Cruisin U's News

WERE WE PREPARED?



GWRRA AL-U News March 2017

CRUISIN U'S NEWS Gold Wing Road Riders Association Chapter "U" Dothan, AL. Southeast Region "A" FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE **REGION "A" DIRECTORS CHAPTER DIRECTORS ALABAMA DISTRICT** Bruce & Eileen Williamson Jim & Sue Jackson **DIRECTORS** RegionDirector@gwrra-Frank & Linda Teasley eileengram@aol.com region.org Director@Alabama-gwrra.org ASSISTANT CHAPTER **DISTRICT COUPLE OF THE** ALABAMA DISTRICT TEAM **DIRECTORS** YEAR Pat & Darnell Lapera 2016-2017 **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS** Ron Landers patlapera@yahoo.com Robert & Gail Brown Max & Kathy Tanner **RIDER EDUCATORS SUNSHINE LADY MONTHLY GATHERING** Darnell Lapera Second Tuesday of every month **MOTORIST AWARENESS** Carl & Jan Breeding patlapera@yahoo.com 6:00 PM Eat - 7:00 PM Meet Golden Corral, Dothan AL **CHAPTER EDUCATOR** LTC James & Freida Clayson TABLE OF CONTENTS **LEADERSHIP TRAINERS** 334-791-3288 Roy & Anita Fosnight james.clayson@gmail.com Chapter & State Officers....2 **TREASURER MEMBER ENHANCEMENT** Melissa Stumpf **COORDINATORS** SAADD News......4 **C.O.Y. COORDINATORS** melissa.stumpf@yahoo.com Brake Lights.....5 Kenneth & Veronica Campbell Chapter Rider Ed6 **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Bruce & Eileen's Gab.....7 **Richard Stumpf** (334) 477-3667 Ride Schedule......8 richard.stumpf1@gmail.com Calendar......9 **TECHNICAL ADVISOR** VENDOR COORDINATORS Mike and Jessica Tatum Robert & Gail Brown banjomt@gmail.com **DISTRICT CHAPLAIN** Trina & Bill Barden WAYS & MEANS TREASURER Joan and Ray Collier Sara & Harry Leach joancollier@aol.com **WEBMASTER** Larry & Penny Anthony *On the cover: Pat and Darnell Lapera are recovering from a horrible accident. With their*

blessing, we will be learning from this disaster in-depth in the coming months.

DISTRICT NEWS

Greetings fellow riders, as February ends and the hint of a few warm days has arrived it is time to start thinking about the upcoming riding season. March promises to be a busy month for everyone with several activities planned. First on March 11th, chapters F&Z are having their annual cook out at the home of Randall and Frankie McGalliard. If you haven't had a chance to visit Randall's "man cave" you must put this event on your list, you won't regret it. The following weekend brings Chapter U and their annual chili cook off at the Ozark Church of Christ beginning at 9AM. Bruce and Eileen and the Chapter U team always put on a fun event, you won't want to miss this one. The next weekend, March 23rd -25th is the first rally of the season. The Florida District Rally gets everything started with their annual big event. This year it will be held in Altamonte Springs. Our final event of the month is the annual 40 to Phoenix ride spending a day in Birmingham at the Barbers Motor Sports Museum. Following a full day there Chapters T and Y will host an evening dinner for all the riders at the Irondale Café in Irondale, AL. This is always a fun event and a chance to meet riders from all over the country. Please join us on Thursday evening March 30th starting at 5PM for a great evening of fun and good food. Details for each of these events can be found on the District Website. If you need further details please let us know.

As most of you know we have tried to encourage chapter interaction for many years with several different programs with limited success. We, the District team, are currently working on a new program to try to encourage Chapters to visit each other, whether it is to a chapter meeting, dinner ride, fun day, cook out or any other type of event a chapter may be having. We are finalizing the details as this is being written and will have it ready to present to the Chapter Directors before the Alabama District Rally in May. We hope this new program will encourage all the chapters in Alabama to get out and interact with the other chapters in Alabama. More details to come from your Chapter Director. Speaking of the Alabama Rally, we are only about 2 and ½ months out from another busy and fun event for everyone. We are back in Mobile after being away for a few years. We will be at the Ashbury Hotel and Suites. The Ashbury has done some reconfiguration of their hotel and are now offering only 87 rooms available for our event. At this writing there only a few left so if you wish to stay at the host hotel please make your reservations very soon. On the rally registration, please note on the back, new for this year is a change to the Thursday night dinner. This year we are having to charge for the first time. This is a result of prices for food and service increasing to the point that we can no longer afford to offer it for free. If you are going to join us for dinner on Thursday night please check the box on the registration form when you register. If you have already registered and did not check the box or overlooked it please contact Sarah Leach and get that corrected. We are only going to prepare enough food for the people who register. Please don't get left out. We have a really good meal planned and the costume contest will follow. We would like to see every Alabama District member at the rally. There are lots of things to do and see in Mobile so come on down and have a fun weekend with us.

As always, keep all of the men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers as they work each day to maintain the freedom that we all enjoy in this great country. If you have any questions about anything we discussed in this article please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to seeing all of you out on the road,

Frank and Linda Teasley

SAADD NEWS

SAADD GREETINGS to all! ©

The new year is moving right along and I hope all of you are MAKING time to enjoy your motorcycle, your GWRRA family and all the blessings God has placed here on earth for you! There are so many things going on in our lives and in our chapters that it's often hard to keep up with them.

As many of you know, we have had a few training sessions recently and I hope each of you will take advantage of these offerings when they are presented. It is not only good for you but they are good for your chapters AND your riding friends when you can do anything that will improve and enhance your safety while on the road or at home! Be sure to thank your trainers for their efforts and I hope you will thank GWRRA for making these training sessions available!

Kathy and I visited with our Chapter G friends recently for the first meeting for Ron Alexander as their new CD and it was a great meeting. Many showed up for the meeting and several visitors from other chapters and even from Florida which was impressive also. Good luck to Ron and Corky as they take over the reins of Chapter G and I know they will do an outstanding job.

As many have observed, change is in the air in a lot of areas. We have new CD's in several chapters this year as well as many new staff members and this is not a bad thing! Sometimes, change can be good and we hope that is what we all experience this year in GWRRA. We are proud to be part of this great organization also and we look forward to many more rewarding and fun experiences with our *Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge!* Always remember to perform your T-Clock inspections regularly so you can remain SAFE and SOUND in your riding experiences.

REMEMBER!!! The Alabama District Rally for 2017 will be in Mobile AL, May 18 – 20 at the Ashbury Hotel & Suites. The theme for 2017 is <u>SITCOM MANIA!</u> Make your plans now to attend and be prepared to have a great time! It will be a GREAT EVENT IF YOU help and participate!!! Put your thinking caps on and get your Talent Show Crews together and grace us with your entries in the talent show contest with your best sitcom endeavor! It will be FUN for all and we know you will make more wonderful memories!!! Remember to get your registrations in ASAP and if you want to have the Thursday evening meal with us, there is a \$7.50 per person charge this year as the costs have skyrocketed so we have no choice but to charge for this great meal. Look for the slot on the registration forms for this and make sure you include your payment when you register. More info to follow as it becomes available!

Remember that **GWRRA** is a wonderful association and we want all "good folks" to be part of our great family. Share your calendars and your experiences and feel free to call me or Kathy anytime if we can assist in some way with you. Use those beautiful Gold Wing motorcycles and others to enrich your life and strengthen your GW family ties and relationships and make more memories of a lifetime! You deserve it! We look forward to many more miles of riding pleasure with all of you and please, stay safe out there. That's the only way we can continue to make it fun.



Thanks and we love you all! Max & Kathy Tanner - 179769 & 01 South AL Asst. Dist. Directors 251-680-3794 Max cell 251-680-4980 Kathy cell



Brake Lights

The Lapera Accident – WHAT HAPPENED

AL-U rode to Birmingham on January 13th to attend the Alabama District meeting on January 14, 2017. A great time was had by all, and the meeting ran a little later than we had expected (Wingers are a social bunch). We hit the road, stopping for dinner at Cracker Barrel, exit 181 on I65 just north of Montgomery. After a fine dinner, we fueled up and got back on the Interstate, south-bound again. It was dark, and traffic was busy for a Saturday night. James and Freida Clayson were in the lead, Ron & Corky Alexander second, Melissa and Richard (me) Stumpf third, and Pat & Darnell Lapera were riding tail-gunner on their newly-triked GL1800. It was their very first trip on the new trike; beautifully painted and well-lit, with the trike fender brake lights, trunk brake lights, a red LED strip around the trunk, and strobes tucked under the trunk that flashed when the brakes were applied.

Just **two miles** down the road, we came upon slowing traffic for a one-vehicle accident; some guy had soloed his car onto the concrete divider and it was upside-down. We later learned he was basically uninjured, but emergency vehicles were responding. The accident vehicle was blocking the left lane, and a semi-truck was stopped on the right shoulder, impeding drivers in the right lane. We were in the center lane, slowing to about 10 MPH. Darnell leaned up and mentioned the slowing traffic to Pat. Melissa did the same to me.

The young man was in way over his head; seventeen years old, driving a Mustang way beyond his capability, and from reports weaving in and out of traffic seeking a faster 'line'. At the time of the accident, he was riding the left lane likely well above the local speed limit, and distracted – either by his cel phone, his girlfriend, or whatever. He never saw the myriad of brake lights, the flashing lights of the stopped vehicles, or the truck stopping in front of him until it was TOO LATE. His solution to avoid hitting the truck in front of him was a lane change, as he had been doing...a slam on the brakes and a yank of the wheel ran him directly into the left rear of Lapera's trike.

When Melissa heard the screeching tires, she pivoted immediately only to see the Lapera's trike launched back-over-front, forward somersaulting down the interstate accompanied by loud banging, crunching, and crashing noises. Personally and from the location, I believe Pat was deposited directly on the highway when the trike was upside down the first time, landing on his head and back to rest face-up. Darnell was near catapulted from the rear seat, traveling some 20 feet further than Pat, and to the right.

The trike continued to flip. On my right, not 5 feet away, I saw the unmistakable features of a Goldwing from the valve covers forward seemingly drop from the sky, barely missing us. The crashing and banging continued; I continued forward praying we didn't get hit. When the noises stopped, I carefully moved to the right shoulder, there at the bottom of the acceleration lane for I65 South exit 179, and that's when the feelings of inadequacy began. We were NOT READY for this. There is NO WAY we can handle this situation.



It is amazing how the pulse quickens, how sounds vanish and focus narrows, how senses become heightened, and action kicks in when the body has dumped every last drop of adrenaline into your aging system. We all acted pretty fast for old people – in hindsight maybe we were better prepared than we thought.

Melissa jumped off our trike before I was even stopped, and in the confusion from the original

accident site on the median, initially believed that the Claysons had also been involved. She went forward to check on them, only to discover they weren't there. Ron had called on the CB for the Claysons to pull off, but in the moment had only managed to transmit "get over" ...James moved over one lane, and kept going. We were down to 4 of us at the scene. I went to check on Darnell, who was unconscious, and Pat, who was awake but staring straight into the stars seemingly pondering the meaning of life WHILE LAYING IN TRAFFIC. As the trike had deposited him promptly on the road in the first flip and kept going afterwards, Pat was the first thing any vehicle would come upon, so my mind went straight to blocking traffic. Corky went to Pat...who somehow was not wearing his helmet, or shoes...and immediately immobilized his head and provided words of calming encouragement as he came to his senses. Ron was with Darnell, who was still unconscious, but breathing. Melissa began to call James and Freida, whom we know to have helmet Bluetooth connectivity to their cel phone, and eventually got through. Then she also found Darnell's cel phone, and in the time that followed notified the Lapera's family.

After waving my arms like an idiot to get cars out of our lane for only a minute, my senses opened up a bit and I realized that I heard sirens, and I watched with awe as two ambulances turned down the I65 on-ramp from exit 179. Two! Less than one minute had passed since the accident, and two ambulances

were arriving on the scene. I vectored them to Pat, and the first blocked his traffic lane. *Thank you God.* The second proceeded further, stopping for Darnell.

Photos were taken, the Laperas were transported to Southside Baptist Hospital in Montgomery and as it worked out, the Claysons were there to greet them as they 'arrived'. After some initial review by the police, Ron and I rolled the trike upright, put it in neutral (it was in 2nd) and moved it to the shoulder.



Beginning this month, more in-depth analysis will be presented herein on many of the factors we encountered and learned from, based upon the after-action review provided by James in his educator brief. It starts in our Rider Ed column, next page. After weeks in the ICU/hospital, physical therapy, and much pain and suffering, the Laperas are **fighting back to health**.

Their equipment saved their lives.

Chapter U Rider Ed

All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT)

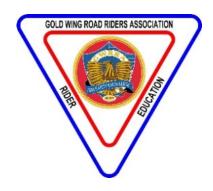
Properly fitting protective gear may help keep you safe and comfortable in many driving conditions, and is designed to help reduce or prevent injuries in the event of a crash.

- Head: While you aren't required to wear a helmet in every state, if you choose to wear a helmet, the MSF suggests choosing a helmet that meets U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. The DOT standards define minimum levels of performance that helmets must meet to protect the head and brain in the event of a crash, according to the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration(NHTSA). In the accident that Pat and Darnell had, Pat's helmet came off because it wasn't fastened properly. He did that because it was not comfortable because it wasn't properly fitted. GWRRA allows pretty much any helmet that meets the DOT standards, however obviously the Full Face helmet will protect you better than the ¾ or ½ helmets will. Also make sure your helmet has not expired! Yes helmets have an expiration date.
- Hands and Feet: Look for boots that go over your ankle and features oil-resistant, rubber-based composite soles, says the MSF. For your hands, consider full-fingered gloves that fit properly, as they may help improve your grip on the handlebars and help prevent cuts, bruises and abrasions in a crash.
- **Torso/Arms:** The MSF suggests riders wear abrasive-resistant fabrics or leather to help protect against injury in the event of a crash. Riding jackets typically run longer in the sleeves and wider across the shoulders to account for the riding position, and should fit comfortably without binding.
- Legs: A rider's legs should be covered and protecting in a similar way to the upper body, made of the same types of materials. In addition to leather modern fabrics like Cordura, Kevlar and ballistic nylon can boast abrasion- or wind-resistance, are waterproof and may have high-visibility properties.

Oftentimes, riding gear comes with body armor — thick pads sewn into the elbows, shoulders, kidney area, spine, knees, and in some cases, hips.

Proper motorcycle safety gear is there as a buffer between you and the environment in which you ride. Pick up some quality gear and ride easy knowing that you're protected.

Medical Form on Bike – N 12 Emergency Information Form – Fill this out and keep on bike. I would leave off certain information such as SSN and Driver's License # as these items can be used for Identity Theft. You should have your Driver's License with you so you really don't need it on this form too. Since you cannot control who handles this form, I would be careful as to what information I put on there.



James and Freida Clayson

GWRRA AL-U Chapter Educator



BRUCE & EILEEN'S GAB

What a beautiful crowd we had for our February 14th "Sweetheart Gathering". It's the only gathering this year on a special day. We had 35. Please welcome RON AND PEG SMITH of Dothan as new participants. We're looking forward to them having lots of fun with us.

It was an honor to have guests from the M'ers of PhenixCity, J.J. AND SUR JACKSON, DAVE AND LINDA SNYDER, BOB AND EVELYN JOHNSON. Ya'll come back soon. Asnowball couple from Iowa & Panama City-BOB & JULIA ROTACH also visited along with the FL-1L friends- RICHARD & JENNIE SMITH C/D, JOHN & JUDY RUTHLEDGE ASST.C/D. Welcome to "U's" family. It was good to see PAT LAPERA Asst C/D back on his feet again & visiting with us after their terrible accident. We pray DARNELL will soon be back with us. We miss her.

Thank you JAMES CLAYSON, our Chapter Educator/Membership Enhancement Coord/Website Coord for the excellent advice on proper riding gear & etc. He will be setting up a FirstAid Training Course soon. TBA. Also thanks to MELISSA STUMPF our Treasurer for her insight of the accident. She & RICHARD were eye wittnesses on that accident of Jan 14th. Our Newsletter Editor/Safety Coord RICHARD STUMPF gave us a good insight on safety plus his version of the accident and what we've learned from it as an eye witness, what an experience. Hope we never go thru it again. EILEEN substituted for DARNELL LAPERA as Sunshine Lady and we sang to RICK KESSOCK, GABE SUSTRUNK & LINDA SNYDER. Happy Birthday ya'll FREIDA CLAYSON our Trivia Question Lady had everyone on their toes again and to the winners she handed out choclate covered strawberrys as big as baseballs. Yum-Yumthey looked delicious. JOAN AND RAY COLLIER our Ways & Means Coord had pulled the name of WILLIAM SAMUALS out of the jar but he wasn't there so we add another five bucks and the winner next month wins ten bucks if they are there. Thanks also goes to JOAN COLLIER for the banner that was displayed behind us. Good Girl, yes?

It was nice to have eleven to our "Sweetheart Ride" to the Oaks Restraunt. FL-1L also came with nine people to eat with us. The fish fry ride on Fri 17th brought twelve and the ride to Huggin Mollies on the 18th we had eleven. Fun time.

Prayer list: PAT & DARNELL LAPERA, ELAINE LAND, JOAN HALL, YVONNE OTTENSMAN, JIM & SUE HUSSEY, CHUCH & FRAN SIMERLEIN, FRAN SMITH, J-BIRD, CABE SUSTRUNK, CAROLYN & LARRY YORK. DARNELL LAPERA had a relapse Sun 19th.

Guess who got the OOPS award? Yours truly. The GOOD GUY award went to RICHARD & MELISSA STUMPF, JAMES & FREIDA CLAYSON, RON & CORKY ALEXANDER.

RICK KESSOCK won the 50/50 @\$35.00. It was good to see him return after back surgery again. MELISSA STUMPF and GARY MORRIS won the complimentary Golden Corral tickets.

We have our 1st annual chili fest coming up on March 18th and we need everybodys support as workers for games, selling tickets, bringing chili and donating door prizes. A rain or shine activity.Please help.

If you know of someone not getting a newsletter please let RICHARD STUMPF know @334-477-3667 or e-mail @richard@clm-software.com. Our newsletter editor is one of the heros of our chapter. Please thank him for his efforts & help him out by providing articles or pictures. The more you know by reading the newsletter, the better it gets.

We are so thankful and proud of our hard working staff members as well as our participants. We honor and salute our veterans, especially our combat veterans. Till next month----

Regards

Ride Schedule

AL-U PROPOSED RIDE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2017 – QUESTIONS? CALL 334-237-0466

Sat-Mar 04-GWRRA-AL-M-PhenixCity, BuffettCity 12:00, noon Swamp Meet-WildGameFeed @Newton. 10:00AM Sun-Mar 05-KickTire @Wendys-across from HomeDepot @03:00PM Mon-Mar 06-GWRRA-FL-1L-PanamaCity @PoFolks 06:00PM Tue-Mar 07-GWRRA-AL-G-PoFolks in Enterprise @06:00PM Thu-Mar 09-Staff Meeting-call 334-237-0466 for location Sat-Mar 11-GWRRA- AL-Z&F Funday, Prattville. KSU 07:00AM @Hardees, Ozark Sun-Mar 12-KickTire @MilkyMoos, Ozark 03:00PM Tue-Mar 14-GWRRA-AL-U-Golden Corral, Dothan-06:00PM Thu-Mar 16-GWRRA-AL-F-Montgomery, KSU 03:00PM-Hardees, Ozark Fri-Mar 17-FishFry-KSU 05:00PM @FlaWelcomeCenter-231south Sat-Mar 18-GWRRA-AL-U-CHILI FEST-Church of Christ, RoyParkerRd, Ozark Fri & Sat-Mar 24 & 25-GWRRA-AL-U-Ride to RattlesnakeSaloon (Restraunt in a cave) in Tuswmbia & on Sat-to Scottsdale to an unclaimed baggage store. KSU 11:30AM @Hardees, Ozark Sun-Mar 26-KickTire @DairyQueen, Dothan, across from ChowKing. 03:00PM Fri-Mar 31-BreakfastBuffett, Chipley-KSU 06:00AM @Chevron-52w&605s ++++ FUTURE DATES **** **** ***** **** Sat-Apr 08-District Picnic-Confederate Park Sat-Apr 29-GWRRA-AL-U-RelayForLifeParticipation & AL-G-FunDay May 19 & 20-Mobile Rally-Region 'A" Sat-Jun 17-GWRRA-AL-U-FathersDayRide to Grannies, PanamaCity Sat-Jun 24-WatermelonFestival, Chipley

RIDE WITH US-RIDE WITH PRIDE-DRIVE CAREFUL & SAVE YOUR HIDE-WE LOVE YOU

If you have a ride you would like to add to the schedule, please contact: Bruce Williamson

eileengram@aol.com (334) 237-0466

Corky's Custom Covers

www.facebook.com/corkyscustomcovers



Rosetta (Corky) Alexander <u>rccalex@fairpoint.net</u> Home: 334-858-7734 Cell: 334-406-4171



March 2017

GWRRA Cruisin' U's

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Tuc	1	2	3	4 Swamp Cookout, Newton, 10AM GWRRA-AL-M, Buffet City
5 Kick Tire Wendy's Across from Home Depot Dothan 3PM	6 GWRRA-FL-1L PoFolks Panama City 6PM	7 GWRRA-AL-G PoFolks Enterprise 6PM	8	9 GWRRA-AL-U Staff Meeting 6PM	10	12 noon 11 GWRRA AL- Z & F Funday, Prattville KSU 7AM Hardees Ozark
12 Kick Tire Milky Moo's Ozark 3PM	13	14 GWRRA-AL-U Golden Corral Dothan 6:00 PM	15	16 GWRRA AL-F Chappies Montgomery 6PM KSU 3PM Hardees Ozark	17 Fish Fry Ride KSU 5PM Florida Welcome Center 231 S	18 GWRRA AL-U Chili Fest Church of Christ Roy Parker Rd. Ozark 9AM
19	20	21	22	23	24 25 Ride to Rattlesnake Saloon, Tuscumbia, AL, and Unclaimed Baggage Store KSU 11:30 AM Hardees Ozark	
26 Kick Tire DQ across from Chow King Dothan 3PM	27	28	29	30	31 Bfast Buffet Chipley KSU 6AM Chevron Hwy 52 & Brannon Stand	



MFA Renewal Class

Alabama District Rally 2017

At our last District Staff meeting the decision was made to have a Medic First Aid (MFA) Renewal class at the Alabama rally in May. The class will be Friday beginning at 12 pm and lasting until 4:30-5pm time frames. This is a renewal class only. The class will be limited to 24 participants and will be a first come first serve basis.

Before we open this to other Districts we are letting the members know first. You will need to distribute this to your members and let them know. Here is what we need:

- Member name and contact information
- Check for \$25.00 (This is per person) made out to Alabama GWRRA.

You, the Chapter Director or your Educator, can contact me and I will put their name on a list. Once I receive their check they will be marked paid and will have a spot in this class. Once 24 people are on the list and paid if anyone else signs up they will be placed on an alternate list. Cancellations have to be requested two weeks before the rally or money will not be refunded. If we have a cancellation the first person on alternate list will be contacted.

Our contact information is listed below. Please share with your members as soon as possible if you have anyone that needs to take this class.

Robert & Gail Brown Alabama District MFA Coordinators 205-948-8991 08titanium@gmail.com

AL-U's First Annual Chili Fest GWRRA Saturday Region A March 18, 2017 Games, Chili, fun and Home made ice cream treet by "Milky Moo's" Ozark Church of Christ Fellowship Hall 863 E. Roy Parker Rd. Ozark, AL \$10.00 per person Games Starting at 9:00 AM Chili served at 12:00 PM

Milky Mee's

Homemade Ice Cream

The area's only homemade ice cream shop