

August 2002

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Monthly business meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm at Dottie's restaurant 5275 Babcock St. NE, Palm Bay, Florida. Kicktires are held every Friday evening at 7:00pm at various locations, call 321-952-1448 for information.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUG 4 CHRIS IVINS
AUG 7 DAVE WILSON
AUG 22 PETER KATSOU-
LAS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

AUG 3
ALBERT & MARIA
MARTINEZ

AUG 16
CHARLIE & JOANNE
DAVIES



	Table of contents
Page 2	Chapter Director news
Page 2	Chapters Educator news
Page 3	Sharing the road
Page 4	Wing Ding 2002 by Charlotte Mercer
Page 6	Hall of Shame

Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge

Chapter FL2-D Web page
Under Construction!

C.D. CHATTER

WELL ANOTHER HOT RAINY MONTH HAS GONE BY AND IT IS TIME FOR ME TO WRITE ANOTHER ARTICLE.

DESPITE THE HEAT AND RAIN WE MANAGED TO HAVE A LOT OF ACTIVITIES, THE FOURTH OF JULY PARTY AT MY HOUSE, THE PARKING LOT PRACTICE (MORE ABOUT THAT LATER) WITH LUNCH AFTERWARDS AT THE SUNNY CAFÉ OWNED BY OUR MEMBERS JOHN AND DORINDA CAMPBELL, KICK TIRES AT RIDGE ROADHOUSE, SONIC DRIVE INN, AND DINNER AT DOS AMIGOS FOLLOWED BY A RIDE TO WABASO. WE HAD A BREAKFAST RIDE TO THE TITUSVILLE CHAPTER'S MEETING. ALL IN ALL WE HAD A GOOD TURN OUT AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT, TOO BAD.

JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PARKING LOT PRACTICE. WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME AND A GREAT LUNCH. BUT THE BIG THING WAS THAT I THOUGHT THAT I HAD LOST MY WING. YOU SEE MARIA CAME WITH ALBERT AND DECIDED TO TRY THE COURSE WITH HIS 84 WING, AND BELIEVE ME PEOPLE SHE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB. I DECIDED SHE SHOULD TRY A WING THAT WOULD FIT HER BETTER AND OFFERED HER MINE FOR A RIDE AROUND THE LOT. WELL AFTER SOME CONVINCING THAT SHE COULDN'T HURT IT SHE TOOK OFF ON MY STEED. SHE WAS GONE AND GONE AND GONE THE NEXT THING I SAW SHE WAS ON THE COURSE WEAVING AND BOBBING AROUND THE CONES, BETTER THAN SOME OF US. WAY TO GO MARIA. YOU MAKE US ALL PROUD.

ANYONE WITH AN IDEA FOR A RIDE OR DINNER OR WHATEVER, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

THIS NEWS LETTER WOULD BE A LOT MORE INTERESTING IF MORE OF YOU WOULD CONTRIBUTE.

WE DON'T NECESSARILY NEED FULL ARTICLES, SOME SHORT NOTES ABOUT RIDES YOU HAVE TAKEN, RESTAURANTS YOU HAVE BEEN TO, EVEN PICTURES WITH SOME CAPTIONS. LET'S HEAR FROM YOU.

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

(FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE)

The sponsor is SAFETY in this case.

Hi everyone we had another parking lot practice on July 13th. We had a good turnout. But not great, we hope to have a few more bikes out for the next plp in September. Its lots of fun and we all learn something, like how to pick up a gold wing. This time Harry dropped his wing at least 6 times. No, not accidentally but on purpose as a training exercise for those who wanted to try to pick one up. Many of us did and were thankful for the opportunity so as not to have a problem when we have to pick ours up. One of the exercises we did was the **offset cone weave** which teaches us to maneuver our way through a parking lot. Another was the **u-turn**, also the **slow ride** for forty feet , we learn to control the motorcycle at a very slow speed.

We had a great time, just ask Maria she picked up Harry's bike and took off down the parking lot. She was enjoying herself so much we didn't think she would come back. Well she did come back but she might be riding Al's 1500 to work from now on. The PLP in September will have new exercises and new short cones so our saddle bags won't knock them down so easy. We hope to have a big turnout so come out and have fun and maybe learn something. And remember we always ride for lunch. This month we rode to Café' Sunny. John and Dorinda served us a great lunch. I would like to thank my helpers and Charlie for being my range officer and Joanne driving Pat and Zack back to the car. I would also like to thank Mike Mercer for the trailer full of water and ice.

RIDE SAFE, RIDE OFTEN
CHAPTER EDUCATOR'S
MIKE & PAT DUQUETTE

Georgia GWRRA Safety

Play It Safe - GWRRA Chapter Y

Sharing the Road With the BIG Rigs !



Georgia GWRRA Rider Education

When you are on the highway, does it sometimes seem as though you are surrounded by huge trucks? It's enough to make you feel as though you are riding on that little red bicycle you had as a child. Trucks don't handle the same as cars, and especially not the same as motorcycles. IF there is a collision between a motorcycle and a truck, it's much more likely that the rider of the motorcycle will be seriously injured or even killed. What's the most important rule for driving safely around big rigs?

ALWAYS LEAVE ROOM FOR THEM - PLENTY OF ROOM!

IN FRONT: A driver of a fully loaded truck will usually try to leave an eight second following distance because that is what is needed to bring the truck to a complete stop. If you cut into this space, the truck will no longer have the room it needs to stop safely -- so if traffic should come to a sudden standstill.....

TO THE SIDE: Avoid driving beside a truck for longer than a minute or so - especially near the rear wheels. The driver may not be able to see you very well -- and if your sitting in a blind spot, you won't be seen at all!

WHILE PASSING: When preparing to pass, leave at least a two second following distance behind the truck, (so you can see around it and have adequate room to stop, if necessary), and on a two way road, make sure the road is clear for at least one half mile ahead. (If group riding, pass single file only!) Then make sure the truck driver knows that you're there. IF you can't see the trucks' mirrors, that driver can't see you! Flash your headlight once, and use your turn signals until you see the trucks headlights in your rearview mirror. At that point, it's safe to move back into the lane. Sometimes a truck driver will flash the headlights at you to let you know that it's all right to pull back into the lane.

WHILE BEING PASSED: Don't try to *race* a truck that is passing you. Truckers usually like to maintain a steady pace - one at which they don't have to brake or downshift excessively - in an effort to conserve fuel. However, hills will cause them to slow down and speed up - considerably. Be courteous and let the truck pass.

ON HILLS: Check your rearview mirrors often non long downhill slopes and in mountainous areas, since trucks can approach quickly. Stay clear of escape ramps designated for runaway trucks. IF you see a truck in your rearview mirror that seems to be approaching too fast - especially with smoking wheels or smoking tires, **MOVE OUT OF THE WAY.** Accelerate, move to the opposite lane or move off the roadway!

DURING TURNS: Trucks need a lot of space to make their turns. If you are behind a truck that is about to make a turn, **STAY BACK!** Never try to *slip* by a truck when it is turning, no matter how slowly it is going and much *free space* there appears to be on either side as it turns.

Wing Ding 2002 by Charlotte Mercer

It was a perfect morning to start our trip to Indiana, not too hot yet! This was going to be our first Wing Ding, four days of shopping for safety chrome, training, and more Gold Wings than one can imagine. We started out about noon after packing the trailer and stopping for breakfast we were finally on our way. We planned on taking as much back roads as we could after crossing the FL state line. Since we started out so late we stayed on I-75 until the following morning, although it was nice to see so many people giving us a thumbs-up and waving as they passed, the back roads was much cooler and less traveled. We drove the Trail of Tears in North Georgia and Tennessee. To think of the 4,000 Cherokees that died while being forced to relocate to Oklahoma is really sad and heart breaking, the road was beautiful with just enough curves to make it pleasant. We spent two days on the road. We arrived in Ft. Wayne Monday morning hoping we would be able to check-in the Hilton a day early, since I had made reservations for the 2-6 July, no problem they accommodated us. Unfortunately I had to find a walk in clinic or hospital, I wasn't feeling to well, luckily I was able to take care of my problem, just a word of caution when your on a long trip make sure you drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration, I dehydrated and my glands stopped up and became infected.

The first couple of days was spent in the vendors area, looking for the must have items, the latest and greatest items for the bike, watching the bikes pull in and walking the parking lot just admiring them getting ideas and talking to the owners. The camaraderie was unbelievable. During the grand parade and welcome party, I was amazed at how many people drove and rode without helmets I thought gold wingers were smarter than that. The concert and fireworks on the 4th hit the spot, a two-hour concert followed by 45 minutes to an hour fire works show topped off the day of picnics and games. We decided to forego the closing ceremonies and leave the 5th to avoid the traffic. All in all the four days we spent in Ft. Wayne could not have been a nicer experience, the town people seemed genuinely happy to have us there, to have a complete stranger ask you if your enjoying your visit and are glad your there is very warming, I hope we left them with the same feelings as they gave us. The rally was a huge success and we enjoyed the whole experience. We are starting to save now to take an even longer trip next year, maybe out west for three weeks we'll see. Happy riding.

Editors note:

Thanks for the article Charlotte!

Did anyone else take any trips on their wings this summer, share it with your goldwing buddies?

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the newsletter, or worse yet, not
listening to your co-rider.

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