December 2026

Rocket City Wings EWMA AL-B Newsletter



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Welcome to the December Issue.....

I can't believe 2026 is almost over! This year has flown by.

For me personally, it's been a life-changing year. Three years ago, I moved to South Alabama, thinking I had found my forever home. But as it turned out, I missed *home* too much and decided to return to Huntsville. One of the best parts of coming back has been reconnecting with my chapter family!

And what a fun year it's been! We've enjoyed rides whenever the weather cooperated, our weekly dinners, and Sunday morning breakfasts (when I manage to make it!). I started the newsletter, took on organizing our rides, and introduced the "Ride Smart Safety Corner." I even surprised everyone with a pop quiz at our November meeting to see how much they remembered about motorcycle hand signals!

So be warned... you never know when there might be another safety quiz!

Looking Ahead to 2027...

While reviewing our chapter information, I noticed that we currently have 28 members listed on the EWMA roster, but only seven are actively participating in chapter activities.

One of my goals in starting this newsletter was to reconnect with members we haven't seen in a while, share what we've been doing, and hopefully encourage more of our chapter family to join us.

And that brings me to something I'd really like to hear from **YOU!**

What would make you want to participate more often? What kinds of activities would you enjoy?

Maybe it's Saturday rides, weekday rides, Bug Runs, Dairy Queen hunts, Sunday afternoon ice cream outings, parades, game nights, social gatherings, or even an old-fashioned chrome party!

These are just a few ideas to get everyone thinking. And remember, not everything we do has to involve getting on a motorcycle. EWMA welcomes motorcycle enthusiasts on **two, three, four, or more wheels!** Whether you're still riding, have switched to a trike, or simply prefer to come along in your car, you're welcome to participate.

Welcome to the December Issue.....

(continued)

Sometimes it's not about what we ride or drive. It's simply about getting together and enjoying each other's company.

At our January chapter meeting, I'd like to spend some time discussing how we can reconnect with members we haven't seen in a while and make 2027 an exciting year for Rocket City Wings.

So here's my challenge to everyone: Bring your ideas!

Whether you're a regular at our gatherings or someone we haven't seen in a while, we'd love to hear from you. What would make you look forward to participating in Rocket City Wings again?

After all, EWMA is about **Friends for Fun, Safety & Riding**, and it's the friendships that make it special.

Here's to a wonderful holiday season and an exciting 2027!

Ride safe, and I'll see you down the road!

Debbie



Debbie Applegate
Newsletter Content Creator and Editor
Safety / Ride Coordinator
rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com



December



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Addresses for each event below….	1 Dinner 6pm Chilis Bar & Grill (Carl T Jones Dr) Meet at 5:15 to ride	2	3	4	5  Details on page 6	6 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
7	8 Dinner 6pm Texas Roadhouse (Jeff Rd) Meet at 5:15 to ride	9	10	11	12	13 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
14	15 Dinner 6pm Mellow Mushroom (Cecil Ashburn Dr) Meet at 5:15 to ride	16	17	18	19	20 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
21	22 Dinner 6pm Shaggy's Burgers & Tacos (Ent Way) Meet at 5:15 to ride	23	24	25  	26	27 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
28	29 Dinner 6pm LA Finka Mexican Rest (Balmoral) Meet at 5:15 to ride	30	31  Let's ride out the old year! Page 12			

Addresses

City Café Diner 2003 Drake Ave SW Huntsville, AL 35801

Chilis Bar & Grill 2740 Carl T Jones Dr SE Huntsville, AL 35802
Texas Roadhouse 121 Jeff Road NW Huntsville, AL 35806
Mellow Mushroom 2230 Cecil Ashburn Dr SE Huntsville, AL 35802
Shaggy's Burgers & Tacos 1267 Enterprise Way NW Huntsville, AL 35806
LA Finka Mexican Restaurant & Grill 4250 Balmoral Dr SW Huntsville, AL 35801

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

**REMEMBER TO 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



Our 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. Winter is approaching, so let's enjoy a ride whenever the weather cooperates!

Changes to rides will be sent via email and Facebook.

Dec 5 **Chapter Christmas Party (in lieu of ride)**
See details on page 6.

Dec 31 **Ride Out The Old Year**
To close out the year, we're doing a relaxed, 2.5-hour (~83-mile) afternoon ride on smooth, wide-sweeping valley roads during the warmest window of the day (sunset is at 4:45 PM).
Ride details on page 12.

2027 Ride In The New Year

Jan 1 **District Gathering Sponsored by AL-Y**
New Year's Day Ride to Wintzells Oyster House Guntersville, AL
Ride will be to Guntersville to meet up with other AL Chapters for lunch.
Meet: Wavaho, Lacey's Spring Lead: Faye Gersch
KSU: 9:45 am







Christmas Party



December 5th 4:00 pm

Faye's House: 254 Sherbrook Dr Lacey's Spring, AL 35754
Call or Text Faye: 256.508.1047 to RSVP

Turkey, Dressing, Cranberry Sauce – Provided by Chapter
Please bring a side dish: Vegetable, Dessert, Rolls
Email rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com with details on what you plan to bring so we can ensure a variety of dishes.

We plan to play Dirty Santa. Participation is optional.
The gift price limit is $25

Happenings around the Chapter……

Our Dinners in the past month…. 10/20 Chuy's, 10/27 Applebee's, 11/3 Nothing But Noodles, 11/10 Meeting at Kacey's Buffett, 11/17 Twin Peaks. We were too busy eating and enjoying our time together to take pictures. Oops. We really were there!







Applebee's

NOTHING BUT NOODLES

On 11/7, four trikes left Huntsville, lead by Floyd and Audrey McQueen to head to Tuscumbia for some lunch at the Rattlesnake Saloon.









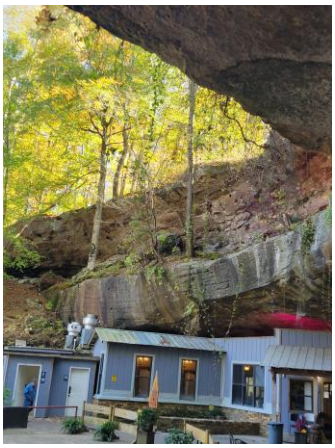
Kathy hitched a ride with Faye since her trike is down temporarily.

Happenings around the Chapter……

Rattlesnake Saloon Nov 7, 2026







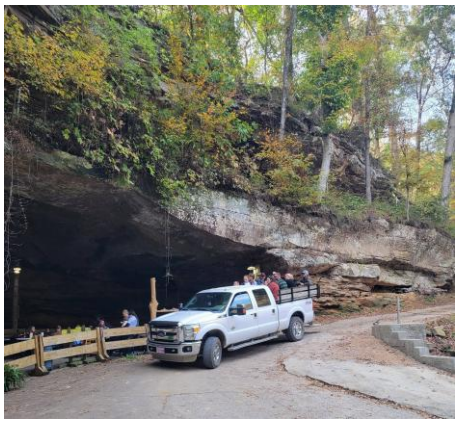


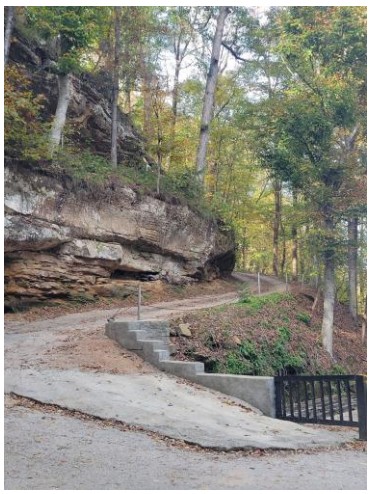
















Ronald Thomas

1. How long have you been riding?
Since 1965. I started out on a Cushman that I built from a pile of parts. Because I had no money. Then I found a Sears Alstate and a Honda 90. In 1974, I bought a new Honda 350 4cl and traded it for a Honda 550 4cl. I still have the 550.



2. First motorcycle?
1974 Honda 350 4cl

3. Current motorcycle?
2009 Goldwing with Roadsmith Trike kit.
Also I have: 1982 GL1100 Goldwing
1975 Honda 550 4cl
1971 Honda CL350
1965 Honda 305 scrambler



4. Favorite ride? Any ride.

5. Dream destination? I don't know

6. Best motorcycle memory?
Becoming a member of GWRRA in 1992

7. Favorite part about being a chapter member?
Being with a bunch of people that know me and riding. Plus going out to eat.

8. Tell us something about yourself that has nothing to do with motorcycles.
I was married for 42 years.



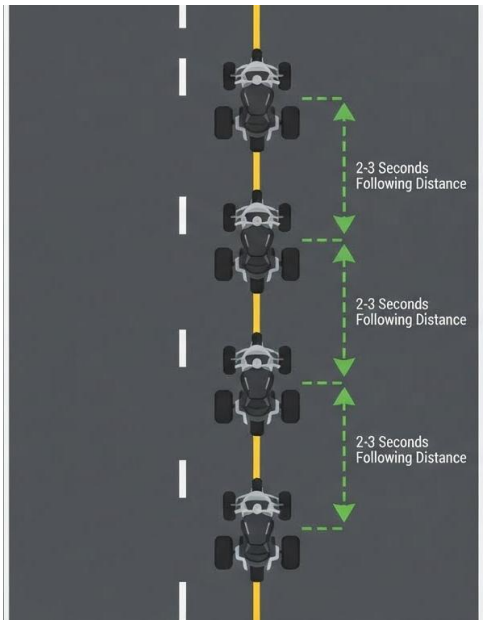




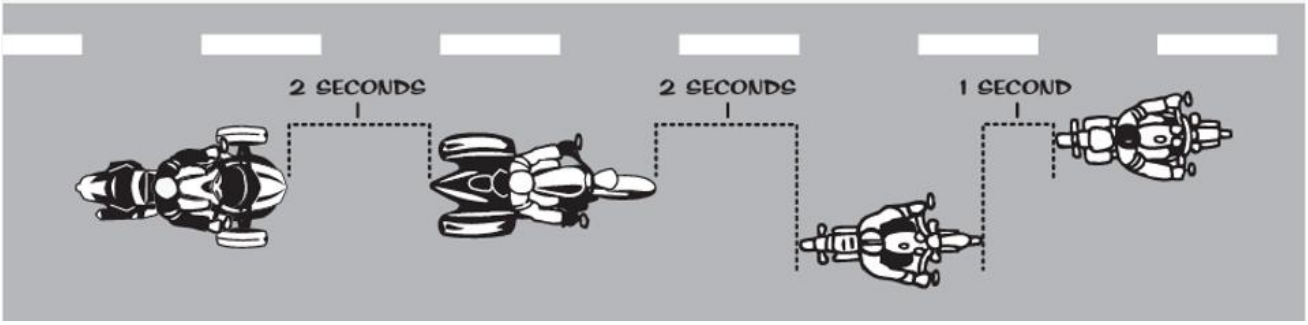
December Safety Corner:
Riding Together on Three Wheels

Our December Safety Topic was going to be about riding in cold weather. But recently, some questions have come up about rules for group riding when everyone is on a trike. Is it the same as the group rules for riding two wheels?

Many of us learned group riding when most of the motorcycles in our chapter had two wheels. We learned to stagger, watch for hand signals, and look out for the rider behind us. These days, look around the parking lot before a Rocket City Wings ride and you'll see a lot more trikes. So which parts of our group-riding training should we carry forward, and which need a fresh look?



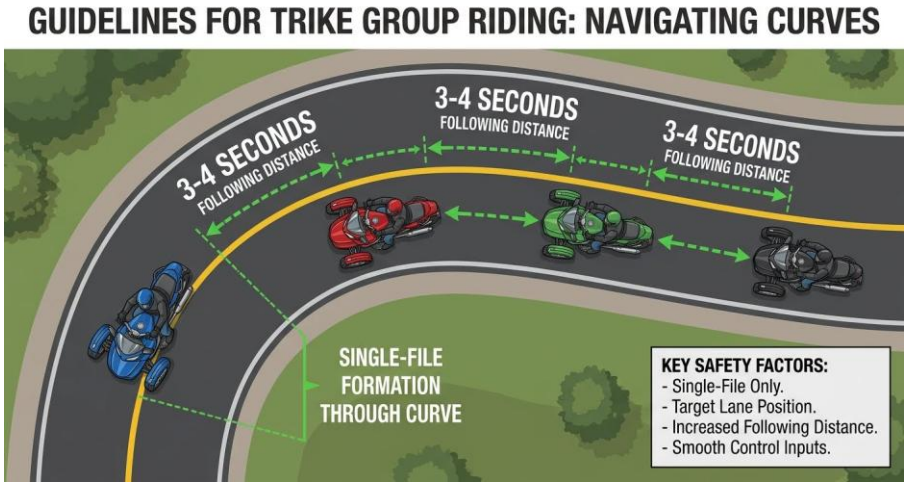
Ride single file and give each trike room.
The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's three-wheel guide advises against the staggered formation used by two-wheel motorcycles. A trike is wider, and the wheels follow different tracks. The front wheel may clear a pothole that a rear wheel could still hit. Riding single file gives each rider room to choose a safe path within the lane. Keep at least *two* seconds behind the rider directly ahead in good conditions. Pick a fixed roadside marker and count from the moment that rider passes it until you reach it. Leave more space when roads are wet, visibility is poor, or you need extra room to slow down.



Keep the habits that still serve us well.
Before leaving, review the route, identify the lead and sweep riders, and name a regrouping stop everyone can find. If the group is large, split it into smaller groups with a lead and sweep for each. When passing another vehicle, go one at a time and make your own decision about whether there's room. The rider ahead may have had a clear opening that's already closing by the time you get there.

Let the group stretch out.
If a traffic light splits the group, stop for the light and meet up at the agreed stop. If the rider ahead takes a curve faster than you're comfortable with, slow down before entering and ride it at your own pace. Knowing where we'll meet takes the pressure off trying to keep everyone in sight.

At our next pre-ride briefing, let's make the plan easy to remember. Ride single file, start with at least two seconds of space in good conditions, and know where we'll regroup. If we get separated, we'll see each other at the stop.



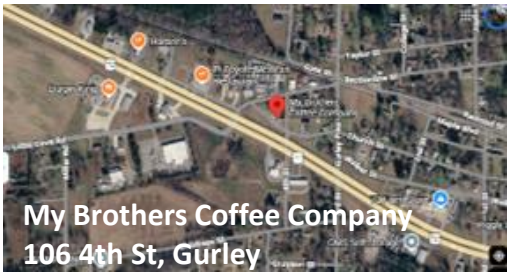
Resources:

[Motorcycle Safety Foundation — Three-Wheel Motorcycle Riding Tips, p. 46]
[MSF Guide to Group Riding]

For the January Safety Corner, we will cover "Riding After 60 | What We've Learned About Riding Comfortably." I would like to get everyone's response to the following question:
What's one change you've made over the years that helps you enjoy a group ride more?
I will gather the responses and share a few members' tips in the next Safety Corner. Please respond to rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com by December 10th.

Thank You!! **Debbie Applegate**

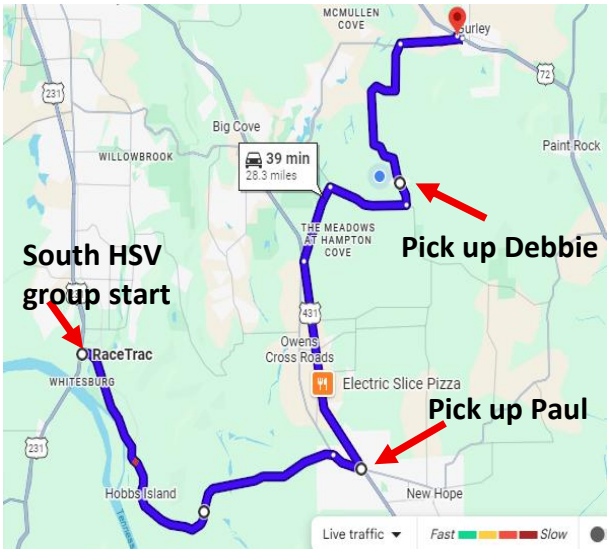
Ride Details……



December 31st Ride Loop around AL-65

Leg 1: South HSV to Gurley Meetup

Meet: **RaceTrac** 13401 Memorial Pkwy SW, Huntsville, AL 35803
KSU: 11:30 am Ride Lead: Faye Gersch



Leave RaceTrac via Hobbs Island Rd SE
At Hwy US-431, stop at Wavaho, New Hope, AL
Leave Wavaho, head N on US-431 5.5 mi (Meet Paul)
Turn right onto Old 431 Hwy 2.0 mi
Turn right onto Cherry Tree Rd 2.2 mi
Turn left onto McMullen Rd 0.6 mi (Meet Debbie)
Turn right onto Little Cove Rd/New Hope-Gurley Pike 4.6 mi
Continue to follow Little Cove Rd 1.7 mi
At US-72, cross over to continue straight onto Sectionline St
Turn right onto Church St, Destination will be on the left

Arrive at My Brothers Coffee Company @ 12:15

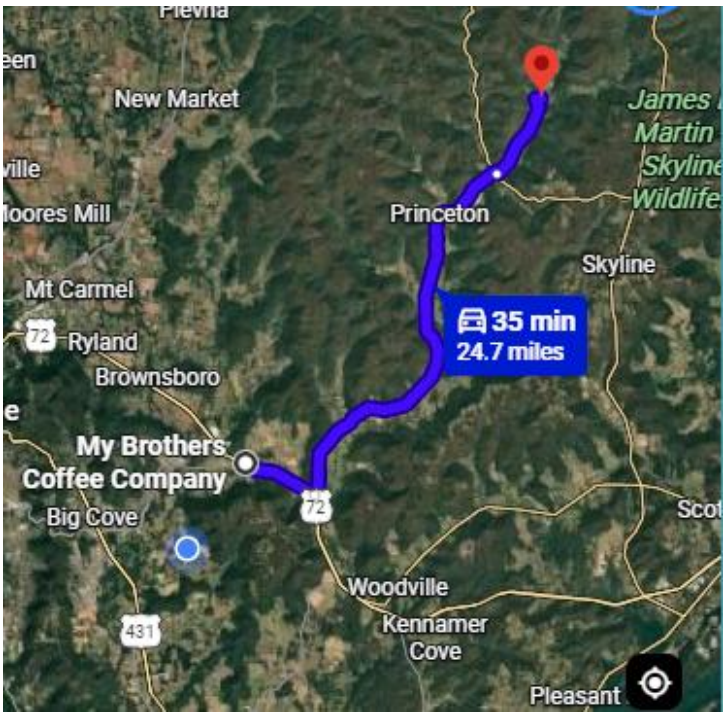
Leg 2: Gurley to Estillfork via AL-65

12:15 pm — Coffee & Pastry Stop: Pull into My Brothers Coffee Company (106 4th St, Gurley) for hot drinks and baked goods

1:00 PM — Paint Rock Valley Sweep: Head east on US-72 to Paint Rock, then turn north onto AL-65 for 22 miles of easy, sweeping country curves up to Estillfork.

1:40 PM — Regroup & Turnaround: Quick stretch in Estillfork, then cruise straight back down AL-65 S and US-72 W, rolling back into Huntsville around 2:40 PM well before the late-afternoon chill sets in.

(Note: If December 31st turns out extra brisk, we can easily shorten the valley leg and turn around early at Hollytree or Princeton.



News around the EWMA...

https://ewma-world.org/

Have you downloaded the EWMA App??

Eagle Wings Motorcycle Association (EWMA) is happy to announce we now have a Mobile App. Before we take you through the process, here are some facts you need to know.

1. Why should I download and install an app? Simply, ease of use. The app is designed to work on your mobile device and allows you to customize what you see. Once you log in using the app, you will always be logged in unless you log out.
2. What do I need to download? You need a mobile device with data and internet capabilities. The app is compatible with both Android and Apple products. You will download the app from the respective stores.
3. Why not just use the website? You still can, if you desire. The App gives you quick access to some items, and also access to the website.
4. For people with admin functions, will I still have my admin capabilities? No. The app is designed with the member in mind. It provides "member" access to the material. For those with admin capabilities, you will still need to access those features through the web browser (mobile or PC).
5. What does the App give me I don't already have with the web browser? There are features within the browser that are not available from the web. Some features will be expanded in the future. These include (but are not limited to):
   Channels • Direct messaging • Text messaging • and other push notifications

(Note: Each person has to agree to receive text messages before they can be added to a group. Just trying to keep the app user friendly and safe.)

Accessing Our Mobile App... Here are the steps to install…

- Search for and download the Club Express App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. You will know you have the correct one when you see this icon.
- Open the ClubExpress app
- Log in with the email address and user Password from the EWMA website. (Note: family members will use the primary member's email and password)
- Browse around the app and check out the Mobile Channels, Meet Up, Direct Messaging, and Push Notifications and more.

NOTE 1: If you have never logged into the website, you probably do not know your password. You can contact the EWMA Tech Team for assistance.
NOTE 2: Family members can download the app and use the primary login AND everyone use it at the same time.
EWMA Technology Team technology@ewma-world.org

News around the EWMA...

https://ewma-world.org/

Upcoming EWMA Events:

2027 FL District Rally	Mar 18-20, 2027 Best Western Hotels & Resort, Gainesville, FL
2027 TN District Rally	Apr 22-24, 2027 Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Manchester, TN
2027 Triple Crown Rally	Jun 10-12, 2027 Hilton Garden Inn, Anderson, SC
2027 Eagle Wings Rendezvous	Sep 2-4, 2027 Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL

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

2027 Eagle Wings Rendezvous 5th Annual Rally

Early Bird Registration is open:

Von Braun Center Huntsville, Alabama September 2nd - 4th

Register Online Now

For all the information about registration, please visit ewma-world.org
(Remember to log in for member pricing)

Thursday:	Grand Opening Party
Friday:	Bike and Light Show
	(Enjoy some ice cream!)
Saturday:	Closing Ceremonies

Daily 50/25/25	On Bike Games
Guest Speakers	Presentations
Bike & Light Show	Vendors

Mystery Cash and Grand 50/25/15/10

Regular rate until 08/06/2027. $50.00/person
After 08/06/2027, pricing goes up to the onsite pricing (increases $10) and you must register onsite.

Rendezvous Shirts are NOT included with the registration and must be pre-ordered. There will be more info soon on how to order the shirts.

News around the Alabama District...

https://ewma-al.org/

Chapter - AL-A Dixie Wings Mobile, AL	Chapter Director: Max & Kathy Tanner Phone: 251-680-3794 mtanner321@yahoo.com	Gathering Info: 1st Tues. Eat: 5:15pm; Meet: 6:15pm Morrison's Cafeteria 3200 Spring Hill Ave. Mobile, AL 36607
Chapter - AL-B Rocket City Wings Huntsville, AL	Chapter Director: Faye Gersch Cell: 256-508-1047 fneal1@bellsouth.net	Gathering Info: 2nd Tues. Eat: 5:30pm; Meet: 6:30pm Kacey's Country Buffet 10017 South Memorial Pkwy. SW. Huntsville, AL 35803
Chapter - AL-D Model City Wings Anniston, AL	Chapter Director: Penny Landers Phone: 205-505-1902 bullocktire@yahoo.com	Gathering Info: 1st Thur. Eat: 5:30pm; Meet at 6:30pm Western Sizzlin 200 Hamric Dr E Oxford, AL 36203
Chapter AL-M East Alabama Touring Phenix City, AL	Please contact Ron Landers for information Phone: 256-452-4482 1ashkii@gmail.com	Chapter M is currently INACTIVE
Chapter AL-N Coosa Valley Wings Gadsden, AL	Asst. Chapter Directors: Dallas & Linda Petty Phone: 256-638-5085 dpetty@farmerstel.com	Gathering Info: 1st Sat, Eat at 5:00pm; meet at 6:00pm Western Sizzlin 209 W. Grand Ave Rainbow City, AL 35906
Chapter AL-S Cedar Creek Wings Russellville, AL	Chapter Directors: Michael Horton Phone: 256-412-0046 jmh34@aol.com	Gathering Info: 2nd Sat, Eat: 8:00am; Meet: 9:00am Two Fat Sisters 1606 US 72 Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Chapter AL-Y Liberty Wings Birmingham, AL	Chapter Directors: Philip & Sarah Teasley Philip (205) 567-8335 Sarah (205) 999-6559 keeton03@gmail.com	Gathering Info: 2nd Tues, Eat: 6:00pm; Meet: 7:00pm Whitehouse Restaurant 9830 Old Hwy 31 Warrior, AL 35180

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



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:

Debbie Applegate

Newsletter Content Creator and Editor

Safety / Ride Coordinator

rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com