

Interesting Question?

I have received several e-mails recently regarding members who have been involved in various accidents. The exact details of the accidents were not mentioned but the injuries were severe. Our best wishes and prayers go out to those that were injured.

In an attempt to find addresses for those injured members I naturally went to the Rider Ed Data Base. Surprise, not one was listed. I did find the information on the Membership Data Base. This brings up an interesting point... apparently they did not take advantage of the free ERC training being offered by the Florida Rider Education Program. This is not to say that they were new, inexperienced or even careless riders, it only asks the question, would an ERC have made a difference in their situation? We don't know all the facts surrounding the incidents, but let's hope that others, who have had the training, have been able to avoid similar situations. A few hours spent on the range may have made a difference. It is up to all the Chapter Officers to encourage their members to become active in the Rider Ed Program.

Time to go... it has been a busy and interesting five years serving as your District Educators and ADE's. Barbara and I will be stepping down June 1, 2006 and turning our duties over to Joe and Jan Mazza, your Assistant District Educators.

A quick review... since our appointment as your District Educators, the Rider Ed Program has provided training for over 600 members in ERC, Trike and Trailering Courses. We added First Aid and CPR to the program and saw over 1100 members take advantage of that training. In addition, nearly 600 new Road Captains have taken to the highways to make our group rides even safer. We have established training at various schools from the Panhandle to Miami in an effort to bring classes closer to our members. At the Chapter level, we have provided all the Educators with the new manuals, DVD's and custom briefcases to hold all the paperwork. We are extremely proud of this record. But the pride has to be shared...

We could not have done this without the cooperation of the various schools and instructors who assist us in this training. Curtis Palmore in St. Petersburg, Angie Washo in Eustis, Jack and Gene in Miami, Lynn Harris in Daytona, Roger Huggins in Orange Park and Jay Harrison in the Panhandle have

all kicked in to help us out. We really appreciate your cooperation and support.

Another big contributor has been Champions Honda of Leesburg. They provide the Raffle Bike at a discount so we can afford all this additional training. They will be sponsoring the bike again this year. We want to thank them for their support.

Bob Shrader and the entire District Staff also deserve a big "Thank You." Bob and Nan have allowed the funding to stay dedicated to the Rider Ed Program and not become part of the District funds. This has allowed us an unparalleled opportunity to expand and manage the program within our budget. Having been on the staff for many years, let me add that in all honesty I don't think there is a harder working staff in any District anywhere in the country.

I would also like to thank all the Chapter Educators for doing such an outstanding job. You put on the PLP's, organize the FA/CPR classes, file monthly reports, write the safety articles and give the safety presentations. You have done an outstanding job. You are the "Florida Rider Education Program."

Along with the Educators, I would like to thank all the members who participate in the program. You sell the tickets that provide the funding for the entire program. You have made this the best program in the entire country.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful wife Barbara who has provided me with encouragement, stability and helped me out tremendously while administrating this great program.

We want to thank the entire Florida District. We have enjoyed our tenure as your District Educators and feel that we are leaving you in good hands with Joe and Jan. We hope you will work with them as well as you have worked with us.

Bob & Barbara Groff
Florida District Educators