



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY WINGS



Chapter NC-W

Eden, NC

June 2011

2011 STAFF

Chapter Directors
Glenn & Becky Fargis

Asst. Chapter Directors
Ed & Sandy Paisley

Chapter Couple
Ronald & Linda Fargis

Chapter Educators
Wayne & Molly Byrd

Secretary / Treasurer
Rodger & Betty Hodges

Newsletter Editor
Wayne Byrd

Ride Coordinators
Lawrence & Lois Shumate

Sunshine Lady

Goodie Sales

Phone Tree Lady
Janice Elgin

Historian / Photographer
Velma Burcham

**We gather the 3rd Monday at
the Golden Corral at
1566 Freeway Drive
Reidsville, NC
6:30 meal 7:30 meeting**

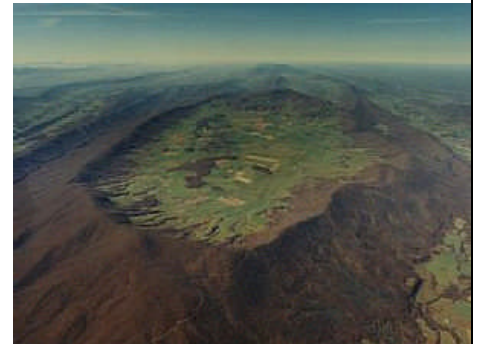
**Please visit our website at
www.gwrranc.org**

FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTORS

I'd like to say thank you to those of you who came out for the Chapter cook-out on June 4th. The first 6 months of our journey as your Chapter Directors has been very rewarding for the two of us. Nothing is more rewarding than to see all of us together as a group having fun. I think that is the one thing that makes our Chapter special. As a group, "We Have Fun."

Even in the face of adversity, we find a way to have fun. This was the case as we took a Chapter ride on June 11, to Burke's Garden, VA. After a nice ride up the mountain on Hwy. 58, we stopped for a butt break at The Poor Farmer's Market. We were soon back on our way and after a little time spent on Interstate 77, we exited to enjoy the final leg of our trip along some back roads of Virginia to enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. With Lawrence as our fearless leader, we soon took a turn from the pavement onto a gravel road. Fear struck the hearts of some of our riders until they soon realized that the condition of this gravel road was actually better than some of the paved roads we ride on. After just a couple of miles, the gravel turned back to pavement and no one was any worse for the wear. The rough part of the journey was behind us now and soon we would reach our destination.

There had been a lot of questions asked about Burke's Garden. Where is Burke's Garden? What's up there? Has anyone even been to Burke's Garden? Burke's Garden is located in Tazewell County, Virginia. Sometimes referred to as "God's Thumbprint," it is the highest mountain valley in the State of Virginia. Burke's Garden was first surveyed in 1748. The name Burke's Garden was originally given to the valley as a joke after James Burke, a member of the surveyor party, planted potato peelings by a campfire which produced a fine crop of potatoes the following year. The valley and surrounding mountain somewhat resembles a volcano from the air; however, it was actually formed after limestone caverns under the mountain collapsed. "Burke's Garden, Virginia." [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burke's_Garden) 2011, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., 14 June 2011.



With the worst behind us, we traveled a short distance on pavement, made a right turn at a stop sign, and then word came over the two-way: "I think I missed the road." Lawrence called out, "we need to turn around." Now being that I was in the rear of the pack, I was trying to focus on the group of riders in front of me, but I was pretty sure I hadn't seen a road that we could have missed. "Maybe we should have taken a left turn at the stop sign," I was thinking in my mind. We utilized the skills that we had practiced the prior month, during our parking lot practice, and safely made a U-turn on that narrow 2-lane road. A short distance later, Lawrence made a right turn and disappeared out of sight. Now I had mentioned that Lawrence was our fearless leader, but what I didn't realize at the time was that he is some kin to Captain Kirk. We were about "To boldly go where no man has gone before" (on a Gold Wing).

Continued on page 2

There are those who may refer to this trail over the mountain and through the woods as a road; but where I come from, we refer this as a "pig path." There was no gravel on this road -- just dirt. There were rocks -- some the size of a baseball, some a football, and some perhaps even the size of a soccer ball. There were even some that with the dirt removed, would have been the size of a SUV. Ed, who was riding near the front of the group, provided constant feedback for Becky to insure that she safely navigated the path. "Becky, there's a tree across the road," as Ed called out the conditions. "There are some big ruts on the left up here so stay to the right Becky and I believe you can make it; and when you get to the ruts, you still haven't seen the worst part." (This is where the SUV-sized rocks entered the picture.) There were spots of debris, trees, rocks, and even mud. Then the call came out from Ed, "There's a creek running across the road, Becky." After an ascent of over a thousand feet, we crossed the summit and began the decent down into the valley. Before we knew it, Lois came over the CB, "I see civilization," she exclaimed and soon we found ourselves in Burke's Garden.

The scenery was beautiful and the ride out was much more enjoyable as we managed to stay on the paved roads. With storms threatening, we made one stop on I-77 to suit up in rain gear before continuing on our way home. A second stop at The Poor Farmer's Market for ice cream allowed us to miss the brunt of the rain. I'd like to thank Lawrence for looking for destinations unknown. It's easy to choose a ride that the Chapter has taken numerous times over the years, but it's exciting to venture out to ride and see sights that we have never seen before. I believe that everyone who rode with us on Saturday had a good time.

At this time, I need to throw in a word of caution. In case you haven't figured out by now, this trip was on roads that were unknown by anyone in the group. As the group navigated the unpaved roads, there was an increased awareness by everyone. We all knew that the terrain presented uncommon dangers to a rider. Everyone proceeded at a pace they felt they could do so safely, and if someone fell behind, the group would stop and wait for that person to catch up. Everyone displayed a lot of patience and understanding and, for that, I'm truly grateful. Once we were back on the blacktop, however, we may have been a little too much in our comfort zone. Soon we found ourselves attacking the curves a little too aggressively. This became too apparent to some of the group who found themselves in a curve at a speed where they could not successfully navigate the turn. Luckily, there was no on-coming traffic and there was a paved drive on the outside of the turn, which allowed the bikes to straighten up and make a safe stop. When traveling on an unknown curvy road, reduce your speed a little and expect the unexpected. Remember, it's better to slow down and get to your destination a little late, than to never get there at all.

Ride Safe & Ride Often,

Glenn & Becky Fargis
Chapter Directors, Chapter NC-W



FROM THE ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Summer storms . . . rain . . . lightning . . . and far, far from home and on a motorcycle!!!

On Saturday, June 11, nine brave souls ventured into the deep northwest (well, it's sort of northwest) to a place called Burke's Garden. That's near Tazewell, which is just east of Busthead and north of Frog Level.

Charlie, Lawrence, Lois, Rodger, Ed, Glenn, Becky, and two "newbies" (Becky's cousin and her friend) left from the Sirloin House in Eden early on Saturday morning on their adventure to this remote and mysterious place called Burke's Garden. From maps, it looks like it might be the remains of a volcanic crater. Some say it is an ancient sea bed. It is said that it is really limestone caverns that collapsed, thousands of years ago. Or was it made by *ALIENS*???? (Que in music from the Twilight Zone – doo, doo, doo, doo.) Legend has it that, in the fifties, the area was terrorized by the "Varmint of Burke's Garden." (Really, that's a true story.) Scientists say it was a huge coyote that killed dozens of livestock, but with this mysterious crater, who knows?

Now back to the story. These 9 brave adventurers began their journey, traveled to this far away place (154 miles one way), saw this amazing "wonder" of the Virginia landscape, and as they began their trek back home, amid threats of storm and havoc, they bravely continued on.

End of the tale: I don't know what happened to the others, but Ed came in the door, dripping puddles on the floor. He had been *drenched*! "Honey, I'm home!" Thank goodness, he had his rain suit with him and had stopped to put it on as the storm threatened.

Continued on page 3

Yep, folks, I had sense enough to stay home and babysit my grandson as we watched the storm on weather radar dump loads of rain right in their path. I made a cake and was warm and dry.

The moral of this story is – BE PREPARED!!! You may go on a ride with these GWRRA folks, wind up in a land far away, get soaked – cold – hungry – whatever -- and need that extra gear you've had tucked away. Be prepared for whatever happens and enjoy your rides and the great fellowship.

Best wishes for lots of summer adventures,

Ed & Sandy Paisley
Assistant Chapter Directors, Chapter NC-W



FROM THE CHAPTER EDUCATORS

Slow Down and Pace Yourself

In today's hurry-up rat race, it seems we are always in a hurry. Rush, rush, rush! Pacing ones self is very important. Some of us aren't as young as we used to be. We aren't as mobile or agile as we used to be. We move slower than we used to. The best thing is we've survived and most of us have been there and done that. It is time to pace ourselves and smell the roses. If you are taking a ride and you are in a hurry, the pace may place the motorcycle in control. Slow down and enjoy the scenery.

When we get on our motorcycles, we need to ensure that we have sufficient time to get to our destination and, most of all, arrive there safely and in one piece. A slower pace in life is vital to ones mental and physical well-being. Think about it as you throw your leg over that saddle and get ready to turn that key. While riding through our beautiful countryside, pace yourself.

On a similar note, remember the number one survival skill, after mastering emergency braking, is setting your corner entry speed early. "Slow in, fast out." You may get away with rushing into a lot of corners, but that last one could have gravel, mud, or even a car or a semi in your lane. We've all rushed into a corner too fast and experienced not just the terror but the lack of control when trying to herd the bike into the bend. If you're fighting the brakes and trying to turn the bike, any surprise will be impossible to deal with. Slow down! Setting your entry speed early and looking into the corner allows you to determine what type of corner you're facing. By pacing yourself and not rushing, you can and will enjoy the ride.

So ride safe, and remember to pace yourself. Not only will you have fun, but you will still be alive to remember it.

Wayne & Molly Byrd
Chapter Educators, Chapter NC-W



FROM THE RIDE COORDINATORS

Lawrence and Lois are on the road again so, in their absence, here is a list of upcoming rides/events for Chapter W.

DATE	EVENT
6/25/11 PLP at 10:00 a.m.	Horse Pasture Fire Department Breakfast PLP – Lighthouse Baptist Church, Eden
7/1/11 at 6:30 p.m.	Meet & Eat – Red River Grill, Eden
7/6-9/11	WING DING, Knoxville, TN
7/16/11	Chapter Ride – Mountain Lake, VA (starting time/location TBD)
7/23/11	Horse Pasture Fire Department Breakfast
8/5-7/11	Chapter W Mountain Trip, Boone

CHAPTER VISITATION

Each month, Chapter W welcomes many visitors to our gathering. We allow them to share in our fun and contribute to our success. Like me, I'm sure that many of you are thankful that they choose to visit with us. It's just what GWRRA members do. I'll be the first to admit that I've been lax in returning the favor to other Chapters. I've visited a few times this year, but not to the extent that I should have. We have attended a few Chapter rallies and events as a group and for those events we have had pretty good attendance. I'd like to see us participate a little more in Chapter visitation over the Summer months. As many of you may know, I have taken on the task of going back to school and, along with working full time, that does not leave much time for other activities. I decided to skip the Summer semester of school to allow Becky and me to visit other Chapters a little more. We will communicate when we plan to visit. I encourage each of you to do the same. Find some dates that are convenient for you to visit another Chapter, send out an e-mail, and ask others to join you and visit, visit, visit. It's a good opportunity (or excuse) to ride. If you don't care to ride, get together and car pool to help with the cost of gas. To those of you who have been out visiting, I say "Thank You." I appreciate you representing Chapter W.

Glenn & Becky Fargis
Chapter Directors, Chapter NC-W



FROM THE SUNSHINE LADY



BIRTHDAYS

Ronald Fargis	6/4
Debbie Lawrence	6/4
Velma Burcham	6/8
David Pruitt	6/8
Randy Wagoner	6/10
Janice Elgin	6/24

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Liz Hester	6/10
Mike and Susie James	6/14
Joe and Barbara Chatman	6/16
Bruce and Sandra Burroughs	6/27