was a pretty site. We stopped at an apple stand and purchased apples. Dave Hamilton advised us of the best brand of apple. He was absolutely correct as the apples were devoured in the Davis household. We had a fresh fried apple pie and consumed it on the spot. That was a very tasty stop.

We stopped at Amicolola Falls and walked up the path to the water falls. John & I stopped at the first landing as the walk was too steep for us. We enjoyed viewing the falls through the trees while the rest of the group walked to the top.

We had a great trip and enjoyed the fellowship with all our motorcycle buddies. We truly hope we can make more over night trips in the future. We would like to extend a special **THANKS** to Bill and Cathy Graydon for all their hard work and effort in planning the trip. We missed their company and hope next time they'll be with us.

FOR SALE

Widder 2X electric vest and Widder XL electric gloves \$50.00 obo. Contact Danny Cone at dannycone1@aol.com or 334-541-3095.

For pictures of things the Chapter has been doing, go to the Photo Gallery of the Chapter Website.



Monty and Sue Scott
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TO

Sun
DECEMBER

Mon
1

Tue
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Wed
3

Thu
4

Fri
5
**MONTGOMERY
CHRISTMAS
PARADE**

Sat
6

7
**EASTERN HILLS
CHURCH
3:00pm or 6:00pm**

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9
Cathy Graydon

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Robert Carr

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**WETUMPKA
CHRISTMAS
PARADE**

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CHAPTER PARTY
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21
Mickey McGee

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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**NEW YEAR'S
EVE**

Buck/Alice Buchanan

AL-F