

# Florida District FUNshine Times

EAGLE WINGS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

JULY 2024

Friends for  
FUN, Safety &  
Riding

**FUN in Florida is # 1**

www.ewma-florida.org



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## From Your Florida District Directors Fred and Karen Kennedy (FL1-D, FL1-E2)

### Greetings Fellow Members!

Rally season is in Full Swing and we are right at the half way point! We've been privileged to host the Florida Rally way back in March and have attended EWMA District Rallies in Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia/Region A and Alabama! Every rally has been different and we've had an absolute ball at each of them! We've enjoyed representing Florida at all these events and have really made some wonderful friends and had tons of **FUN!**

**This** last month, we attended the Georgia/Region A Ride-in Rally, held in Dillard. For those of you that don't know where Dillard is, it's located in the North Georgia mountains and is as close to North Carolina as you can get. There were excellent guided

rides and lots of other activities. I loved watching the Giant Jenga Tournament. It took a while, but, even as a spectator, it was exciting. Karen and I also participated in a beauty contest, where the contestants were the Male half of the District Director couples dressed in drag. It was a lot of **FUN**, but alas, I did not win... We enjoyed the scenery, the food and the venue. Tommy and Vicky Martin and their Team did an outstanding job. We can't wait to attend this event next year!

**We** also we just returned from beautiful Sheffield, Alabama, where Alabama's District Rally was held. As always, this rally never fails to entertain and this year was no different! Their theme was a 50's Sock Hop and it didn't disappoint. The facility was very nice and suited the event great! Danny and the Alabama District Team really did a great job hosting this **FUN** rally. There were some really great guided rides. The first was to the Shiloh Battlefield, which was not only a great ride, but the battlefield itself was super interesting, especially to a history buff like me. The second ride was to the Rattlesnake Saloon, which is a saloon/bar/restaurant that is located under a giant rock and is a

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

very interesting place to go to. The Costume contest was **FUN** and very well represented by the members and the Talent contest had some very creative acts that were as **FUNNY** as any I've ever seen. We had such a great time, we are already making plans to attend next year!

**Our** next great adventure will be a trek to Green Bay, Wisconsin, to attend this year's EWMA Rendezvous. Having never been to this state, we are looking forward to experiencing all the area has to offer, especially the cheese! We would love to see lots of Floridians there and get together and have **FUN** as we enjoy this event!

**Are** you prepared for the possible landfall of a hurricane? June and July are traditionally slower months for tropical development, but surprisingly, we've already had one named storm that caused lots of flooding in Texas and Northern Mexico and another that has become this year's first

hurricane that is currently moving towards the Caribbean. This really drives home the point that preparing early is the key. If you live in an evacuation zone, it will save you valuable time if you gather your important documents now and store them in an easy to grab and go container. At least a week's supply of medication, emergency food and water as well as personal hygiene items should be kept at the ready just in case. Florida has borne the brunt of many major storms and don't be complacent just because your location has not been hit in many years, because the odds are that eventually it might, so do as the Boy Scouts motto says and "Be Prepared".

**Is** it hot enough for you yet? Riding back from the Georgia rally last week, we encountered 95° temperatures. Even though we were riding along sportingly, 95° is NOT any cooler going fast. We pulled into a Love's station to suck up their air conditioning and to make sure we were all properly hydrated. Even when the clouds moved in that afternoon, the heat was still oppressive and we didn't really

get relief until the rain came, which was really welcome, as we decided to just ride on without rain gear. It felt great. Just be sure that you and your fellow riders stay safe and take lots of cooling breaks as often as needed.

**Plans** for our 2025 rally are underway and as you know, we expanded our room block to include the entire hotel, however that expansion only amounted to about 30 rooms, so we fully expect to sell out. The last time I checked, almost a third of the rooms had already been reserved. While we would LOVE for you to send your registrations in very soon, it's more important at this point in time to go ahead and get your room reserved. We don't want anybody to wait too long and miss out on staying in the host hotel!

**So**, until we are together again,

**Ride Safe... Ride Often... but most of all... Ride!!**

Fred and Karen Kennedy  
**Your** Florida District Directors  
 The **FUN**shine State,  
 where **FUN** is #1!

**For 2025, we have blocked off all of the rooms at the Best Western Gateway Grand in Gainesville, FL, for our 2025 Florida District Gathering of Friends for FUN! If you want one, be sure to book EARLY!!!**





**John Cain**  
**Assistant District Safety/  
 Ride Coordinator / Safety  
 Presentations**

**Florida Laws for Motorcycle  
 Passengers**

**EWMA** recently updated the original co-rider safety presentation and renamed it “Riding Two-Up.” Judging from the chapters and ride-ins I have attended, I would venture to say that a significant portion of EWMA riding on our larger touring motorcycles is two-up.

**In** the EWMA safety presentations and group ride pre-briefings involving co-riders, we mostly focus on teamwork, hand signals, and safety considerations for the co-rider. So, in this article, I’m taking a slightly different tact by focusing on the Florida **motorcycle laws** that apply to the “passenger.” My references were:

**The** 2023 Florida Statutes (including Special Session C)

316.208 Motorcycles and mopeds.

316.2085 Riding on motorcycles or mopeds.

316.209 Operating motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic.

316.2095 Footrests, handholds, and handlebars.

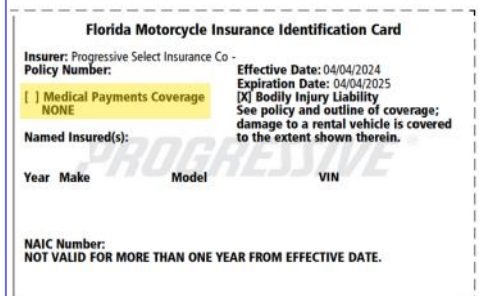
316.211 Equipment for motorcycle and moped riders.

**To** constrain this article to our general, 2-up situation, my use of the term “motorcycle” refers to Honda Goldwing and Can-Am Spyder classes of motorcycles **designed and equipped for a single, rear passenger**. The term “passenger” refers to an adult, **over 21 years of age**. Even though an EWMA “co-rider” differs significantly from a “passenger” in terms of their contributions to safety and teamwork, in legal and EWMA terms, a co-rider is a passenger and the rider is the operator.

**Here** are some simple questions for the reader to review. self-evaluate, and perhaps improve their knowledge of the laws about motorcycle passengers as defined above. Please note, if the above constraints are different for your riding situation, then the answers will likely change.

1. **Are** motorcycle passengers required by Florida law to wear an approved **helmet** (protective headgear) while riding a motorcycle?

**Yes**, in Florida, helmets are required for operators and passengers UNLESS covered by an insurance policy providing for at least \$10,000 or greater for injuries incurred as a result of a crash while riding on a motorcycle. This type insurance is called medical payments coverage. The holder of this example motorcycle insurance card issued to a motorcycle operator or passenger in Florida is required to wear a helmet.



2. **If** a helmet is required, must it be securely buckled?

**Yes**, no exceptions.

3. **Are** motorcycle passengers required by Florida law to wear approved **eye-protective devices** while riding a motorcycle? After all, the passenger is **behind** the operator.

**Yes**, no exceptions.

4. **According** to Florida law, does the motorcycle **windshield** (of any height) qualify as an “eye protection device” for a motorcycle passenger?

**No**. Eye protection devices must be worn by motorcycle

*(Continued on page 4)*



passengers in Florida, even if the motorcycle has a windshield. Acceptable options include face shields, goggles, and eyeglasses (including sunglasses), as long as the eyewear is shatterproof, optically clear, and does not impair vision.

5. **Are** motorcycle passengers required by Florida law to wear an approved electronic communication device for operator-passenger communication while riding a motorcycle?

**No**, but is it a good idea? Yes, due to wind and traffic noise disrupting important safety communications between rider and passenger?

6. **Are** motorcycle passengers required by Florida law to wear ATGATT (All The Gear All The Time) helmet, eye protection, full-fingered gloves, long sleeve shirts, long pants, and over-the-ankle boots?

**No**, but is it a good idea? Yes, to eliminate or reduce the severity of personal injuries in

case of a stopped drop or slow speed fall or crash at any speed. Please note, the ATGATT code effectiveness decreases as speed increases.

**Finally, all the passenger laws and recommendations above apply to the motorcycle operator as well!**

**Ride Safe!**

Friends for **FUN, Safety & Riding.**

# You make EWMMA FUN!



**Harry & Lynn Anderson**  
**Assistant District Directors**  
District Hospitality Coordinators  
(FL1-H, FL2-D)

**Well** a happy Fourth of July to all and your families. This is going out before I leave for the two gatherings in June. But, not to worry, I can cover that in the next article. That is if everyone else doesn't tell all in their

articles. SO HERE WE GO!!!

**“Written Off”**

That boy is gonna end up in jail or dead

So don't try to tell me

He can turn things around

Because the more I think about it

He is throwing his life away

And I'm not going to say

He is a good kid

Let me tell you

There is no hope for him.

And I refuse to believe

There is some good in that boy

Because whenever he crosses my mind

It's only a matter of time

**NOW READ IT BACKWARDS!!**

**Next:** Did you know a simple “HELLO” CAN BE A SWEET ONE AND MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY?

The word “HELLO” means

H=How are you?

E=Everything alright?

L=Like to hear from you.

L=Love to see you soon.

O=obviously, I miss you...

SO, **HELLO**

THANKS FACEBOOK!

UNTIL WE MEET AT THE NEXT GATHERING...



**Geno & Kathie Jette**  
**Assistant District Directors**  
 Rally Registration Coordinators  
 Goodie Sales  
 (FL1-F2, FL1-K, FL1-X & FL1-Y)

### Parents' Day

**We** have had Mother's Day and Father's Day so its time for Parents Day!

**Parents' Day** is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July each year. Citizens, organizations, and federal, state, and local governmental and legislative entities are encouraged to recognize Parents' Day through proclamations, activities, and educational efforts to recognize, uplift and support the role of parents in bringing up their children.

**The** Parents' Day Council plays an active role in celebrating and promoting Parents' Day through a range of events and activities. For example, the council honors "Parents of the Year" at local, state and national levels. Those who have been nominated or selected are people who exemplify the standard and ideal of positive parenthood. Exemplary parents from each

state are nominated for "National Parents of the Year".

**Parents' Day** is a popular time for people to send cards and gifts, including flowers, cakes and food hampers, to those who play an important role as a positive parental figure in their lives. It is also a time for families to come together for lunches or dinners. Special tributes to parental figures who are seen as role models are made through local announcements, at church services, or at local community events. Parents' Day proclamations and rallies have been held in recent times and involved organizations such as the United Civil Rights Councils of America.

**Parents' Day** promotes the message that the role of the parent is important in human development, which requires investment, focus, and commitment. In 1994 President Bill Clinton signed into law a resolution adopted by the US Congress to establish the fourth Sunday of every July as Parents' Day.

**This** day is similar to Mother's Day and Father's Day. According to the Congressional Resolution, Parents' Day is established for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children" (cited in the National Parents' Day Council website).



**Bill & Cynde Nipple**  
**Assistant District Directors**  
 Vendor Coordinators  
 (Panhandle Chapters)

**Good** morning, afternoon or evening,

**Just** an update from Cynde & me on your 2025 Florida District Rally. We are collecting vendor information from this year's District Rallies, and will be working on securing some of these vendors along with some NEW vendors for your 2025 Florida Rally. Cynde & I are hoping to learn from other Rallies and Districts what has best worked for them, and learn from their past experiences. As we thought, there is a large learning curve for this position, which is both a little scary BUT, very exciting.

**We** look forward to having a GREAT 2025 Rally, and look forward to any ideas/advice.



Dominick & Diane DeSiato  
**District Safety /  
 Ride Coordinators**

**CHANGES IN ATTITUDES**

“Changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes” a line from an old Jimmy Buffett song. Jimmy was singing about traveling to different places and encountering different types of people. He states his attitude had to change to accommodate his new acquaintances. Shouldn't that mindset affect us as EWMA members? Isn't our new forum to invite non-Gold Wing riders into our group?

I have had numerous opportunities to ride with other Gold Wing Chapters over the years, both in Florida and in other states at Rallies. A simple wave is customary when passing approaching motorcycles. But are we doing this? What I have seen is that many of our Gold Wing riders will only wave at other Gold Wing riders. An approaching Gold Wing, which is easily recognizable, is more likely to get a wave than other brands. I wave at all approaching motorcycles when I can. You never know, the bike that other rider is on today, might only be one of other motorcycles he might own. One of the other motorcycles he owns might just be a Gold Wing. (Like me.)

**EWMA** is supposed to be an open-brand bike friendly organization. I have often seen the approaching bikes of other

brands wave at our group and none of us, except for me, wave back. An approaching Gold Wing is an easily recognizable brand of motorcycle to identify and they usually get a return wave from our group. What do you think the other riders with the other brands think about our group when we do not wave back? They can easily spot a Gold Wing. Are they thinking: That looks like a friendly group I would like to join? I think not.

**Granted** there are times your hand is busy completing a more important task and you are not able to safely wave. If you have a co-rider you have a built-in waver. But, if no co-rider and your hand is free... wave! If we truly are trying to increase our membership a simple wave may be all it takes to open the door.

**Ride Safe & Wave!**



Claudia Vega  
**Assistant District Safety /  
 Ride Coordinator /  
 First Aid/CPR**

**FLORIDA PROUD!**

I had the opportunity to attend the Georgia District / Region “A” Rally in Dillard GA. And I am very proud of Florida for the show of support from not only the District Team, but also all the members from our different Chapters that attended. I saw members from West Palm Beach, Stuart, Melbourne, Orange Park, Tampa and Pensacola.

**The** guided rides received a great review and everyone seemed to have a good time.



Even though I was unable to ride, Robert and I explored the area on our own in the car. We stopped by one of the wineries in the area and found two flea markets. I am a sucker for old

*(Continued on page 7)*



glass bottles. The weather was great and the mountain air was so refreshing.



The Dillard House had a "petting zoo" and horses to ride, which Robert and several EWMA members took advantage of. Robert had FUN feeding the long horn cattle and



feed 2 horses carrots that were inside a coral outside of our room every morning. Just being in the mountains was such a treat.



The Georgia District and Region A hosted a great ice cream social followed by a Chapter Challenge with the use of "hula hoops" which was a lot of FUN

to watch. On Friday, after a good fried chicken dinner, the Rally hosted a skit that involved all the District Directors that were in attendance. The skit was great FUN and our very own District Directors, Fred Kennedy, made a "fetching" red headed "Rally Queen of the Day". Right before the closing ceremonies on Saturday there was a discussion panel with the



National Team that was in attendance. That half hour



discussion was really good and informative. Unfortunately, as usual, I did not win any of the



prizes handed out during closing ceremonies, but that won't stop me from attending again next year.



# FLORIDA DISTRICT HAPPENINGS JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 FL1-Y, Gainesville FL2-D, Melbourne	3 FL2-R, Ft Lauderdale	4 FL1-X, Orange Park 	5	6 FL1-E2, Ft Walton Beach FL2-F, Punta Gorda
7	8 FL1-K, Palm Coast	9 FL2-H, Wauchula	10 FL1-D2, New Port Richey FL2-O, Stuart	11 FL1-B, Brandon FL2-P, Lake Placid	12	13 FL1-D, Pensacola
14 FL2-A, West Palm Beach	15	16 FL1-F2, Ocala	17 FL1-H Daytona Beach	18 FL1-M, Clearwater	19	20 FL1-A, Tampa FL2-B2, Sarasota
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 FL2-G, Ft Myers
28 	29	30	31	<p><u>Please verify with an individual Chapter before visiting.</u>  <u>Chapters occasionally alter their gathering schedule to accommodate rallies and/or other events.</u></p>		

Check this URL to find particulars for each individual Chapter and their calendars:  
<http://www.ewma-florida.org/chapters.html>



**Upcoming Florida EWMA Events**

August, 29 - 31, 2024	2024 Eagle Wings Rendezvous	Green Bay, WI
September 20 - 21, 2024	North Carolina District Rally <i>"Wings Over the Smokies"</i>	Browns Summit, NC
October 24 - 26, 2024	Mississippi District Rally <i>"Born To Be Wild"</i>	Biloxi, MS
March 13 - 15, 2025	Florida District Gathering of Friends for FUN <i>"Roaring 20's"</i>	Gainesville, FL
April 24 - 26, 2025	Tennessee District Rally <i>"America the Beautiful"</i>	Johnson City, TN
May 15 - 17, 2025	South Carolina District Rally <i>"Salute to the Trrops"</i>	Newberry, SC

**FUN in Florida is # 1**



**EWMA Florida District**  
**Fred & Karen Kennedy**  
**District Directors**  
 Phone: 850-232-0365  
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**Rate \$139.00** (including buffet breakfast for 2)  
**Reservation call 352-331-3336**  
**Group Code: EWMA25**

**Raffle to support** EWMA Florida District Safety Program &  
EWMA Florida District  
1<sup>st</sup> Drawing - \$5,000 Cash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing - \$ 500 Cash  
3<sup>rd</sup> Drawing - \$ 250 Cash

**Need Not be present to win!**

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**"BUCKLE YOUR HELMETS AND FASTEN YOUR FRINGE" – OUR ROARING 20'S RIDE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!**

**MARCH 13 - 15, 2025**

BEST WESTERN GATEWAY GRAND  
4200 NW 97TH BLVD. GAINESVILLE, FL 32606-3742



[WWW.EWMA-FLORIDA.ORG](http://WWW.EWMA-FLORIDA.ORG)



Riders Name _____		EWMA Member # _____	
Riders or Co-Riders Name (circle one) _____		EWMA Member # _____	
Street Address, City, State & Zip Code _____			
Phone # _____		Email Address _____	
Chapter _____	Chapter Position _____	District or Team EWMA Position _____	

I/We agree to hold harmless Florida District, co-sponsoring organizations and any property owners for any loss or injury to self or property in which I/we may become involved because of participation in this rally. I/we have read this waiver and acknowledge with signature(s) below:

Signature _____	Signature _____
Date: _____	Is this your first-time attending the Florida Rally? Yes No

Member Registration	\$35.00	X	_____	=	_____
Non-Member Registration	\$40.00	X	_____	=	_____
Under 12 (Dinner on Thursday extra, See below)	FREE	X	_____	=	_____
<b>Sit Down Dinner - Thursday Night</b> <b>**Fully Registered attendees only**</b>	\$30.00	X	_____	=	_____

**Dinner choices—Circle One for each attendee:**  
Pineapple Seared Chicken, Seared Mahi Mahi, Manicotti w/ red sauce or spinach cream sauce (pick one)

**Ticket Sales**

\$5,000 Raffle (Book of 10)	\$10.00	X	_____	=	_____
Daily 50 / 50 Thursday (Strip of 10)	\$ 5.00	X	_____	=	_____
Daily 50 / 50 Friday (Strip of 10)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____
Grand 50 / 25 / 25 (Strip of 10)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____
Grand Prize (Strip of 10)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____

**PRE-ORDER ONLY SHIRT SALES**

Polo Shirt	S M L XL	\$22.00	X	_____	=	_____
Polo Shirt	XXL XXXL XXXXL	\$25.00	X	_____	=	_____
T-Shirt	S M L XL	\$18.00	X	_____	=	_____
T-Shirt	XXL XXXL XXXXL	\$20.00	X	_____	=	_____
Long Sleeve	S M L XL	\$20.00	X	_____	=	_____
Long Sleeve	XXL XXXL XXXXL	\$22.00	X	_____	=	_____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (US Dollars Only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**RALLY SHIRTS NOT AVAILABLE ON SITE—PRE-ORDER ONLY**

Florida District Rally March 13—15, 2025  
Opens daily at 9:00am

**Florida District Directors**  
Fred & Karen Kennedy  
(850)-232-0365

**FIRST AID/CPR CLASS OFFERED**  
Wednesday 03-12-2025—11am - 5pm  
Limit 20 people Must be Fully Registered  
FL EWMA MEMBERS \$25.00 (returned upon completion)  
NON-FLORIDA EWMA MEMBERS \$35.00  
SEPARATE CHECKS NEEDED PAYABLE TO  
EWMA FLORIDA DISTRICT  
**Contact Claudia Vega for availability**  
**561-722-0632 rvega19854@gmail.com**

**Preregistrations must be postmarked by March 1, 2025**

**NO refunds after February 23, 2025**  
**After March 1st Registration is \$5.00 higher**  
**\$15.00 Day Passes will be sold onsite and are good for all events of the day of purchase except Thursday Night dinner**

**Submit Registration Forms to:**

**Geno & Kathie Jette**  
**114 Canis Dr E**  
**Orange Park, FL 32073**  
**addgeno@yahoo.com**

Make check or money order (US Dollar only)  
Payable to EWMA Florida District  
If you would like registration confirmation, please ensure you provide an email address

**Guided Rides on Friday & Saturday**

Register by **December 1, 2024** for entry into Early Bird drawing to be awarded to 1 lucky winner at Closing Ceremonies!

Pre-Order Shirts for entry into a drawing for a prize to be awarded to 1 lucky winner at Closing Ceremonies

See website for latest information  
<http://www.ewma-florida.org/rally.html>