



Published exclusively for the members of
AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

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THE TRIPLE NICKEL

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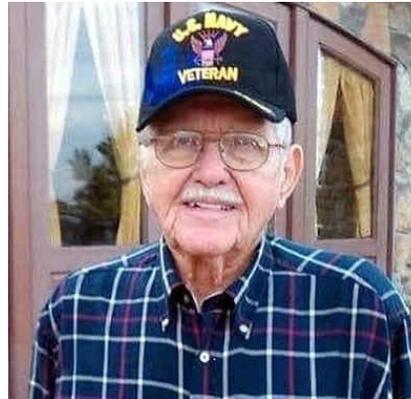


Matthew Blount Post 555

"POST EVERLASTING"

William Cary Jones, Jr., age 95, a member of The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 in Pelham, passed away on Sun., July 10, 2022. William was born on December 17, 1926 and grew up in Six Mile, Alabama, on his family farm. After graduating from Bibb County High School, he joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served in World War II. After that, he worked in the sheet mill at U.S. Steel in Fairfield and retired after 36 years. He was a lifelong member of the Six Mile Baptist Church, which is where his service was held. He was interred in the Six Mile Baptist Church Cemetery adjacent to the church, so he is close to his beloved church for eternity. He never met a stranger and loved spoiling his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was laid to rest and I was proud to ly and friends. members of the Pa-up on a very short come to all coming vide flags in Wil- Commander Paul ber Ray Pata, and very nice service shared some great lections of William back in March of this brought William with to bring him be-driving at age 95!!! I presented him with a small shadow box honoring his service in WWII, and I think he had a great time with everyone at this event. The next event that I recall was last year's "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" Ceremony at the Alabama National Cemetery. He drove himself there, too!! A surprise to all was when he was joined by another WWII Veteran, Mr. George Hamilton. What a great thing to see when these two honored gentlemen met, shook hands, and shared a few words.



on Thurs., July 14, 2022, be there to meet his fami- Thank you to the three triot Guard who showed- notice to provide a wel- to the service and to pro- liam's honor; 23rd District Gonthier, Post 555 mem- Dee Lovelady. It was a and the family members stories. I have two recol- from our Family Day BBQ year when his son, Billy, him, but he did not need cause William was still

He will be missed by all, but is in a better place. When we do our next "Post Everlasting" Ceremony, he and his family will be honored by all Post 555 members. Until then, we wish his family the best after their loss, and our prayers will be with them.

For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Adjutant

(See additional funeral service & other photos in page 11)

IN GOD WE TRUST





*2nd Vice's
Interim Report
Nancy Waller*

**“Acting” Second Vice Commander’s Newsletter Article
August 2022 Edition**

As you may already know, Eldon Woodie stepped-up to fill my vacant Second Vice Commander’s position. He and I are working on a transition, but as of right now, he and his sister are caring for their mother in Florida which is taking a good bit of his time. As I tell every member who thinks he/she cannot do something due to a family issue, **FAMILY FIRST**. There are enough active Post 555 members who can step-in while our members deal with family matters, so take care of business at home and come back to us when the time is right. We are here for ALL of our members.

FIRE ON THE WATER

July was a fairly slow month for events for us, but Fire on the Water is always a highlight and it was again this year. On July 3, 2022, all members who volunteered to help set-up “enjoyed” a longggggg line to gain access to Oak Mountain State Park. Luckily it was a beautiful day, so I had my window open in my vehicle and some soothing music from Sirius XM radio to put me in the mindset that I cannot do anything about the line but wait and relax and eventually get through the gate and speed (not really) to the pavilion. We had a great time and had two potential members sign-up to join; I have yet to hear from them confirming their payment, but I hope to hear from them soon. I want to thank everyone who helped before, during, and after the event: Frank Chacon brought the trailer from the Pelham Senior Center, then Jeff Monday, Doug McDaniel, Clay Smith, Bobby Horsley, Shauna and Justin Hadley, A.J. Blount, Don Walker, and I helped set-up the area and pretty much all of the “set-up crew” helped with the tear-down and loading the trailer. Everyone else who represented Post 555 was Vashone Smith, Kenneth Paschal, Curtis Orse, Sylvester Ervin, and Alan Phillips. I would like to specially thank the four members who did the “Presentation of the Colors” prior to and during the singing of the National Anthem by Rob Robinson which in itself is a GREAT addition to this event. Bobby Horsley was the Color Guard Captain and Alan Phillips, Vashone Smith, and I carried flags. It is always an honor to represent Post 555 in this capacity, and I was pleasantly surprised how many attendees joined Rob in singing the National Anthem and had their hands over their hearts. A great show of patriotism!!!

Coming up in August will be our General Membership Meeting on Thurs., August 4, 2022 with the fellowship meal at 6:15 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. We have one of our Junior Shooters, Ms. Emily Buck and her family joining us to hear from Emily about all of the events in which she has competed recently. I am looking forward to hearing what she has to tell us, so try to be at our meeting on the 4th.

I am sure that elsewhere in this newsletter is a lot of information about the Mid-South Regional Baseball Tournament, so I do not want to steal someone else’s thunder, but please mark your calendars for August 2 through 7 to attend the Opening Ceremonies on the 2nd or any/all baseball games for the rest of the week. We are the “Host Post” again this year, so wear your Post 555 polos/T-shirts, ball caps, and if you are an “Ambassador”, be sure to wear your garrison cap.

One other event in which several members of Post 55 will participate is “Keep the Spirit of ‘45 Alive” at the Alabama National Cemetery sponsored by the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery. This event is scheduled for Sat., August 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. My son (and Post 555 member) Nathan Waller is planning on being the Emcee again this year and will be in full WWII period attire. Our main purpose of this event is to remember the “Great War” and honor all those who died and who are still with us. You will notice in the “Post Everlasting” article on the front page that we recently lost William Cary Jones, Jr. at age 95, a Veteran of WWII. I will be inviting his family to this event, and hopefully there will be one or more WWII Veterans there to be honored. Please come if you can.

*For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Acting Second Vice Commander*

ADJUTANT'S AREA



Nancy Waller
Adjutant

Effective July 1, 2022, our new membership drive began. The Department of Alabama gave all Adjutants a list of goals between July 31, 2022 and May 31, 2023. Here is what they are asking us to do as far as membership:

Cut-off Dates:

- July 31st = 40% membership (86.4 or 87 members renewed/joined)
- August 31st = 50% membership (108 members renewed/joined)
- September 30th = 55% membership (118.9 or 119 members renewed/joined)
- October 31st (Happy Halloween) = 65% membership (140.4 or 141 members renewed/joined)
- November 30th = 75% membership (162 members renewed/joined)
- December 31st (Happy New Year) = 80% membership (172.8 or 173 members renewed/joined)
- January 31st = 85% membership (183.6 or 184 members renewed/joined)
- February 28th = 90% membership (194.4 or 195 members renewed/joined)
- March 31st = 95% membership (205.2 or 206 members renewed/joined)
- April 30th = 100% membership (216 members renewed/joined)
- May 31st (Happy Memorial Day) = 103% membership (222.48 or 223 members renewed/joined)

As you can see, these are some lofty membership numbers for Post 555 to acquire, but if everyone renews their membership dues as soon as financially able, that will be a step in the right direction to help us meet these monthly goals. Also, since we had about 40 members who did not renew in 2022, we need to "beef up" our numbers with new members. If you know of someone who you think might be interested in becoming a member, let me know and I will contact them to gauge their interest. Thanks!!!

As of the last report received from the Department of Alabama, we are at 26.11% with 59 members paying their renewal dues for 2022-2023. We need 28 more to meet our July 31, 2022 of 40%.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RENEWALS WHEN YOU CAN TO HELP US MEET OR EXCEED THIS GOAL!!!!

If you are a current R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) member, don't forget to report your volunteer hours for the month of July when you come to the August 4, 2022 Post 555 meeting. If you cannot attend the meet-

ing, call me or send me an e-mail with your hours. I was given approval to report your hours with a notation that they were reported "telephonically". I don't want to miss any hours!! I submit the hours by the 10th of the month, so contact me before then. If you are not yet an R.S.V.P. member, the only criteria is that you are age 55+ years young, have a current driver's license that I can take a photo of on my phone to send to Pamela Raines, and complete an application. No copy of your driver's license needed anymore. Every month you will record your volunteer hours anywhere you serve, including Post 555 meetings and events. Just let me know if you would like an application.

2022 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CAMPAIGN

We started asking for donations to the 2022 Wreaths Across America (WAA) Campaign at our July General Membership Meeting and will continue to do so at every meeting between now and our November 4, 2022 Thanksgiving Dinner/General Membership Meeting, or you can mail your donations to the Post address and be sure to write "WAA" in the memo line so your donations go to the WAA account. Wreaths are still \$15.00 each so donate as much as you are able to give. I will have donation forms at every meeting and will be electronically sending them with all monthly e-mail. Pam Nichols, the Chairman of the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery, reported that we need 10,000 wreaths this year. Post 555 will meet or EXCEED what we have done in past years, so let's do it AGAIN!!! Thank you all for your generosity with this project.

For God and Country,
Nancy J. Waller
Adjutant

4 ways to be a member of our Legion family

- American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of the American Legion
- American Legion Riders (must be members of one of the 3 above)

Contact Information (Please Print)

NAME: _____

CITY: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ HM: _____

EMAIL: _____

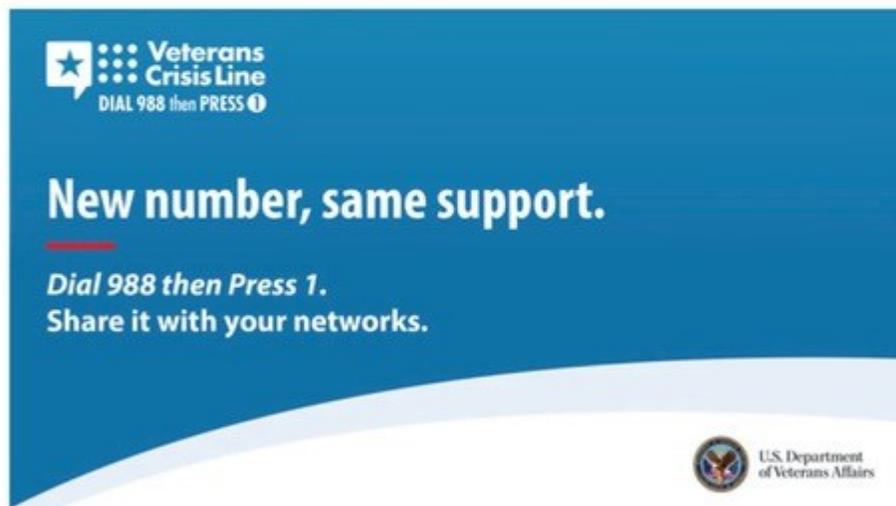
MILITARY BRANCH: _____

REFERRED BY: _____

SERVICE OFFICER NOTES

Service Officer (TBD)

**The NEW Veterans Crisis Line
phone number goes live
today!
Dial 988 then Press 1.**



This change is a result of the [National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020](#), which requires all telephone service providers in the U.S. to activate 988 by July 16, 2022 for national suicide prevention support. The transition to a 3-digit number helps make it easier to remember and share the number to access help in times of need. After activation, Veterans will still be able to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to reach responders in addition to using Dial 988 then Press 1.

va.alabama.gov



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

CHAPLAIN'S UPLIFT



Joe Dunn
Post Chaplain



FOUR THINGS WHICH CAN NEVER BE RECOVERED

Every once in a while, it is good to take that thought from the back of our minds, bring it up to the front, blow the dust off of it, and consider it afresh.

- 1) A Stone Thrown into The Bottom of the Sea
- 2) A Spoken Word
- 3) A Missed Opportunity
- 4) Time After It's Gone

Number One: How many stones have we thrown lately? That is, how many things have we **done**? Many! Some were good; some were not so good and we regret them. One thing's for sure, though—What's done is done! It behooves us then to—what's that saying? Oh yeah, to "think before we act." Does anyone else find that hard to remember? That's why it's good to ask ourselves: "**What** will be the outcome of doing this?" We often don't think it through. We often don't **want** to think it through, because in the end, everyone really does what they want to do.

Number Two; is a killer: Once in a while I wish I had spoken up. But I **often** could cut my tongue out for saying things that I wish I had NEVER said. And once it's out of my mouth, it's out there! It is interesting that God says, "NO ONE can tame his tongue" that is, by himself (James 3:8). That's why those who follow Jesus as their LORD have SUCH an advantage! As they submit to Him, He does indeed help them to grow in guarding their tongues over time. One thing's for sure though, we ALL forget the results of Number Two... at times. We just can't take our words back—and OH the pain. Be encouraged, though, my friends, for death and LIFE are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21) Our tongues can make a difference.

Number Three: It often doesn't hurt as badly as the first two—at least that's what we think. We hurt ourselves at times, but we often hurt others. So **many** times, I've seen the results of not doing something for someone that I knew and should have done. Often, they didn't know that I

could've made a difference in their lives, but if they had it would have been painful. People can recover, though, but not always, especially if it was serious. It is **then** that we see the cost of missing an opportunity to help.

Twice in my life, I saw a serious need in someone's life, and I did **nothing** about it. Both times they committed suicide! That was a tough one for me to get over, and impossible for them! Just this month a good friend of mine saw a need in someone's life and set out to help. Why? "Lest they commit suicide," he said. A wise man!

Number Four: This is the one that includes the other three: Actions, Words, and Missed Opportunities are all wrapped up in Time—that "Duration in Which Many Things Happen." And then—it's **gone**! At times we find it **so** hard to let go of the past because we blew it so badly. Yet, there is not **one thing** we can do to change it all.

My fellow Vets, please remember that we show **maturity** when we 1) accept responsibility, 2) reject passivity, and 3) get up and go again, as hard as it is, endeavoring to do the right thing, while knowing full well that 1) we won't be perfect, but 2) we **can** make a difference!

That is why we need HIM as our Savior and our Lord. Jesus said, "It's not the 'well' that need a doctor, but the 'sick'." Let those who have ears to hear, **perceive** what Jesus is saying. God does indeed offer Divine Mercy to the "spiritually sick." If you think you're not, well...that's on **you**. Good luck with that!

For God and Country

Chaplain Joe



Legion air rifle youth to compete in Colorado

The American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship will be held July 21-23 in Colorado Springs, Colo., where the top 15 youth marksmen in both the precision and sporter category will compete at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

The competitors will shoot a .177 caliber air rifle in three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. The top eight shooters in both categories will be finalized July 22 and advance to the championship round the morning of July 23.

One competitor will win the championship title in each category, along with a \$5,000 college scholarship provided by The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. A \$1,000 scholarship, provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, will be awarded to the second-place finisher in each category.

The precision and sporter champions will be invited to attend the 103rd American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee in August to be honored alongside other American Legion youth program champions.

The following are the competitors in both the precision and sporter category, along with their team affiliation.



The American Legion Department of New York hosts its Junior Shooting Sports air rifle competition at American Legion Post 787 in Cicero, N.Y.

The 15 Top Shooters

1. Elizabeth Probst of Texas Hill Country Shooting Team
2. Camryn Camp of Texas Hill Country Shooting Team
3. Emme Walrath of Wisconsin – Grand Rapids Rifle & Pistol Club
4. Alison Sutherlin of Montana – Gallatin Valley Sharp Shooters
5. Vittoria Watts of California – Lincoln Rifle Club-Lead Heads
6. Mikole Hogan of Texas Houston Hotshots
7. **Emily Buck of Alabama – Post 555/Shelby County Shooting Sports**
8. Gabriella Sprague of Pennsylvania – DuBois Junior Rifle Team
9. Brandon Evans of Virginia – Lafayette Gun Club
10. Braden Peiser of Texas – Texas Hill Country Shooting Club
11. Tanner Barth of Minnesota Centershots
12. Dylan Gregory of Central Illinois Precision Shooting
13. Ashton Arlington of Texas – Granbury Marine Corps JROTC
14. Rylie Passmore of Central Illinois Precision Shooting
15. Riley Dunn of Pennsylvania – Mason Dixon Junior Rifle Club

MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555

Post Leadership 2022/2023



(USUALLY) Meets first Thursday of the month.

The next Membership Meeting will be on **11 August 2022** at the Pelham Senior Center Please come for dinner at **6:15PM** followed by the meeting at 7PM

NOTE time & date CHANGES

MEMBERS' AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- David W. Coram, Jr., 08/03
- Alan K. Farmer, 08/04
- Robert L. Horsley, 08/04
- Robert Thompson, 08/10
- Doyle R. Kernea, Jr., 08/12
- Thomas J. Hession, 08/14
- John P. McGuinness, 08/19
- Timothy Holmes, 08/20
- Rick G. Waller, 08/20
- William T. Wolf, 08/24
- Edward Kennedy, 08/29
- Ronald Poole, 08/29
- William E. Taylor, Jr., 08/30
- William Weldy, 08/30
- James R. Jones, 08/31



- Post Commander**
Jeff Monday
- 1st Vice Commander**
Bill Blank
- 2nd Vice Commander**
Eldon Woodie
- Adjutant**
Nancy Waller
- Asst. Adjutant**
Ron Koonce
- Judge Advocate**
Tom Long
- Financial Officer**
Andrew Blount
- Chaplain**
Joe Dunn
- Sergeant-At-Arms**
Derek Winters
- Post Service Officer**
Vacant
- Historian**
Shauna Hadley
- Public Relations Officer**
Dorian Ross
- Post Trustees**
Frank Lakotich (1 yr)
Chris Combs (2 yr)
Tom McDaniel (3yr)
- Auxiliary President**
Caroline Culpepper

- Sons of The American Legion**
Bill Blank, Comm.
Ron Koonce, Advisor
- American Legion Riders-Director**
Doug McDaniel
- Flag Team Coordinator**
Vacant
- Boy Scouts Coordinator**
David Coram Jr.
- Jr. Shooting Director**
Darrell Lawley
- Baseball Director**
Jon Freeman
- School Awards Program**
Frank Lakotich, Chr.
- Awards Program**
Bary Blount, Chr.
- Nancy Waller, Asst. Chr.
- Webmaster**
Ron Koonce
- Triple Nickel Editor**
Frank Chacon
- Photography**
Chic Cecchini
- 23rd District Commander**
Paul Gonthier
- 2nd Division Commander**
Richard Kaster

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205-678-1375

commander@ALpost555.com

Items for publication are accepted on Executive Committee approval and available space.

Submit articles prior to the 10th of the month for publication the following month. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for the purpose of publication.

Letters to the Editor must include name, address & telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

Send email to:

Editor@alpost555.com

Photos by Chic Cecchini, Post 555

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American Legion Post 555



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 555

The Squadron's 2022-2023 membership renewal campaign is underway. Our goal is 41 paid members by December 31, 2022. Your 2022 membership will expire on January 1, 2023, so be an early bird and get ahead of the curve. Annual dues remain \$20 payable to Matthew Blount Post 555. Mail to:

Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 555
50 Racquet Club Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124

We continue to recruit new members. Applications for membership to The Sons of American Legion can be found on the "Home" page of the Post website, www.Alpost555.com. Scroll down to the "join" section. Select "Join the Sons of American Legion". Print the application and follow the instructions on the form. We encourage and invite dual-membership-eligible legionnaires to join. Visit the squadron's webpage [Sons of the American Legion | Post 555 \(alpost555.com\)](http://Sons of the American Legion | Post 555 (alpost555.com)) for details.

We already have two new members during July included in our 17% towards our goal of 100%. Join me in welcoming James & Daniel Paolinetti to our squadron family.

The squadron members participated in supporting Post 555 Legion Baseball and scheduled for support positions for the Mid-South Regional Baseball Tournament beginning August 2, 2022.



We are pleased to introduce the squadron's new Facebook page that shares the events and activities of the squadron and the Alabama Detachment. You are invited to visit and "Like" our page at www.facebook.com/alabamaSAL555



One of the new 2023 squadron initiatives is the possibility of being involved in The American Legion Amateur Radio Club. See additional information in the squadron's Facebook page and/or attend the August squadron meeting on August 9, 2022.

Next squadron meeting is August 9, 2022, at the Pelham Senior Center, 7:00pm. Agenda will include final plans for American Legion Baseball, continue squadron's By-laws review, AL Amateur Radio, and other subjects.

For God & Country
Ron Koonce, Adjutant

14th Annual Wreaths Across America Campaign

Alabama National Cemetery

Montevallo, Alabama

Saturday, December 17, 2022



The cost to sponsor each wreath is \$15.00. This year we are hoping for at least 10,000 wreaths. All wreath sponsors and family members of those interred at the Alabama National Cemetery are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

To sponsor wreaths, please complete the information below and mail it Matthew Blount Post 555, 50 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL 35124. Make your checks or money orders payable to “Matthew Blount Post 555” and put “Wreaths Across America (WAA)” on the memo line. The deadline for donations is **November 3, 2022**, so please act on this request as soon as you are financially able. Each sponsorship is tax deductible. For more information and/or questions, please contact Dorian Ross, Post 555 WAA Chairperson @ 205-624-4548. Thank you in advance for your show of support to our Fallen Heroes and their family members during the 2022 Christmas Season.

-----CUT HERE-----

14TH ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DONATION FORM

PRINT NAME OF INDIVIDUAL / ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$ _____

IN HONOR OF (LIVING): _____

IN MEMORY OF (DECEASED): _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



Matthew Blount Post 555

Annual Matthew Blount Memorial Ride

For Wreaths Across America



All proceeds from the ride will go to Wreaths Across America to provide wreaths for Fallen Heroes in our National Cemetery.

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Starts: Heart of Dixie Harley Davidson

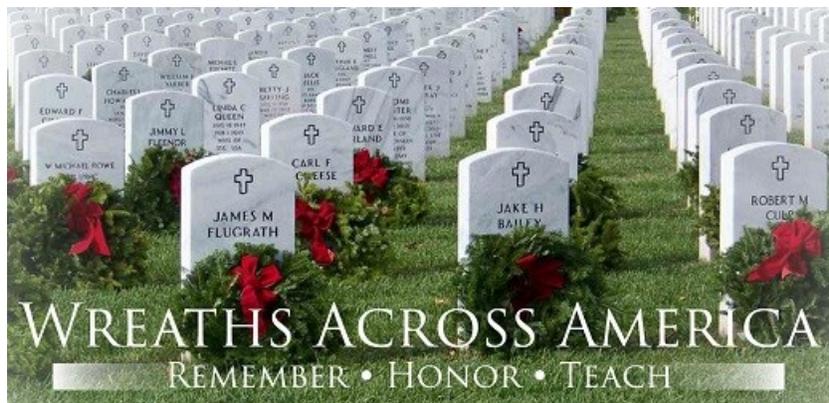
Registration Starts – 10:00 a.m. KSU – 11:00 a.m.

RIDE TO the Alabama National Cemetery, then a South Shelby Ride

Ends: *Beef O’Bradys* (Helena, AL)

Friends and family are welcome!!

Single Riders \$20; 2up Riders \$30; all riders are welcome.



Door Prizes and 50/50 Drawing

