

July 2002

Platinum Coast Wings  
Chapter FL2-D  
Melbourne, Florida  
Region A Florida District

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Ron & Pam Lantz  
727-393-4609

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 various evenings at 7:00pm at various locations, call 321-952-1448 for information.



Happy Birthday

July 1  
Ed Ivins  
July 7  
Mike Telesca  
July 25  
Barbara Walker  
Mike Mercer  
July 25  
Peter Nichols

Happy Anniversary

July 14  
Peter & Joanne Katsoulas



**Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge**

Gene  
Hope you have a speedy recovery from your open heart surgery, I know everyone in the chapter has you in their thoughts and prayers.

Chapter FL2-D Web page  
Under Construction!

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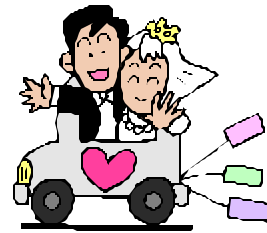
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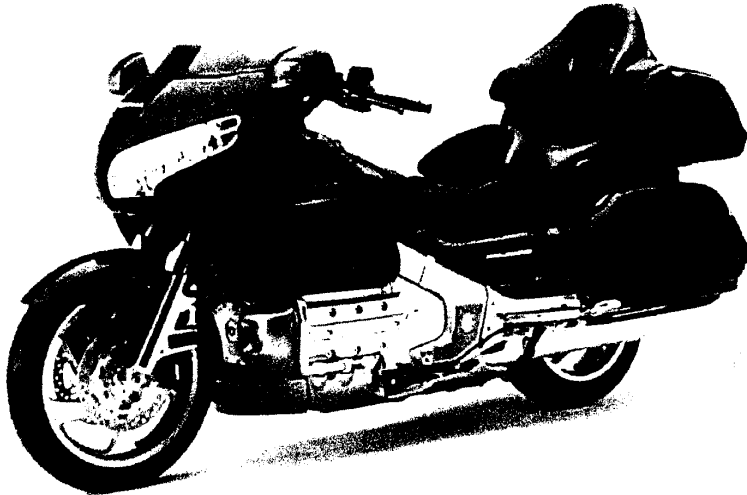
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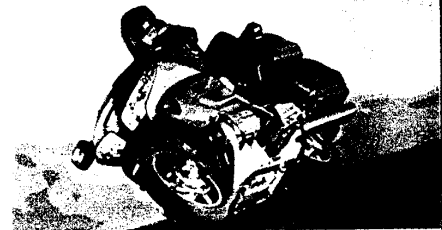
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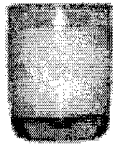
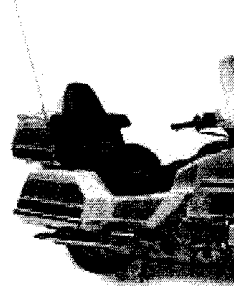
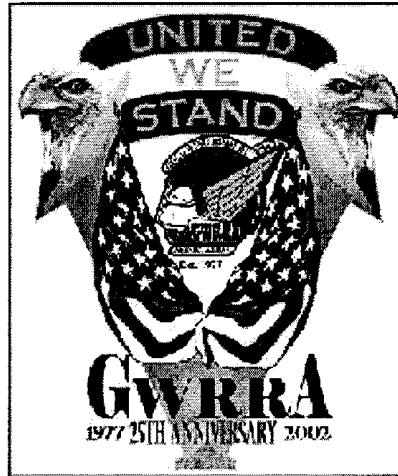
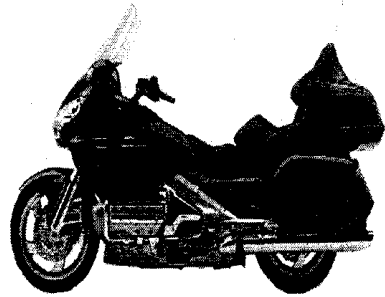
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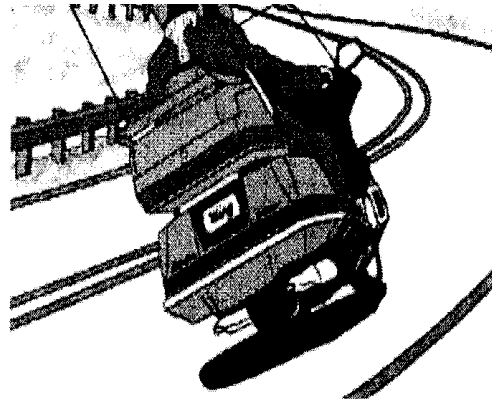
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COMING FROM THE SOUTH ON I-95 TAKE EXIT 72 (EAU GALLIE BLVD) HEAD EAST FOR APPROXIMATELY 2.2 MILES TO WICKHAM RD TURN LEFT AT LIGHT GO ANOTHER 2 TO THE PAVILION. (SIGNS FOR PARKING WILL BE POSTED)

COMING FROM THE NORTH ON I-95 TAKE EXIT 73 (WICKHAM RD) HEAD SOUTH FOR APPROXIMATELY 6.4 MILES. (SIGNS FOR PARKING WILL BE POSTED)

FROM US-1 TURN ON POST ROAD HEADING WEST APPROXIMATELY 1.6 MILES TO WICKHAM RD, AT LIGHT TURN LEFT. (SIGNS FOR PARKING WILL BE POSTED)

POCS; HARRY ANDERSON E-MAIL: [HANDS54119@AOL.COM](mailto:HANDS54119@AOL.COM)  
OR MIKE MERCER E-MAIL: [GOLDWINGGLSE@AOL.COM](mailto:GOLDWINGGLSE@AOL.COM)

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# NEWS FROM A FELLOW HONDA RIDER

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## Business trip to the San Francisco



### Bay area including a weekend -- sign me up!

Hello, California Beemin'? I'd like to rent a motorcycle for the weekend of June 1st and 2nd. I don't know one BMW from another.

How about something with a windshield and hard bags. An RT? Well, OK. \$150/day? Do I bring it back Monday? Oh, alright, I can turn it in Sunday. Cool. Sign me up. Thanks. See you Saturday morning about 8:30.

Good morning Mr. Blake. Please sign here, here and here. Good. The bike's out back. Here's a map of the area. We'll give you a rundown on operation. The foot brake is linked and very sensitive. You press on it very hard at all and it will feel like it's gonna launch you right through the windshield. Press this button to raise and lower the windshield. This one over here turns on the heated grips. Low, high, off. To remove the hard bags, put the key in here and turn, then raise the handle and lift the bag off. To just open the bag, pull up the inner handle. Yeh, they're very roomy. You press these buttons to turn on the turn signals and this one here to turn them off. The key here allows you to remove the seats and, if you like, raise the front of the front seat. Okay then. Here's the combo to the lock. When you get back Sunday, just pull the bike in here and lock the fence back up. Have a good ride.

Alice's Restaurant? Follow the street here to the end, hang a left, then right at the stop sign and right again at the light. This will put you on 17. Take the Saratoga exit and then route 9 to route 35 - the Skyline Drive. Alice's is at the intersection of 35 and 84. Later! Enjoy the ride.

WOW! He was right about the brakes! Man, I'm gonna have to be really careful. And these turn signals... it's really distracting to remember to cancel with a 3rd button. Look out!

Well, it took a while but I finally got the hang of it, sort of. Enough not to be dangerous. But that foot brake - I preferred to scrub off speed in the twisties with the hand brake and use the foot brake for stopping.

But enough about the 1150RT. This Skyline Drive is fantastic. Up, down, left, right. My kind of riding. It was cool up in the hills (not sure they come up to the level of mountains). Fog was

rolling in from the coast. Wherever there was a large tree overhanging the road, the road was wet and I picked up rain on the windshield. As soon as I cleared the trees, the road was dry again. Very weird.

Alice's Restaurant was a smallish wood building sitting back a little from the intersection. It had an outside, elevated deck with tables, a few tables inside and a counter. Next door was a curio shop and just beyond a rustic gas station. The coffee was good. The biscuits and gravy were good too but enough for a small gang (or one Goldwinger). Of course, I had to buy a t-shirt. To my dismay, however, this is not the Alice's Restaurant that Arlo Guthrie sang about. That one was in Massachusetts.

The *mountain* riding was great. Sport bikes were everywhere but courteous. I made a loop, somehow, and rode past Alice's again - this time on route 84 heading for the coast road - CA1.

If you've never been on California 1, you are really missing something! It's not at all like our coast. Out there, the mountains come right up to the ocean. Sometimes they extend right into the water. The ground is not at all flat either. It's more like riding the hills but with an ocean on one side. The road is up, down, left, right. Sometimes you're down at sea level. Sometimes you're way up looking down.

And the Pacific Ocean is not at all like the Atlantic. The Pacific, at least along this stretch of California, is **cold**. Man, is it ever cold. And it turns the air cold. My guess was upper 40's to low 50's. I was awfully glad I had along my insulated chaps, insulated gloves, sweatshirt and heavy Hein Gerecke jacket. Often the fog rolls in so densely that you can hardly see where you're going. Luckily, that was not the case this day.

I picked up CA1 due west of San Jose near San Gregorio and followed it, ultimately, all the way down the coast to below Cambria. Notable points of interest for Saturday were the beach at Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay and Monterey, Carmel and the old Spanish mission there, the Bixby Bridge (picturesque, often photographed and seen in many movies) and Big Sur.

Monterey Bay is large. It is bordered by Santa Cruz to the north and Monterey to the south and cuts a hunk out of the California coast about 25 miles wide and 15 miles deep (to the east). Pebble Beach (golfers) is just above Carmel on the Monterey peninsula and along (or near) 17 Mile Drive. Unfortunately, motorcycles are banned from 17 Mile

# NEWS FROM A FELLOW HONDA RIDER

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Drive.

Boy, the RT protected me well from the wind - head to toe. But this day it was just cold. I'd been on CA1 since about noon and by 5 p.m. or so was at Big Sur and looking for a place to eat, get warmed up and spend the night. There are maybe a half dozen motels but none had a vacancy. So I continued on. The first place I saw with a motel vacancy after Big Sur was 25 miles further south at Gorda. The price was exorbitant but I was tired, cold and hungry. He said it had a Jacuzzi. I took it!

The next morning, I was up and outta there by 7:30, once again heading south. It was about 25 miles to the next town, San Simeon, where I stopped at a Best Western for an excellent breakfast and plenty of good hot coffee.

Somewhere down along here as I was riding along glancing at the ocean from time to time, my eyes caught sight of something strange. There was a large parking area off the road so I pulled in, got off and walked over to where I could see the beach. Sure enough. Sea Lions. There must have been a hundred of the creatures. Some were sleeping in big clumps. Some were laying around by themselves. Others were on the move. Several pairs of them were playing - heads up, rubbing necks, taking pecks at one another. Some in the surf, some not. They were making a deep-throated sound. I stood and watched for several minutes. And wished my body could withstand the cold as well as theirs.

Below Cambria I cut east on rte 46 about 30 miles. Then north on 101 and back east on 198 to 25 north. 198 and 25 had some of the most beautiful inland scenery I've ever seen in the west. The 2-lane country roads wove over and around rolling hills covered in some kind of golden, grassy vegetation. It's the kind of scenery that makes a lasting impression but a poor photo. There was an occasional farm house., an occasional vineyard or here and there a tree. I passed several motorcyclists, mostly on sport bikes (going the other way) and an occasional car. It was warmer here away from the ocean and I lowered the windshield to get more air.

About 33 miles up rte 25 I came upon Pinnacles National Park. It was worth the 2 bucks to get in. It's the site of an ancient, long dormant volcano. Here you face reddish spires and crags that bear no resemblance to the surrounding smooth, round hills. These rocks are just part of the remains of the volcano. The rest of this volcano lies 195 miles to the southeast thanks to the San Andreas Rift Zone (fault) which runs just east of the park.

I took the opportunity to walk one of the many trails in the park. I chose a relatively short 2.4 mile (out and back) hike that was uphill and down and even through 2 tunnels in the rocks. In the 2nd tunnel I passed close enough to a rattlesnake to cause a little tail-shaking. Never saw the thing but another hiker did and later confirmed my suspicion. Coming out of this tunnel you climb a steep flight of steps cut into the rock and come out in front of a spectacular reservoir.

Other visitors to the park were hiking or rock climbing. I saw more than a few folks carefully working their way up rock walls. This was not a game like at an amusement park. This was serious stuff and dangerous. I sat for a while watching two climbers in amazement. I had absolutely no urge although there was a time....

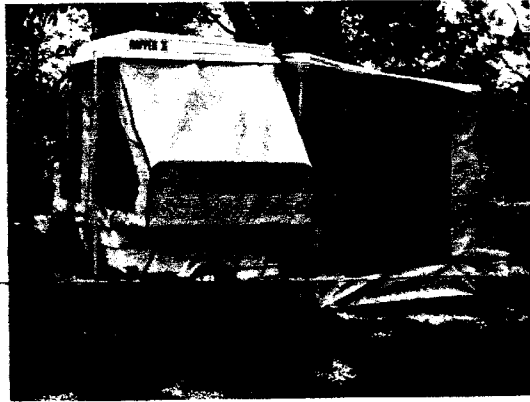
Another 33 miles up rte 25 brought me into the town of Hollister. You know this place. It's the site of *The Wild Bunch* with Marlin Brando back in the 50's - the movie that gave biking a bad name in this country even to this day. Just a few months back two motorcycle gangs got into it at this year's Hollister Rally. But the place was not the little, one stoplight town with dusty streets, a couple bars and a gas station that I expected. As it turns out, it's a very clean, nice looking big town with some really great Mexican food made by Mexican Californians. I rode out of town with a guy there that has a blue VTX just like my own.

From Hollister, it was a short shot up to rte 101 and into San Jose where I reluctantly gave up the BMW RT. It was a good handling, comfortable and competent bike with a lot of nice features.

And what a ride! I hope you will find the opportunity for a similar ride. I've tried my best to give you a flavor for the country out there but it's just an appetizer. Call your travel agent (or go on line). Get the ticket, reserve a bike rental and go. You will not regret it for one minute.

*Tom Blake*

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FROM THE CD,

WELL HAVE YOU ALL DRIED OUT YET? THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS HAVE NOT BEEN IDEAL FOR GOLDWING RIDING, BUT I'M GLAD FOR THE RAIN AND I KNOW IT WILL STOP SOON.

ANYWAY JUST TO LET THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND THIS MONTH WE HAD A NICE TURNOUT FOR THE LUNCH AT DIXIE CROSSROADS WITH FL1R. THE PUTT-PUTT GOLF WAS CANCELED (RAIN) BUT 9 OF US HAD DINNER AT SONNY'S IN COCOA BEACH. KICK-TIRE AT SONIC HAD 6. THE KICKOFF FOR TITUSVILLE FL1F WAS ATTENDED BY 6 OF US, YOU KNOW THAT SOME OF THOSE GOLDWINGERS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS RODE THEIR WINGS IN THAT RAIN STORM. GO FIGURE. THE RIDE TO OLD HABITS WAS JUST GREAT, 13 WENT AND WE ALL HAD TO PUT ON OUR RAIN-SUITS ON THE WAY BACK.

MIKE AND CHARLOTTE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO WING-DING. CHECK FOR THEIR REPORT IN NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER.

WE ARE PLANNING A COUPLE OF CAMPING WEEKENDS, FOR THE FALL.

RIDE SUGGESTIONS ARE APPRECIATED!!!!!!!!!!

HARRY