

## Greenbar/Raffle Tickets and Other News from Rider Ed

Our Rider Education Administrative Assistant, Jake Jacob, has decided he needs a rest. Our District bad boy, whose duties include: Assistant Chapter Director, half of the International Couple of the Year, Rider Ed Administrative Assistant (Keeper of the Greenbar) and chapter Webmaster. all while holding down a full time job, has stepped down as Rider Ed Administrative Assistant. What a slacker! And we thought he was a dedicated G.W.R.R.A. member. Seriously, Jake stepped in to help us with the Greenbar (the District Rider Ed database) when Tony Van Schaick, the keeper of the national database, which includes Florida, moved on. We would like to thank Jake for the wonderful job he did for us.

The Administrative Assistant position will be filled by Bobbie Roy, FI 1-Q, the Panhandle Area coordinator for rider Ed. Bobbie has shown great organizational and computer skills and will be a welcome member of our administrative staff.

Jan and I, along with some friends, recently attended the annual Leesburg Bike Festival. We were immediately struck by the number of people and motorcycles in attendance. It was reminiscent of our many visits to Daytona for Bike Week. The number of vendors has dramatically increased since our first visit five years ago. Although many people consider Leesburg primarily a Harley event, we saw many Hondas, Yamahas and other makes and models parked along the main street and in the parking lots. It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon, and the demeanor of the crowd and vendors was similar to that of our own District rally. It was also great to visit with good friends from "Trikes by Tony" and "Wing Bling", two of the many vendors.

As most of you are aware, as of July 1, 2008, anyone applying for a motorcycle endorsement and/or registration must first show proof of having attended a state-accredited motorcycle safety school. These are some of the same schools we have been using for our ERC's and TRC's. Those of you who have co-riders in your chapter who are thinking of going for an endorsement should keep this in mind. Personally, I think it's a great idea. Where better to learn the complexities of riding a motorcycle than at an approved school. Most of us learned by trial and error. (Lots of error) I equate this with learning to play golf. You are advised to go for lessons with a professional before playing on your own and picking up bad habits that

have to be corrected at a future time. The big difference of course is that a serious bad habit while riding a motorcycle can kill you or someone else.

We recently received notification from the state that the section of the July 1<sup>st</sup> law, HB 1111-0, which I just discussed, pertaining to needing an endorsement prior to registering a motorcycle, will most likely be repealed. The reason for not requiring an endorsement at registration is due to several problems it could create. Many parents purchase and register a bike for their child. If the law remains intact, those parents would be required to take the course, even though they would not be riding the bike. Basically, the law will eventually state that for a motorcycle endorsement you will need to show proof of having attended a motorcycle safety school. If all you are doing is registering a motorcycle, you don't have to have attended a school.

Our ERC's and TRC's are going well. Our first ERC at the new range at Hurlburt AFB in the Panhandle on May 3<sup>rd</sup> was a big success. We would like to thank Danny Donaldson, CD of FL 1-E2 in Ft. Walton Beach, for his help in putting this together. There is another ERC at HURLBURT ON Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as two others scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September at our Miami range. We also have TRC's scheduled for our ranges in Pensacola on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May and Miami on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

By the time you read this the raffle tickets will have been distributed to your chapters. Remember, the sale of these tickets makes it possible for Florida to lead the world in the presentation of motorcycle safety classes free of charge to all its GWRRA members. Without your help and hard work this could not be the reality it is. Thank you.

Ride Safe and Have Fun

District Educators

Joe and Jan (Gracie) Mazzaxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx