

FL-2D

HARBOR CITY BEACON

Melbourne, Florida

December 2007

GOLDWING ROADRIDERS ASSOC.

From the Chapter Director's

AS I SAID LAST MONTH THE GREAT FLORIDA WEATHER IS UPON US, AND IT IS THE TIME TO GET OUT AND RIDE.

WE HAD A RIDE TO BROOKSVILLE THAT TOOK US DOWN SOME WINDING BACK ROADS, THE KIND THAT ARE HARD TO FIND IN FLORIDA. SIX BIKES (SEVEN RIDES) LEFT MELBOURNE AND STOPPED IN ST CLOUD AT THE COFFEE KUP FOR BREAKFAST. WE THEN HIT THE BACK WAY AROUND KISSIMMEE TO CHAMPIONS GATE, WHERE WE PICKED UP THE WINDING BACK ROAD ALL THE WAY TO US 98. THERE WE TURNED NORTH AND FOLLOWED 98 ALL THE WAY TO BROOKSVILLE THE WEATHER WAS GREAT AND ALL WAS WELL.....TO THIS POINT. WE WERE ABOUT A HALF MILE FROM THE RALLY TRAVELING IN HEAVY TRAFFIC, WHEN IT HAPPENED.

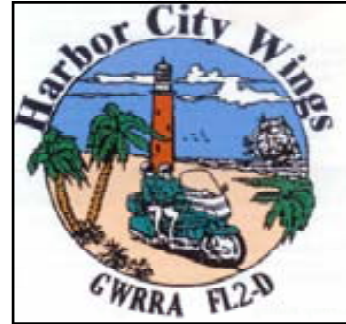
I HAD GONE THROUGH A TRAFFIC LIGHT THAT TURNED RED AS I PASSED THROUGH, RAY MERCIER WAS BEHIND ME AND HE ATTEMPTED TO STOP. BOB RUDDEN WAS THIRD IN LINE AND HE WAS UNABLE TO STOP AND RAN INTO THE REAR OF RAY. RAY'S BIKE WENT DOWN ON THE RIGHT SIDE THEN BOUNCED BACK UP AND DOWN AGAIN ON THE LEFT SIDE, I SAW THE LAST OF THIS IN MY MIRROR.

BEFORE ANY OF US COULD EVEN GET OFF OUR BIKES THE POLICE WERE THERE FOLLOWED BY AN AMBULANCE. I STILL DON'T KNOW WERE THEY CAME FROM BUT THEY WERE JOHNNY ON THE SPOT. RAY SAID HE WAS OKAY EXCEPT FOR A SORE ANKLE THE MEDICS TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL TO BE CHECKED OUT.

AFTER THE POLICE WERE FINISHED MO AND I WENT UP TO THE RALLY WHERE I LEFT MY BIKE AND RODE BACK ON THE BACK-SEAT WITH MO. BOY IS THAT SCARY RIDING ON THE BACK (MY HAT GOES OFF TO ALL YOU CO-RIDERS).

LARRY HICKS ACCOMPANIED RAY TO THE HOSPITAL. HE TALKED TO THEM ON THE PHONE. THERE WERE NO BROKEN BONES, BUT RAY WASN'T ABLE TO RIDE HIS BIKE. THEY DECIDED THAT HE WOULD RIDE BACK WITH LARRY AND WE WOULD GET THE BIKE HOME.

UNABLE TO FIND SOMEONE TO RIDE IT, WE DECIDED TO HAVE IT TOWED (THAT IS ANOTHER STORY). THE REST OF US GOT HOME ABOUT 10PM. BY THE WAY, THE RALLY WAS GOOD AND WE SAW A LOT OF FRIENDS, BUT I DON'T THINK WE WILL BE RETURNING.



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IT SEEMS EVERY TIME WE GO THERE, SOMETHING HAPPENS.

THERE WAS A LOT TO BE LEARNED THE HARD WAY FROM THIS EXPERIENCE. MORE ABOUT THAT FROM CAPTAIN SAFETY.

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE ITEMS. WE HAD A PARKING LOT PRACTICE ON THE FOURTH WITH A FAIR TURN OUT. I WISH MORE OF YOU WOULD TAKE PART IN THIS AS IT REALLY IS HELPFUL..

THERE WAS A RIDE TO STUART FL. FOR FL2-O'S RALLY. NINETEEN PEOPLE PARTICIPATED. MORE ABOUT THAT IN AN ARTICLE FROM BILL HARRIS.

SUNDAY THE 25TH 14 BIKES LEFT ON A BACK ROAD TRIP TO SANFORD. WE HAD LUNCH AT THE MARINA ON LAKE MONROE. IT WAS ANOTHER GREAT RIDE.

AS I SAID IN MY E-MAIL, THE MEETING IN JANUARY WILL BE ON THE 8TH INSTEAD ON THE 1ST (OUR NORMAL DAY) BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY. THE NEW MEETING PLACE IS LIZZIE'S BISTRO, 1851 PALM BAY RD., PALM BAY. SHE IS OPENING IN THE EVENING JUST FOR US SO PLEASE PLAN ON EATING THERE, I ATTACHED A MENU TO THE E-MAIL AND THE PRICES ARE



Est. 1977

REASONABLE.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT I WILL NOT SEE AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY HAVE A **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

2007 FLORIDA GWARRA EVENTS

Dec 8 & 9	Horizons Seminar, Panama City Fairgrounds	Panama City
Dec. 15	FL1-S Mingle Jingle	Zephyrhills

2008 FLORIDA GWARRA EVENTS

JAN. 4-6	CD CONFERENCE, HAMPTON INN	DAYTONA BEACH
Jan. 19	FL2-L Famous Couples Rally	Lakeland
Jan. 26	FL1-O Annual Chilly Run	Crestview
Jan. 27	FL2-N Five Chapter Breakfast	Cocoa
Feb 22/23	FL1-A2 Annual Mini-Rally	Lake Talquin
Feb 29 – Mar 9	FL1-H Gold Wing Getaway	New Smyrna Beach
Mar. 13-15	Florida District Rally	Kissimmee
Mar. 22	FL1-Q Annual Charity Run	Milton
Apr. 5	FL1-B Annual Fun Day	Brandon
Apr. 6	FL1-E2 Annual Charity Poker Run	Ft. Walton Beach
Apr. 12	FL1-W Green Eggs & Ham	Orlando
Apr. 19	FL2-G 25 th Anniversary	Fort Myers
Apr. 26	FL1-X Biennial Country Fair Poker Run	Orange Park
May 3	FL2-Z Night at the Oscars	Palm Beach
May 17	FL1-V It's Five O'clock Somewhere	Jacksonville Beach
May 23-24	FL1-Y Rally/Poker Run	Gainesville
July 3-6	Wing Ding 30	Greenville, SC
Sept. 6	FL1-A Picnic/Auction	Tampa
Nov. 2	Ride For Kids, Sarasota County Technical Institute.	
Nov. 15	Florida District Rider Ed Fair	St. Petersburg

(See Page 5 for Scheduled Chapter Events)

AND NOW A WORD FROM CAPTAIN
SAFETY

In the course of a year I write about tire pressure, tune ups, helmets, gloves, hot weather riding, cold weather riding, riding in the rain, riding in storms, and lightening, left hand turners, road grates, **FRIENDS**, slippery white lines, highway riding, city riding, country roads where deer and the antelope play, group riding, keeping the bike running well, **FOR**, boots, rain suits, water, water, water, ERC,s parking lot practice, stopping, starting, slow ride, t-clock, **FUN**, what to wear, what not to wear, **SAFETY** batteries, brakes, tire wear, **AND**, care and maintenance, sun block, antifreeze, oil, brake fluid, clutch fluid, trailers, hitches, **KNOWLEDGE**, coolers, hypothermia, hyperthermia, parking lot riding, kickstand foot, riding mad, riding tired, big trucks, windy conditions.

What comes to mind is there are a lot of things to think about when riding or getting



ready to ride so, do it right. Think before you ride. And that goes for you co-riders too. Ask questions and give advice like, lets take a break or is your kickstand up. Be involved in the ride. Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. RIDE SAFE.

Sr. Chapter Educators Mike and Pat
Duquette

Assistant Chapter Educators Mo and Deb
Dalton

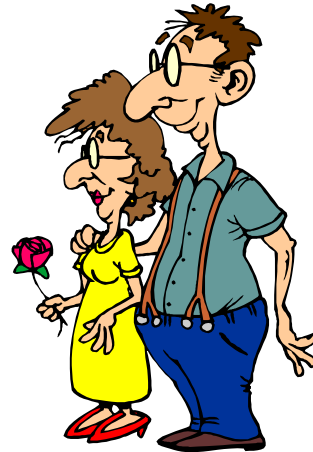
Birthday's

Anniversaries



12/9 Charlotte Mercer
12/18 Brenda Wilson
12/30 Steve Borrelli

12/16 Ralph & Nancy Feightner
12/28 Carl & Gail Vetzal



Is that what heaven is really like?

There were two lovers, who were really into spiritualism and reincarnation. They vowed that if either died, the other one remaining would try to contact the partner in the other world exactly 30 days after their death. Unfortunately, a few weeks later, the young man died in a car wreck. True to her word, his sweetheart tried to contact him in the spirit world exactly 30 days later. At the seance, she called out, "John, John, this is Martha. Do you hear me?" A ghostly voice answered her, "Yes Martha, this is John. I can hear you." Martha tearfully asked, "Oh John, what is it like where you are?" "It's beautiful. There are azure skies, a soft breeze, sunshine most of the time." "What do you do all day?" asked Martha. "Well, Martha, we get up before sunrise, eat some good breakfast, and there's nothing but making love until noon. After lunch, we nap until two and then make love again until about five. After dinner, we go at it again until we fall asleep about 11 p.m." Martha was somewhat taken aback. "Is that what heaven really is like?" "Heaven? I'm not in heaven, Martha." "Well, then, where are you?" "I'm a rabbit in Arizona."

Slow Down

One day a policeman stopped a motorist who had just gone through a four way stop sign and was about to give him a ticket when the motorist said. "Officer you can't give me a ticket for that!" "Why not" said the officer. "Because although I did not stop I slowed right down and its almost the same." "But you did not stop" replied the officer, "and the sign says STOP." "But the way was clear and it was safe" replied the motorist. The officer then pulls out his baton and starts hitting the motorist. "What are you doing!" yells the motorist in surprise. "Do you want me to slow down or stop" says the officer.

December Events

December should be a fun month with lots of Christmas activities planned. We have scheduled a Toy Run, a Christmas Party, a kick-tire at Uno Pizza, and a Ride to view Christmas lights. Remember, rides and events often change for various reasons. Always check the Chapter Calendar (address below) for the latest info on Rides, Events, Destinations, Times and Contacts.

Date	Event
2	Annual Toy Run – Memaws @ 8AM
4	Business Meeting cancelled due to Christmas Party
8	Christmas Party – Marsh Landings @ Fellsmere
18	Kick-Tire: Uno Pizza @ N. Wickham
22	Ride: 2-3 hrs ride to view Christmas lights – Brevard Co. (Please forward, to me, suggestions on areas to include on tour)

Other December Major Events

24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
31	New Years Eve

January Chapter Events

Date	Event
1	New Years Day; Business Meeting moved to following week
8	Business Meeting: Place TBD
12	Ride: TBD
15	Kick-Tire: TBD
21	MLK Holiday
29	Kick-Tire: TBD

Useful Internet Addresses

http://www.gwrra-fl2d.org/	Chapter web site
http://www.gwrra-fl2d.org/calendar/	Chapter calendar
http://www.gwrra-fl2d.org/newsletter/October2007.pdf	Chapter newsletter
http://www.gl1800riders.com/forums/index.php	Tech forum
http://www.wingstuff.com/	WingStuff
http://www.wingthings-texas.com/	Wing Things
http://www.pbase.com/fredharmon	Tech expert
http://www.hdlparts.com/fiche_section_detail.asp?category=Motorcycles&make=Honda&year=2005&fveh=3501	GL1800 part # & \$
http://www.sierra-mc.com/	Sierra Electronics
http://www.electricalconnection.com/index2.htm	Electrical Cnct.

Notes on Chapter Rides:

- I will try to give as much advanced notice as possible but sometime these events appear at the last minute.
- We appreciate advanced notice that you are going to participate on a ride, but this is not mandatory
- Please feel free to show up at the Meet location even if you have not given prior notification.
- If you are running late, please call the contact cell phone number and we will try to wait on you. If you do not call, we normally wait only about 5-minutes in consideration of those who did show up early or on-time. We usually post the route, so you have the option to catch up to the group
- If you have any recommendations or comments for rides and kick-tires, please contact Bill Harris Wharris1@cfl.rr.com

For your information and safety.....

PATTI SLOAT <fl1w.webnews@yahoo.com> wrote:

Date: Thu, 8 Nov 2007 05:18:33 -0800 (PST)

From: PATTI SLOAT <fl1w.webnews@yahoo.com>

Subject: Fwd: Add Emergency Contact Information to your FL Driver's License

To: Patti Sloat <patti32703@yahoo.com>

Hello,

Over the last year there have been several accidents and no emergency information available to the Police or Fire Department when the time arises. We are continually striving to get more safety minded. With that in mind the link below will give you a chance to put emergency information in Florida State's database connected through your Florida Driver's License. Should you ever be in an accident (we hope never), whether in a car or motorcycle, this would help in contacting your family or who you want notified.

If you think this is something worthwhile, please click on the link below and put in your information.

Thanks to our Deputy in FL1-W for informing us of another way of getting emergency information to someone if the need ever arises.

Until we ride again, ride safe and enjoy your ride!

patti

<http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/ECIHistory1.htm>

Brooksville Ride

Reported by Ray Mercier

On Saturday, Nov. 10, as planned, Harry, Ray Mercier, Larry Hicks, Moe & Deb Dalton and Mike Mercer met in the parking lot near the Sunoco on 192 for our ride to Brooksville. We were also joined by a new face, Bob Rudman..

It was cool out, but we were all dressed to handle the weather, which was forecasted to be in the high 70's with low humidity. We mounted up and headed out promptly at 8, with our first scheduled stop in St. Cloud at the Koffee Cup restaurant. On arrival at the restaurant, the place was packed as usual, and it took a few minutes for all of us to get inside. After a hearty breakfast, we headed out for our destination with Harry leading.

Following mostly back roads made the ride more relaxed and pleasurable. But a nice fun filled day it was not to be.

As we neared our destination, and I believe we were on Rt. 98 very close to where we would attend the rally, the bottom fell out of this, to this point, great ride. As we approached this major intersection with Harry still leading, and me behind Harry, he was able to get through the intersection on the green. But the light changed quickly and I knew I would not be able to get through the intersection, so I came to a stop.

Just as I began to put my feet down, I was struck from behind. The impact forced me back into my backrest, and my hands came off the handlebars. The impact sent me into the intersection about ten feet, and the next thing I know the bike was down on its left side. I was up instantly. I quickly looked around me to make sure another vehicle would not strike me. But everyone had come to a stop, and all the guys in the group had blocked the intersection with their bikes, and I could hear a siren in the distance.

At this point I realized I would not be able to get the bike up as the pain began to rev up it guns, so to speak, in my left ankle. At this point the guys got together and lifted the bike off its side, and the police arrived. The officer called rescue, and within a few minutes paramedics were looking at my ankle, had an ice pack on it, and I was on my way to Brooksville Regional Hospital via rescue.

The guys had retrieved my wallet and cell phone, and told me not to worry, that the bike would be taken care of. Larry followed the rescue to the hospital, and stayed with me the entire time I was in the ER. Harry kept in touch with me at the hospital by cell, keeping me informed of what they would be doing to get my bike back home. Harry was also kind enough to bring my helmet to the hospital, as I would need it for my ride home with Larry.

After X-Rays, the clean up of two abrasions I sustained, and the worst part, having to call Diane and tell her I had been involved in an accident. I was finally released shortly before 4 PM.

The most important thing I must say, is how the group came together to support one of their own. I can't thank everyone enough for all they did to make sure the bike was taken care of. I understand the guys didn't get back to Melbourne until close to 10PM. My bike was taken to Harry's and Lynn's home for safekeeping. The bike is now at Champions in Cocoa (thanks Larry), and I'm on the mend.

The ride home from the hospital on the back of Larry's bike was uneventful, if not different, as I'm used to being up front. But believe me I appreciated the ride home.

Again I would like to thank the guys for what they did for me, I will not forget it.

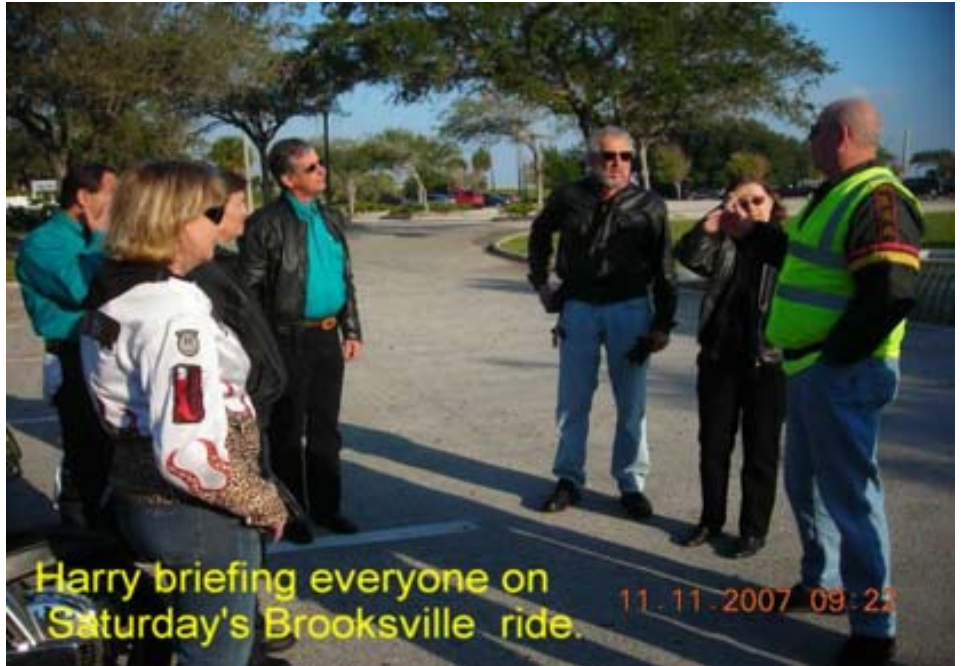
PS: I've referred to everyone as guys: Thanks Deb Dalton.

Very Sincerely
Ray Mercier

Stuart Ride

On Veteran's Day weekend, the Chapter held 2 rides. On Saturday, Harry led a group of 6 bikes to Brooksville to support the FL1-L2 chapter. They had an accident which is the subject of another article. On Sunday (11/11/07), 13 bikes and 18 riders participated in a beautiful ride to Stuart to celebrate FL2-O's 25th anniversary.

In order to make it easier for everyone, the ride offered the option of two start locations. The Melbourne group met at Front Street Park adjacent to the Melbourne Causeway. Harry gave everyone a description of the Saturday ride to Brooksville and the problems they encountered. Harry then complained about a lack of donuts. After a few group pictures, we were off promptly at 8:35. We met up with the south county members at the Barefoot Bay Winn Dixie about 20 minutes later. After a quick picture of the combined groups, we mounted up...with Harry still asking about the donuts.



Due to the number of bikes involved and because we would be using two-lane A1A for a large portion of the ride, we divided into 2 groups. I led Group 1 with Mike Mercer as tail gunner. Charley led Group 2 with Harry as his tail gunner (and donut scout). Due to the number of lights and traffic, we often had Group 1A, Group 1B, Group 2A and Group 2B. However, this did not pose a problem since everyone was more than capable of catching up and regrouping as traffic allowed. We only stopped once to allow bikes to catch up and that was because of a short turn light at the park entrance and so that we could all arrive together.



With 6 bikes in one group and 7 in the other, we headed south on US-1. At Sebastian, we cut over and rode along Indian River Dr. Although it was a few minutes after 9 AM, Earl's Hideaway already had bikes in their parking area. At Wabasso, we cut over to A1A and headed south toward Vero and Ft Pierce. At Vero, we had a quick pit stop at the Jaycee's Park and then rode Ocean Drive for a short distance before rejoining A1A and continuing south. Just before Ft Pierce, we passed the Navy Seals Museum which was setting up for a Veteran's Day celebration. This was the first of 3 Veteran Day celebrations we encountered this day.

At Ft Pierce, in order to get around the inlet, you have to cross back over to the mainland, drive south on US-1 for about a mile, and then cut back to the beach. After the jog, we continued south down A1A at the warp factor speed limit of 35 MPH. Along the way, we passed the FPL Nuclear Plant and lots of "cheap" (\$5M+) homes.

As we approached Stuart Inlet, we saw a group of 4 WW-II AT-6 planes flying in formation. This was the beginning of our second Veteran's Day celebration encounter. As we returned to the mainland, our route took us adjacent to the Stuart Airport which was having a large air show. C-17, C-130 and other military aircraft were visible on the ramp. Police were setting up traffic barriers, but fortunately we were going opposite to the incoming traffic and had no problem.



Leaving the airport area, we headed west on SR-76 and then turned down Lost River Road to a County Park. After finding parking places and the restrooms, we proceeded to the registration area.



FL2-O had two pavilions reserved. The smaller was used for registration and had a DJ playing music. The larger was used for serving food. Although they were not yet serving when we arrived shortly after 11, they did have cokes, coffee, and peanuts available for the riders who needed a snack before the serving line opened. They thought of everything....they even had donuts for Harry.

The serving line opened up within 15 minutes of our arrival. They served an excellent meal of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with sides of slaw and beans. All were very tasty. A separate table held a large assortment of cakes, pies and cookies. An anniversary cake was also available.

Before, during and after lunch, ticket numbers were announced for door prizes and later for the 50/50 drawings. After lunch, various chapters made their announcements and our Veterans were recognized and thanked for their service to our Country.

Although it had been dry all week, black clouds were now approaching from the ocean. After everyone revisited the restrooms, we mounted up and headed out to avoid the rain. To provide a different view, US-1 was chosen for our return route. However, before we could go too far, we found a Mobile station to feed the thirsty trikes.



Harry found his donut.

With the trikes fed, we turned left on US-1 and headed north. Somehow we managed to miss the rain. Passing through Ft Pierce, someone announced over the CB....."Where are we stopping for Ice Cream?" No one knew of any ice cream stores on US-1 except Jim and Leanne who said there were some in Sebastian.

As we passed through Vero, we kept an eye out for ice cream, but none was seen. As we left Vero, we encountered a group of about 20 Harleys going our way. Although the main group proceeded by us in a loud fashion, two of the girl rider bikes briefly fell in behind Mike (and were never seen again).

With ice cream still being the number one topic and with Sebastian being the only remaining town we would pass through, we figured we had no other choice except to call on our ice cream experts. Jim and Leanne were quickly paged and requested to come up front and lead the group to the ice cream. The twins quickly arrived and proceed to practice their hand signals to each other and to the group. As we proceeded north, being led by the crack Forensic Accounting



Refueled and Ready To Rumble

Team, we again passed all the Harleys who had now pulled off to wait on the 2 girls that Mike had made disappear.

Harleys don't wait long for women, so quickly they again began to pass us on the left. With Jim leading, Leanne following, and the whole Goldwing group urging him on, Jim made a grand effort to keep the lead, but it was no contest: Harleys 20; Jim 0. Yes Virginia, there was no Santa Claus on Goldwings that day.

As we entered the outskirts of Sebastian, most of the Harleys quickly cut in front of Jim and headed down Indian River Drive. Those that could not make the lane change and turn, proceed up US-1 a ways before turning. Their destination? Earl's Hide-away and the 3rd Veteran's Day event we encountered. Earl's had an overflow crowd as we went by on the backside (US-1).

Although Jim was a no-show when it came to the Harley vs Goldwing rumble, we all forgave him since about this time he pulled into the Sebastian Baskin-Robbins. Harley riders may crave a cold beer at Earl's, but Goldwing riders crave ice cream.

After everyone had their dessert and after adequate parking lot conversations, we all mounted up and headed back into Brevard. As we proceeded north, each rider said their farewells and peeled off toward their home. The last of us turned down Lake Washington and headed home where we put the trusty Goldwing away for another day.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. The weather was beautiful and in the 70's most of the day. The rain never did become a factor. The ride along A1A was new to some people. The Veteran Day celebrations and Air Show added a little extra to the ride. I had a couple emails waiting at home that night from people saying they had a good time.

Bill Harris
Ride Coordinator.



Special thanks to our members who submit articles. We love the support and the good information.

Send them to Richard Mitts rm32904@yahoo.com

Word document are preferred. Pictures should be saved in jpg format.



Sanford Lunch Ride

Sunday, November 25th, was a beautiful day and the last day of the Thanksgiving weekend. Fourteen bikes and eighteen riders met at Wachovia on US-1 at 9 AM to begin a ride to Sanford. This was the first Florida ride in a long time for a few of our snow birds. After a group pictures and a 5 minute grace period, we headed north on US-1. With fourteen bikes, we broke into two groups. I led the first group with Mo and Deb as tail-gunner. Charley and Joanne led the second group with Harry as tail-gunner.



Our route was straight up US-1 until Titusville where we turned east and headed over to SR-3. A few miles north on SR-3, we crossed the drawbridge (just ahead of a sailboat) at the haulover canal. With about 40 miles under our belt, we pulled into the manatee viewing area and made a brief rest stop. There were several large manatees playing in the canal.



Leaving the manatees, we headed north on SR-3 and rejoined US-1 at the north end of Merritt Island. Along the way, we passed the Cocoa Chapter heading south. Throughout the entire ride, we passed many, many bikers, all taking advantage of a beautiful day on a holiday weekend,

In downtown Oak Hill, we turned west on Halifax Ave. Halifax continues west about 20 miles under the interstate our through a large unpopulated area. Eventually it connects with SR-415 at Osteen, just north of the St. Johns River.

After a brief pit stop, we continued West on Enterprise Osteen Rd, joined Lake Shore Dr, and continued our counter-

clockwise loop around Lake Monroe. After circling around the north end of Lake Monroe, we crossed the St Johns on US-17-92 and headed back east into downtown Sanford.

The selected lunch stop was Wolfys which is situated in the marina area, right on Lake Monroe. I had called ahead during the haulover canal stop, so when arrived around noon, they had an area all prepared for our group.



Lunch and service were both excellent. The view of Lake Monroe and the boat traffic into and out of the marina added to the experience. Throw in the easy atmosphere, good conversations, endless drink refills, and a couple of NFL games on the overhead monitors, and there was something for everyone.

Leaving Wolfys, we mounted up and headed back to Brevard via the Fort Christmas and Taylor Creek shortcut to SR-520. We had planned to go south on I-95 at Cocoa and let everyone find their own exit; however, southbound traffic was very heavy, so Harry took a group to US-1 and I took another group to Fiske/Wickham. Most riders were home before 3 PM. Everyone said they had an excellent time.

Bill Harris
Ride Coordinator.



'On The Road' with Jim and Tax

It's been some time since I last wrote. Tax, Leeanne and I have been busy since our ride last May to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In July we made our annual pilgrimage to Nashville to share the fourth with children and grandchildren. Yes, we goldwinged it but what I'd rather share is our trip to 'Mecca'. No, not bike week or Biketober Fest in Daytona. Not Sturgis either. Oh no, it wasn't Wing Ding in Montana.

For those us in the south, Mecca is the Smoky's in full fall colors. We've been planning this trip since Leeanne and I first saddled our wings.

Early this year we discovered riding challenges below sunny 80 degree temps. What I thought was REALLY cold were 50 degree temps. So, in addition to a heated blanket for Tax, Leeanne and I pon-yed up for Gerbing heated gloves and jacket liners [oh they are expensive!]. Plus we bought electric chaps [discontinued Eclipse brand]. You're thinking we're nuts to buy heated clothing for Florida. True, but we knew we were heading to the Smoky's in October...

For Leeanne's birthday and our anniversary, we mounted up. This was our first trip pulling the Han-nigan trailer behind the 1800. Balancing the trailer is the key and it pulled like a dream behind the 1800. We loaded the kitchen sink, did our T-Clock and off we went. The trip was pretty much Interstate to Alabama, then up 231 more or less through Guntersville to Huntsville where we stayed for a few days. We caravanned, following Leeannes' parents on our bikes, to Sevierville, Tennessee. Having a hand-held CB in Dad's car made the group trip enjoyable for all [I learned this one from Mike and Pat Duquette coming back from the Nashville Wing Ding in 2006].



Foothills Parkway – Townsend to Maryville

Keep in mind; we left Florida in the high 80's. By the time we drove through Knoxville five days later, it was a balmy 70, twenty degrees cooler. We probably looked funny with our coats and gloves since the locals were still in shorts and t-shirts. I was thinking about breaking out the long-johns. We started our first ride into the mountains on Sunday October 21. The weather in the valley was crystal clear and 47. We were bundled up. Leeanne commented that without the humidity and wind it was actually quite nice. The colors were breathtaking as we entered the Smoky Mountain National Park from Townsend and we rode up the Foothills Parkway in search of the Dragon.

Since we don't carry GPS, Doc Mo Dalton had supplied the necessary directions the previous evening. Only one wrong turn later and we were heading toward North Carolina on Highway 129. For

those of you not intimate with this road, it leads to Deals Gap, alias “Tail of the Dragon”. 318 curves in 11 miles. This is THE ride to do on a bike, but don’t look at the pictures posted on Killboy.com before riding. Plus, I’d recommend riding for some time before attempting the Dragon. If you don’t pay attention you will end up off the road [we witnessed a Harley, nose down, with its rider sitting on the side of the road]. You don’t even have to cross the center line to meet oncoming traffic. A couple from Ocala met that tragedy in July when a car trailering a boat crossed the center line.



*Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort – Official Home of The Dragon
318 Curves in 11 Miles*

After stopping at the Dragon’s rest/nest [or whatever the gift shop is called], we continued to Fontana Dam. For the record – there is almost no water! The loop we followed brought us into Cherokee, a small town of probably 1,500 with 30,000 tourists. The traffic looked a lot like I-4 on a Monday morning and the temperature was near 80. I guess I should mention, one of the challenges is to be very patient.

We were constantly stopping to dress and undress. No Mo, I’m just talking about putting on warmer clothes and then getting out of them. It’s just not the kind of riding to be pushed. Lots of stops for pictures, water and snacks. The park has plenty of pullouts but no “quick-stops”, so fuel and food have to be brought in. From Cherokee we turned back toward Gatlinburg and reentered the park on Highway 441. The constant buzz of motor homes, cars and other motorcycles doesn’t take away from the scenery but this is riding best done while well rested.



Foothills Parkway – Cherokee to Maggie Valley

Next month read about Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome and the ride home.

Safe and Happy riding wishes to all,

Jim, Leeanne and Tax

A lesson to be learned from typing the wrong email address!

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
Subject: I've Arrived

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones.

I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is freaking hot down here!

MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE

Recently had my **95 Goldwing SE triked**. All the removed parts are available except the rear tire and wheel. Both saddle bags, lower light bar, heel/toe shifter floor boards, trailer hitch and various other parts that had to be replaced due to triking. All these parts had only 41k miles on them so they should be in very good condition. Anyone interested can contact me at, 321-536-7907
cvetzelsr@cfl.rr.com
Carl Vetzel 4195 Sherwood Blvd Melbourne, FL 32935

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SADDLEBAG TOP ACCENT PART#3207
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CENTER STAND
LICENSE AREA TRIM W/RED LIGHT PART
#3135
DUALY ISO PEGS (x4)PART#7963
LED REFLECTOR CONVERSION PART#7456
CHROME PEG MOUNT(LEFT SIDE ONLY)
PART#4547
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That's all folks!



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Notice: GWRRA members that have items or equipment to sell that they think other members might be interested in, can email your "advertisement" to rm32904@yahoo.com . Either Email it or attach it as a "WORD" file. Get it in before the end of the month when we go to "press". After two months run, it will be dumped unless you send it to me again. That way we will not carry stuff that has been sold months ago. Be sure and include a

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