

Ride Educator - Don Danbury

Let me remind you once more about the District Rider Ed Fair on November 4, 2006, in St. Petersburg. We need to get our registration forms filled out and mailed in quickly as the classes are filling up fast. All classes are free, the only requirements are: you must have an M/C endorsement if you are a rider; be a member of GWRRA; and be in the Rider Ed Program. It only takes one day and you might learn something that could one day save you or your co-riders life. I know I've been pretty persistent about this but if you keep up with the motorcycle accidents in our area the way I do you might understand. For example:

On Labor Day weekend four ladies on four bikes were involved with an auto the results being: one lady lost her life, two others were seriously injured and the lady driving the car was critically injured. The lady riders were not at fault but the end result was the same.

Another incident involved a fifty-two year old man from Seffner failed to make a curve on an overpass and hit the wall which threw him off his bike and over the overpass wall to the roadway below. According to the State Police he was not wearing a helmet. The end result: another lost life.

Two riders who failed to make a long sweeping turn



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and hit two power poles recently resulted in one lost life, the other seriously injured.

- Still yet a motorcyclist right here in Lakeland on North 98 hit a car broad side at an intersection with the end result the rider lost his life.

These accidents all took place in less than fifteen days in our general area. Folks I ask you to sit back and think real hard, don't you think that you and your co-rider's life is worth investing in a few hours to gain some knowledge and then go out and get the proper riding gear and put them both to use. As I sit here writing this article I am up here in Williamsburg lying to rest my nephew who was in his mid-thirty's. He used to always say don't worry about me it will never happen to me... well guess what, it did happen to him and now all his loved ones have to bare the load. So don't tell me that helmets make your head itch or it messes up your hair. Don't tell me those over the ankle boots are hot; heavy and uncomfortable or that a long sleeve shirt or blouse is too hot, better to be a little hot than to have road rash all over your arms if you go down. I personally know of six riders who are now riding wings of gold in the "here after riders patrol." I know I am coming down pretty hard on this Rider Ed stuff but I firmly believe that you can't know enough or do enough to make yourself stop and think each time you sit down in that saddle what can I do to make this ride safe so that we can go out and back safely. So come on all you riders and co-riders, dig in and get educated.

Till then Ride Safe and keep the shiny side up and the rubber on the road.

Fireball Don, Master Tour Rider