

September 2002

Platinum Coast Wings

Chapter FL2-D

Melbourne, Florida

Region A Florida District

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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.



This September 11th let us truly remember:
United we stand,
we stand for freedom,
and we are one nation under God!

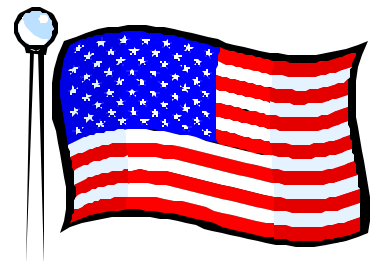


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Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge

Chapter FL2-D Web page
Under Construction!

Chapter Director notes:

Lynn and I have returned from our vacation up north, and sure are glad to be home.

Charlie and Joanne Davies work very hard to come up with kick-tire locations and rides, I would like all of you to lend a hand by suggesting ride destinations or kick-tire locations. E-mail one of us with your ideas.

At last month's meeting FL1-F, F Troop, from Titusville gave us the HOT POTATO plaque. We will need to make a ride with at least 5 people to another chapter's meeting or event to get rid of it. I'll let you know when and where.

We are getting into the "cooler" months and I hope to see all of you on the rides. Take notice of the calendar for the next two months, I think we have a good variety of rides and kick-tires planned. We will also be inserting some unscheduled rides and kick-tires so watch your e-mails.

Ride safe

HARRY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPT 9
PAT DUQUETTE

SEPT 15
ALBERT MARTINEZ

SEPT 16
WENDELL STRUBAHR

SEPT 21
JOHN O'NEIL

SEPT 28
RENEE MORLAN



What's Cookin!

This dish tastes great and uses your basic ingredients, nothing fancy just quick, easy, and good!

Pineapple Brunch Casserole

1 (8 oz) can crushed pineapple
1 cup biscuit mix
1 cup milk
4 eggs, lightly beaten
6 tablespoons butter, melted
1/2 tsp. onion powder
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
Pinch ground nutmeg
4 oz. Cooked ham, diced
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 green onions, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, Drain pineapple. Reserve 2 tablespoons pineapple for garnish, if desired. Combine biscuit mix, milk, eggs, butter, mustard, onion powder, and nutmeg in blender or in large mixer bowl until smooth. Stir in ham, cheese, onions, and pineapple. Pour into greased 9-inch pie plate. Bake 35-40 min. or until set. Garnish with reserved pineapple, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

DO YOU CARRY PASSENGERS?

Sandi and I recently completed the ERC course two-up. She had never taken this course before and I must say she was a little nervous at times. I was apprehensive, as I had never taken it two-up. To tell the truth, I did not even know she was back there. A skilled co-rider makes all the difference. We have been riding together since the early seventies and have logged over 100,000 miles. I have always appreciated her riding skills; the fact that she follows my instruction and she is not just a passenger, indeed, she is my co-rider. Had it not been for her training and rider abilities, I would have had the "I dropped my bike pin" twice last year.

The reason I have chosen this subject for my article this month is to have each of you ascertain whether you are a co-rider or a passenger. We all take an occasional passenger for a ride. This passenger is an unskilled person that just sits on the back of the motorcycle and hopefully arrives at point "B". All co-riders start out as passengers and some end up co-riders. That doesn't just happen automatically. Sandi and I always talk to each other about safety as we ride. She constantly scans for hazards and warns me of them. We both clear each intersection we go through. Most motorcycle accidents happen at intersections. Usually a car will fail to yield to the cycle. Left-hand turning vehicles are the biggest hazard. She knows what to do in any given situation because we have discussed it in advance. The rider should always be able to discuss his or her needs and concerns with the co-rider.

The rider is in the driver's seat, but the co-rider's ability will largely determine how safe the trip is and definitely how enjoyable it is for the rider. Instruction from the rider to the co-rider should be constructive and just a discussion. *Co-riders should not take offense at instruction from the rider as your very life could depend on how well you do your part on the motorcycle.* Each rider has different needs. We all have different abilities and skill levels. Things that affect our abilities are physical size, (bigger is not always better), strength, hearing, eyesight, reaction time and (of course) the biggie, age. I know my riding skills have been somewhat depleted over the years. I have been broken, bent and spindled too many times. My eyes are so bad if I take off my glasses I have trouble finding my butt.

Sandi says pick a spot (any spot ?), but we won't go there; I am discussing harmony between rider and co-rider. I hate to admit it, but the years and my arthritis are taking a toll. I truly believe that if I carried a passenger instead of a co-rider, I would be looking for a trike in the not so distant future.

Because we all love to ride so much, the co-riders have an opportunity and duty to the rider to improve their skills. An untrained co-rider can make a good rider give up the sport years before it is necessary. Small things that you might not think of make a lot of difference. The way the co-rider mounts the bike can put a lot of strain on the rider. Any movement by the co-rider at slow speed can cause the rider to become unstable, especially when coming to a stop or making slow speed turns. A co-rider should never make quick abrupt movements. If you are at speed and want to do a little dance or get rid of that wiggie you got fifty miles back, that's ok; just let your rider know in advance. The place a co-rider can make or break a rider is when you must do a slow speed maneuver like a U-turn in a parking lot or on uneven pavement. Slow speed in gravel or sand is another one. Let's face it, none of us are getting any younger (except Jim and Maxine) and we can all improve our riding skills.

The ERC two-up course is extremely informative. You need not be afraid of it as you can progress at your own safety level. **REMEMBER: Never allow yourself to be forced to ride above your skill level.** Taking your co-rider to a vacant parking lot and practicing slow-speed maneuvers is a good idea, if you have trouble with them. Whether you have ridden together for thirty years or thirty minutes, always discuss how you may improve your riding skills together. It's never too late to improve your skills **and** your safety may depend on it.

Lets all take a sincere and honest look at how good we are at our job. Whether you are a rider or a co-rider. If you are a rider, make sure you communicate your needs to the co-rider, if they don't know what you need them to do, it wont get done. **Give advice, not orders.** Discuss safety as you ride and work together. If you are a co-rider who feels that your rider may be loosing his or her edge, assess your skills and be honest. You may find that you have been a passenger for all these years and now you need to become a co-rider, so that you both may continue to enjoy the sport for many more years together.

Stay well, stay safe and may God bless,

Ed & Sandi Smoak

Chapter Educators



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tips our chapter educator is giv-
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