



Concours Owners Group Southeast Area News



Spring Edition

'Sport Touring At Its Finest'

March, 2008

2008 SECOG Leadership Team

Vic Salisbury, AD for SE Area
vsalisbury1@verizon.net

Bruce Barge, AAD N. FL
(Ocala),
connieldr@hotmail.com

David Sturgis, AAD N. FL
(Jacksonville)
davidsturgis@yahoo.com

Paul Heydemann, AAD
S.FL, paul.heydemann@netzero.net

Jack Ferguson, AAD N.GA,
jack.ferguson@mindspring.com
Reid Yeargan, AAD S. GA,
reid53@mchsi.com

Needed, AAD MS

Jack McVickers, AAD W.TN,
ltmcvickers@yahoo.com

Needed, AAD E.TN,

Steve Jenkins, AAD WNC,
swj54@charter.net

Ray Olszewski, AAD C.NC
Ray@ka3vme.us

Needed, AAD E.NC

Gary Norton, AAD SC

David Hicks, Webmaster
dhicks@i-hicks.org

Calvin Underwood, Editor,
secog@charter.net

Help Wanted:

Need Ride leaders. Contact your
AAD

**Send e-mail and address
changes to Carl Metler**

Send-off For Al Norcross



Have you ever wanted to tell Al Norcross (former N.FL AAD) where to go? Or maybe even just see him get run out of town? Well, here's your chance!

Al Norcross, past NE Fla AAD, will be departing on Saturday, April 5th on a several month long, possibly 20k mile motorcycle sojourn. He anticipates riding through Mexico, deep into South America then to the COG National in Colorado and onward to California before hopefully making it back safe and sound to his home in Inverness.

Come meet with Al and his compadres in crime for his sendoff, Saturday April 5th, 2008 at the Rexall Drugstore cafeteria

Run with the Wolf April 25-27



You are invited to join old friends and make new ones at the longest running COG rally in the South East. Some of the best riding roads in the country can be found in any direction from [High Valley Resort](#).

High Valley offers an abundant camping area as well as bunk houses and fully furnished cabins. Please call High Valley directly to book either the bunkhouse or cabins. Registration is \$15.00 per member, \$25.00 per non-member. Camping and the Saturday dinner is NOT included in the registration, they are your responsibility. High Valley will have a steak dinner for \$15.00 on Saturday

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

Send Off for Al

continued from page 1

in Inverness, FL located at 214 US Hwy 41 S (352-726-2005). A frugal COG approved breakfast will start at 9 AM. The drugstore is directly on US 41 just north of the intersection with Hwy 44.

Come prepared to ride some afterwards as many of us plan to send Al on his way with a proper escort up US19 after breakfast. We can use all the help we can get to collect the pieces as they drop off of Al's rendition of "Mr. Haney's truck" from the TV show "Green Acres" that will be cleverly disguised as his KLR 650 "The Green Hornet".

Come one and all and lets tell our buddy Al, "Adios Amigo!"

Bruce M. Barge, AAD, N.FL Ocala, FL

Run with the Wolf

continued from page 1

evening. Last years steak was GREAT! Other meals may be available, inquire with High Valley.

Registration will open on Friday afternoon and again on Saturday morning. There will be ride routes available showing most of the scenic and challenging roads in the area. Suches is within riding distance of Deals Gap, Helen Georgia and a number of local wineries.

Make your plans now to be a part of this great rally.

Download the registration form <http://www.concours.org/se/specialpages/RWTW2008.htm>

Questions? Contact [John Carver](#).

'Sport Touring At Its Finest'

Meet Your N.FL. AADs

Find your AAD bio at <http://www.concours.org/se/leadership.htm>



Bruce Barge was born in Atlanta, Georgia (GO DAWGS!) I've been a life long resident of the sunshine state currently residing in the granddaddy oak tree shrouded horse county of Ocala. Bikes I have owned and pretty much ridden into the ground include a '74 Kawi Mach III 500, '82 Suzuki 1100 GL, '89 Suzuki Katana 750 and my current ride, the "Barfrocket", a '98 Concours set up mainly for Long Distance Riding. I purchased my '98 in '99 with 1200 miles on it and over the years with much assistance from our past AD Larry Buck, with 115,000 miles now showing on her clock she's finally just right. I dabble in digital photography and some of you may have read my monthly columns in an (once) on-line (but now off-line) motorcycle E-zine called "Rollin' Mag". I'm also a member of the Iron Butt Association and the infamous Chatty Morons. After enjoying my membership in COG for the past 6 years, I felt it was time for me to try and give back some small portion of what I have received. I look forward to being your COG contact point here in North Florida.



David Sturgis has been riding motorcycles since 1974. He enjoyed riding so much that he made a career of it, working as a Suzuki and Honda mechanic for 5 years. In the 1980's David went back to college and began working in the IT industry. He and wife Patty were blessed with twin girls, so David took a few years off from riding until the twins were grown. He has been riding again since 2002 and has already had seven motorcycles! He has kept the 1997 Concours the longest and also put the most miles on it, including a trip to the 2007 National in West Virginia. Some of his favorite bikes include a 1977 Yamaha RD400, 1979 GS1000 and a 1980 KZ1000 LTD. David lives in Jacksonville with his family and works as a Project Manager in the financial industry. David also continues to turn a wrench often on project bikes.

Think 'Run with the Wolf'!!

'COG @ 10,000 ft.'

Don't Miss it!

*A testimonial by Kevin
Harrington*

If you are able to make COG @ 10,000 ft this year I think you are in for a fantastic time. How do I know this (other than the obvious)? In 2003 I attended a rally for Yamaha GTS 1000's in that same town and had the opportunity to gather with 35+ other riders of this interesting mark. They alighted upon a small motel (one with a hot tub—very important especially early June...) that had a single Harley rider who went to bed early. He awoke to the strange sight of 35 “rice burners” outside his room—but wait, after he rubbed the sleep from his eyes he noticed they were not only “rice burners” but all the same kind. Not only all the same kind but every last one of them was missing the front forks! James Parker's unique RADD front end was leased by Yamaha for the model years 1993 and 1994 for their first foray into high tech sport touring. They imported to the US about 650 in 1993 and 200 in 1994, making the gathering of 35 or so 10 years after the initial release quite an accomplishment. That it was organized by an Australian living here and attended by an Australian on holiday was one of many unique aspects of this North American GTS Rally. But you want to hear about the roads-right? If you run off the road in Florida, you need a baseball bat to keep the alligators at bay. In Colorado, you need to pack a parachute for unplanned 'Sport Touring At Its Finest'

off-road excursions! The only organized ride day had a two part trip—over Independence Pass and then on to Aspen for lunch. Temperature differences were something this Florida rider found interesting—heated grips were a great help... 30 or so motorcycles going the same place is not my usual cup of tea but it was interesting to see so many of such a unique bike (you gotta admit it's a little easier for COGgers to see so many of the same bike). The second leg was chosen by only three of us, a 450 mile loop through the Black Canyon. This was by far the most enjoyable part of the ride, much nicer with the smaller group. I had the good fortune to be with two very competent riders, one of which knew the roads and was an MSF instructor. OK, I felt a little pressure at first but his flow through the fantastic curves was

easy to match, not because it was slow but because it was smooth. The end of the ride was close to the end of the day, one of the most satisfying of my riding life. I will miss the COG @ 10,000 ft. but only by a couple of weeks—the 15th Anniversary NAGTSR is June 24-26th. So, if you're still hanging around the great roads of Colorado then—don't be surprised if you see an entire flock of “Forkless Wonders” flying down the road. Stop with us, we are as friendly as COGgers, just not so prolific. If interested, there's a website, <http://www.ladj.com/gtsrally/> . Even has pics from the 2003 event, and there is some video of our ride on YouTube, search for “productivesolutions” . Have fun @ 10,000 ft, just remember to hydrate!

Kevin Harrington, COG#8081,
Titusville, FL



The 'Last Blast' 12/29/07 drew a huge COG crowd. A great time was had by all. Contributed by Richard Snipes, Jacksonville, FL

Bonus Ride Info

courtesy of Jack Ferguson, AAD N.GA

These MTF rides are BIG and coming up in our backyard soon.

Masters Ride To Eat Annual "The Masters" RTE held in Augusta, GA the Saturday before the big golf tournament.

After considerable campaigning and carousing, Andy Simons, Mark Campbell, and I invite you to join us again for delightful food and great companionship at Sconyers BBQ, Augusta, GA

<http://www.sconyersbar-b-que.com/> on March 29, 2008. Here's a map <http://andy29847.smugmug.com/photos/230293374-L.jpg>

We'll arrange for a private room again this year so let's start eating at 11:30 AM or so. BTW: The kitchen opens at 10 AM. So, if you arrive early and need a snack you can grab a sandwich to munch on while visitin'.

Despite all that happened last year, the Sleep Inn says we're still welcome!?

Ezell's Fish Camp RTE, Saturday, May 3rd., 2008, in Lavaca, AL???

Ezell's Fish Camp
776 Ezell Rd. (off Hwy. 10, on the shoreline of the Tombigbee River)
Lavaca, AL 36904-3216
205-654-3216
<http://www.800alabama.com/yof/restaurant/details.cfm?ID=90>
Doors open 11:00am

Pat and Jim's ChiliFest Big Hit at Daytona Events

Asked 'why did you and Gary Norton ride to Daytona and return to Asheville, NC in 24 hours last October', Calvin Underwood replies 'For Jim and Pat's Chili, of course.' It was worth the ride. Many thanks to Jim and Pat Polito for being such gracious hosts and excellent 'chiliologists'.



(Jim and Pat pictured above at the October event in their backyard)

You can get your meat chili, white chili and vegetarian chili there.



(Vic Salisbury, SEAD, pictured with overflow of motorcycles at the October event)

The March Chili event was hampered by a rainy Friday. Pat and Jim opened their new addition (still in the making) to shelter us.



Paul Heydemann, AAD S.FL



Calvin Underwood, Editor, yellow rain pants

photos by Reid Yeargan, AAD S.GA

Man, that chili was perfect for a rainy day.

If you haven't been able to make it to a Jim and Pat ChiliFest, don't miss the next one. Yeah, it happens to coincide with Daytona BikeX Weeks. But don't let that stop you. You'll be glad you were there with your fellow/sister COGers.

Contributed by Calvin Underwood, Editor and Chili Connoisseur.

Central Carolina Report

Feb 09, 2008 Mac's BBQ RTE, Charlotte, NC

The first Charlotte area RTE in several years was a success. With less than two weeks notice given, we had five bikes and six people in attendance. Steve Jenkins, Western NC AAD rode down from the chilly mountains along with William from Old Fort NC. South Carolina was represented by Jay from Rock Hill and his friend Nancy, and a newcomer to the group Matthew, also from Rock Hill.

Matthew hails from Texas and has only been in the area for around a year. He also has a nice new C-14 which all us "regular" Connie owners got to drool over.

Lunch was at Mac's BBQ, a favorite "biker" hangout in central Charlotte, just south of downtown. It was a great thrill for me to grab a photo with all Concours' in front with the regular crowd having to park alongside the building, or out back! The food there is above average and everyone enjoyed their meal. After an hour of eating and getting to know one another, it was time to ride.

For the beginning of February the weather couldn't have been better; plentiful sunshine, no wind, and temps in the upper sixties made for a near perfect day. Steve had to head to nearby Monroe, NC so we pointed him in the right direction and he broke off from the group.

Likewise William had to get somewhere by mid afternoon so we rode with him as far as Gastonia, NC and he continued down the interstate while Jay, Matthew and I broke off and I lead a casual tour through the winding back roads throughout central NC.

Matthew had never been through this part of the country so he got to enjoy a lot of new scenery. Eventually we rode easterly and crossed I-77 near Troutman NC, where Jay broke off and headed due south on the big road to get back home by 5pm. That left Matthew and I to continue on as we rode down through Mooresville, NC (for the NASCAR folks it's known as Race City, USA), then through the farmlands back to Charlotte, all of course while avoiding the interstates. We rode back to Rock Hill where we parted ways, and I topped off on the more frugal (15¢ less) gas that they enjoy south of the border. I can't say what other folks mileage was for the day, but my odo just tripped 185 pulling into the driveway. For a projected 50-100 mile ride after lunch I'd say that was a good day.

Thanks to all who attended for making our initial outing a success. For those who replied that they could not make it this time, but will attend future dates, we all look forward to meeting you!

Ray Olszewski
AAD - Charlotte & Central Carolinas
ray@ka3vme.us



Matthew's (Rock Hill, SC) NEW Connie drew lots of attention



Mac's BBQ becomes a 'Concours Owners Group' hangout

From the Editor

Please send Ride Reports to me for the newsletter. Members like to know what is going on in our Area. Send Ride/Event Announcement to Dave so he can put it on the SECOG Website.

We have 287 members in the SE Area. 270 have e-mail addresses listed and can receive their newsletter via linking to our SE Website. Please keep those e-mail addresses up-to-date. Also, if you are one of the 17 that I snail mail to, let us know if you have an e-mail address.

Thanks. Calvin

Concours Owners Group
Southeast Area
4952 80th Ave Cir East
Sarasota, FL 34243-4915

Notice: This newsletter has been sent via e-mail to all COGers with e-mail addresses. Hard copies were mailed to non-e-mail members only. It is important to keep your 'contact info', e.g. e-mail address, up-to-date. Please make all corrections with Carl Metler [cmetler@HighDesertOffice.com] who maintains the central membership lists. If you want a hard copy of the newsletter, e-mail Calvin. Thanks for your co-operation.

Rides

4/12/2008 RTE - Columbia, SC

Apr 12 - RTE Columbia, SC. Meet at Maurice's BBQ at 2.00pm. Charlotte area riders can meet 10.30 at Love's Truck Stop, I-77 exit 83, Fort Mill SC for a back roads ride down to Columbia. About 275 miles round trip from Charlotte, coming back on more back roads, heading northwest toward Union SC. Maurice's BBQ (original "piggy park" location) 1600 Charleston Hwy. West Columbia SC

Ray Olszewski, C.NC AAD

Rides and Events Information: Check the SECOG Website often for the latest at <http://www.concours.org/se/>, . Please send any ride/event information to Dave Hicks, webmaster, for posting as soon as possible.



'Run with the Wolf' (2005) at the High Valley Resort, file photo by Calvin

'Run with the Wolf' registration is ready on the website and is inserted for non-e-mail members. Please complete and return the registration to Vic to aid with planning.

Thanks.



*For All the info about
'COG @ 10,000 ft.'*

*Goto
<http://www.concours.org/>
2008/*