

## Rider Ed Still # 1

### Another Award From National

It is with great pleasure that I announce that at the Masters' Breakfast at Wing Ding, Florida's Rider Education program was once again recognized for excellence by National. As I mentioned in my e-mail to all our educators, although my name appeared on the merit plaque, I accepted it on behalf of all involved in our program. When Mike Steiger, National Director of Rider Education, presented the award, he mentioned the fact that ours was the outstanding program in the country. Sometimes we take this for granted, but let's not forget the tremendous number of people and amount of work it takes to achieve this. Our program is now so multifaceted that it is hard to pinpoint any one aspect and say, "This is why it is so successful." Everyone involved plays a vital role in its success, so  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.**

We thoroughly enjoyed our time in Tulsa, though the temperature exceeded 100 degrees on a number of occasions, actually getting to 104 once or twice. All the articles we've read pertaining to hydration quickly came to mind as we rode through Oklahoma. We bought Kool vests at the rally and promptly forgot to wear them that evening during the parade through town. We certainly paid the price for that case of "CRS".

How blessed are all of us in GWRRA that we are in a position during our later years to be able to enjoy riding and sightseeing through this great country of ours. In the years leading up to our retirement, if anyone had told us we would be doing this, we would have thought them crazy. We started our three week vacation this summer by riding north to Virginia and Pennsylvania to visit the kids and grandkids. While traveling through Frederick, Maryland, the trailer hitch detached from the trike and the trailer smashed into the rear end of the trike. Luckily, we were on an exit ramp and were able to pull to the shoulder without too much trouble. Once again Rescue Plus came to our aid, and we were able to get on with our ride in just a few hours. I have now learned to include the trailer hitch in the T-clock inspection.

After our visit with the family, we went to Indianapolis, Indiana where we met up with Ed and Jeanette Carr. Jeanette's parents have a beautiful farm in southern Indiana and we spent a pleasant evening with them prior to leaving for Tulsa. I have to say that the roads leading to Tulsa, in Tulsa, and coming home must have served as inspiration for the Bill Haley and the Comets song, "Shake, Rattle, and Roll." They were some of the worst roads we have ridden, and I feared the trike

was going to come apart at any moment. In spite of the bumps, the scenery was spectacular.

Wing Ding itself was wonderful, with great vendors, great food, great entertainment, and great friends. We were very happy we went. Next year's event will be held in Des Moines, Iowa. It should be another interesting ride. We had Gracie fly home due to the heat and her heart. No sense tempting fate. I was able to hook up with Ron Lantz, National Assistant Director of Rider Education, for the ride home. The first day, nine hours, was a tribute to the aforementioned Bill Haley: "Shake rattle and roll all the way." The second day convinced us it was monsoon season, 13 hours for me, 15 for Ron, in the pouring rain. Most of the trip was spent leaning forward to get as close to the windshield as possible, so as not to drown. Gracie calls all our trips "adventures", as in "Here we go again". Well, despite some inconveniences, we wouldn't have missed this adventure for the world. Hope to see you all in Dothan in September.

Ride Safe, Have Fun  
Joe and Gracie Mazza  
District Educators