

September 2026

Rocket City Wings

EWMA AL-B

Newsletter



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Welcome to the September Issue.....

I hope you've been enjoying the newsletter and finding something in each issue that makes you smile, gives you an idea for your next ride, or maybe even teaches you something new.

This month, I'm adding a new feature called **Member Spotlight**. We see each other at chapter meetings, dinners, and rides, but how much do we really know about each other's motorcycle stories?

Each month, I'd like to introduce one of our members and learn a little more about them — how they got started riding, what they ride now, where they love to ride, and some of the memories they've made along the way.

Here are a few of the questions I'll be asking:

Member Spotlight

How long have you been riding?

What was your first motorcycle?

What do you ride now?

What is your favorite ride or destination?

What is your dream riding destination?

What is your best motorcycle memory?

What is your favorite part about being a member of Rocket City Wings?

Tell us something about yourself that has nothing to do with motorcycles.

After all, our chapter is about more than motorcycles. It's about the people, the friendships, the adventures, and the stories we collect along the way.

I hope you enjoy getting to know the people behind the motorcycles!

Ride safe and enjoy the journey!

ROCKET CITY WINGS
EWMA AL-B
FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY & RIDING

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Getting to Know the Members of Rocket City Wings

THIS MONTH: Your Member Here! ★

MEMBER PHOTO HERE

Every rider has a story. WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOURS!

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

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY & RIDING

RIDING SINCE: _____ CURRENT RIDE: _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING? _____

FIRST MOTORCYCLE? _____

CURRENT MOTORCYCLE? _____

FAVORITE RIDE? _____

DREAM DESTINATION? _____

BEST MOTORCYCLE MEMORY? _____

FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER? _____

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MOTORCYCLES. _____



September



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Addresses for each event below....	1 Dinner 6pm 5 Guys Burgers & Fries Meet/KSU at 5:30 to ride	2	3	4	5	6
			Rendezvous - Sharonville, OH September 3-5			
7 	8 Chapter Mtg Eat 5:30pm Mtg 6:30pm Kacey's Country Buffet	9	10	11	12	13 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
14	15 Dinner 6pm Cheddar's Meet/KSU at 5:30 to ride	16	17	18	19 Ride to Trenton, GA	20 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
21	22 Dinner 6pm El Herradura Mexican Rest Meet/KSU at 5:30 to ride	23	24	25	26	27 Breakfast 8am City Café Diner
			NC District Rally - Sylva, NC September 24-26			
28	29 Dinner 6pm Big Ed's Pizza Meet/KSU at 5:30 to ride	30				

Addresses

Kacey's Country Buffet 10017 Memorial Pkwy SW Huntsville, AL 35803
City Café Diner 2003 Drake Ave SW Huntsville, AL 35801

5 Guys Burgers & Fries 1395 Enterprise Way NW Huntsville, AL 35806
Cheddar's 6125 University Dr NW Huntsville, AL 35806
El Herradura Mexican Restaurant 11700 Memorial Pkwy SW Huntsville, AL 35803
Big Ed's Pizza 255 Pratt Ave NE 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



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 starts to arrive in September so let's head to the mountains!

Changes to rides will be sent via email and Facebook.

Sep 19 Trenton, GA

The ride will travel east of US-72 turning onto Hwy 40, climbing up onto the plateau of Sand Mountain. From there, transition onto Hwy 71 for excellent rural vistas, light traffic, and a fantastic dose of crisp mountain air.

Oct 3 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.

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 TBD Where do you want to go?

Send in your suggestions to: Debbie Applegate rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com



Happenings around the Chapter.....

EWMA Chapters from around North Alabama gathered at **Top o The River** in Gadsden on July 25th. Since it was a rainy day, Faye, Kathy, and Ron headed out on 4 wheels. Thanks Ron for the pictures of the good food, fun, and friends.



Top O' the River
"Catfish Exceptionale"



RCW AL-B Chapter dinner at Red Lobster. August 4th. We all had to go in 4 wheels due to the rain. Thank you Faye for thinking about taking the pictures. Sometimes we are enjoying our food, friends, and conversation so much that we forget to capture the moments in pictures.





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Getting to Know the Members of Rocket City Wings



Chapter Director
Faye Neal-Gersch

Hello everybody. Most everyone knows how I got started riding but here goes. My first husband for 49 years became friends with Walter Gersch, our neighbor across the street. They were constantly chiding each

other about their vehicles. If one of them was kind of wanting some company, they would go raise the hood of their vehicle and that seemed to be the signal to come over and chat. So when Bob got sick with cancer, Walter was always coming to check on him and many Sunday afternoons watching races. So, when Bob passed away, Walt would continue to come check on me. After a few months, he said it was time to get out. I was talked into going out to dinner with the family on Sunday evenings. Had never ridden on a motorcycle before but one Sunday evening he said dress for the bike. Of course, I had no idea. So I put on knee pants and sandals and asked if they would be ok. His response was, I guess it will do. Needless to say, I learned quickly the dress code. I was hooked on riding. That was Summer of 2009.

We started going together and the folks in the chapter knew me before I ever got there. We bought our current home in 2010 and became partners. In February 2011, we got married. We traveled the USA quite a bit. In 2012 we decided to ride to Chattanooga in search of a two-wheeler to trike. The bike I chose but thought we could not afford was a brand-new blue Goldwing 1800, 2012 California Sidecar. I told saleslady we could not afford it since the price tag was \$45,998. She said I bet you can and sure enough we bought it. We both love it. I loved just riding behind Walt. But the time came when I had to seriously consider learning to drive it.

In November 2016 Walt developed cancer but I still was not serious about learning to drive the trike. But, when we would go ride, I continued to watch his feet on the heel toe shifter, trying to figure out the gears. Eventually, I did but was scared to try it. I could drive a straight shift car but this was different. Looked at all the gauges, buttons and levers and it horrified me. One day Walt sat on the porch and said go get on that bike and practice. I said I will, as always. But this time he insisted and would not take no for an answer. I kept going around the block till I thought I could make it on the highway. So I asked if he wanted to ride with me and his answer was, well yeah. Where we going? We rode to state line for lottery tickets and back but did not stop at home. We rode on to Guntersville and by that time he was tired, so we headed home. That was the only time I drove while he was alive. I think he was satisfied I could drive it. He passed away May 5, 2020. I have been riding ever since. I think he would have been very proud of me.

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





★ MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ★

Getting to Know the Members of Rocket City Wings



This was my first motorcycle and only one because I still have it. Walt had several but this was my first. I think my most favorite ride is to Gurley and up State Hwy 65 into Tennessee. I love riding the hills and curves, and also to Desoto Falls. Mount Cheaha is another great place to ride. Walt and I rode West across lower states to the GWRRA home office in Phoenix in 2015 and then on up across the desert to Reno Rendezvous. It was the first and only one so glad that we went. We had a fun trip. Desert was bad but we made it. We were actually gone for 2 weeks but on the way back we came across the northern route through Salt Lake City Utah on the salt flats over to Wisconsin, for a cousin's funeral.

We also made another trip to see his sister in Wisconsin and then headed up north to Canada, across and down to Niagara Falls. We were in Buffalo NY and pulled over to check the map to see what highway went to Maine. Ready to go and bike wouldn't start, so it had to be towed. Driver took us to a hotel where we met new friends that took care of us while there for a week. When the starter was repaired, we thought it best that we come home instead of going to Maine. So that is on my bucket list, I think, to make that trip to Maine.

My thoughts about being a chapter member are the best. I have met so many people that I would never have met. I just keep thinking about the warmest welcome that I got when I went to that first meeting and how many more friends I have added to my bank of friends since I joined. The Lord had a hand in my destiny and continues on in my life. They are the most kind and helpful people. All that is needed is to ask. Since we started up Eagle Wings Motorcycle Assoc, we still have the same friends, have lost a lot and gained new ones. Most importantly, we now welcome all bikes and cars and anyone who has an interest in motorcycles.

Wind therapy is the best there is.

Frances Faye Neal-Gersch



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





September Safety Corner:

The Only Thing Between You & the Road

Every time you ride, your entire motorcycle—or trike—is connected to the pavement by just a few small patches of rubber, each about the size of your hand.

Those few square inches provide your acceleration, braking, cornering, and stability.

Taking a few minutes to inspect your tires before a ride can prevent breakdowns, improve handling, and could even save your life.



Tire Pressure

This is the single most important thing you can check.

A tire that's only **4–5 PSI low** may not look flat, but it can:

- Increase stopping distance
- Cause excessive heat buildup
- Make steering feel heavy
- Wear out the tire much faster
- Reduce fuel mileage

Remember:

✓ Check pressure **before** riding.

A tire warms up quickly.

A "hot" tire can read 3–6 PSI higher than it really is.

Always use the manufacturer's recommended pressure—not the maximum pressure printed on the tire sidewall.



The T-CLOC Tire Inspection

Many MSF instructors teach riders to use the **T-CLOC** inspection before every ride. The “T” in **T-CLOC** is for *tire inspection*. This is the first step of a pre-ride safety check for motorcycles focusing on **air pressure, tread depth, and overall tire condition**. For the tires, check:

Tread

- Look for:
- uneven wear
 - bald spots
 - cupping
 - cords showing

If the center wears faster... You probably spend lots of time on straight highways.

If one side wears more... Think about your riding style and local roads.

Cracks

Sunlight and age dry out rubber.

Tiny cracks along the sidewall can indicate the tire is aging.

Replace aging tires before they fail.

The Only Thing Between You and the Road (Continued)



Nails and Screws

Never assume... "It still has air." A nail may seal itself temporarily.
Remove it only after you're ready to repair or replace the tire.



Check Tread Depth

Good tread helps channel water away from the tire.
As tread gets shallow:

- wet traction decreases
- hydroplaning becomes more likely
- braking distances increase

Motorcycle riders often replace tires before reaching the legal limit because grip drops significantly in wet conditions.



Tire Age Matters

This surprises many riders: A tire can have plenty of tread... ..and still need replacing.
Rubber hardens over time. Hard rubber doesn't grip pavement nearly as well.

Look for the DOT code.

Example: DOT XXXXXX **2123** (21 = 21st week) (23 = 2023)

Even if you ride very little, age eventually becomes more important than tread.



Trike Owners...

Three tires doesn't mean less maintenance. Actually... You have one more tire to inspect!

Check: ✓ all three pressures ✓ valve stems
 ✓ rear tire wear ✓ alignment

Improper alignment can wear a rear tire surprisingly fast.



Wet Roads

The first 20–30 minutes after rain begins are often the slickest.

Oil that has accumulated on the pavement mixes with the water before it washes away.

Extra tread becomes especially valuable during these conditions.

Ride smoothly.

Increase following distance.

Avoid sudden braking.



Know What Your Bike Is Telling You

Your motorcycle often gives warning signs before tire failure.

Watch for:

• vibration	• pulling to one side
• wobble	• steering that suddenly feels "heavy"
• wandering	• unusual road noise

If something feels different... Stop and investigate.

The Only Thing Between You and the Road (Continued)



Temperature Changes

September mornings can start in the 50s and end in the 80s.

For every **10°F change in air temperature**, tire pressure changes by roughly **1 PSI**.

That's why it's smart to check tire pressure whenever the seasons change.

Tire Tips for Long Trips

Before heading to Trenton or Cheaha:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ✓ Check pressure | ✓ Verify valve caps are installed |
| ✓ Inspect tread | ✓ Check your tire repair kit |
| ✓ Remove any embedded rocks | ✓ Carry a small air compressor or CO ₂ inflator |
| ✓ Look for cuts | |
-

Myths

"They look fine."

Looks can be deceiving. Pressure cannot be judged by appearance.

"They're only five years old."

Age isn't the only factor. Storage, sunlight, heat, and mileage all matter.

"I'll check them next week."

The best time... is before today's ride.

60-Second Tire Check

Before every ride ask yourself:

- ✓ Pressure correct?
- ✓ Good tread?
- ✓ Any cuts or nails?
- ✓ Sidewalls look good?
- ✓ Valve caps installed?
- ✓ Wheels free of damage?

If the answer is "yes"... ***You're ready to roll.***

Always carry a Tire Gauge with your bike.



Emergency Point of Contact...

Are you prepared?

What is this form? Why should I complete it? Where should I keep it? When should I update it?

When we ride together, we're there to have fun, enjoy the road, and spend time with friends. But what if something unexpected happens to one of us?

It doesn't necessarily have to be a motorcycle accident. It could be a medical emergency of any kind. If you were injured or became ill during a chapter ride and couldn't communicate, would the people riding with you know whom to call? Would they know who has the authority to make decisions for you, what medications you take, whether you have allergies, or other important medical information?

Having that information readily available is simply part of being prepared.

EWMA has created an **Emergency Information Form** for members to record emergency contacts and important medical information. Each member should complete the form and keep a copy in an easily accessible location on their motorcycle or trike, such as an accessory pocket.

But that brought up another question.

What if your motorcycle or trike is damaged in an accident and the form can't be reached?

I brought this scenario up at our last chapter meeting and suggested that our Ride Coordinator carry a sealed envelope containing copies of the riders' emergency forms. The information would be kept confidential and accessed **only in the event of an emergency**.

The response from the chapter was an overwhelming **YES**.

Of course, we hope we never have to open that envelope or use anyone's emergency information. But emergencies are, by definition, something we don't plan on happening.

We inspect our bikes, check our tires, watch the weather, and plan our routes before we ride. Having our emergency information available is simply one more way we can prepare—and look out for one another.

Take a few minutes to complete your form, keep a copy on your bike or trike, and remember to update it whenever your emergency contact, medications, or medical information changes

We may never need it.

But if we do, we'll be glad it's there.



The form is titled "Eagle Wings Motorcycle Association Emergency Information Form". It includes fields for personal information: Name, Cell Phone, Work/Home Phone, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Date of Birth, Gender, Driver's License #, State, EWMA Member #, Home Chapter/State, and Chapter Contact (Name & Phone/Email). Below this is a section for "EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON(S)" with instructions to "Please contact the persons listed directly, DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE." It lists two contacts with fields for Name, Relationship, Cell Phone, Other Phone, Email, Address, City, State/Zip. A "Medical Information" section includes fields for Medical Alerts, Health Insurance (Company Name, Policy/Group #), Preferred Local Hospital, Blood Type, and Allergies. A large box for "Special Notes or Health Issues (aka current medications list - or attach list, wear corrective lens, etc.):" is provided. At the bottom, there is a line for "Sign here to authorize emergency medical treatment by a (doctor, hospital, EMT) when direct authorization cannot be given:" and a date field. The form is labeled "Rev 1.2" in the bottom right corner.

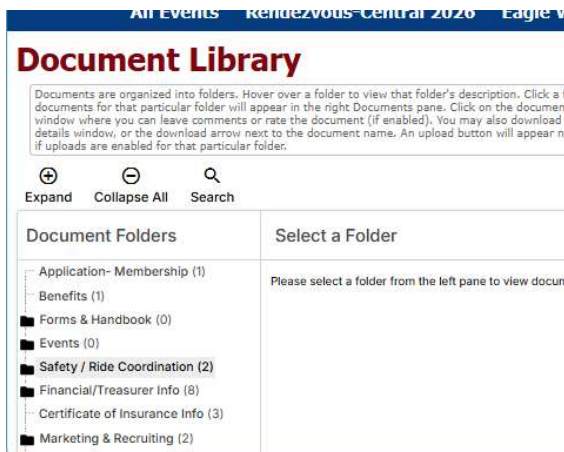
Emergency Point of Contact...

How to Find the Form

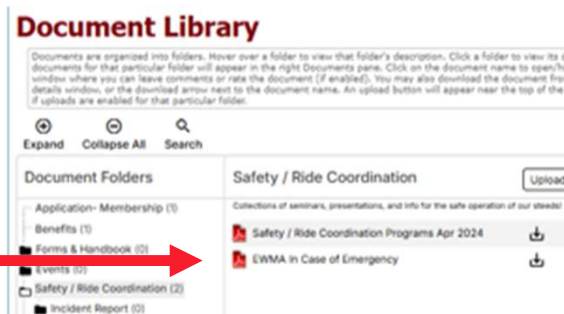


www.ewma-world.org

Click on Members Resources
On the dropdown menu, go to Documents



Document Library will appear
Click on Safety / Ride Coordination



Submenu will appear with two documents
Click on EWMA in Case of Emergency

Ride Details.....

September 19th Ride - Trenton, GA

Leg 1: South HSV to Gurley Meetup



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

KSU: 8:00am Ride Lead: Faye Gersch

RaceTrac 39 min (28.3 miles)

via Hobbs Island Rd SE and US-431 N

Exit the parking lot toward Hobbs Island Rd SE

Turn right onto Hobbs Island Rd SE 10.6 mi

Continue onto County Hwy 28 0.9 mi

Sharp left onto US-431 N 5.5 mi

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

9001 Mountain Preserve Blvd SE Gurley, AL 35748

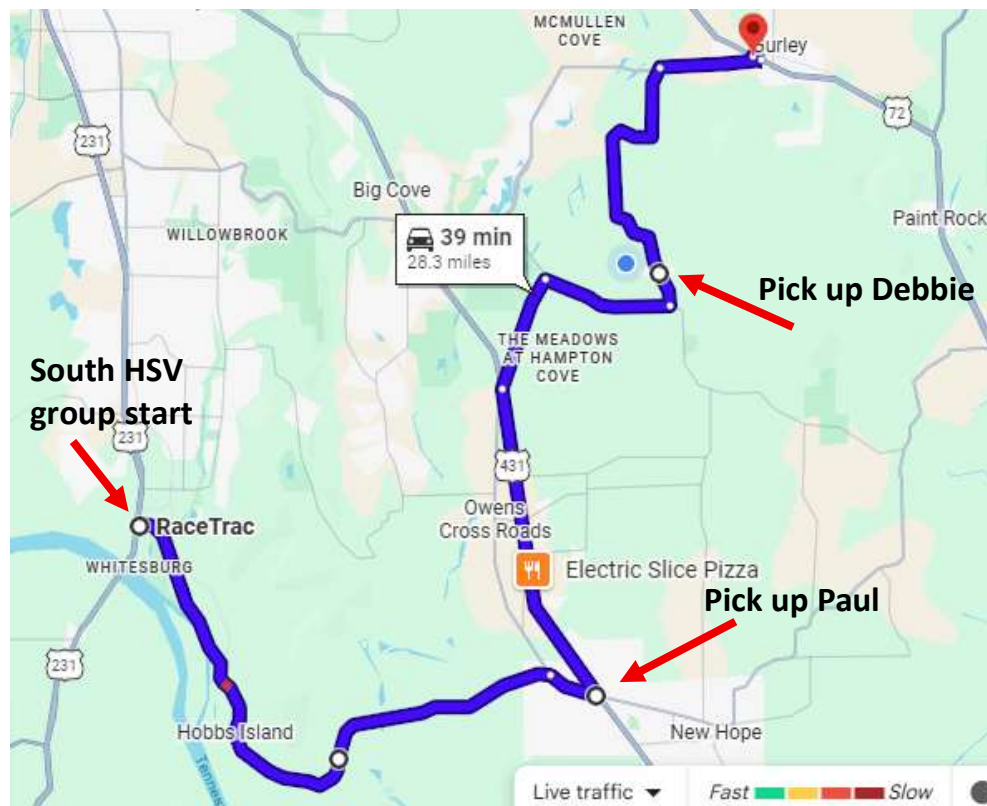
Head toward Mountain Preserve Blvd SE 4.6 mi

Turn right onto Little Cove Rd/New Hope-Gurley Pike

Continue to follow Little Cove Rd 1.7 mi

Turn left into parking lot of Circle K 0.2 mi

Circle K | Gas Station 6016 Hwy 72 E, Gurley, AL 35748



Ride Details.....

September 19th Ride - Trenton, GA

Leg 2: Gurley Meetup to Trenton, GA



Meet: **Circle K**, 6016 Hwy 72 E, Gurley, AL 35748

KSU: 9:00am Ride Lead: Floyd and Audrey McQueen

To Trenton, GA

US-72 E/Hwy 72 E. Take AL-71 N to GA-136 E in Dade County
Turn right onto US-72 E/Hwy 72 E 25.6 mi
Take the AL-35/Veterans Dr exit toward AL-279 N 0.2 mi
Turn right onto AL-35 S/Veterans Dr (signs for AL-40) 3.3 mi
Turn left onto AL-40 E 6.9 mi
Slight left onto AL-71 N 23.1 mi
Turn right to stay on AL-71 N
Entering Georgia 1.9 mi
Continue onto GA-136 E 3.0 mi
Turn right to stay on GA-136 E
Destination will be on the right 1.3 mi
Jefferson's 4276 GA-136, Trenton, GA 30752

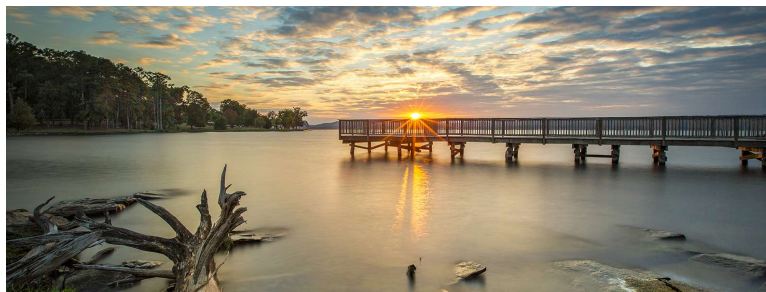


**Jefferson's
Trenton, GA**

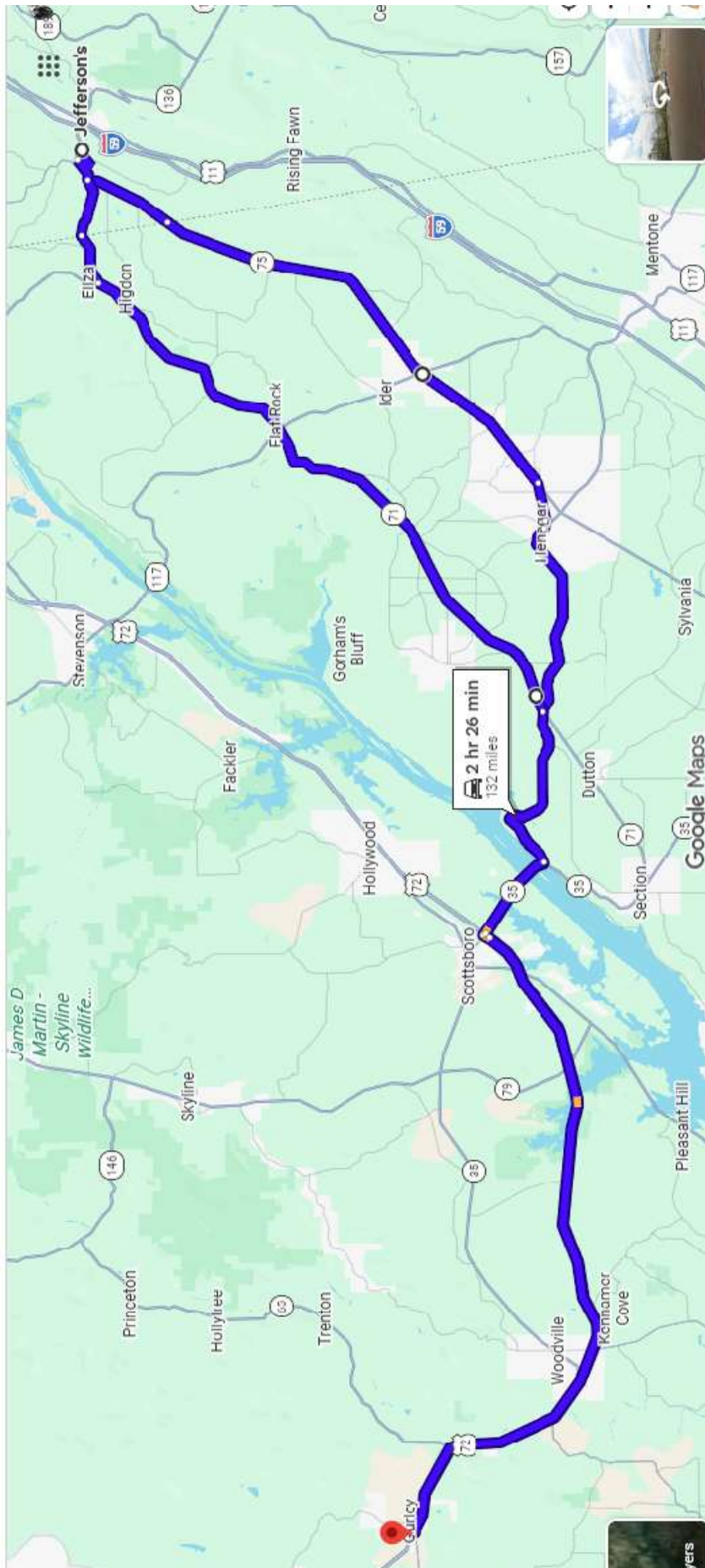
Return

Take AL-75 S and AL-40 W to US-72 E in Gurley 1 hr 14 min (66.8 mi)
Head west on GA-136 W 1.3 mi
Turn left to stay on GA-136 W 0.9 mi
Turn left onto GA-301 S Entering Alabama 3.2 mi
Continue onto AL-75 S 16.6 mi
Turn right onto Greenbriar Dr 1.3 mi
Continue onto Wilks Ln 0.2 mi
Slight right onto AL-40 W 14.1 mi
Turn right onto AL-35 N 3.4 mi
Turn left to merge onto US-72 W toward AL-279 S 25.8 mi

Guntersville, AL



Ride to Trenton, GA and return



Winding two-lane state roads right across the state line, concluding in the valley of Trenton, GA. It is a perfect blend of open cruising and gentle twists that every rider in the group will enjoy!

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:

September 3—5 EWMA Rendezvous, Sharonville OH

September 24—26 NC District Rally, Sylva NC

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

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



**2026 Eagle Wings
Motorcycle Association
Eagle Wings Rendezvous
4th Annual Rally
Sharonville Convention
Center
Sharonville, OH
September 3-5, 2026**

CHAPTER N PRESENTS
EAGLE WINGS GATHERING ON THE FARM

Location: Dallas & Linda Pettys' Farm
637 County Road 191
Crossville, AL 35962
Dallas cell phone: 256-638-5085

Date: October 3, 2026 (rain day Oct 10)
Time: 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers supplied by Chapter N
Bring a side dish or dessert or drinks
Entertainment will be on the farm.
Bring your own lawn chairs.
We will have a 50-25-25



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 Editor

Ride Coordinator

rocketcitywingsalb@gmail.com