



Suncoast Wings



Chapter FL1-M....The M&M's
Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Region A – Florida District
Chapter FL1-M, Clearwater, Florida

[Http://suncoastwings.com](http://suncoastwings.com)
[WWW.FLORIDADISTRICT.COM](http://www.floridadistrict.com)

July 2008
Volume VIII, Issue 7

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GENERAL MEETINGS

3rd Thursday @ Stacey's Buffet
1451 Missouri Avenue North
Largo – Dinner @ 6:00 PM
Meeting @ 7:30 PM

KICK TIRES
1st, 2nd, & 4th
Thursdays
of each
Month
Eat at 6:00
Meet at
7:30

ALL RIDES LEAVE FROM
McDonalds at the
corner of Nursery
Road and US 19
North
Check Events Calendar
on the following
pages

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Contents

Chapter Director News.....	2
Rider Education Thoughts.....	3
Coy Corner & Special Dates.....	4
Chapter Ride Coordinators & Event Dates.....	5
Monthly Calendars.....	6
Chapter Members Articles.....	7 - 9
Items For Sale.....	10
Picture of the Month	11
Member Article.....	12-13
Advertisement.....	14

National, Regional and District Staff

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Jim & Linda McGinnis
District Newsletter Editor
Millie Prince
Florida District Webmistress/Webmaster
Millie Prince



A thought from our Chapter Directors

As I sit here trying to think of something to write, my mind is pretty much preoccupied with my upcoming surgery tomorrow morning. But one thing really takes priority over even that. The amount of support and kind words that I have received the past few days from all of you is overwhelming. I really do not cherish the idea of having to be in the hospital, especially knowing that this surgery is not just some routine thing that is over in a flash and the recovery time is not a day or two. This is real and I have never experienced anything like this before. I am sure everything will be okay, as the doctor I have is very highly praised by everyone that we have talked to. All of you are very special people and your friendship means a great deal to me. "Thank You"

The worst part, I guess, is that we are going to have to miss another Wing Ding. As much as we have been looking forward to this and I know so many Chapter members are attending, it is very disappointing to not be attending. We will not have enough time off left and so we will have to look forward to another chance in the future. Be sure and have an extra good time for us, and we will be thinking of you while you are gone. Maybe I will be riding by the time you get back!!

I may add more to this later in the month, but for now I will call it a night.

Until Next Month,

**Rich & Lucy Schaad
Chapter Directors
FL1-M**



Nostalgia

I would like to start this off with an apology for not having an article in last month's newsletter. Procrastination is a terrible affliction and sometimes I let it get the best of me.

At our general meeting Ken Stagner did the safety talk for a change. His focus was about basic riding that was extracted from the MSF Basic Riding Course (BRC). What I found interesting about this is that many of our members could not answer what I considered very simple questions. Now I realize that Kathy & I have been taking the ERCs many times and have also been Chapter Educators for over 4 years now, and we might have learned something. What I remember when we first started taking the ERCs, we would sit in a classroom for about 3 to 4 hours and were given a lot of the information that Ken asked. Several years ago MSF changed to a gentler and kinder ERC with only the riding skills. Wouldn't want to task our old brains too much with more classroom. There is information passed along with the riding skills, but nowhere near the amount that we received in the classroom.

What we learned in the classroom reinforced what many motorcyclists learn in the BRC; however I, for one, never took this course. I first started riding a scooter (Cushman) while helping my oldest brother deliver the newspapers. My main function was to carry the papers up the hill because the scooter could only make it to the top with my brother, couldn't even handle the weight of the papers! When I bought my first bike (the year Kathy & I started dating) my instructions before going out on the road was first gear is down and the other three up. I was also shown where the clutch and brakes were located. I am not sure how I survived all of those years. I never heard about pushing on the handlebar to make the bike turn until at least 10 years after I started riding on the road. This is some of the information that used to be passed along in the classroom of the ERC.

Now I know someone will say that I don't need to be able to answer a question like, "What percentage of your braking power comes from the front wheel?" You will think that it is enough to know that in a panic situation you know to squeeze your front brake. I personally believe that knowing how and why something works is very important because in that panic situation you need your brain to say it truly is correct to push on the right handlebar to make the bike turn right. Without this information when you are in a situation where you need to make a quick change in direction, your brain might just say that is contrary to common sense and try to steer the bike. Then you will end up going the opposite direction of where you wanted.

I know that a lot of our members ride trikes and much of this information does not pertain to them. We also have the Trike Rider's Course (TRC) and it does have the classroom. The information presented does reinforce what we have learned over the years.

Ron & Kathy, Senior Chapter Educators



COY CORNER



**Cathy & Doug Sweeney
Chapter M's Couple Of the Year**

Hi Gang,

I had my appointment with the Stroke doctor on Wednesday, June 25 and it has been decided that I should have an angiogram as a prelude to possible surgery to clear the carotid artery. Since the surgery is risky, the surgeon will base the decision to proceed on the results of the angiogram weighing risk factors of surgery versus leaving the artery restricted. The total procedure will probably take several weeks, so Wing Ding is out and any travel outside Canada is on hold for the near future. In the meantime, I still feel good and will have to just wait and see what happens. Thanks again for all your concern and prayers. There is no doubt your support makes everything much easier. I am riding the bike locally a couple of hours at a time and have had no problems.

I will put off any long trips until I get more clearance ... This is all for now. Will keep you updated as things change.

Doug Sweeney

Special Days

-----July -----

Birthdays

Brenda Houston 7, Kaylee Schaad 7, Sandi Smoak 15, Julie Schneider 29, Oly McDonough 30,
Curtis Palmore 30

Anniversaries

Joyce & Fred Hartley 19, Dawn & Don Dillon 29, Lucy & Rich Schaad 31

-----August -----

Birthdays

Jerry Costell 3, Nickie Sanderson 6, Arthur Minkster 8, Tina Allen 12, Mike Perkins 12, Bill Miller
20, John Morgan 22, Shirley Morgan 22, Cindy Riel 28, Kim Palmore 31

Anniversaries

Shirley & John Morgan 5, Cathy & Doug Sweeney 6, Debbie & Dennis Magness 8, Evona & Peter Pawlik
23, Susan & Gary Murray 24, Tina & Don Allen 31

A Note from our Ride Coordinators

Well, what can I say? Don and I have not been around much lately. He has been working overtime, which means he gets up in what I consider the middle of the night to go to work. This crazy schedule will probably last a few more weeks. Then we'll be back in full swing again.

In the meantime, we want to wish everyone a safe and fun trip to Wing Ding. Unfortunately, we won't be able to join you. We look forward to hearing all about it when you return.

As always, keep an eye on your calendar. We have a picnic, bowling and a couple rides scheduled for July. See ya there.

Don & Tina Allen
Ride Coordinators



2008 FLORIDA GWRRA EVENTS

May 31-Jun 1	Horizons Seminar	Ocala
June 12-14	Georgia District Rally	Athens, GA
June 21	FL1-V It's Five O'Clock Somewhere	Jacksonville Beach
July 3-6	Wing Ding 30	Greenville, SC
Aug. 16	5 Chapter Poker Run	Tampa
Sept. 6	FL1-A Picnic/Auction	Tampa
Sept 11-13	Region "A" Rally	Dothan, AL
Oct. 16 – 18	Mississippi District Rally	Biloxi, MS
Oct. 25	FL2-E Chapter Picnic & Benefit	Clewiston
Oct. 31 – Nov.1	Panhandle Getaway	Panama City
Nov. 2	Ride For Kids,	Sarasota County Technical Institute.
Nov. 8	FL2-A 30th Anniversary. "Buzzerd Run"	West Palm Beach
Nov. 8	Florida District Rider Ed Fair	St. Petersburg
Nov. 15	FL1-L2 Poker Run	Brooksville
Dec. 6	FL1-S Mingle Jingle	Zephyrhills

2009 FLORIDA GWRRA EVENTS

Jan. 10-11	CD Conference	Kissimmee
Jan. 17	FL2-L Chapter Rally	Lakeland
Jan. 25	FL2-D 4 Chapter Breakfast	Melbourne
Feb. 08	South Florida Ride For Kids	
Mar. 12 – 14	Florida District Rally	Kissimmee
April 18	FL1-W Green Eggs & Ham Poker Run	Orlando
May 9	FL1-F2 Poker Run/Motorcycle Rally	St. Petersburg
Nov. 14	Florida District Rider Ed Fair	St. Petersburg

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Wing Ding Greenville, SC			
6 Wing Ding	7	8	9	10 Kick Tire Country Skillet 2839 Roosevelt Blvd	11	12 Bowling Fun Twedts Lanes 6:30 PM
13 Sand Key triathlon Shop & Golf	14	15	16	17 General Meeting Stacey's	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19 O'Maddy's 5405 Shore Blvd & Bridges Ride
20 Honey Do	21	22	23	24 Kick Tire Mug's n' Jugs 1250 Missouri Blvd	25	26 All Day Picnic Reddy's Retreat Lake Tarpon
27 Evening Ride 7:30 RM	28 Council Meeting 7 PM	29	30	31 Kick Tire Village Inn 2871 Gulf to Bay		

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Evening Ride Rm 5:45
3 Fun Bowl Twedt's Lanes 1 PM	4	5	6	7 Kick Tire Tiffany's 35000 US 19 N	8	9 Italian Nite & Bingo Park Royale 5:30
10 Honey Do	11	12	13	14 Kick Tire Hoa Wah 10454 66th St	15	16 5 Chapter Polker Run
17 Lakeridge Winery Clermont RM 8 AM	18	19	20	21 General Meeting Stacey's	22	23 Weekee Wachee Getaway
24 Honey Do 31 Honey Do	25 Council Meeting 7 PM	26	27	28 Kick Tire Country Harvest 1285 S Missouri Ave	29	30 Pioneer Days Dade City RM 8 AM

Orange Park, Chapter FLX-X Rally & The Sunrise to Sunset Ride !

The rally was great! We left from McDonalds a little after 7 am. The ride was good. There was a little rain North of Tampa, but we decided to keep riding instead of stopping to put on our rain gear.

Our first stop was in Ocala for gas and a little rest. Pete tried to get rid of the dropped bike pin by placing a banana peel by Gary's bike, but it did not work. Gary saw it!

While riding through Starke, Rich caught up with us. He said he heard us on the CB somewhere in Ocala. The traffic in Starke was quite slow and busy. Pete nearly put our front wheel in Gary's left saddle bag. Pete was looking at some girls wearing bikinis at a car wash and did not see that the light had turned RED!

Rich took the lead from Leroy, who did a great job that morning and led us the rest of way . We arrived shortly after 11:00 am. We really had to move around fast at this rally, because the closing ceremonies began at 1:30. We played the games, ate meatball sandwiches, (yes, there was seconds if you wanted), and did the chapter challenge. I had a good time doing the hula hoop game, which was a lot of fun. I think Gary was the last one out of the circle. Rich won a gift certificate and the 50/50 raffle. I won a Shoei full face helmet with a really nice bag. Our chapter won the wanderer. As I said this was a very fast rally and it was difficult to see all that was going on! We had a good time there!

After the rally, JR, Jeanni, Stu, and Gary left us to ride home. The rest of us rode to St. Augustine, where we checked in at the Ramada Hotel next to the outlet mall. We then road to First Coast Honda to visit and do some shopping. We found them to be nice people, especially when they promised to feed us next time we visit! Art told Rich that he has not seen the Atlantic Ocean, so our next stop was there. While there we saw a wedding on the beach and a land crab - the crab got more attention.

As we drove through the old town district, we were not able to find parking for all the bikes, so we stopped at Ruby Tuesdays to eat. This was a full day and everyone of us were happy to relax and enjoy the good food there.

When we got back to the hotel some went swimming and the rest sat by the pool. What we all talked about I'm not sure, but there was a lot of laughing about how the guys in the pool found a way to warm up the water around them! How primitive!

In the morning Jerry, Nancy, Pete, and I were out by the pool at 6:00 am to see the sunrise. It was overcast and we could not see the sun, but Pete got a picture of what he thought was the sun. It was actually a pool lamp. I can explain him only by being Polish!

The four of us then went to the hotel lobby where we pigged out on a complimentary breakfast. Afterwards we went to Denny's where we ate again, only this time with protein which Jerry insisted that his body had to have. Then, back to the hotel lobby where Jerry gave Rich a wake up call. While waiting for Rich, Donna, Harold, and Leroy, we decided to have breakfast for the third time and did! Wow, talk about FULL!

It was about 10:00 am when we were almost ready to leave for the west coast. While waiting to leave, Jerry entertained himself and others with blowing bubbles. This was the high point of the morning, according to Nancy!

We rode the back roads home through some of Florida's nicest scenery ! We rode through the Ocala National Forest on our way to Silver Springs. We stopped to take a rest and buy some refreshments where we decided to take I-75 the rest of the way. This way everyone could go home and meet later at Gator's in Johns Pass to watch the sunset.

Just before the Bushnell exit, Leroy called on the CB and told us to get off at the next exit because he heard a lot of noise, like hammering, coming from his Silver Wing. We pulled into a Sunoco gas station about a mile from his call. There Rich thought he found the reason for the hammering sound, a thin strip of rubber guard. But after spinning the wheel, he found a hand size piece of tire tread that had been ripped off exposing the tire core. The Angels were riding with him and watching over him.

Rich called Ron Jackson to help haul Leroy's SilverWing home. He came in record time and with a big smile eager to help ! What a nice guy, a true M&M.

It was decided before Ron arrived with his rescue mobile that we would call it a day and forgoe getting together at Gator's to see the sunset if the sky allowed it. The sky was cloudy and looked as if it might rain later. When Pete and I finally got home, my daughter Erica and I drove to the beach and we shot several pictures of the sunset.

I completed the chapter sunrise to sunset ride, without Pete, without our bike, without my chapter friends, but for all of us!

Evona Pawlik

Debbie & Dennis's Trip to visit our winter members

As most of you know, Debbie and I took a trip north to visit friends , relatives and attend a Navy Reunion. For the most part, everything went well except for a tire failure on day two. The Reunion lasted 3 days in Lancaster, PA with no morning after hangovers. Not that we didn't partake, mind you.

This trip was planned to be a motorcycle trip. However, Debbie's forearm was giving her trouble and we couldn't ride our bikes. We were gone for 16 days and encountered rain and chilly (make that cold) temperatures 10 of those days. As it turned out, the comfort of the car was a blessing and it didn't take as much gas as the two bikes would have consumed.

Next stop, Shady Lake, PA, to visit Paul & Sue Bowser and Jack & Janet Holzer, all of whom offered us safe, comfortable lodging. Staying at the *Holzer Inn* seemed the most convenient for everyone.

Thank you, Jack & Janet, for your hospitality.

All six of us went to Erie, Pa for dinner and a visit to a Casino (my favorite kind of place.) I think Janet went home with more money than she left with. I didn't hear any bells, whistles or shouting, so I know Debbie didn't come out ahead.

Next stop, Greenfield, IN, to visit Barb & Gene Henry. Well, let me tell you, the photos they had showed us didn't do their new home justice. I know they'll be very happy there. While there, they took us to Indianapolis for a visit to the Speedway Museum and a ride around the track.. Awesome! Thank you, Barb & Gene.

I need to regress a little here. One of the Navy retirees distributed a poem in a picture frame to those attending the Reunion. I found it very touching, so I've included it here to share with you. It doesn't say anything about GWRRA, but it sure speaks volumes about us.

THE MAKING OF FRIENDS

*If nobody smiled and nobody cheered
And nobody helped us along,
If each, every minute looked after ones self
And the good things all went to the strong;
If nobody cared just a little for you,
And nobody thought about me
And we stood all alone in the battle of life,
What a dreary old world this would be.
Life is sweet just because of friends we have
made,
And the things which in common we share,
We want to live on, not because of ourselves
Not because of the people who care;
It's giving and doing for somebody else --
On that all life's splendor depends,
And the joy of the world
When it's all added up,
Is found in the making of friends.
Author unknown*

Chapter LF1-M members,
Thank you all for being our friends!

Dennis and Debbie Magness



A Message to our Chapter Family

Dear Chapter M Family:

Thank you for your visits, calls, cards and prayers during my recent open heart surgery recovery. I am getting stronger each day and feeling better. Looking forward to participating in our activities again.

Love to all,

Austine

I didn't know that !

During Thursday night's kick tire, there was a discussion about the Naval term "POOP DECK". You can only imagine what some of the answers were. The official meaning of the word, as described in the encyclopedia is as follows:

In Naval architecture a poop deck is a deck that constitutes the roof of a cabin built in the aft (rear) part of the superstructure of a ship. The Fantail is an overhang at extreme rear of the ship, aft of the poop deck and closer to level with the main deck. The name originates from the French word (la poupe), for stern. This makes the poop deck technically called a stern deck, where on sailing ships was usually elevated as the roof of the stern (or after) cabin. On sailing ships, with the helmsman at the stern, an elevated position was ideal for both navigation and observation of the crew and sails.

I hope this clears up the question. If you can't make hide nor hair out of the definition, then think like the old sailors did - drink more rum, maybe it will become more clear?

JR Garrison

Weeki Wachee Picnic

Beautiful day for a picnic and as always Joann & John are such gracious hosts. We are so lucky that they share this peaceful, beautiful place with all of us.

Saw old friends and made some new friends. Glen and Karen Lintemuth's daughters were there with their families. (Beautiful grandchildren) Of course we had plenty of delicious food. I especially liked Shirley's potato salad. Just one problem, no one brought any CHOCOLATE! I will remember next time.

We all helped Evona celebrate her birthday and she even made herself two wonderful cakes. Someone started to sing (?) Happy Birthday!

Swimming, tubing, canoeing, kayaking and watching the manatees are just a few of the many things to do at John's place. Of course, if your name is Ron you can do a "Gilligan" and go out and not come back for a very LONG time. After almost three hours, two of Aaron's friends went out to look for him. He was on his way back, tired and sunburned, otherwise okay. He didn't take any water or sunscreen. I have to admit that I was getting a little concerned.

Remember, be happy and count your blessings.

Mini M



To put ads in this newsletter, you must be a member of Chapter M or GWRRA. Space permitting – New ads will be allowed to have a short paragraph of about 2-5 lines describing the item for sale, plus up to 3 colored pictures. The editor may adjust wording, and size of pictures will be adjusted to fit space available. If you want to continue running the item for sale, you must let the editor know and it will be edited to 1 or 2 lines and no pictures. Ads may be e-mailed or given directly to the editor. Once the item sells, please let the editor know so it can be removed.

Chapter M Wearable Art	
Chapter M Shirts (Long Sleeved, short sleeved, golf, & tee's)	\$ 15
10" GWRRA Patch, Black & Gold Flags - "M" & American Chapter "M" Patch Visitation Bars Visitation Bar Hangers	\$ 12 \$ 15 \$ 4 \$ 2 \$ 2



GOODY SALES

If you want a Chapter M shirts or patches, flags, decals, please call us ahead of time at 727-517-3552 . We will bring them to the kick-tire or General Meetings.

A limited number of Chapter helmet hangers are available. Please contact Pete Pawluk @ 727 517-3552 for details.

1993 GL1500 with 2004 MotorTrike Coupe conversion. 60k miles, 10k since triked. Too many accessories to list, but it's well appointed. \$15,900. Call Doug Gray 386-246-9335 or fl1kcd@cfl.rr.com.

-1993 Red Goldwing 1500 Interstate Original owner with 26,652 miles on the bike. Sale includes helmets, heavy duty lift and service manual. There are many extras on the bike. Asking \$6,000. Please call 727 532-0927

Nice Trailer for Bike Transport or Utility Use 6 1/2 foot Wide 8 feet long Electric Jack and Winch Rear Stabilizing Jacks Ranps & Ratch Tie Downs Spare Tire and Rim \$ 500.00 Ask for Jim 727 524-7695

Please phone any changes in your address, telephone home/cell phone numbers or e-mail address to Rich Schaad – Cell-727-421-6083. We would like to keep our records up to date.

Picture of the Month



Hum, what part of Bowling is this!



IT WAS ALL THE TRIKE'S FAULT

Dennis describes their Smokies adventure on the way to Wing Ding

Well, today 6/24/08 was a day of days. And it was all the fault of Debbie's Trike. It all started with my riding Debbie's trike yesterday evening to dinner. By the way, we went to the "Daniel Boone Restaurant" for an excellent family style dinner. We left the Hotel (Holiday Inn Express) in Boone, NC and every time we hit the slightest bump in the road surface the trike would go into a brief (2 second) wobble. Make that a severe wobble.

"What's going on here, Deb?"

"That has been going on since we left home. "

So I said, " We have to do something about this ASAP. Something is significantly wrong for this condition to exist". So, following dinner, (and it was really good) we went back to the hotel for the night.

We met one of the guests at the hotel who happened to be a former District Director of NC who directed us to a local Honda dealer about 15 miles from us that he thought could help us.

In the morning of the 24th we rode up to the dealer seeking help. Their evaluation revealed a bad left rear wheel bearing. Not good. Honda shops don't stock trike parts,

They suggested that we go to a mechanic shop that worked on foreign cars. We found the mechanic's shop and engaged the owner/mechanic in evaluating the problem. Debbie called the "Trike Shop" factory for wheel bearing part numbers. The mechanic proceeded to find a set of replacement bearings and seals and by now it was lunch time.

And now the troubles get worse. As we (I) were leaving I began to exit the parking lot onto a very narrow road. I observed a pot hole at the edge of the drive and adjusted my right turn so that the trailer wheel would miss the hole. This made me swing wide and forced me into the oncoming lane. Now there was nothing coming when I started the turn, but suddenly a pickup bore down on me from around the curve. Too, there was a speed bump right there and I'm sure I must have hit the brake and down I, make that we , went (Debbie was my co-rider.) The truck stopped OK but the damage was done to both me and my ego. (Evona is going to get rid of that cursed "Dropped My Bike" pin now.) " Drat, drat and double drat!!!" Actually, I had something a little more unprintable to say.

As we went down I must have hit my elbow on the edge of the windshield as I rolled away from the bike and ripped some skin open because blood was streaming down my right arm. I'm so tender, you know. We got the bike righted and I told Debbie to ride with Sharon because I knew I was rattled and didn't need a passenger right now. We moved off the road onto a nearby driveway and nurse Sharon doctored up my arm so I wouldn't bleed all over everything and we went on for lunch. Lunch at the "Mountain House Restaurant" and it was very good.

I took a couple of Tylenol to calm me down and we went back to the shop. Turns out the mechanic had formerly worked for Volkswagen and that was just the brand of wheel bearings in the trike. That mechanic really earned his wages, as he spent close to 3 hours on the job and when the dust settled the bill totaled \$158.00.

As luck would have it, today's weather was great for riding and we had planned about a 185 mile ride and now it looked as though the day was going to be a bummer. Sharon said she wanted to see the Blue Ridge Parkway Viaduct and that would be a short ride that would fit into the daytime remaining, so off we went. We rode up onto the Parkway and across the viaduct, then down to US 221 for the return back to Boone. This road is, in my opinion, better than Deals Gap because it is well marked and the pavement is wider. **HOWEVER**, the day is not over yet. We were hot-dogging along with Debbie leading, me second, and Sharon and Tracey following behind. Well, Debbie and I were pushing the envelope a little (make that a lot) and we came into one curve that tightened up on us as we went through it. Well, don't let anyone tell you that a trike won't come up on two wheels in a turn because that is what happened right before my eyes. **Oh @#&@!** I thought as I watched in horror from just a few car lengths behind her. She did the right thing to get that wheel back down on the pavement but there just wasn't enough space to recover her intended direction of travel before she was in the ditch on the oncoming side of the road. The ditch was full of mud and water, all of which sprayed up in the air all around her. The trike sunk into the muck by at least a foot and came to an abrupt stop. I could see that she was still upright in the saddle, so that was a relief. All this went down in about 2 seconds as I passed by getting stopped. I called on the CB exclaiming that Debbie had just crashed, since Sharon and Tracey had not caught up to us yet. I couldn't get my side stand down there due to the camber of the road surface and had to pull about 200 feet ahead, stabilized my bike, set the flashers and headed back to Deb.

Looking back now, she and the trike were covered with mud. Mud was everywhere. Mud and leaves and twigs were sticking out from every crack and crevasse on the bike. It also covered two thirds of the road at the scene. I knew we couldn't get the trike out of that mess without some power equipment. I looked up the road several

hundred feet and saw a place with two trucks parked there and went up to try to get some help. Mean time Sharon was trying to get help through the Honda Riders Club via the cell phone.

There was a man working on one of his trucks by the house and I asked if he could help us. He asked me a few questions about the location of the trike, then told me that he had a wench on the truck that might help. We got the truck in place behind the trike, hooked the wench cable to a nylon strap secured to Debbie's bumper, and gradually pulled her trike out of the ditch. The guy offered to let us use a hose at the house to try to clean up the trike. Let me tell you, the trike wasn't the only thing that needed to be hosed off as Deb was covered, too. We must have spent a half hour cleaning things up, then headed back to the hotel.

The force of all that mud must have ripped off the left mud flap and pushed the cowling with the driving lights back against the engine on the left side. And there were numerous new scratches. The trike still seemed to be drivable, with caution of course, to get back to the hotel.

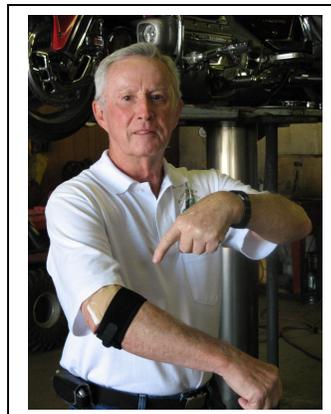
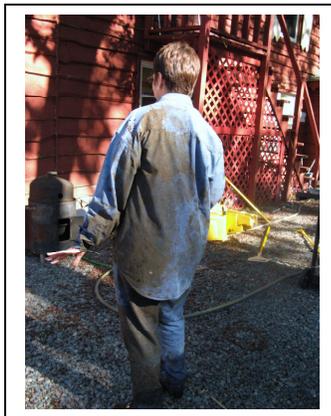
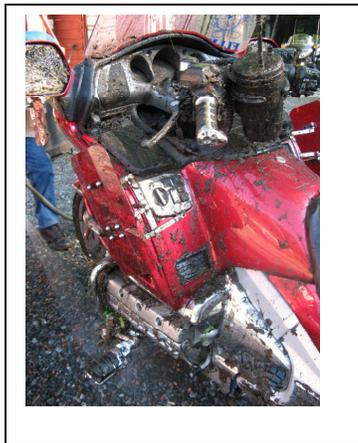
After all that excitement, nobody wanted to go out for dinner so we ordered Chinese dinners delivered. And while we waited, Debbie and I both had a couple of double scotch and water drinks to sooth the nerves. The riding day was over, you know.

Now we had time to reflect on all the excitement. For me, if that pickup hadn't been coming from the right I'm sure I wouldn't have dropped the bike. Or maybe if that pot hole or the speed bump wasn't there . ! And Debbie; if that curve hadn't tightened up or that little dip in the pavement in the right track weren't there . ! All the excuses in the world can't erase the fact that we weren't prepared for the situations we encountered. I should've swung wider so that I wouldn't have entered the oncoming lane. And Debbie, if she hadn't been pushing the envelope so hard that right wheel wouldn't have come off the ground and she'd have made it OK. So it was all our own fault.

The bottom line is, Debbie is safe and sound, as many slight deviations in how things happened could've had serious consequences. Our egos will recover, they always do. The trike can be repaired and my elbow will heal and every thing will get back to normal again.

So like I said, it was all the trike's fault!

Dennis Magness



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