

VACATION TIME

Here we are in mid summer and we have lots of stuff to report. First, the raffle tickets: there is good news and bad news. The printing and mailing are done. All chapters should have received theirs by now, and have probably sold them all. Green was chosen to honor the last year's winner (Doug Newman) who has his new bike painted with lucky Irish shamrocks. We printed the same number as we did last year, 35,000. Now the bad news...

All of the tickets have been distributed. We have none in reserve. If, for any reason you feel that your chapter cannot sell the tickets sent to you, please return them to us. We have chapters already requesting more. If you were thinking of waiting until the Rally to purchase your tickets...might be a good idea to get them earlier as they may not be available at the rally. You might want to remind your customers that each book of tickets they buy has 30 chances to win one of the 3 prizes. Those of you who set up shop at Wal-Mart or Lowes, etc., remember that not only can you sell the tickets but that is an opportune time to recruit new members.

The flyers for the Rider Ed Fair are ready and can be downloaded off our website at www.floridaridered.com. The Riders Fair is only one day this year so make your plans well in advance and be sure to register early. As you can see from the flyer, we have ERC's running in the morning and afternoon, two Trike classes, First Aid and CPR courses plus the usual Road Captains Course and Co-Rider Seminars. The date is November 19, 2005. If there is anything you would like to see added, please let me know.

Summer means vacations and here are a few tips I stole from Gary Maclean's column from the FL-2-G newsletter. Since most of us will be traveling out of state we are likely to encounter road construction. Watch for road equipment and trucks. Operators are watching where they are placing the equipment and not the passing traffic. Cones and barriers can easily get

knocked into the roadway so go single file to have the maximum room to maneuver.

Loose sand and gravel are other road hazards to watch for and can turn pavement into an ice rink in short order. A number of states have taken to filling cracks in the roadway with hot tar. Caution is needed here because some of the "tar snakes" run 4-5-6 inches wide and can be very slippery wet or dry. Speaking of slippery...

Don't overlook the heavy vinyl markings that you see at cross walks and intersections. They are not painted anymore and the markings are very slippery, especially when wet. The absolute worst place to stop is the tollbooth aisle. Vehicles drip oil, and water from their air conditioners, which when combined make the road "slicker than snot on a glass doorknob". (That's from Gary, I would never talk like that). Let's stay alert, take plenty of rest stops and have a safe riding season. Remember, no matter which turn you miss or which wrong road you take, you can never be lost if you simply change your destination! Ride Safe,
Bob & Barbara Groff
Florida District Educators