Andrew & Vickie Butcher
North Carolina District Directors

“What Can We Say?”

What can we say….if you did not make it to Winter Thaw you missed a good time. We are truly amazed at the imagination and creativity of some of our members. You guys never cease to amaze us. We are not going to dwell too much on this because the newsletter is full of how much fun was had by all. Also, if you have received newsletters from many of the chapters that attended you already know you missed out. So…..we are making the announcement now…..

OPERATIONS MEETING/WINTER THAW, JANUARY 25 & 26, 2013

We are looking for ideas and suggestions so sharpen your pencils and send them our way. We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to come and hopefully learn something new and visit with your GWRRA friends. This fun and learning weekend would not have been a success without you. We also want to thank Alan Little and our friends from the Cabarrus Convention Bureau for doing such a great job with the presentation about our new venue for Wings Over North Carolina. We believe they put a whole new prospective on this move and answered questions that many of you have had. We want to continue with this momentum during the months to come by sharing each month in the newsletter something new and exciting that will be going on at Wings Over North Carolina. We want to make sure no one misses out on any of the opportunities for fun and excitement that will be available.

NEW THIS YEAR: CAMPING – ON SITE

That's right folks we have camping on site available to everyone until all the sites are gone. We have an area for vendors and also for attendees. We can accommodate pretty much any setup that arrives from RV's self-contained to pop-up/tent camping. We have shower facilities in the Arena, you may have to walk a little ways, but there are no hills. You will be able to come in on Wednesday to set up. Cost per night is $35 regardless of what you arrive in. Camping must be paid in advance and will be available until we are sold out. We are including a Camping Registration Form in the newsletter for your convenience or you can go to the gwrranc.org web site for the information. Contact information for questions is listed on the form.

We want to take this opportunity to say CONGRATULATIONS to NC-F2, Garner for being our 2011 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR. They worked and played hard all year and are well deserving of this honor. Also CONGRATULATIONS to Bob “Goose” & Dorothy Richards, CD's for Chapter NC-X, Wake Forest for being recognized as 2011 Chapter Directors of the Year. It was a tough decision this year with only 2 point separating 1st and 2nd place. For those that don't know we use a scoring system based on nominations to decide the winner. In our book ALL NC Chapter Directors are winners. We would like to suggest to all chapters to do something nice for your Chapter Directors this month. It is not an easy job and it is a “thankless” job. Show them how much they are appreciated!

(Continued on next page)
Andrew & Vickie Butcher – NC District Directors
“What Can We Say?”
(continued)

We would like to extend an invitation to each of our members. In March the rally season begins starting with the District of Florida on March 22-24th. The District Team will be out and about spreading the word about our 29th Annual Wings Over North Carolina throughout the year. We would love to have you with us. Let us hear from you. We have already heard from some that will be joining us at the TN Spring Fling. Let’s show everyone how much fun North Carolina can have riding and playing together.

Remember….it’s all about the ride, it’s all about FUN!
Ride Safe!
Andrew and Vickie Butcher

NC-F2 Garner – Chapter of the Year
Chapter Directors Shawn & Donna Lane

Chapter Directors of the Year
Bob & Dorothy Richards
NC-X Wake Forest
Wings of North Carolina
2012 Campsite

Site # ____________________

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________________
Home Phone _______________________________________
Cell Phone ________________________________________
Email Address _____________________________________
GWRRA # _________________________________________

Type of RV ________________________________________
Size of RV _________________________________________
Tow Vehicle ________________________________________
Vendor Yes ___  No ___

Check in Date ________________________________
Check out Date ________________________________ ** Must check out by 11:00 am 9/23/12
Total # nights _______________________________

Electric

Water

Sewer

**Full hook up available
**Showers & bathroom located inside Cabarrus Arena, with limited hours.

Total Cost ________________________________ ** Cost $35 per night**
Payment Rec'd ______________________________
Balance ________________________________

Other:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Please make checks payable to NC-GWRRA
Send checks & this form to: Tom & Dina Towey
109 Fields Drive, Waynesville, NC 28785
Hello Goldwing Family,

Well, the first Winter Thaw has come and gone, with rousing success. The pajama theme was great and really brought out the "best" in our association. We had everything from union suits to geckos. Even had a Ma and Pa Kettle, whom I haven't seen in quite a while. Just fantastic! I know everyone had lots of fun and hopefully, this can be made an annual event. Also, I hope this was a good learning experience for all, especially those who haven't attended an Ops Meeting in a long time, if ever. Perhaps this afforded members the opportunity to learn what goes on behind the scenes to help make this the great association that it has become. Alice and I thoroughly enjoyed the event and wish that it will grow to be a "super" annual event. Great job everyone, including the District Team, and especially Andrew and Vickie for going out on a limb and thinking outside the box.

The presentation by Alan and the ladies from the Cabarrus Convention Bureau surely should convince doubters of the justification in moving to this new venue. It's truly a marvelous facility and Cabarrus really does appreciate the opportunity to earn our business. The District Staff believes that this was the right thing to do, so please show your confidence by preregistering ASAP.

Congratulations are in order for Bob "Goose" and Dorothy Richards for being named Chapter Directors of the Year. Also to Shawn and Donna Lane, CD's of F-2 in Garner, for their chapter being selected as "Chapter of the Year". Also, to Leah Parks, of Chapter A, Greensboro, for the winning logo design. We're truly fortunate to have such talented people among us. Congratulations!

The plaques were awarded at the Winter Thaw. The Central Travelers plaque was won by Greensboro, who meets on the second Thursday at Capt. Bill's Seafood on W. Market St in Greensboro, 6:30-7:30. The Tar Heel Travelers Plaque was won by D-2, New Bern, which meets on the third Monday at the Golden Corral, 6:30-7:30. Chapters winning these two plaques must notify us within 24 hrs. @ 336-697-8193 or www.grm0476@aol.com.

Hope to see everyone at Smithfield's Chili cook-off.

Ride Safe, We Care
Ron and Alice
Asst. District Directors
NC (Central)
Hello NC District!

Well it is official. The Winter Thaw and OPS meeting held on January 27th and 28th turned out to be a huge success and was a fun filled weekend. If you did not come you really missed out on a lot of good fun, food and fellowship, which was truly great! I am sure pictures will show up in many newsletters in February and maybe even on the internet. You will get a big laugh when you see them! Too bad you were not there, it would have been really funny to see what happened in person.

The OPS meeting went well and all the chapter officers and other attendees received the information needed for 2012 to lead the chapters throughout the District. One of the best highlights of the weekend was the dinner and awards presentation on Saturday evening. Alan Little did a presentation about our change of venue to Concord that was very impressive to say the least. It explained a great many things and those that attended came away with a better understanding of why District made the changes we did. Also the CVB from Concord was there to inform us what they had planned for us in September to make our event great. Police escorted ride to downtown, where the city is blocking off Main Street for us to have great and easy access to parking. There will be live entertainment (concert) going on that night and CVB has arranged for shops to stay open late for anyone that may wish to do a little shopping and the famous Cabarrus Creamery (Ice Cream factory) will also be open!

The plaques for 2012 were drawn for and given out. Make sure you check the district website for current location and when they will be available for capture and then get your chapter prepared to get out there and chase them down.

Two of the biggest highlights of the evening were Chapter of the Year and Chapter Director of the Year selections. We want to say congratulations to NC-F2 Garner for being selected as “Chapter of the Year for 2011”. I can tell you they were very active this year and worked together to gain all the points they could. Shawn Lane, the Chapter Team Director, did an outstanding job tracking everything during the year and maintaining the necessary paperwork for submission. It is a well-deserved reward for the entire chapter!

WAY TO GO NC-F2!

(continued on next page)
Bernadette and I also want to say congratulations to NC-X’s Bob (Goose) Richards for being selected as “2011 Chapter Director of the Year”. Bob is very active and responsive both in Chapter NC-X and the district. This is considered to be one of the highest recognitions a Chapter Team Leader can receive and Bob is most deserving of this reward and recognition from the District.

GREAT JOB, GOOSE!!!

Last, Bernadette and I want to thank everyone for the e-mails and other social media input about the birth of our grandson Tatum Keith Gentry. He weighed 9 pounds and 15 ounces and was 23 inches long (big boy). He is two weeks old now and he and momma are doing great. Daddy has to quit beating his chest like a gorilla before it gets too sore though! LOL

Walter & Bernadette Snider
ADDs - East
It seems like we were just planning for Gifts on Cycles, we have already attended OPS/Winter Thaw and now we are in the critical planning stages of Wing Over North Carolina! Can you believe it is February already and what I can’t believe is we have not had any major snow in the mountains yet? So, where does the time go?

It was great to see everyone at OPS/Winter Thaw weekend on January 27th and 28th. OH MY GOSH, did we have a lot of laughs on Friday night with all of the “Oogie Boogies”, “Under the Blankets” and “Have you had your eyes examined” happening! We sure did learn a few things on Friday night; just ask Wayne Grant, he can give you a “synopsis” of everything that happened, well maybe!

The turnout for Winter Thaw dinner and awards banquet was a fun time too! Alan Little did an awesome presentation on why and how the change in location for our District Rally came about and the process that was taken to find the new venue. Just in case you have not heard, our District Rally will be located at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center in Concord, NC. The ladies (Vickie Baptista & Donna Carpenter) from the Concord Visitors Bureau (CVB) attended the dinner and awards banquet and showed us how excited they are that we are having our District Rally in Concord. The CVB ladies brought us some amazing door prizes! They gave us race track packages, hotel packages, paid registrations for WONC and gift baskets. They are very supportive and appreciative of our rally, they made us all feel so welcomed and what an awesome CHANGE!

We believe the entire OPS/Winter Thaw weekend was a success. Congratulations to Andrew & Vickie, for once again, thinking outside of the box and finding new ways to have fun! I’m glad to see that a lot of the chapters are following along and changing things up at their gatherings and events too!

All the plaques were given away at the Winter Thaw awards banquet, so the race is on, get out there and start chasing those plaques.

Happy Valentine Day everyone!

Tom & Dina Towey
ADD-West
GWRRA® NC-C2 Smithfield  CHILI COOK OFF

Entry Fee.........Free
First Place.........$100.00  Smithfield Moose Lodge
Second Place ......$50.00  402 J. R. Road
Third Place........$25.00  Selma, NC 27576

* Judging starts at 11:30

At intersection of 70A
and I 95 hwy. Take
service road in front of
J.R.'S DISCOUNT
STORE. Moose Lodge
on right at end of road.

Saturday 2-18-1012
9:00 A.M. Start
12:30 P.M. Eat
2:00 P.M. Meet

$5.00 at the door gets you all the chili and fixings you can eat!!

Baked goods for
sale!

Special Prize Table!
Lots of Games!!

Free Coffee!!

If you like Chili this is for you!
THIS WILL BE OUR FEBUARY MEETING

LIABILITY RELEASE
I/WE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS GWRRA, THE CO-
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION (S), AND ANY PROPERTY
OWNERS FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY TO SELF OR PROPERTY
BY REASON OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT.
Hey Gang,

With the 2012 Operations and Winter Thaw completed, the comments were very surprising. We were told that this was the best one yet. This is because we as educators came together and talked, listened, shared and learned about our Rider Education program. Please understand that this is not National's, Region's or District's program. This is the member's program and without the members we would not have a program. As your district educator it is my job to insure that we are following the guidelines set forth in the Rider Education handbook. I strongly encourage all Educators, Directors and members to read this information. Rider Education and Leadership Training is what sets GWRRA above other groups.

With the rally/convention season getting ready to start the District Team is hard at work planning our district rally/convention. As we all are aware a lot has changed. We are offering an onsite ERC, Trike, MFA and Rider Ed seminar course; we are also offering a Masters Breakfast. Again we are having Team Challenge and Top Gun competitions. This has become very popular over the 3 years we have had it. Our intent is to get riders/co-riders back on the Gold Wing/bikes and to better our skills.

Last but not least we have started two new Facebook pages:

**NC Rider Educators**- this is a closed group page to allow our Chapter Educators and Instructors an area to share ideas and material. Our hope is this will better our Education program.

**NC Motorist Awareness**- this goes without saying, to help get the work out about Motorist Awareness. This page is open to everyone. Please join and help spread the word.

"ALL THE GEAR, ALL THE TIME"

Wayne & Elva Grant

GWRRA NC DISTRICT EDUCATORS
GWRRA NC DISTRICT MOTORIST AWARENESS COORDINATORS
GWRRA RIDER EDUCATION SEMINAR PRESENTER/ RIDER INSTRUCTOR
NC PRECISION DRILL TEAM MEMBER
MSF RIDERCOACH

415 Pine Valley Rd, Jacksonville, NC 28546. nc-mac@ec.rr.com. (910) 330-2898
We’ve been extremely fortunate to have a very mild winter thus far. This was a main reason for me relocating to North Carolina in 1977. Those from cold weather climates rode our bikes basically from around April or May, depending on the weather, to around early October. We then serviced the bikes and put them away for a good night’s sleep.

When spring came you could go to just about any school parking lot on a Saturday and watch the motorcyclists brushing up on their skills since it’d been quite a while since they’d had the bike out on the road.

Here is the south we sometimes don’t bother to brush off the winter rust when he get ready to ride in the better weather. This can be a lethal mistake as it doesn’t take long for our skills to erode. Springtime is a great time for a parking lot practice, if you have a certified facilitator available. If not contact us at district and we’ll see what we can arrange for you. Another great option it to avail yourself of a MSF rider course, a GWRRA rider course, or any of myriad other motorcycle courses available. Of course if you’re in the GWRRA levels program and want to keep your levels up to date, you have to take a rider course every three years. If you’re not in the levels program, talk to your chapter educator as level one only requires a level of commitment to ride safe.

No matter how long or how many miles you’ve accumulated, it’s a good idea to practice on your bike for an hour or two before heading out on any rides. Colleen and I will be heading over to the old school yard for a refresher session before we do too much riding this spring. I want the bike and I to be physically and mentally ready for the day to day challenges of staying upright.

It won’t be long before our chapter gatherings once more have lots of motorcycles parked out front.

So, as the title states “get ready to rumble OR purr, if you ride a Goldwing.

Safe riding,

Tom FitzGerald
North Carolina Assistant District Educator
The Horizon Program is a fast track overview of the core LTP curriculum with hands-on training of practical applications. Learn more about teamwork, self-awareness, interpersonal communication, and building better chapters. Lots of surprises in store! Space is limited, so contact us today!

1 1/2 days of fun! Beginning at 8 a.m. both days

**Horizon Program**

**Saturday and Sunday**

**March 10th and 11th, 2012**

**WHERE:** Holiday Inn Express

**ADDRESS:** 2491 Wonder Dr.

**Kannapolis NC—Exit 60 off I-85**

Rooms are available for $85/night. Call 704-743-1080 to make your reservations.

**Good-fellowship**

Fun! Fun! Fun!

To register or get more information, contact Alan and Carolyn Little at carolynlittle@ctc.net

**Team Building & Personal Profile**

Expectations Communications

Effective Meetings & Events The Officer Spouse Couple

Hands-on Application
Following the recent Winter Thaw, LTP just HAS to stand for “Loves To Party”. Hopefully you were there and know what I’m talking about! One purpose of presenting the Winter Thaw was to reignite our Goldwinger’s excitement, enthusiasm and get 2012 launched with a lot of energy. I think we can all agree that it worked! From “Oogie Boogie” to “Under the Blanket” to “Check your Eyes”, there were a lot of folks who we learned a LOT about. (Sometimes we learned TOO much!) The entire event was charged with electricity and a ton of fun. One of the hotel’s clerks told us that she’d NEVER seen folks having so much fun. I think we were all ready to do some serious “hanging out” with our friends. If this weekend is any indication, we’re in for a ride this year.

The other portion of the weekend was the Operations Meeting to outline this year’s events. All of our programs are primed and ready to serve our members. We’re here for you, so let us help.

Hopefully you’re sharing in the excitement of travelling to a new venue for our 2012 Wings convention. The folks in Cabarrus County are definitely ready for us. They have planned trips and activities that we’ve never seen at ANY GWRRA event. As we listened to Donna and Vickie with the Cabarrus Visitor’s Bureau unveiling some of these plans, we could feel the anticipation growing, and could just hear the gears churning. The Bureau leaders pumped with excitement and for what is certainly going to be a great weekend in September.

On an LTP note, we’re seeing a lot of interest in our LTP seminars. If you think you’d like to become involved as an instructor, please get in touch us. We’d love to set up a one-day seminar to qualify you to present our seminars. We want to thank all those who participated in the LTP NC Training Day in the eastern and center sections of the district on February 4th. If you were unable to attend either of these events, there’s another training day in the west on February 25th. Contact us or John Williams for more information. John is heading up this training day for the west. Our thanks go out to Tom Fitzgerald and Carol Scully for coordinating the events this past weekend in the central and eastern sections.

Stay involved, and keep it fun!

Alan & Carolyn
NC District Trainers
OMG! That is the only real computer text slang that I know. However, it fits so perfect. This was the most fun that I have ever had at an OPS Meeting and if you were there, you know what I am talking about. If you were not I, hope next year you can make plans to be there.

First, I want to thank John and Marie Robinson for all of their hard work and energy that they put into helping Evan and I with anything and everything. What ever we ask of them, they did not have no in their vocabulary. Therefore, I want everyone to know just how much we love and appreciate them. They are a great representation for our District.

I want this to be a fun and exciting year for you, OUR couples. If you did not get anything out of that breakout session but one thing, I hope it is this...Have FUN, Have FUN, and Have FUN! That is the first thing! That is your number one mission!

Number two, be a good representation for your chapter. Your chapter saw something in you. Maybe it was the way you took it upon yourself to greet visitors, and make them feel at home, or maybe it is the way that no matter whatever they have asked of you, you have always been willing to do it with a great positive attitude.

Number three, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER spend money traveling to chapters that you do not have! The ones that are traveling, and chasing the plaque and visiting, this it what they have chose to do! You as couple are not required to do that.

Finally yet importantly, let us talk about the selection process. There are couples in this group that want to succeed John and Marie in September at Wings and become the new District Couple for NC. Therefore, I want to address those who do not necessarily want to take on that responsibility. The real reason that any couple should go through the selection process is to represent their Chapter for having faith in you to represent them. If it is your second year and this will be your last year, do it to finish out your reign because you will not get this wonderful opportunity for a while. In addition, whoever replaces you in your chapter, you would like for them to go through the selection. Some of you have held other leadership positions, remember our members look at us to see how they should act and react. So if they are chosen on the Chapter level after you and do not see you go forward well, that old cliché “they didn’t so why should I?” will be an easy answer for them.

Enjoy the ride of Chapter Couples it is the best that GWRRA has to offer. I would not trade one day for my experiences. It has made us closer and has given us a worldwide family that we wouldn’t have had otherwise.

Remember PINK is the color and “Back to the Basics” is the Message. I am so proud of all of you and we are here for you no matter what you need.

Remember it’s not about the ride..... But how you look while you are doing it!

Evan & Cindy Parton
Winter Thaw CRAZINESS!
John & Marie Robinson
NC District Couple of the Year

“What A Year We Are Having So Far!”

Wow! What a year we are having so far. The couples are on the move, the meetings are full and everybody is having fun. It looks to me like we’re on the right track. Winter Thaw was awesome and if you did not go under the blanket, get Oogie Boogied, or have your eyes checked, don’t worry you will have another chance in September at Wings Over North Carolina.

You should be proud of your District Team. A lot of hard work goes into putting on a function like Winter Thaw. (These guys are good!) It was great to see everyone having so much fun. Some of the members went all out on their PJs. Marie and I hope the Chapter Couples are enjoying themselves as much as we are. Cherish the friendships you are making this year and if you haven’t already figured it out yet, these friendships are what GWRRA is all about.

One more piece of advice from some old timers...since you have been out visiting others they will be coming to visit you. Be sure to greet each person at your chapter meetings like you would if they were coming to your home. Have FUN! Don’t burn yourselves out by trying to do too much. Keep it fun and you will have the time of your lives. Best wishes to all and we hope to see you soon.

Love to All,

John & Marie Robinson
NC District Couple of the Year
rob7189j@bellsouth.net
336-565-9428
During the last weekend in January the NC District Team hosted a “Winter Thaw” at the Hampton Inn in Winston-Salem, and opened up the Operations meeting and the fun to all North Carolina GWRRA Members. The attendees really got into the fun by sporting some of the most outrageous getups we’ve seen. There were many participants getting “Under the Blanket”, “Oogie Boogied”, and having their “Eyes Examined” after the social hour on Friday. There was a general meeting on Saturday followed by breakouts for Rider Education, Membership Enhancement, and Chapter Team Members. The fun continued throughout the afternoon on Saturday with more games, and culminated in the awards dinner that night.

A major highlight of the day was the well-documented presentation by Alan Little of the process by which the District Team chose to move the Convention to the Cabarrus Event Center. The CVB representatives not only were extremely enthusiastic about having our event, they also are prepared to do everything they can to make our event memorable for all attendees by working with local businesses and the community.

Andrew and Vickie have forwarded emails with comments from the Members, and by all accounts, this event was a home run. We applaud Andrew and Vickie for thinking outside the box, having the entire membership in mind, making the difficult decision to move forward, and showing our Members how and why the changes were made. In the Recruiting and Retention terms, this is called taking good care of the Members.

For this event we had purchased a stock of the badges for survivors of “Oogie Boogied” “Under the Blanket” and “Eyes Examined” and were pretty well sold out when we left. Obviously, some folks were having WAAAAAY too much fun on Friday Night!! We’d like to thank everyone for supporting the District Goody Sales this weekend and throughout the year.

As things warm up and the better riding weather comes, let’s all get out there and participate in the fun. Take some time now to plan some memorable rides and gatherings. We’ll see you down the road . . .

PS: Don’t forget to wish someone a “Happy Valentine’s Day” this month!!
FEBRUARY 2012 Chapter Gathering Changes

NC-C2, Smithfield, will CHANGE their gathering for FEBRUARY ONLY to be held on Saturday, February 18th at their Chili Cookoff Event.

NC-R, Thomasville, will CHANGE their gathering LOCATION beginning in February to be held at Captain Tom’s Seafood, 1037 Randolph St. Same date and time.

NC-V, Statesville, will CHANGE their gathering LOCATION, DATE, & TIME beginning in February to be held at Golden Coral Steak House, 185 Turnersburg Hwy (route 21) on the 1st Saturday of each month. Eat at 9:00 AM, gather at 10:00 AM.

MARCH 2012 Chapter Gathering Changes

NC-H2, Durham, will CHANGE their gathering for MARCH ONLY to be held on Saturday, March 17th at their Swap Meet Event. Time is 2:00 PM.

APRIL 2012 Chapter Gathering Changes

None as of this date

MAY 2012 Chapter Gathering Changes

NC-A, Greensboro, will CHANGE their gathering for MAY ONLY to be held on Saturday, May 19th at their Spring Fun Fest Event.

NC-Y, Morganton, will CHANGE their gathering for MAY ONLY to be held on Saturday, June 2nd at their Hillbilly Hoedown Event. (They WILL STILL have their regularly scheduled June Gathering on June 23rd).
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<td>GIFTS ON CYCLES</td>
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GWRRA * Region N * NC District  
February 2012
Dear Chapter NC-A friends,

It has been a real experience staying with Leah and James Parks, and THAT dog of theirs Woody!
We went to the Durham chapter meeting in January, and I was looking forward to seeing Randy and Linda, unfortunately Randy wasn’t there and some woman named Rhonda Jay was and you would not believe the show that went on! I don’t know how Rhonda Jay did it, but I have a new appreciation for control top panty hose!

I was at a couple of the chapter Friday night dinner rides, but “she” made me sit in the car. Lucky the window was down! I even stopped by the Winter Thaw and heard Vickie and Andrew talking about something, motorcycle stuff, I guess. To tell you the truth, I really wasn’t listening as well as I should have been because I was checking out that other mascot! Woof!

So, Melissa mentioned something about a Facebook page and now Leah has started one for me. I have my own page (Cletus Nca) and my own email; cletusnca@gmail.com. I have many new GWRRA and Goldwing friends around NC, the USA, Hawaii and even a chapter in Germany. Plus, I got permission from HQ in Phoenix to say I worked for GWRRA as a mascot. I have lots of pictures posted of my travels of some of Greensboro’s landmarks and even had time to stop by the Cabarrus Arena. Check out my ride, a cool looking motorcycle, just my size! Sweet!

On Super Bowl weekend, I had a little too much of the guacamole and drank too much out of the ole water bowl (if you know what I mean) and the next thing I know, I woke up Monday morning and had found out my ear was pierced and I had a tattoo! But, then again, I got this feeling some of you know that "hair of the dog that bit you" feeling!

Remember, if you see me out and about, send me an email or post something on my FB page. I’d love to hear from you.

Till the next time, enjoy the wind in your face, the smell of fresh air, freedom of the road and the peace and joy riding your motorcycle brings you!

Ride safe!
Cletus
NC-A mascot
As many of you may or may not know, Libby Jennings & Deanne Vaughn of Chapter N in Burlington had their Mickey Mouse Mascots “stolen” right from under their noses at WINTER THAW, among a large crowd with absolutely no witnesses!

After discovering the shocking news, both ladies received an email from the kidnappers, showing the Mickeys in a compromising (almost torturous) position...... hinging by one arm from the Cabarrus Arena Welcome sign in Concord, NC.

A day later came the threatening e-mail from Mickey Knapper@yahoo.com:

“Lil Mickey let his love of cheese get the best of him. Don’t wait until it’s too late for Big Mickey. You will receive our demands shortly !!!!!”

What kind of animals are we dealing with???

EMAIL JUST RECEIVED FROM LIBBY JENNINGS

Our Mickeys have been returned....They were given back at Chapter A Greensboro’s meeting last night. And NO they did not get Cowabunga in their place. Deanne cried so much last night she used a box of Kleenex. We were dressed in black because we were in mourning.

They were taken by someone to get revenge and they were not mascots, they were only innocent little mouses. They were in pretty good shape, even though little Mickey had been scared half to death with threats, even in a mouse trap.

Anybody out there better watch out because the MASCOT CRAZE is happening this year. Protect your Mascots, but it is all in FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

Deanne & I want to thank everyone for having some fun and excitement with us during this ordeal....
What a fabulous turnout for WINTER THAW! I laughed & smiled so much Friday night that when I finally went to bed, my jaws actually hurt. Folks, if you weren’t able to make the first one, TRUST ME, plan on making next years! IT WAS A HOOT AND WELL WORTH THE WEEKEND!

I want to thank everyone who came to Carolyn & my newsletter “breakout” session. That was, by far, the best attendance yet for one of my classes and I was honored to have Ed & Linda Johnson, International Directors of the Membership Enhancement Program sitting in, giving valuable input and pointers to even me! THANK YOU Ed & Linda for your tremendous help & knowledge.

At the Awards Ceremony, I had the privilege of handing out several awards. Starting off, since hardly any Chapters met in December and the NC Region also goes three separate directions for GIFTS ON CYCLES, the best place to award the November & December Chapter Newsletter Editor Awards was at the Awards Ceremony. Congratulations go to Robert Ferguson of NC-G (High Point), the winner for November 2011 and Deb Thompson of NC-F2 (Garner), the winner for December 2011.

The biggest award presented is NEWSLETTER EDITOR OF THE YEAR 2011. This award is not easily achieved, but rather takes a CHAPTER EFFORT! Some of the criteria the District Team looks at is: #1 The Chapter has to have entered a newsletter every month for that year #2 The newsletter editor must have won Newsletter Editor of the Month at least once #3 The newsletter editor must be consistently in the top achievers every month, and finally #4 the entire Chapter must participate in article-writing, submitting photos, recipes or other entries of interest. In 2011, HANDS DOWN the best Chapter which participated in creating THEIR newsletter is NC-N BURLINGTON and the Newsletter Editor of the Year for 2011 is none other than Louanna Crocker! CONGRATULATIONS LOUANNA!