

BEAUTIFUL RIDING IN THE SUMMER

On March 26th Ed Carr and I rode nine hours to the Alabama District Rally in Pelham, Alabama. Although the entire route we took was under a heavy rain and possible tornadoes warning, we had a pleasant ride with only occasional showers to contend with. The reason I mention the weather is that the forecast for the Pelham area seems to have contributed to the sparse turnout for the rally. It was obvious the Alabama district staff had worked hard in organizing the event, but the unpredictable weather worked against them. Each night there it rained hard, so the rally organizers and vendors suffered the consequences.

While attending the Rider Education portion of the rally, the other district representatives wanted to hear as much as they could about how the Florida program works. Apparently our Rider Ed program is envied throughout the region. I was so proud to be able to represent our members and to enlighten the other districts about the inner workings of our organization. Thank goodness for our raffle, the proceeds of which help to make us #1. Of course, it takes many dedicated members to sell 45,000 tickets. Congratulations especially go to the members of Chapter F1 2-W Winter Haven and Chapter Director Liz Kinsey who sold 6100 tickets. I also told the other district representatives that we were able to download and then have 50 copies printed of our newly released Rider Ed manual. We then mailed the copies to all of the chapters. Without the raffle, that would not have been economically feasible.

This past weekend we rode to F11-W Apopka for their annual green eggs and ham breakfast get together. At one point in the proceedings, Ed Carr gave one of his long and engaging speeches during which he mentioned that this rally seems to get better each year. We agree. It was fun and entertaining. After the rally we rode with Chapter A Tampa to their meeting. We have ridden with many chapters over the years and have always found the GWRRA method of group riding to be as safe a method as you will find anywhere. This particular ride was led by Region A Director Bob Shrader and dragged (how appropriate) by the lesser half of the former International Couple Of The Year, Jake Jacob. If you ever get a chance to ride with these two members, take it. They put on a clinic as to group riding methodology.

Wing Ding is just around the corner. It will probably be another long hot ride and we should start thinking about the precautions to be taken to offset the heat. One suggestion is to drink a quart of water for every hour when riding in really hot weather. Tulsa, Oklahoma can get as hot in early July as any city in the country. We are very much looking forward to this year's Wing Ding and hope to see as many of you as we can there. Check in with Bob Shrader or Ed Carr when you get there as they are depending on Florida members to help with registration.

Ride Safe and Have Fun
Joe and "Gracie" Mazza