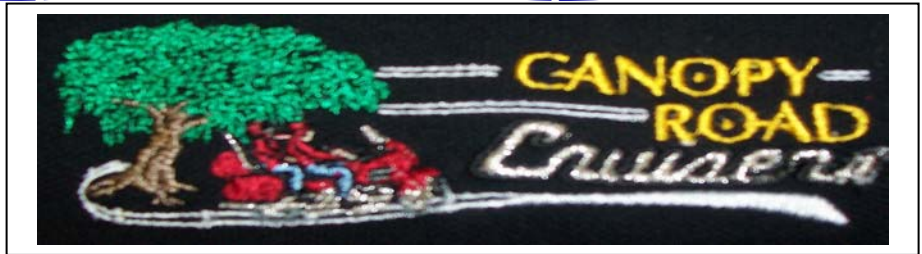


Cruis'n with the



January 2007

Chapter FL1-A2 Tallahassee, Florida

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We're On The Net!
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Florida GWRRA Home Page Address
<http://floridadistrict.com>

Chapter FL1-A2 Information

General Membership Meeting
Second Thursday monthly
At
Golden Corral Buffet
Dinner at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

Supper Rides Every Third Thursday

Dinner Social Every Fourth Thursday

We miss you when you're not there!
Welcome to all visitors and new members!!!
We're glad you're with us!!!

NATIONAL, REGIONAL & DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Don & Cindy Brock

SOUTHEAST REGION A DIRECTOR:
Larry & Patti Lingo

FLORIDA DISTRICT DIRECTOR:
Bob & Nancy Shrader

ASST. DISTRICT DIRECTOR:
Ed Porter

ASST. DISTRICT DIRECTOR:
Bill & Cheryl Smith

ASST. DISTRICT DIRECTOR:
Rich Broeker & Patty Poock

ASST. DISTRICT DIRECTOR:
Jack & Betty Birge

DISTRICT EDUCATOR:
Bob & Barbara Groff

DISTRICT ADMIN ASSISTANT:
Cliff & Joyce Hotchkiss

FLORIDA PUBLIC RELATIONS:
Pat & Judy Seadorf

FLORIDA LEADERSHIP TRAINER:
Vacant

FLORIDA COUPLE OF THE YEAR:
Ed & Jeanette Carr

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"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"



Hi Fellow Gold Wingers,
Sure hope everyone had a Great Holiday Season. We had a great Christmas party and if you missed it you missed a very good time.

Sorry we didn't get a December letter out. It was a very busy month with Leucetia working and my job keeping me away from home most of December.

We had two really good planning meetings at our home. One in December and one again Tuesday evening. We mailed out over 200 requests for door prizes for our February Rally. We had a lot of fun and great fellowship at then same time, plus good food. Thanks to all who brought salads, desserts, and drinks.

Several have already given me their donation of door prizes. We all need to visit the merchants we usually shop with and even those we don't so we can have a lot of gifts to give away. The better the gifts the more people will play games to win them. \$\$\$

As most everyone knows Leucetia got her own set of wheels from Santa.

After being out of town for two and a half weeks I was able to get a four day weekend off. We left on Thursday a.m. and drove to Sevierville TN (just north of Gatlinburg) and picked her Trike up Thursday evening. Friday we drove to About fifty miles south of Atlanta to Jackson GA, the home of TJ & The Boss (Pin Striper who Pined Striped my ride). Friday afternoon we enjoyed a good visit with TJ and his wife while he pin striped Leucetia's trike to match my bike.

Saturday morning we picked up the trike and headed for Helen GA. Then we spent the day riding around the mountains breaking the trike in. We visited a water fall in Unicorn State park. We traveled back home on Sunday. Leucetia has been riding two to three hours a day to get a feel of her ride.

We stayed home Christmas and rode some Christmas day and the day after. We visited Bob-O-Lou and he fixed the back rest that had somehow come loose. We left Bob's and rode west to 65, then south to cut over to Carabelle, then to 98, east to 319, 319 to Springhill Rd., to Capital Circle, to 20 west and back to 90 and our house. About 140 miles, and she wanted to ride more!

Last Saturday Bob-O-Lou led 11 bikes and 13 of us on a 140-150 mile ride over South GA. We stopped at the last Gas station in Ga. (on 27) to fill up. From there Bob-O-Lou had Leucetia lead himself and me back to Hwy 90 and 159 where we separated to go home.

Thanks again to Bob for a Great year end ride.

See you next Thursday at our January Meeting. Till then,

Ride Safe and Enjoy
Lenton and Leucetia Stephens



*From: Jim Zumbrunn
Rider Educator*

The Art of Motorcycle Obstacle Avoidance

By: Jim Noss

We all assume a certain level of risk when we ride our motorcycles. Our main concern is usually the 4000 pound SUV crossing in front of us at an intersection. The driver oblivious to our existence as they chat on their cell phone. That being said, another risk motorcyclists encounter is the Road Hazard.

By road hazard I mean obstacles such as speed bumps, potholes or debris. Debris such as gravel, solid objects that have fallen off the construction truck in front of you. If that was not enough consider road kill, now add in a freaked out

deer or a kamakazi squirrel or rabbit. It makes you wonder why we ride at all. But that is another topic I will address relating to the start of it all, the book “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.” But I digress.

Alright, having given you all the obstacle hazards you WILL encounter on your ride, how do you effectively prepare and react to such hazards. Let me take you back to school for a second and refresh you on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation’s SEE method. What is SEE again? Search! Evaluate! Execute! If you use the searching and evaluation effectively this can help you avoid the obstacles mentioned above. OK, class is over. Now, for some real world tips.

Practice your quick reaction counter steering. How? Well you can go to a vacant parking lot and place some coke cans out and as you get close, practice your quick obstacle avoidance counter steer to swerve around the object without braking. The idea being that the bike is agile and can avoid an object. The alternative is to apply full braking power and hope physics is on your side. I also will you man-hole covers for this practice. Of course in very light traffic. Keeps you fresh.

Do not tail gate the cager in front of you. I just learned this last week. There was a 2 by 4 in the road, I was too up the guy’s butt in front of me for me to effectively see the board in time and hit it. All turned out OK for me, but if it were something larger or road kill it might have resulted in an accident. Not good! If you don’t have to run over it, don’t. Once I hit a small piece of tin, like a flattened soda can, well all this did was kick up and scratch up my fender. Still not good! The zen of riding was kicked in so much, I forgot to look for obstacles.

Now if you have time to react and you are unable to avoid the object be sure to:

- Slow as much as time and traffic will permit
- Approach the obstacle at a 90 degree angle. Most commonly when you encounter railroad tracks that are offset or uneven pavement.
- Rise slightly off the seat and shift your weight rearward, ease off the throttle. Why? You do not want power applied to the rear wheel when it encounters the object. Once you have the bike stable and free of the obstacle resume seated. If it was a hard impact you should pull over and check for damage.
- For handling live critter avoidance. If you see the critter and have time to slow down, do so. Be mindful of traffic behind you. With dogs, it is best to slow, then if the dog is making a b-line for you, increase throttle and wave bye to Bruno. For deer, this is the worst case, they are skittish giant rats with antlers – most of them. It is best to slow as much as possible until you are past. There are several aftermarket deer warning devices you could install. I have one, it makes a high tone like a dog whistle. Does it work? I don’t know all I do know is that it is annoying. Thank God for the optional on/off switch. Funny thing is I installed this on my cruiser instead of the ZZR1200.
- Here is a somewhat related obstacle avoidance tip, water on the painted road symbols spells disaster. I avoid these things at all cost. I also am mindful of intersections. When it rains this hits all of the dropped oil from the cars and makes for a real slick surface. So be mindful of where you put your foot down and place your tires. It is best to stay in the tire tracks to avoid the Valdez like spills. Most motorcyclists will drop their bikes in these situations. For me I went to put my foot down to park and I encountered some cherry seeds from the nearby tree, well out went my foot, and down goes the 500 pound bike and my ego.

In conclusion, I hoped to have provided some useful tips on basic obstacle avoidance. I strongly believe it is not the number of years that you have ridden a motorcycle, it is your experience and skillful use of the machine that really matter.

The logo for "Chief Bandit" is written in a stylized, bold, yellow font with a black outline and a slight shadow effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The letters are slanted and have a jagged, "bandit" style.

From The Chief Bandit’s House

by Jack Birge, Assistant District Director

Greetings & Happy New Year

As we begin the New Year, I would like you to take a moment and ask yourself, “Why am I a member of GWRRA.” If you are not having FUN, why not? SAFETY is very important, but we have trouble filling the safety training course slots when scheduled. Why folks don’t spend at least one day a year for safety training I’ll never figure

our. KNOWLEDGE, a lot of folks joke about me taking up time at your meetings, but members should be current on what's going on in their area, region and at the National level, that's why I talk so much. Thus the motto "FRIENDS for SAFETY and KNOWLEDGE".

The "FRIENDS" portion was really shown by your outpouring support and love to the Libertini family of the Milton Chapter, with the sudden death of Ralph. He was a dear and close friend of Betty and myself, and a friend to all who knew him. A fraction of this support was shown by 64 bikes following the hearse on the way to his Military funeral with the Missing Man formation, a very impressive sight, folks. Diane will continue to be an active member of the Chapter and of our extended family.

There are still slots available for the ERC scheduled 14 Jan and the Trike course on the 11th of Feb. Contact your Rider Ed person or myself for details.

There are a lot of events already scheduled for your Fun and Safety, not only local, but throughout the great District of Florida and the Region. Start your year off now by checking the list and marking your calendar to attend and greet old FRIENDS and make new ones while having FUN, but most important RIDE SAFE. Betty and I will surely see you at as many of the events as possible.

Jack & Betty
Florida Assistant Directors



By Leucetia Stephens

I would welcome an article from you! Have you been on a ride that you enjoyed? Have you learned some helpful little tidbit? Have you had any beneficial learning experience? Maybe you'd just like to share the joy of the experience of riding. This is your newsletter! Please share your experience with the rest of us.



2007 DISTRICT EVENTS

January 13-14	CD Conference	Plant City FL
January 20	FL2-L Pirate Fest	Lakeland FL
January 28	Multi Chapter Breakfast	Flagler Beach FL
February 3	FL1-M Anniversary	Clearwater FL
February 17	FL1-F Sweetheart Dance	Port St. John FL
February 23/24	FL1-A2 Annual Mini Rally	Lake Talquin FL
March 2-11	FL1-H Goldwing Getaway	New Smyrna Beach
March 3	FL1-W Breakfast/Brunch	Apopka FL
March 10	FL1-Q Annual Charity Poker Run	Milton FL
March 15-17	Florida District Rally	Kissimmee FL
March 25	FL1-E2 Charity Poker Run	Ft. Walton Bch FL
April 7	FL1-B 4 th Annual Road Rally/Fun Day	Valrico FL
May 26	FL1-F2 20 th Anniversary Poker Run	Ocala FL

LOCAL DINNER RIDE SCHEDULE

11/9 Chicken Pilau – Coon Bottom
12/1 Chapter Christmas Party

Meet @ #3 at 6:30
Marie Livingston's at 7:00

<i>January Birthdays</i>		
Chris Moore – 1/3 Lettie Smith – 1/13	Sheila Carroll – 1/13 Gus Daniels – 1/18 Wesley Shivers – 1/24	Donna Daniels – 1/13 Steve Carroll – 1/23

<i>January Anniversaries</i>		
Ray & Linda Henley – 1/11		

<i>February Birthdays</i>		
Carolyn Campbell – 2\3 Hugh Waller – 2/12	Karen Share – 2\3 Mary Ann McKee - 2\16 Gary Allen – 2/27	Durell Daniels – 2\8 Margaret Parmer – 2/22

<i>February Anniversaries</i>		
None		

KUDOS

TO

WELCOME

Invite your neighbors and friends to our meetings! We'd love to have them visit!!!

NEW BIKE CLUB

Someone out there needs a new bike? Don't they??

Notes From Last Meeting

What You Missed If You Weren't There:
By



Lenton Stephens
Various 1500 Parts
Seat, chrome coming light covers, etc.

The logo for Ruffriders Clothing & Apparel, featuring a blue silhouette of a person riding a motorcycle on the left, a red gear icon in the center, and the word "Ruffriders" in a red, cursive font. Below "Ruffriders" is the text "Clothing & Apparel" in a blue, sans-serif font.

850 422-BIKE
(2453)

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