

BIKETOBERFEST AND OTHER EVENTS

Most of you have probably heard by now that Jan and I will be stepping down as District Educators following the upcoming C.D. conference. Our assistants, Don and Judy Danbury, will be stepping up to take the position. We have had a wonderful time being able to assist the many chapters within our district. Our program was healthy when we took the position and remains so as we leave. Don and Judy are very capable individuals who I'm sure will continue to keep Florida GWRRA Rider Education the envy of our international organization. We wish them all the best.

Don and I rode together to Green Cove Springs, just south of Jacksonville, on Friday 10/18 to assist Roger Huggins, one of our ERC/TRC instructors, with marking and approving a range for our use. The range previously used for our chapters in that area, Cecil Field in Jacksonville, was no longer available to us. Jacksonville, Fl 1-J, Jax Beach, Fl 1-V and Orange Park, Fl 1-X will once again have a range available for their use that is in close proximity.

We are very much looking forward to the PLP Facilitator's course that we are offering on November 8th in Plant City. Don has notified all concerned and sent along a facilitator's manual in preparation for the course. Also, we have decided to schedule the seminar presenter's course sometime in February. This will allow the presenters a chance to make a presentation at our rally in March. Making a presentation is the final step in earning a seminar instructor's number. As was mentioned before in an earlier article, national requires a seminar instructor's number before anyone can teach a rider education seminar. We will discuss this further at the C.D conference.

This past week we entertained a friend of ours who rode down to Florida from New Jersey on his Harley. He and I have been friends for years and enjoy the back and forth bantering and jibes of the Harley vs Honda rivalry. We took him to Biketoberfest where we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We understand that Biketoberfest and Bike Week are not everyone's cup of tea. Jan and I have been going since we bought our bike in 2002. I mention this because as Bill and Gina recently said "you get out of a get together what you put into it". They, of course, were referring to those members who are disgruntled with our poker runs, rallies and chapter visitations. They say they are all the same so why bother to go? Just enjoying the social aspect of a GWRRA event or a Bike Week is reason enough for us to go. Just as there are certain friends in each chapter with whom we like to visit, there are certain routines we like to follow in Daytona. First comes the Italian sausage sandwiches, then shopping at "John's Rock and Ride" where it's always a pleasure visiting with the proprietor, John, who is a real character. Then the walk to the beach followed by ice cream and more shopping. All the while we are taking in the sights and sounds that only occur on Main Street, Daytona Beach during Biketoberfest and Bike Week. Wild, Crazy and Entertaining!!

Folks, we only go around once. All of us are so fortunate to have found motorcycling and GWRRA. Let's make the best of our good fortune. If you haven't tried the Daytona events, give them a try. You might be pleasantly surprised and like it. If you have given up on the social aspect of GWRRA, give it one more chance. If Jan and I are there and we haven't met, come over and introduce yourselves. We love to make new friends.

Ride Safe, Have Fun
Joe and "Gracie"