

ANOTHER GREAT RIDER ED FAIR

Well, as we had anticipated, the Rider Ed Fair held November 17, 2007, at St. Petersburg College was a rousing success. Our ERC and TRC members braved a very cold morning to fulfill their commitment to the fair, and for that we are very grateful. We were able to train 52 members in our Experienced Rider Course and six members in the Trike Rider Course. Along with those riders, we trained 12 co-riders. Rick and Madalena Buck, once again did a great job of instructing and certifying ten new Road Captains. When riding in groups, we know how essential it is to have trained Road Captains with us. If 20 bikes show up, we certainly should not ride in one group, but if there is only one trained leader and one tail gunner, there is no choice. Ideally most members of the chapter should be Road Captain certified. This way a large group can be divided into smaller groups, as GWRRA recommends, and if the tail gunner has to leave the group to help someone who has a problem, the next rider can fill in. Jim and Linda McGinnis were able to train 36 members in First Aid and CPR. They are now certifying through the American Heart Association which gives its students three years for First Aid and two years for CPR. As those who have taken it know, the process of CPR has been changed a number of times recently, so we all need to keep current. As we mentioned last month, Don Danbury was able to restart a man's heart recently, and this could happen to any of us. (We are not exactly a young group, so the need may arise.)

Ron and Kathy Jackson, Chapter Educators for FL 1-M in Clearwater, and Don and Judy Danbury, Assistant District Educators, along with our own Gracie Mazza, handled a yeoman's portion of the administrative paperwork. A big thank you goes out to all. We will be revising the forms somewhat for next year in an effort to make them easier and quicker to fill out.

A number of the instructors agreed that these were some of the best classes they have ever taught, due to the great cooperation and interest of this year's students. After many years of riding, it is easy to become complacent and our skills become rusty. How many times have we heard, "I've been riding for 20 years, and I don't need any class?" Wrong!! We all need classes; we all need to review; we can all learn new things. Our sincere thanks to all who participated in this fair with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Now we are looking forward to the CD Conference coming up January 4-6, 2008. It's being held at the Hampton Inn in Daytona Beach, which should be quite a treat. This is a time when we can get together by areas of responsibility and really hash out any issues which have come up during the year. We'll review what we are trying to do and help the new officers recover from the shock of what they have committed themselves to. Seriously, this is a time to make new people comfortable with their work and deal with questions anyone has. We are proud of the job done by the chapter educators this past

year. New enrollment in the Levels program has exceeded our expectations, and if one life is saved or a serious injury is prevented, it is all worth while. As you have probably heard, Gracie's foot was saved in an accident because she wore heavy, over-the-ankle boots. Who knows if she would have worn them on a 95 degree day if Ron and Pam Lantz hadn't discussed proper gear with us when we first joined GWRRA.

This is one of the busiest times of year, and with soaring gasoline prices, many will be riding their bikes more than usual. Please ride extra carefully and remember that many drivers will be full of "holiday cheer" in more ways than one. This calls for us to be extra vigilant as we ride. Let's make sure the holiday season is not marred by accidents and injuries. To all of you we say, "Have a wonderful holiday season, and we'll see you at the CD Conference in January".

**Ride Safely and Defensively
Joe and Gracie Mazza
District Educators.**