

Spring Has Sprung

We are all welcoming spring and this beautiful riding weather. We ride all we can, even just to pick up a quart of milk, as an excuse to enjoy these perfect temperatures. Please remember, that doesn't mean we give up long pants and sleeves, gloves, helmets, and boots. We may sound like a broken record on this topic, but Gracie can still hear the surgeon say, "If you had been wearing sneakers, you would have no foot." I never realized before then how much I love that foot.

We have an ongoing celebration due to the courage of our members Debbie Brunelle and Chris Christopher in their recoveries from serious illnesses. Great going guys. We know your strong spirits, added to all the payers from members of our Gold Wing family were no doubt a help. Stay well and have a wonderful summer.

Another Horizon program, conducted by Pat and Judy Seadorf will have been completed by the time you read this. We attended the last one and found it really valuable in terms of reviewing and extending our leadership skills. Remember, we are never too old to learn. We recommend you sign up for the next one if you have not yet taken it.

Many local and out of state events are on the schedule for spring, summer, and fall, so we should all have some good stories to tell. One such event is the South Carolina District Rally, held May 3rd -5th, 2007, which is really the story of how we became interested in Rider Education. We had just become members of G.W.R.R.A. and Ch FL 1-T and decided to do some traveling with our new 2002 Wing. We hooked up with some other newcomers (the Shraders and the Lantz's) and headed off to South Carolina. At the time we had no intention of getting involved with classes of any kind, since we were newly retired teachers. We just wanted to ride and have fun, with no involvement with education. The weather at the rally was rain, rain, and more rain. Consequently, needing something to do, we casually sat in on a few classes, and the rest is history. First came patches and pins, then came volunteering to be chapter educators for Ch FL 1-T, which eventually brought us to the district position. Amazing how a little rain can influence your life.

We want to once again thank those of you who give so much of yourselves and your time to G.W.R.R.A. We realize how time-consuming these volunteer positions are. Once again March was an outstanding month for reports being sent in and news articles being included in the newsletters. The down side of our program is we are short 12 Chapter Educators. One CD is graciously filling in and doing the reports, news articles, etc. Please remember in the packets given out at the CD conference, we included copies of articles we considered exceptional, culled from Florida chapter newsletters. If you have misplaced yours, we'll send you another one. So if you need to save time, take one of those and reprint it exactly as is in your chapter newsletter, giving credit to the author. We have received permission to do this. If you will volunteer to be a chapter educator, enlist the help of your fellow chapter members. If you have to miss a meeting, ask the Director or a friend how many were in attendance. Check your newsletter calendar for the # of scheduled events, and ask a friend who did go for an estimate of how many were in attendance at each event. You can see the whole process is fairly easy. We'll be happy to help with the computer report form, or if you are more comfortable with paper, we'll send you the forms. We hope members will step up, help each other and ask us for help anytime. We have such a great organization in Florida, let's keep it that way.

Enjoy the spring weather, ride safely, dress properly, and keep your eyes peeled for the four wheelers who don't have motorcyclists on their minds.

Joe and Gracie Mazza
District Educators