

RIDER ED: ALIVE AND WELL

We are back from our annual trip to Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to visit relatives and friends. It was a great trip with perfect weather. The only rain we encountered was for 15 minutes here in Florida on our trip home. We enjoyed meeting people, including Goldwingers or “wanabees” all along the way. We’ve been noticing the attention our rig gets and are concluding that another factor to consider for safety is bike color. When we triked our silver two wheeler, we had the trike, trailer, and helmets painted candy orange. Let us tell you that people can SEE US. People were taking pictures on RT. 95 as they passed us. The colorful LED’s also attracted a lot of attention...i.e....they SAW US. When we stopped for gas or a snack people would ask to photograph the rig, sit their children on it, etc. Gracie said the attention was for the bike and trailer, but I said it was for the beautiful man with whom she was traveling (that would be me). We’re also glad to hear the wonderful stories about Wing Ding and next year we’ll be in the crowd.

One of the sad sights on our trip was seeing a crotch rocket that had t-boned a car and the front of the bike somehow went under the car with the back end sticking up at a 45 degree angle: sort of like when you scratch a cat’s back and they put their back end up in the air. It was frightening to see and would be a miracle if the rider survived. We just can’t stop being vigilant. If we get tired or bored riding, stop, get a snack, walk around, etc.

Parking lot practices seem to be going well this summer; and we say “Kudos” to those dedicated souls. Recently FL 1-H, Daytona’s C.E., Gene Heaney had 11 brave riders for two hours in the July heat. Gene claims no one succumbed to heat stroke.

Don Danbury of FL 2-I, Lakeland, is planning a PLP at the Plant City Police parking lot on Sunday, Aug 19th and has members of the local chapters joining them, including yours truly, who is always ready to practice and pick up safety tips. It has been said often that this has been a rough year for those involved in our sport, so these PLP’s are another great way to keep ourselves mentally and physically sharp. Ken Grant of FL 1-D, Pensacola just put 11 new Road Captains on the road. Good work, Ken.

Doug and Sandy Gray, CD's of Palm Coast report that their newsletter can now be viewed online at www.firstcoasthonda.com and clicking on "clubs" and "matanza wings". It's always a good idea to keep up with what other chapters are doing.

We've had a number of changes made to our Rider Educator list. Joe Barzyz is now CE for FL 1-D2, Pat Layden is taking over at FL 1-L2, Wesley Chapel, for Bill and Bernie Reuter who have earned a well-deserved rest. Good luck on your traveling and enjoying life, folks. Thanks for a job well done. John Kandes of FL 2-P, Bradenton will assist John and Carol Hubbard. Ron Jackson and Don Danbury will once again be helping us at this year's Rider Ed Fair in November. Both are excellent instructors and we always welcome their expertise.

Work on the Greenbar is progressing well----thank you Jake Jacob and all you diligent CE's. We want to thank everyone who is putting in the effort to help updating it. The Level I sign ups have been astounding so far this year. If you remember, we were trying to reach the goal of 50% membership in the Rider Ed Program. At the present time we stand at 49%. So close. Just a few more sign ups and we reach our present goal. Thanks again to all you enthusiastic CE's and members.

**Please ride safely
Joe and Gracie Mazza
Florida District Rider Educators**