

Rally Results

The 26 th. Annual Florida District Rally has ended and the results are in. Judging from the smiles, those who made it had a good time. The Rider Table was as busy as ever and I want to thank all those who helped out Barb and myself during the rally. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you very much. I also want to apologize for not getting an article in the April newsletter. I had several days of paperwork to complete and just couldn't make the deadline.

Everybody wants the facts and figures so here goes: the Grand Prize winner was Doug Newman from FL1-L2 in Wesley Chapel. He was in the audience and nearly had a heart attack when his name was called (good thing he didn't have an attack because we had left the defibulator back at the hotel).

Second place, (\$1,000) was picked up by Chuck Harbert from FL2-Q in Coral Springs. He too was in attendance and came screaming down the aisle. Third place, (\$500) was won by Candice Bradley from St. Petersburg who bought her ticket after taking a BRC course. Three very, very happy people.

Another event happened during the Closing Ceremonies that affect all of us in Florida. Larry Lingo presented to Bob Shrader the "President's Award" for "...Outstanding Achievement in Rider Education". This prestigious award pays tribute to all of the hundreds of people who have contributed to the program over the years, as well as the thousands of people who have benefited from the program. Everyone, from the members who sell the tickets to the Chapter Officers and District Staff that encourage and support the program should feel exceptionally proud. Florida has the finest Rider Training Program in the country and we plan to keep it that way.

Other interesting facts and tidbits... Terry Dunn and Heidi London managed to put 106 members through CPR and First Aid Classes during the rally in rather cramped quarters

which, hopefully, we can improve on next year. Peter Torres and Joey Everhart conducted Co-Rider seminars that saw 33 members get their cards. Pat Laden ran the Road Captains Course and 12 members picked up their new RCC patch. Ron Jackson discussed the Team Riding Program as nine members refreshed their skills on this crucial function. Pete and Judy Torres hosted an ERC and 7 members spend most of their Saturday riding the range.

Curtis Palmore and his crew from MREC ran the Bike Games. I asked him to make them fun, and he came up with some clever new ideas (a snowbird from New York asked if he could copy the games back home). Curtis has promised even more surprises next year. If there was a downside to the event it had to be the cold and rain that came in Thursday and Friday which caught us by surprise, but didn't dampen the spirits of those who were there. Until next time, ride safe.

Bob & Barbara Groff
Florida District Educators