



# Green Light



= Go

## A Letter from Jeff

### Special points of interest:

- Ride to Ave Maria
- Silicone Spray
- Rain-X
- The Sandy Parrot
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Ride to Lake Placid
- July 27<sup>th</sup> Ride to Alva Country Diner

Happy July everyone! Summer is upon us, which is unfortunate for us down here in SW FL, as we have to be a little more picky of our riding schedules...it's no fun being caught in those aggressive storms!

GC Rats is exceeding all of our expectations, and it's all because of YOU! A club is nothing without its members! Membership grows weekly and involvement and interest continues to impress me! Let's keep it up! I'm proud to be involved in GC Rats! I must be honest---this club would be nothing without it's President, Taylor. Taylor tirelessly puts his time and energy into GC Rats, consistently going above and beyond the scope of his responsibilities. I strongly urge you all to continuously visit [www.gcrats.com](http://www.gcrats.com) as Taylor is always updating it. Be sure to check out the media section as Taylor has gathered movie clips featuring our beloved brand-Triumph. Catch Clint Eastwood and Steve

McQueen in some of their most defining moments in their movie careers!

We had our first ride last month to Ave Maria. Turnout was incredible; we had about 15 members participate! After a bit of coffee and chit chat, we left the store promptly at 10:00am and made our way east via Daniels Parkway. We quickly escaped the crowded Fort Myers traffic and made our way south on some nice roads as we aimed our sights on Immokalee and Ave Maria. I think the small riding groups worked out well and helped keep everyone safe. Once arriving in Ave Maria, we put our kickstands down and enjoyed the new, beautiful city! However, appetites quickly took over and we made our way back west to our



Gulf Coast R.A.T. Pack in Ave Maria

lunch destination-North Naples Country Club. Everyone seemed to enjoy their meals, and good thing people were actually carrying cash, as they don't accept credit cards! By the end of meal time, the clouds began to build, and we all went our separate ways.

My Ave Maria riding group consisted of myself, Tim Allen, Mike Chernin and Carl Acevedo. Unfortunately I was leading the group and I missed a turn, effectively getting us "lost" for a few miles. Now, I will argue I did-

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# Ridin' in the Rain

## Tech Tips from Pete Felice

As if the big man upstairs flipped a switch, it's rainy season in Florida again, our favorite time of the year. You know, you can get a seat in your favorite restaurant, the roads are less crowded, the mosquitoes are making babies, and the roads look like rivers. Now if only the brain surgeon who invented the love bug had got the timing right, we'd have fewer mosquitoes, and love bugs too bloated to fly, but we'd still have the rain. I don't know about you, but I can't avoid getting caught in the daily deluge a few times a week. There's a few things I do to keep the bike from giving me problems.



Getting caught in the daily deluge.

While generally not problematic, switches have been subject to problems in the weather from time to time. Twice a season, I open my switches, and spray everything with silicone spray. I know what you're thinking... Pete, you're the mechanic, not me. It's so easy, a nine year old can get it done in less than 10 minutes. Looking at the bike from the front, the switch assemblies will have a Phillips head screw facing you in a recess. It has a second screw under the switch in the center. Removing these screws will let rear half of the switch housing pivot away. Move it away enough to shoot some spray in both halves, and put it back together. Some of your bikes may have a little white connector tucked into the part of the housing that stays on the bars. Take care to place the wires from it in the little half circle at the corner of the housing so they won't get pinched. The housing halves will not fit together if you have the wires placed wrongly.

Another problem caused by the rainy season is sand getting into the moving parts of the bike. Face it, we don't have

soil, we have sand. So much of it gets washed onto the roads every time it rains, and it will tear your bike up over time. Your chain and sprockets are often the most common victim of wet sand. This time of year, as often as I get caught in the rain, I clean and lube my chain far more often, around every 250 to 300 miles. It may seem like a lot of work, but compared to the

price of chain and sprocket replacement, it's worth the time. I won't go into how to clean and lube the chain here, but if you have questions on it, you can come by the shop, post the question on the forum, or send me an email. Before pulling into the garage after riding in the rain, I give the bike a quick rinse with the garden hose to get the sand off, paying attention to the chain, swing arm, and the brake calipers.

Unfortunately, I don't often get to dry off the bike before parking it for the night. Hey, my wife gets PO'd when I run the leaf blower in the garage, but if you look at my bike, it's hard to find any rust. Ya, there's a few little spots here and there, but keeping the bike polished helps more then you realize. If you can, dry the bike off. There isn't a manufacturer that has chrome that won't rust

if left to air dry time and time again.

There's a few other things I do to keep myself as safe as I can be. While regular polish is good, I use Rain-X on my headlight once a week. If you have a plastic headlight, as most of the bikes other than the Bonneville line have, test a tiny spot in a corner to make sure the Rain-X won't damage the finish. I haven't found any paint it hurts yet. If it looks like it hazes the section, I recommend Novus or Plexus, and that goes for your wind screen too. Most people don't realize how much light you lose when the headlight is wet and distorted with water droplets. Rain-X is 10 times more slippery than regular wax, so it keeps your light much clearer. On a rainy night, that can save your life. I also use it on my visor, and the front of my helmet. Bear in mind, it can damage some visors, so go online to the manufacturer's site to find out if it can be used on your visor. Do not use it on the inside of the visor. Most have a factory anti-fog coating. If you can't use the Rain-X, the Novus or Plexus are the next best things. Visibility is

vital. You can also get a finger squeegee to help clear your visor as another option. I also check my tire pressure daily. I stay with the pressures I normally run with. The effect of under or over inflated tires will be amplified in

the rain. With all of six square inches of rubber between me and the road, it's not worth letting it go for a few days between checks.

Well, that's it for now folks. Stay safe out there. I'll let you know how the new Frog Tog holds up in the heavy rain.

Cheers

Pete

*"Most people don't realize how much light you lose when the headlight is wet and distorted with water droplets."*



# A Letter from Jeff

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n't get us lost, I just took us on a more scenic route. After I swallowed my pride, I pulled the pack over, and everyone agreed that I needed to invest in GPS! Thankfully (I think!) Taylor heard about me being the first person to get a group lost, and he devised our first award; although, I must admit I earned the first award for GC Rats, and I look forward to passing it on. The Swedish Compass. Be the next person to get lost on a ride, and you will earn this award as it will be passed through the club. Wanna

know what it is? Well, then you'll have to get lost! And if you win it, you must ride with it ALL the time until you get to pass it along!



Just hope you don't end up with this!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting, which is this Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Sandy Parrot (which is under 2 miles south of the dealership) at 7pm. We'll do some business, but we'll also have dinner and have fun!

By the way---do you often hang out at the dealership, such as while your bike is being serviced? Well, now feel free to bring your laptop! We have installed FREE WIRELESS internet at the store (thanks for installing it Taylor!) which we encourage you to utilize while visiting us!

Be safe out there!

Jeff

## Meetings Update

Rainy season has returned with a vengeance. Slick roads and reduced visibility just add to the challenge of riding in Southwest Florida. Keep aware and put more space between you and the next vehicle.

We have had two meetings and a ride since the last newsletter was sent out. Our May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting had an incredible turnout and we were able to hammer out a number of details. The June 2<sup>nd</sup> ride to Ave Maria turned out to be a parade of Americas and led to the presentation of our first traveling award, the "Swedish Compass" awarded to Jeff for "exploring" a different route. During the ride, we decided

to change our June meeting location to The Sandy Parrot.

Our June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at The Sandy Parrot had a less than stellar turnout of which I blame on the weather. The room set aside for us was more than adequate to hold our full number. The service and food

were very good, and there was a decent crowd in the rest of the establishment.

We will be having our next meeting at 7:00pm on



The Sandy Parrot—7:00pm Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

*All meeting and event details*

*are available at*

[www.GCRats.com](http://www.GCRats.com)

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at The Sandy Parrot. The meeting day has been moved to Saturday in hopes that more people can make it. Again, don't be afraid to show up with four wheels due to inclement weather.

Remember, we have two rides coming up, Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Cheers!  
Taylor

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PFC Nicholas A. Kellogg (Rick's son) currently (as of 6/20/08) at Camp Geiger NC, for 29 days. He will be in Pensacola FL for Air Crew Training after leaving Camp Geiger. Good luck Nicholas!



## Sales Specials – July 2008

### Gulf Coast Motorcycles

- Jennifer has placed several popular riding jackets on sale here in the store-be sure to stop in and check out the sales!!
- We have begun receiving Triumph's new highway footpeg systems for Americas, Speedmasters and Rocket 3's! Stop in today to check them out!
- DON'T FORGET- All in stock accessories and apparel items are STILL 20% off MSRP. Not in stock? Then save 10% on special orders!



Integra Jacket

- SAVINGS ON NEW MOTORCYCLES:**
- Save \$1,000 instantly on any new 2008 Ducati Hypermotard 1100 or 1100S! (excluding the black HYM1100S)
- Finance a new 2008 1098 for as low as \$269 a month! (with approved credit)
- Finance a new 2008 Hypermotard 1100 for as low as \$199 a month (with approved credit).
- Finance a new 2008 Triumph Rocket 3 Touring for as low as 3.9% with NO MONEY DOWN! (with approved credit)
- Save \$2,400 off our 2007 Triumph Rocket 3 Classic Touring demo bike!
- Most demonstrator bikes at our store are available for sale-enjoy the savings!
- Save \$1,000 off our last remaining 2007 Triumph Daytona 675. (graphite)
- \*\*\*Save \$600 off our last remaining 2008 Ducati Monster 695.