

Chapter FL1-M , Clearwater, Florida will be riding there lighted bikes through many neighborhood communities during the upcoming weeks prior to Christmas. Please use the link below to gain an appreciation of what this looks like. Also, please use the link on the bottom of this article to view a video taken a few years ago. The locations at the end of the video is incorrect as it reflects a previous years calendar of locations. For this year's holiday appearances please use this link <http://suncoastwings.com/Calendars/Webcalendars/calendarsnew.htm>

This organization has had a tradition of decorating their bikes for the holidays and riding through numerous Pinellas County neighborhoods and mobile home parks in hopes of bringing smiles to residents of all ages. Years ago they realized that some of the elderly in many of the mobile home parks throughout the county were not able to get out and enjoy the Christmas decorations that most of us take for granted. The idea to decorate their motorcycles and ride through the various communities turned out to be very successful. Initially the motorcycles were decorated with just Christmas ornaments and possibly a few battery powered lights. However as the technology improved, the lighting became more sophisticated and now their motorcycles usually have well over 200 lights. It is not uncommon for some of the motorcycles with a trailer in tow to have over 700 lights - with animated characters. Their illuminated motorcycles have become very popular and almost every evening in December leading up to Christmas they are requested to bring their motorcycles through many neighborhoods in hopes of bringing smiles to both the young and elderly. In addition to the neighborhood rides, they will be at many holiday events throughout the county Please be aware that all display locations are weather dependent.

Over the years Chapter FL1-M has supported numerous charitable organizations and has raised thousands of dollars for their causes. Presently they are actively involved in support of a charity which was started by a group of local teachers who realized the need for providing proper clothing for disadvantaged children in Pinellas County. Clothes to Kids (clothestokids.org), which has one of its two locations at 1059 North Hercules Ave. here in Clearwater, is presently one of the charities that they support by acquiring or purchasing clothing and donating money they collect during the year, particularly during the holidays.

Chapter FL1-M is one of over thirty GWRRA chapters in the state of Florida. Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) is the world's largest single-marquee social organization for owners of Honda Goldwing/Valkyrie and most other brands of motorcycles. Dedicated to a motto of "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge", GWRRA members enjoy the freedom of belonging to a not-for-profit, non-religious and non-political organization. Founded in 1977, GWRRA has grown to more than 72,000 U.S, Canadian and international members in 53 foreign countries. Over 800 active chapters are managed by 4,000 volunteer leaders working with members to foster safe, enjoyable riding while also working to improve the public image of motorcycling. Chapter FL1-M was chartered with GWRRA over thirty years ago and have some of the original charter members active today. Their roster boasts approximately 90 members today. Their oldest member, who just recently stopped riding, is 92 years young. Some members grandchildren ride in their sidecars, while one father rides with his daughter on her Goldwing trike. Chapter members reside throughout Pinellas County and have diverse backgrounds from commercial pilots to retired military men and women. They also promote the need for making motorists aware of the presence of those individuals who ride motorcycles by handing out stickers and other material related to the motorists awareness campaign.

As riders of touring motorcycles, this organization's members enjoy taking weekend rides that frequently cover over 200 miles of back roads. Riding from sunup to sundown is not uncommon, and most of the time it is to enjoy a meal at some quaint restaurant, then make a dessert stop on the way home. This summer a group of these folks loaded up their motorcycles and tow behind trailers on the Auto Train in Sanford, Florida. After arriving in Lorton, Virginia they spent eight days riding the entire length of the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway. Along the way they enjoyed several stops, one of which was the Mayberry Inn, Mount Airy, NC. (home of Andy Griffith). Later they rode from Cherokee, NC to Greenville, SC and back to Clearwater. Total mileage about 1500 miles.

Chapter FL1-M is a very active organization and has weekly meetings at different restaurants in Pinellas County each Thursday evening. On the third Thursday of each month they have a more formal meeting at McCabe's Restaurant located at

Belcher and Gulf to Bay. Please feel free to check out these folks on their website(
<http://www.suncoastwings.com./>).



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ku-G-1aDElw&feature=channel>