

Creative Ideas Make A Difference

Once again I have some exciting news to report. Several months ago I was talking to CE Bill Thomas (Chapter FL-1-F2) and he mentioned that he was going to order a set of new video tapes as his old ones were worn out. We thought there must be a better way, so I contacted the National GWRRA and requested permission to convert the existing tapes into a DVD format. The National agreed, with some stipulations, and I found a company that could do the conversions. We now have 50 copies each, of the three videos in the DVD format.

The National showed interest in this project (whose cost was born entirely by the Florida Rider Ed Program) and wanted to get some feedback on the new format. Therefore, only a few chapters will initially be sent the DVD's as a test. Selection of the chapters was based on their past and current reporting, overall chapter activity and their use of current videos.

Comments and opinions will be forwarded to the National for further review. It is hoped that pending a favorable review, the National will add the DVD format to the current videotapes, or when they are reissued and updated.

The test period will last about 6 months and regardless of the outcome, **all the Florida Chapters will receive their DVD copies of the tapes at the C.D. Conference in January.** If you are thinking about reordering the tapes, you may want to put that thought on hold. The DVD's can be played on your computer as well as traditional DVD players, and the best thing is, they won't wear out.

The DVD's are intended for the Florida District only and may not be copied or sold. It is your continued creative ideas like this that keep the Florida District the leader in the Rider Education Program.

On another note: we recently completed a Trike Course in Eustis at Angie Washo's school. Angie mentioned that her facility is available for use by GWRRA members, especially during the week. Chapters can use her facility for full classes, such as a First Aid or CPR courses or the classroom portion of the Road Captains Course.

She can also help set up FA/CPR instructors for the training if needed. The range also makes an ideal spot for "Parking Lot Practice." In addition to the Trike Course mentioned earlier, she also offers ERC classes for our members. She is extremely cooperative with GWRRA and very dedicated to motorcycle safety. You can contact her at 352-589-7233.

It is no secret that Florida is the Lightning Capital of the World so here are some tips on how to survive the summer thunderstorms. Lightning can strike three different ways: cloud-to-cloud, cloud-to-ground and occasionally, ground-to-cloud. (Lightning has been tracked at over 70 miles on radar.) Tires will not insulate you, but you're fairly safe in a car because the metal shell conducts the lightning around you to the ground. Best bet is to seek shelter in a building or under an overpass. Do not sit on the guardrail because it will attract lightning. If you can't find shelter, get away from the bike and crouch down with minimum contact with the ground. Do not lie down. Stay away from lone trees, water towers and other tall objects. You do not want to be the highest point around in a thunderstorm. If the weather is really bad...take the car. Ride Safe, Bob & Barbara Groff
Florida District Educators