

I trust you all had a happy, safe and **FUN** Thanksgiving!

It's that time of the year again. Our northern members are and have been returning. Welcome back to God's country, where we can enjoy riding our bikes the year round!

As you can see when you hit the roads they are a bit more congested. Now is a good time to practice our defensive driving skills, especially on our motorcycles! I took the visiting family to breakfast the other morning and after we parked, a big 4 door sedan could barely pull in the spot next to me. As I sat there I watched the husband get out of the passenger side and go to the trunk. He removed a 4 wheeled walker, took it to the driver's door, where his wife proceeded to use it to go into the diner. SHE WAS DRIVING THE CAR but couldn't walk without assistance. I thought, what would happen while she was driving and needed to do a panic stop? How good could her reflexes be in an emergency? We loaded up and got outta there!! Well, this is what we motorcyclists face each time we mount that bike. Are we prepared?? As I continue to ride I find that the more I learn the safer I am. Each time I attend an ERC I learn so much more that benefits me for my personal safety and my co-rider's safety as well. Those seminars have so much beneficial information for me I enjoy taking them over again to refresh this aging memory. These ole brain cells aren't what they use to be so I'll take all the help I can get.

Our chapter educators are busy with all kinds of Rider Ed seminars, numerous CPR/First Aid classes and ERC/TRC classes. A whole bunch of training and educational things are being made available and at no cost to our Florida membership. This is all made possible from the proceeds of the sale of the raffle tickets for the new 2013 Gold Wing we will be giving away this March at our District Convention/Rally. I've had a few tell me it is too hard to sell these tickets this year. I've had others come back several times to get more tickets to sell. Well, here is a solution. If every person that has taken any type of Rider Ed class would buy just one book of tickets we would sell almost all of them in a heartbeat. In other words, have you benefited from any of these free seminars/courses?? Have you purchased a book of tickets?? We currently have 35 chapters in Florida. That's 35 CDs, 35 Treasurers, 31 CEs, 16 MADs, 63 Seminar Presenters, 18 MFA Instructors, 80 PLP Facilitators, to name a few, all **volunteers** to help each one of us to be a better informed, safer motorcyclist in order that we may have more **FUN**.

Oh and BTW, yes, I do still have a few raffle tickets that need to be sold.

I hope and pray each one of our Florida membership will take advantage of the all that the FL Rider Ed has to offer!

In coming into December, Pam and I would like to wish each and every one a safe and enjoyable Holiday season! Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy New Year!

Ride Safe, Ride Aware,

Rick and Pam Northrop, District Educators