

AND THE HEAT GOES ON

Folks, by the time you read this, Gracie and I will have returned from our trip north to visit the kids and grandkids in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Of course we're going on the trike and pulling the trailer. Gracie does not like to travel light. We will have been gone 12 days during the intense heat of July. As of this writing, it is hotter in the northern states than here. Go figure!! Now that most of us are in the "mature" years of our lives, we need to be extra vigilant when it comes to long term exposure to the heat. Our plan is to do most of our riding in the morning hours before the heat of the day becomes unbearable. We mentioned in an earlier article that it is wise to drink at least a quart of liquid every hour that we are riding. We are planning to do just that, since we will probably be sweating out that much or more, and replacing it is essential to avoid heat exhaustion or potentially fatal heat stroke.

Since you already have a schedule of many fall events, let us take this opportunity to mention our Rider Ed Fair in St. Petersburg on the 17th of November. Once again we are offering ERC's, TRC's, First Aid, CPR, Road Captain, and Co-Rider courses free to our members. The courses are free thanks to the hard work of our members selling raffle tickets for the new Gold Wing, and the generosity of Champions Honda. Check your cards for the expiration date for ERC, TRC, First Aid, and CPR. If you remain current in your courses, you will remain current at your levels. We look upon these courses as continuing education for motorcyclists. Continuing education is available, even required, in so many areas of our lives, why not in motorcycling. We were both teachers for over 25 years, and yet anytime a "continuing education" session was offered, we took advantage of it. We always came away with a renewed enthusiasm for our responsibilities. There is no such thing as knowing all there is to know on any one subject. Taking these courses reviews the skills and knowledge we need to be safer riders, and we "old dogs" actually can be taught new tricks. We want to keep our minds sharp and our motor skills honed. Besides, it gets us out of the house, where our spouses sometimes consider us a pain in the butt. Not that I'm speaking from experience you understand. Seriously, your chapter educators will have the Rider Ed Fair forms to be filled out and sent to us with a \$35 check to secure a place for you in courses you want. The check will be returned at the end of the class. Please call or e-mail ahead if you will be unable to attend the class(es) for which you signed up. We will return your check if you notify us (352-746-9030 or

jmazza4465@embarqmail.com) courses fill up fast so don't hesitate too long to send in your application.

We would like to congratulate Joanne and Jake Jacob for being selected at Wing Ding as the Gold Wing Road Riders International Couple of the Year. We understand that the judges were very impressed with Joanne, but a lot of money had to change hands for Jake to be accepted. Seriously, this wonderful couple, good friends of ours, truly deserve to represent GWRRA wherever they go. In the five years since we joined GWRRA, they have worked tirelessly for the good of the members. They set an unending example for the rest of us. We still think Jake should have worn his bumble bee suit, but he looked great anyway.

Over the next weeks of summer, many of our members will be traveling all over the country. Have a great time, but please be as careful as you can, and watch out for trucks and four wheeled vehicles. We don't want any more tragedies among our GW family.

Ride Safe
Joe and Gracie Mazza
District Educators