



GWRR Chapter FL2-F



Gulf Coast Wings



Florida District

## GWRR CHAPTER FL2-F NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2020

Editor Joe Weaver

### **CHAPTER NEWS**

Please welcome our new participants: Patrick Gibbons and Geri Buscemi!



They are recently retired from Southern New Jersey, and have ridden with us a few times and attended the March Gathering.



Our members who rode to Olympic Restaurant Recently





## **CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the information that has been put out by the CDC and the WHO about the virus plus guidance from the government, and our GWRRA leadership, we have temporarily canceled or postponed all Chapter rides and Gatherings

Well, now it's official. The State of Florida has officially rolled up the sidewalks. I think everything except National Jello Week has been canceled or postponed. We recently got word that the Tennessee District Rally is also been canceled.

I hope and pray that you are all staying healthy and observing all the "social isolation" and hand washing guidance being put out by the powers that be.

I have received calls from some of our snowbird participants that they were heading north for the rest of the season to be near family and other support systems. We will miss you guys and hope we get to ride together again next season. Stay well!

While I am sorry that our season got ended so abruptly and that our group rides became impractical due to "social distancing". Please keep in mind that there is nothing wrong with being outside and getting some activity and exercise. You can still get out there on your bike and still be "socially isolated", just be very careful.

I am amazed that the grocery shelves have been emptied. Hoarding groceries is not necessary, there is nothing wrong with the supply chain at this point according to all the reports that I am hearing.

Since seniors are the most at risk from this virus, several stores in our area are providing special "Seniors Only" store hours. You will notice that most of these are the first hour of the day so that you can get into the freshly restocked store in the morning before the store shelves get emptied out again.

### **Seniors Only Store Hours:**

Publix – 7 AM to 8AM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Dollar General – 8 AM to 9 AM Daily

Target – 8AM to 9 AM on Wednesdays Walmart - First Hour of Business Daily

Win Dixie - 8AM to 9 AM Monday thru Friday

Big Lots – First Hour of Business Daily Costco - 9AM to 10 AM Tuesday and Thursday Whole Foods – 8AM to 9 AM Daily.

Kindly remember to check in on each other and see how other Chapter Members are getting along and if they might need your help with something. Thanks to those of you who have contacted me to check in, it is a real blessing.

Be well, stay healthy and ride safe.

Glen Disbrow  
Sr. Chapter Director  
GWRRA Chapter FL2-F  
Gulf Coast Wings  
Punta Gorda, FL

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### MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

With all of us either returning to our homes up North or us hunkering down and hoping for the best here in FL, we need to keep all our GWRRA FL2-F members in our thoughts and prayers.

Unfortunately, the Florida riding season came to a screeching halt for all of us. We all can hop on our bikes and get some of the "Social Isolation" we need to observe along with still enjoying the riding freedom that we all enjoy.

Until next season we are wishing you a safe summer.

Dick Shaner

Membership Enhancement Coordinator



### CHAPTER TREASURER

As your treasurer for FL2-F, I have no real function with other chapter members other than to collect 50/50 monies! My main purpose, I guess, is to keep revenue and expense accounts for our chapter and District/National's perusal. With our Chapter Director's direction, we have been able to maintain a healthy balance in our banking account. Glen has "dogged" certain organizations to repeatedly buy advertising space in our newsletter, which allows our chapter to do more things for the benefit of our chapter. In short, our chapter's finances are in great shape!

Don Irgens

FL2-F Treasurer

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### **RIDE COORDINATOR**

As of this writing, it has been two weeks since our last ride to the Olympic Restaurant in Avon Park. A lot has transpired since then. The Covid-19 virus has changed our lives drastically over the past two weeks and quite quickly. It was not an easy decision to recommend that we cancel rides; however, to me it seemed to be the best decision to keep all of us safe given the circumstances. Many snowbirds from our park have left the Sunshine State for their homes back up north. Perhaps some of you have also left as well. If so, we hope to see you next season. For those of you who remain here, I hope we can resume rides before our season ends May 15, however we will follow CDC, State of Florida and GWRRA guidelines.

Carol and I have been staying close to home only going out for necessities. I can tell you that there have been some boring days limiting social contacts, watching movies, and taking the golf cart to the shore of the Caloosahatchee River in our park to observe nature and boat traffic while maintaining social distancing.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy in these troubling times. Social distancing is important to us all. If you do ride...Ride Safe!

Bob McConkie  
Ride Coordinator

A family that rides together



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## RIDER EDUCATION

Hi all.

So, how's everyone doing at maintaining your "social distance"? It's certainly not an easy thing to do. Wash your hands..... yup, that's an easy one. A little inconvenient at times, but easy. Self isolation? Sounds easy enough...right? Now try to put it into practice. I would be willing to bet that most of you are like me, in that after making the decision to just stay home, within a couple of minutes, you started to come up with all sorts of reasons to go out. Need dogfood, need meds, crap.....forgot to pick up coffee..... And on they go. Can we maintain our isolation.. Probably not, but we can certainly reduce the number of trips we make. We can also really try to minimize any contact with potential virus carrying hazards. If you have to push around a shopping cart, give it a wipe first. When you get home, do not pass GO, do not collect \$200. Go directly to wash your hands for the 25<sup>th</sup> time today. Especially true for those of us (all of us) who might be considered a bit older than 60, 65, 70???

I guess what I'm asking, is that all of us try to follow the guidelines that the various levels of government have laid out for us. Use a little common sense, and be SAFE.

On another note, if you're curious about your Rider Ed Information, and you've got nothing else to do, look it up.

Go to GWRRA.org  
Then to Programs

Then to Rider education and

On the left side, go to "My R.E. Information

*You must be a current GWRRA member to login.  
Username= Membership Number. ie. 123456 or 1234-01  
Password = Numbers In Your Address + Membership Expiration Date (MMYY)*

*ie. 12 W. 6th st only 12 would be used followed by your membership expiration date.*

*ie. If your membership expiration date is 01/15 then your password would be 120115*

*Check the front of your Wing World or Membership card for your membership number and expiration date.  
Stay Safe All*

**We Will Ride Again!!**

**SOON**

**Pete Siford & Lori Gavin**

**Ride Safe**

**And always**

**RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE!**

# ATTORNEYS FOR THE INJURED

ASSOCIATES AND



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### **FLORIDA DISTRICT RIDER ED**

#### **DISTRACTED DRIVERS**

The legendary Hurt Report (1981) listed the primary causes of motorcycle crashes. The present-day MSF Courses still use the Hurt Report findings to develop the riding curriculum used in their classes today. In 1981 there were less than 5% of motorcycle being rear ended. It seems funny that back then most motorcycle had only one small tail light but getting hit from behind was not a major issue. Today most motorcycles are lit up like a Christmas Tree but are getting rear ended more often. A recent study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation shows there has been an increase to 7% for motorcycles being struck from behind. We all know the reason for the increase in rear end collisions, motorcycle or cars, and that is the use of cell phones. Florida recently passed a law that makes texting while driving a primary offense. Which means an Officer can stop you if he sees you using your cell phone. However, the way the law is worded there are loop holes in it. Most Police Officers are not enforcing the new law. It was a "feel good" law without any teeth, so don't relax your guard at all thinking the new law is helping your safety. When you are coming to a stop look behind you to make sure the car behind you is also slowing down to stop. Leave plenty of space between you and the car you are stopping behind. Position yourself offset left or offset right so you have enough room to escape to either side of the care in front of you should you notice that the car approaching you from behind is not stopping. Don't be in a hurry to pop your bike into neutral as you normally would at a long red light waiting for the light to turn green. If the car behind you does stop don't relax yet. Wait until at least one more car stops behind the car behind you, giving you an extra buffer should a third car strike the second car. You're not done relaxing yet. When the light turns green quickly look behind you to make sure the driver of the car isn't looking down at their phone. I know firsthand of crashes where the driver who was texting at the red light, looks up just long enough to see the light had turned green and immediately put their foot on the gas, striking the stopped motorcycle in front of them. Technology for cars is getting better with warning collision sensors that will automatically brake for the inattentive driver. Don't rely on that technology just yet. It will take many years before every car behind you has that type of system. Unfortunately, we must be more on guard today than ever before for distracted drivers.

Ride safe,  
Dominick & Diane

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## CELEBRATE!

<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>		<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Ardyce Haken	April 3	Russ & Joyce Harley	April 4
Sandy Shaner	April 3	Brad & Liz Finn	April 23
Edee Disbrow	April 18		
Jan Sidebottom	April 23		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Normally this is where we would show you all the cool & fun stuff we got coming up, but as you know, COVAD-19 has put a stop to all of that for the time being. We hope that you will be keeping healthy, and staying safe.

**Chapter Gathering:** 1st Saturday of the month GOLDEN CORRAL 1451 Tiami Trail Punta Gorda Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Meeting 9-10:30 a.m.

**Chapter Rides:** Every Wednesday and Saturday at 9: 30 a.m. We will depart at 10 a.m. (unless indicted otherwise) Earlier times for breakfast rides in the hot months. Other rides and activities as scheduled. Check the website calendar and Groupworks for bulletin, changes, etc. If anything comes up will will also do a “robo call”

The chapter is open to ride and activity ideas.

Our chapter colors are Royal Blue and Gold

Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge



# **GWRRA CHAPTER FL2-F NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2020**

## **GWRRA Directors**

Jere and Sherry Goodman

## **Florida District Directors**

Bill and Cheryl Smith

## **Chapter Directors**

Glen and Edee Disbrow(296) 396-0848

## **Treasurer**

Don Irgens (941) 639-6886

## **Membership Enhancement**

Dick Shaner (863) 444-3791

## **Rider Education**

Pete Silford Lori Gavin (203) 706-0139

## **Ride Coordinator**

Bob McConkie (989) 313-9346

## **Sunshine**

Bev Kindred (603) 369-0055

## **Webmaster**

Doug Holmes (740)505-1381

## **Newsletter**

Joe Weaver (419) 260-2014 [willardweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:willardweaver@yahoo.com)

## **Couple of the Year-**

Pete Siford & Lori Gavin

## **Person of the Year**

Don Irgens