

October 2026

Rocket City Wings

EWMA AL-B

Newsletter



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Welcome to the October Issue...

October is here, and it's already time to start planning for 2027!

September brought two big announcements—the dates and locations for the Alabama District Rally and the EWMA Rendezvous.

The Alabama District Rally, “Rocking on the River,” will return to Decatur, but the dates have changed. The rally will be held September 23–25, 2027, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Decatur Riverfront.

The 5th Annual EWMA Rendezvous will be held September 2–4, 2027, right here in Huntsville at the Von Braun Center!

September is shaping up to be an exciting month for EWMA, with two great rallies—and both are close to home. Mark your calendars now, and watch for more details as they become available!



October



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Addresses for each event below....			1	2	3 Ride to "Eagle Wings on the Farm" Crossville, AL	4 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
5	6 Dinner 6pm West End Grill Meet at 5:15 to ride	7	8	9	10	11 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
12 	13 Chapter Mtg Eat 5:30pm Mtg 6:30pm Kacey's Country Buffet	14	MS District Rally - Biloxi, MS October 15-17			18 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
19	20 Dinner 6pm Chuy's Meet at 5:15 to ride	21				25 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
26	27 Dinner 6pm Applebee's Neighborhood Grill Meet at 5:15 to ride	28	29	30	31 	

Addresses

Kacey's Country Buffet 10017 Memorial Pkwy SW Huntsville, AL 35803

City Café Diner 2003 Drake Ave SW Huntsville, AL 35801

West End Grill [6610 Old Madison Pike](#) NW Huntsville, AL 35806

Chuy's [935 Bob Wallace Ave. SW](#) Huntsville, AL 35801

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill [3028 Memorial Pkwy SW](#) Huntsville, AL 35801

To ride to dinner, meet at 5:15 @ Extra Space Storage 11607 Mem Pkwy SW HSV, AL 35803

****REMEMBER:** Always check your email and our Facebook page as ride locations and times are subject to change.

Be sure to RSVP to any event via email, Facebook, or text Faye.



Current plan is to ride the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month. Weather permitting. Exceptions will be made to work around the EWMA Rally schedule. Fall is in full swing so let's head to the mountains!

Changes to rides will be sent via email and Facebook.

Oct 3 AL-N Presents: Eagle Wings on the Farm, Crossville, AL

Dallas & Linda Petty's Farm: 637 County Road 191 Crossville, AL 35962

Hot Dogs & Hamburgers supplied by Chapter N. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks. Bring your own lawn chairs. Entertainment will be on the farm.

Rain date October 10th.

Oct 24 Cheaha State Park, Delta, AL

Located in Clay and Cleburne counties in Alabama. The park's 2,799 acres include Cheaha Mountain, the highest point in the state. The park adjoins Talladega National Forest

Nov 7 Rattlesnake Saloon, Tuscumbia, AL

Relaxed, funky watering hole under a giant rock with a menu of appetizers, burgers & sandwiches. 1292 Mt Mills Rd, Tuscumbia, AL 35674

Nov 21 David Crockett State Park, Lawrenceburg, TN

Encompassing 1,400 acres, invites visitors to step back in time and immerse themselves in the legacy of the legendary frontiersman. Nestled in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, this park offers a blend of natural beauty and historical significance.

Dec 5 Chapter Christmas Party

Details to be determined



Happenings around the Chapter.....

We had a great ride to Jim n Nicks last night. Was 6 trikes all together. Food was good and service was excellent, thanks to Dino. Weather perfect. ~Faye G.



We may not always remember to take pictures when we ride, but we can always count on Ron to document all our locations. Thanks, Ron!!

Ronald Thomas was eating dinner with great friends...
August 25 at 6:26 PM · Huntsville · 📍

Tuesday night dinner with my motorcycle friends.



STEAKHOUSE
Logan's Roadhouse
Tammy and 11 other friends have been here

Ronald Thomas was eating dinner with great friends...
4 days ago · 📍

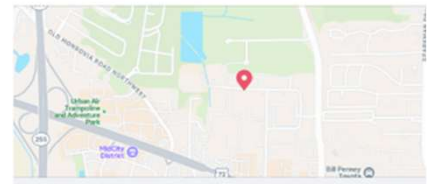
Dinner with my ewma motorcycle friends.



FAST FOOD RESTAURANT
Five Guys
Faye and 2 other friends have been here

Ronald Thomas was eating dinner with great friends...
August 18 at 5:59 PM · 📍

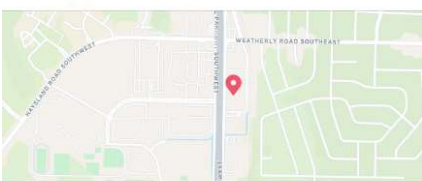
Tuesday night dinner with my motorcycle friends.



BARBECUE RESTAURANT
Jim 'N Nick's - Huntsville
Tammy and Ronald have been here

Ronald Thomas was eating dinner with great friends...
August 11 at 5:59 PM · Huntsville · 📍

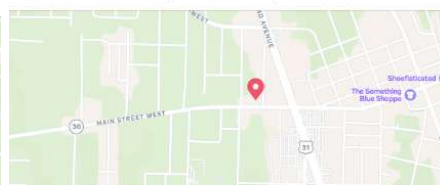
Tuesday night dinner with my friends.



RESTAURANT
Kacey's Home Cooking
Faye and 3 other friends have been here

Ronald Thomas was eating lunch at Oh! Bryan's Fa...
August 22 at 11:35 AM · Hartselle · 📍

Lunch and ride with my ewma motorcycle friends.



FAMILY STYLE RESTAURANT
Oh! Bryan's Family Steakhouse
Faye and 2 other friends have been here

Ronald Thomas was eating breakfast at City Cafe Di...
August 30 at 7:41 AM · Huntsville · 📍

Breakfast with my motorcycle friends.



AMERICAN RESTAURANT
City Cafe Diner - Huntsville
Maureen and 5 other friends have been here



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Getting to Know the Members of Rocket City Wings



Kathy Lawyer - Chapter Treasurer

The first time I ever rode a bike I was 20 years old, visiting my mother in Dwight, IL for the summer, and found out my brother had a 125cc motorbike. I begged him to let me ride it with my girlfriend and, being the older of us two, he graciously gave in. I got on I-55 and rode up to Gardner, IL and back only to later find out that it was illegal to ride anything smaller than a 250cc on the interstate. Oh well, didn't get caught. The next time I rode a bike was after Jake and I had been married about 6-7 years. We moved from Jake's house in Bourbonnais, IL to a mobile home park in Dwight, IL. Jake bought a 900 Kawasaki and asked me if I wanted to try it out. Well, of course I did. He set me up on the grass, by the side of the mobile home pointing toward the back shed, and said GO. I realized I was heading straight toward the shed and panicked, laying the bike down on the grass; no damage. We eventually traded for a 750 Shadow, and from there a 1200 Goldwing. Then, I took a motorcycle class through U of I in Bloomington, IL. When I finished and got my license, Jake bought me a used 500 Honda Shadow, which I rode with him on backroads on weekends. We graduated to a 1500 Goldwing and my son got my Shadow. After getting dumped for the 3rd time we got a 1500 Trike. We then moved to Huntsville, AL. After many years of rallies and ticket purchases, Jake won an 1800 Goldwing, which he immediately had triked out. We were back to 2 bikes again, until I sold mine to get him a back garage built. After Jake died, he left me the 1800 and, I'm back to my own bike again.

The best ride I ever went on was to Wing Ding in Billings, MT. We took 3 weeks off work for the trip, planning every stop with 3 other couples. Our plan was to start out on I-80, hitting every state up to the Canadian Border on the way out and back. We stopped at all the famous sites, of course; the Corn Palace; Wall Drug Store; Custer's Last Stand; Yellowstone National Park; Reno; Devil's Tower; The Badlands; Salt Lake City; Glacier National Park; the Western Coastal Highway; Colorado National Monument; Salt Flats; and every other place we could squeeze in. We were to meet another couple at Yellowstone, at a tent camping area, by a beautiful little stream. We arrived and our sites were already reserved to ensure we were all together. Their tent was already set up but they weren't there. After asking at the office, we were told that they had ridden over the pass to the Grand Tetons and would be back by supper. Supper came and went and they still weren't back. Finally, they got back around midnight. They had run into a snowstorm coming back over the pass and had to walk their bike for several miles. (In July!!!) The last three days of the trip were so hot that we started out each day between 3 - 3:30am and got a motel (with a pool) by 2 - 2:30pm. What a trip!

Different bikes. ★ Different roads. ★ One incredible family. That's Rocket City Wings!





★ MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ★

Getting to Know the Members of Rocket City Wings



Kathy Lawyer (Continued)

My dream destination would be Scotland, to see more than just Edinburgh. Would love to go over with some friends, rent some bikes and just ride the hills and countryside, hitting lots of villages, famous sites, and castles.

My best motorcycle memory was not one but several. It was every ride that Jake and I went on where we each rode our own bike. That is because we got to talk to each other over the CB. I'd tell him what he was doing wrong; he'd shoot back that he was the professional driver and I couldn't tell him how to drive; then I'd remind him that I'd had more motorcycle riding courses than him; and so on. Good memories.

My favorite part of being a chapter member is the people. Every chapter has its own personality, which is created by the people within that chapter. I love going to visit other chapters to meet the people and absorb the personality.

I love reading books. I will read hardbacks, paperbacks, digital (on my tablet or phone), stone tablets, plaques, whatever. I love history, fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, occasionally biography, and sometimes even instructional (if absolutely necessary).

That's me in a breadbasket.



Different bikes. ★ Different roads. ★ One incredible family. That's Rocket City Wings!



Happenings at Rendezvous 2026.....

Maureen and Tom meet again

Friends are made in your 20s and last a lifetime. And then, sometimes, we say “so long” and never know when—or if—we will ever see someone again.

With the age of the internet, it has become easy, and almost mindless, to stay connected. We follow each other. We “like” a post. We send a birthday greeting. We watch someone’s life unfold from hundreds—or thousands—of miles away.

But have you ever thought about friendships before the internet? Like, way before the internet.

Back in the 90s, when most of us didn’t even know what the internet was, much less have it sitting in our pockets 24 hours a day?

This past year’s Rendezvous established new “friends” and brought old friends back together. But let’s be real—are we really “friends”?

The night of the Bikes and Lights show, you may have heard a woman just scream. Okay. It was me. You may have thought I was getting mugged in the parking lot of the convention center. But no. It was simply a shrill scream of excitement after a “surface” conversation with a tall man wearing an Air Force hat suddenly turned into something neither of us expected.

His name was Tom.

He was talking to me about the lights on my Goldwing Trike, named “Lucille”—or “Luucy,” according to the license plate. It was the typical motorcycle conversation:

“What year is your bike?”

“How much do you ride?”

“How long have you had it?”

Nothing unusual.

During the conversation, he mentioned that he was an ICU nurse.

“Oh, my daughter is a nurse,” I said.

Then he mentioned that after he retired from the Air Force, he worked at the VA.

“Oh, my husband works at the VA!”



Happenings at Rendezvous 2026.....

Maureen and Tom meet again - continued

One of those conversations where you discover a couple of common connections and then move on.

Until I casually mentioned, "Oh, I worked for the Air Force as a civilian at one time on Okinawa." He immediately asked, "At Kadena?" "Yes."

And that was the moment the conversation changed.

We started comparing commands. Then people we had worked for. Then leaders we worked for. One name led to another.

And finally, I asked him, "What's your name?" "Tom Sarnowski."

And that's when it happened. **"OMG!"**

We had worked in the same office. Not just the same base. Not just the same command.

The same office. We sat 12 feet apart! Decades ago.

Before Facebook.

Before Instagram.

Before cell phones made it possible to find someone with a few taps.

Before LinkedIn.

Before Google could tell you where someone had been for the last thirty years.

There we were, standing in a convention center parking lot, talking about a motorcycle, and suddenly discovering that we had shared a workplace and a chapter of our lives that neither of us had thought about in years.

And that is what made me think about friendship.

Because what exactly makes someone a friend?

Is it someone you talk to every day?

Someone you have on Facebook?

Someone whose posts you "like"?

Someone you see once a year at Rendezvous?

Or is it someone who can disappear from your life for thirty-six years and, within minutes of seeing them again, somehow make the years in between disappear?

Maybe friendship isn't always about staying connected.

Maybe sometimes it is about the connection that never really went away.



Happenings at Rendezvous 2026.....

Maureen and Tom meet again - continued

Back then, when someone left your life, they were really gone. There wasn't a Facebook page to check. No email address to search. No cell phone number saved in your contacts. No social media post to remind you what they had for dinner or where they went on vacation.

You simply said goodbye.

And you hoped life would cross your paths again.

Sometimes it does.

Sometimes it does in the most unexpected place, with the most unexpected person, while you're standing beside a trike named "Luucy" talking about motorcycle lights.

And sometimes you realize that the person you thought was a stranger was never really a stranger at all.

Maybe that's what Rendezvous is really about.

Not just motorcycles.

Not just rides, lights, contests, dinners, and pictures.

It's about people.

It's about the old friends you haven't seen in years.

The new friends you haven't known long enough to call "old."

And those rare moments when someone walks into your life—or back into it—and reminds you that some friendships don't need the internet to survive.

They just need a little bit of time...

and sometimes, a really loud scream in a convention center parking lot.



~Maureen "Mo" Trainor





October Safety Corner: Leaves on the Road **They're Slipperier Than You Think!**

Fall is a beautiful time to ride. Cooler temperatures, colorful scenery, and winding roads make October perfect for getting out on two or three wheels. But those colorful leaves can create a hazard that is easy to underestimate.

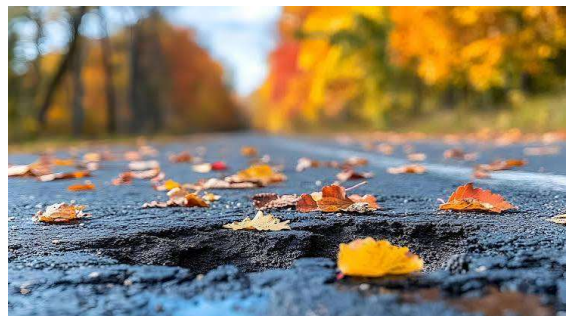
A layer of dry leaves can reduce traction, but wet leaves are especially dangerous. When leaves become soaked and begin to break down, they can form a slick surface between your tires and the pavement. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation recommends treating wet leaves and other roadway debris with the same caution you would use for ice. ([Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#))

Leaves can also hide what is underneath them, including potholes, gravel, uneven pavement, painted road markings, standing water, and other debris. A pile of leaves that looks harmless may be covering a hazard you cannot see until you are already on top of it.

Where Are Leaves Most Dangerous?

Be especially watchful for leaves:

- In curves and at intersections
- On hills and steep grades
- Along the edges of the roadway
- Under trees and in shaded areas
- On bridges and near drainage areas
- After rain, fog, or heavy morning dew
- In places where vehicles have pushed leaves into piles



How Should You Ride Through Them?

The best choice is to avoid riding over leaves whenever you can safely do so. Look well ahead and choose the cleanest portion of your lane without making a sudden move or entering the path of another vehicle.



Leaves on the Road - They're Slipperier Than You Think! (Continued)



If you cannot avoid the leaves:

- Reduce your speed **before** reaching them.
- Keep the motorcycle or trike as straight as possible.
- Maintain a steady, smooth throttle.
- Avoid sudden braking, acceleration, or steering.
- Increase your following distance.
- Leave yourself extra room to stop.
- Avoid leaning sharply or changing direction while crossing them.

Make every control input smooth and gradual. Sudden braking or acceleration can cause a tire to lose traction. If you must slow down, do it gently and preferably while traveling in a straight line.

What About Trikes?

Three wheels provide more stability, but a trike is not immune to slippery surfaces. Its tires can still lose traction, especially when braking, accelerating, or turning. Because the rear wheels follow a wider path than the front wheel, your front tire may miss a patch of leaves while one or both rear tires travel directly over it. Continue to watch the entire width of your path—not just where the front wheel is going.

One More Fall Hazard

Fallen leaves are not the only seasonal concern. Earlier sunsets, low sun angles, morning fog, and wet pavement can make both visibility and traction worse. Wear visible or reflective gear, keep your lights clean, and allow extra time and space for every maneuver.

Fall leaves are beautiful on the trees—but on the road, they deserve your full attention. Slow down, look ahead, stay smooth, and enjoy the ride safely!

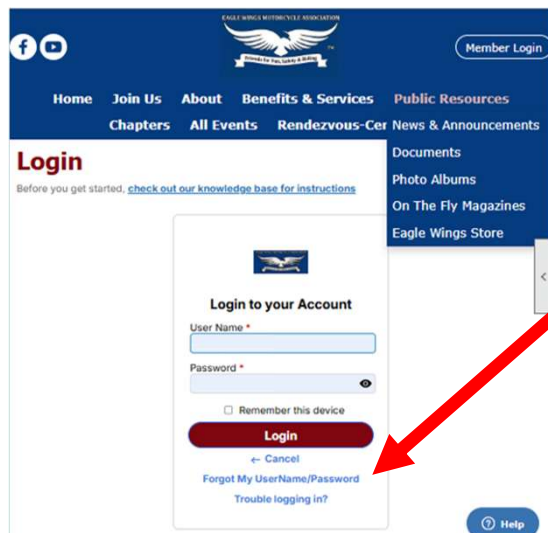


Do you have your EWMA Membership Card?

More importantly, do you know where to find it?

As part of its paperless system, EWMA no longer mails printed membership cards. However, you can easily access your card online. Once you find it, you can print a copy to carry with you or download it to your phone so it is always close at hand.

Here are the steps to access your EWMA membership card:



<https://www.ewma-world.org/>

Click on Member Login. (Your username and password were sent to you when you joined.)

If you do not remember your credentials or can't find your email.....

Click on Forgot My Username/Password

Enter your email and a Reset Link will be sent to you.

Forgot Username/Password

Please enter your email address below. Reset instructions will be emailed to you. If your email address is used by more than one account, you will receive one email that contains instructions for each login.

Email Address *

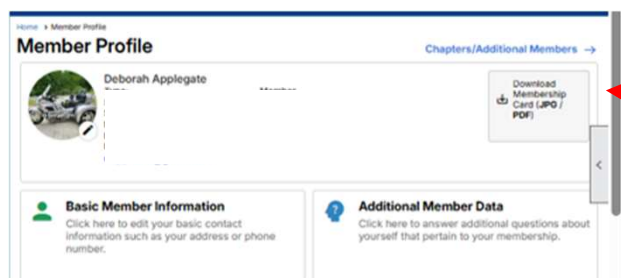
Send Reset Email

Return to Previous Page



Click on your name for the drop-down menu.

Click on "Profile"



Click the format you want to use to save the file: JPG or PDF

By saving the file to your phone, you will always have your card with you.

Or you can print it out in whatever size you like.

If you need some help, feel free to reach out to me. Debbie rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com

Ride Details.....

October 3rd Ride

AL-N Eagle Wings on the Farm. Crossville, AL

Dallas & Linda Petty's Farm: 637 County Road 191 Crossville, AL 35962

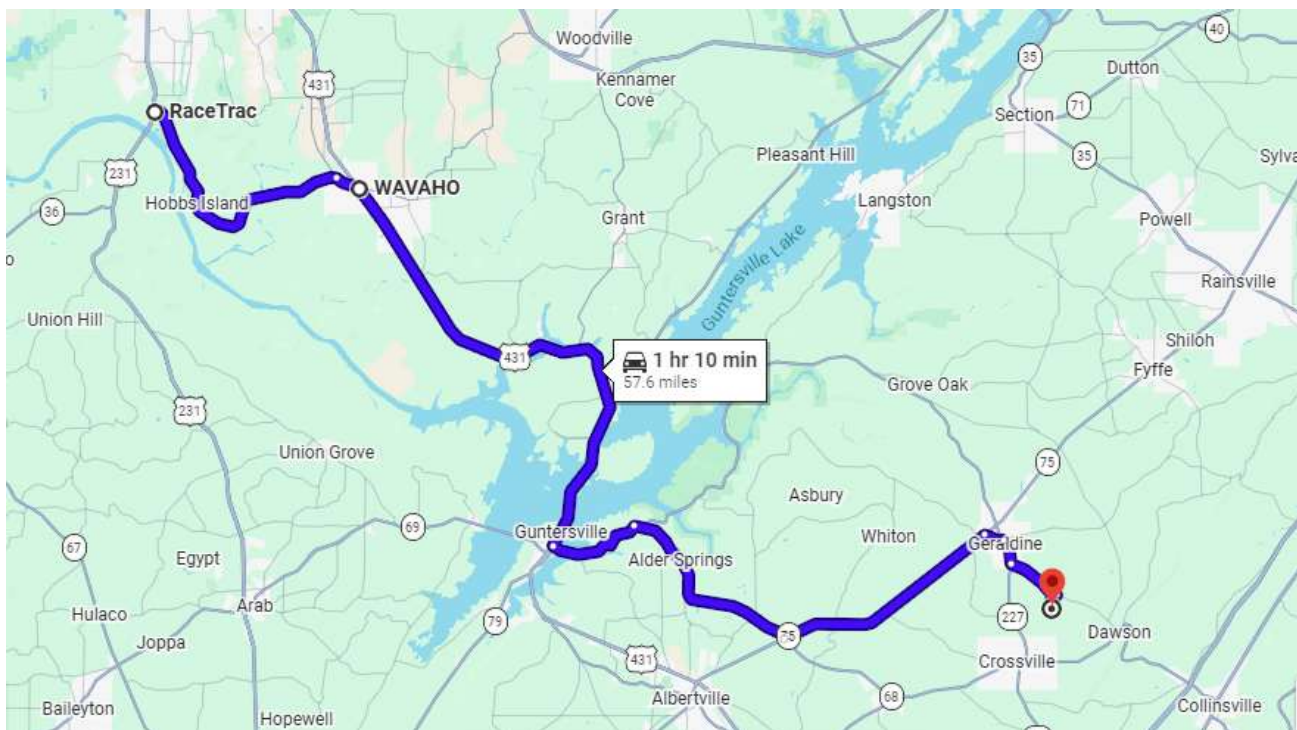
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers supplied by Chapter N. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks. Bring your own lawn chairs. Entertainment will be on the farm.

Meet: **RaceTrac** 13401 Memorial Pkwy SW, Huntsville, AL 35803

KSU: 8:00am Ride Lead: Faye Gersch

Meet: **WAVAHO** 10351 Old 431 Hwy, New Hope, AL 35760

Continue to US-431 N to Marshall County	27 min (24.0 mi)
Turn right onto US-431 N	305 ft
Make a U-turn at Main Dr	20.3 mi
Turn left onto AL-227 S/Lusk St	
Continue to follow AL-227 S	3.7 mi
Turn right onto Hustleville Rd	10 min (7.9 mi)
Continue on AL-75 N to Geraldine	13 min (10.8 mi)
Turn right onto AL-75 S	0.2 mi
Slight left toward AL-75 N	167 ft
Turn left onto AL-75 N	8.9 mi
Turn right onto Co Rd 52/Salem Rd	
Continue to follow Co Rd 52	0.8 mi
Turn right onto Main St	1.0 mi
Continue on Co Rd 20.	
Drive to Co Rd 191 in Dawson	4 min (2.8 mi)
Turn left onto Co Rd 20	2.1 mi
Turn right onto Co Rd 46	0.6 mi
Turn left onto Co Rd 191	Destination will be on the right 358 ft



Ride Details.....

October 24th Ride – Cheaha State Park

Meet: **WAVAHO** 1595 Hwy 231, Laceys Spring, AL 35754

KSU: 9:00am Ride Lead: Faye Gersch

2 hr 19 min (112 miles) via US-278 E and AL-1

Follow US-231 S, US-278 E and AL-1 to Leon Smith Pkwy in Oxford 1 hr 56 min (96 mi)

Turn right onto US-231 S

Pass by Huddle House (on the right in 16.3 mi) 27.8 mi

Turn left onto US-278 E 26.5 mi

Turn right onto US-278 E/US-431 S

Pass by Dollar General (on the left in 2.1 mi) 2.3 mi

Turn right onto AL-1/5th Ave NW

Continue to follow AL-1

Pass by Subway (on the left in 0.8 mi) 39.5 mi

Drive to AL-281 S in Cleburne County 23 min (16.1 mi)

Continue onto Leon Smith Pkwy 1.7 mi

Turn left onto Friendship Rd 1.7 mi

Turn right onto Jennifer Ln 1.6 mi

Continue onto Co Hwy 24/Co Rd 24 1.9 mi

Turn left 0.2 mi

Turn right onto AL-281 S 8.9 mi

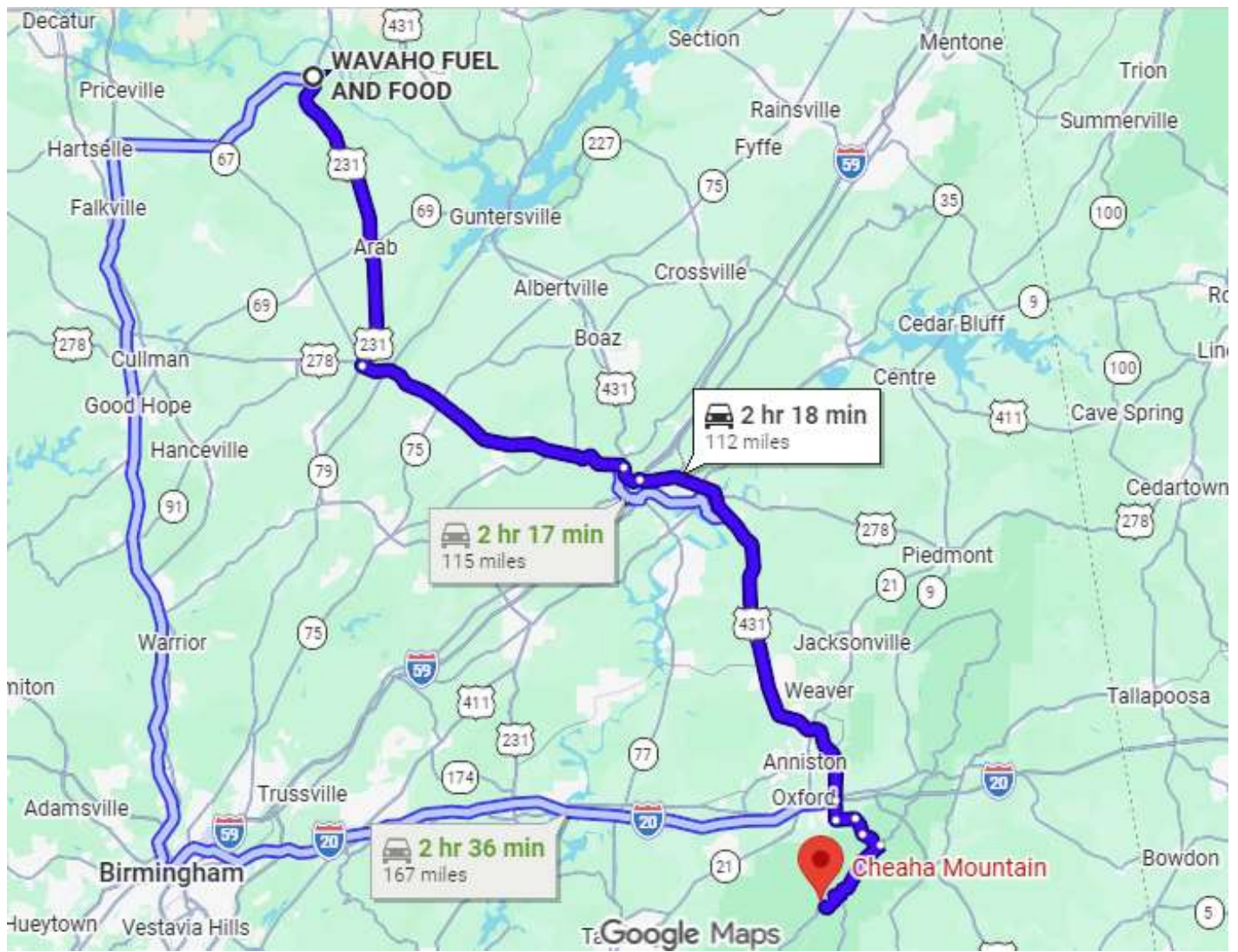
Cheaha State Park 19644 AL-281, Delta, AL 36258



[Bunker Tower](#)

on top of
Cheaha
Mountain

Ride to Cheaha State Park



Cheaha Mountain is the highest natural point in Alabama, standing at an elevation of 2,407 feet above sea level.

Quick Facts

Location: Inside [Cheaha State Park](#) near Delta, Alabama, within the Talladega National Forest.

Name Origin: Comes from the Creek word *chaha*, meaning "high place".

Access: You can drive straight to the summit area, which makes it the highest public road in AL.

Things to Do

Bunker Observation Tower: Climb this historic stone tower built in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps for panoramic views

Contacts

EWMA.....

NATIONAL TEAM:

Director Anita Alkire amalkire85@gmail.com

Deputy Director Bob & Nan Shrader floridadd@msn.com

REGION A (Districts AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Region A Director Danny Baker Region.A.EWMA@gmail.com

Web Page: [Region A](#)

DISTRICT AL

District AL Director Terry and Barbie Cleveland 98wing@att.net

Web Page: [District AL](#)

Asst District Director Penny Landers bullocktire@yahoo.com

Chapter

CHAPTER AL-B Rocket City Wings (Huntsville)

Chapter Director Faye Gersch 256-508-1047 fneal1@bellsouth.net

Treasurer Kathy Lawyer klawyer49@hotmail.com

CHAPTER Meeting Info:

2nd Tuesday of each month Eat at 5:30pm; Meet at 6:30pm

Kacey's Country Buffet

10017 South Memorial Pkwy. SW. Huntsville, AL 35803

Facebook: [RCW Rocket City Wings](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/618042868333042>

Newsletter submissions to: Debbie Applegate

rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com



News around the EWMA.....

<https://ewma-world.org/>



Upcoming EWMA Events:

October 15—17 MS District Rally, America the Beautiful, Biloxi, MS

[2027 FL District Rally](#) Mar 18, 2027 Best Western Hotels & Resort, Gainesville, FL

[2027 TN District Rally](#) Apr 22, 2027 Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Manchester, TN

[2027 Triple Crown Rally](#) Jun 10, 2027 Hilton Garden Inn, Anderson, SC (Combined NC-SC-GA)

Info can be found at www.ewma-world.org/events

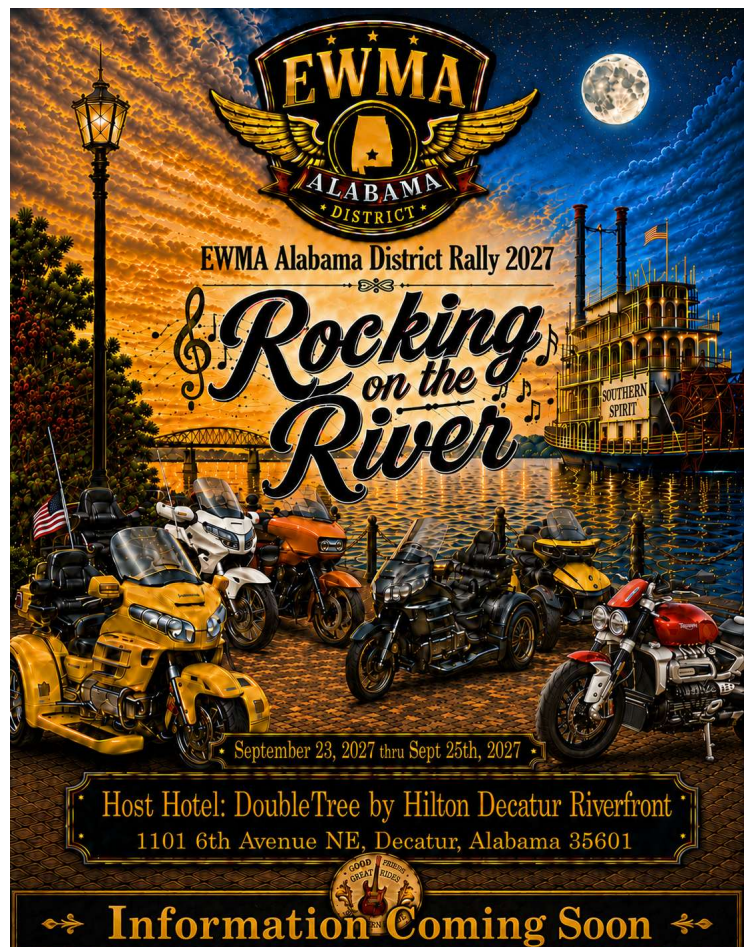
Mississippi District Rally Oct 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2026

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.....



....LAND THAT I LOVE

District Director
Connie Fero & Randy Kelly
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conn1efero@yahoo.com.com





This newsletter is published monthly for the members and friends of Rocket City Wings, EWMA AL-B. We welcome articles, photos, ride suggestions, and ideas from all members.

Contact:

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Newsletter Editor

Ride Coordinator

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