

## **HEAT, WING DING 28, AND THE GRAND PRIZE**

Last month's article was almost prophetic in that it was a precursor to more extreme heat than even we are used to. Little did we know when we left for Wing Ding 28 that we would be using all the recommendations from last month's newsletter. We were fortunate to be traveling with experienced riders Bud and Ginger Marion and Jeff and Debbie Brunelle. They too understand the need for extending an eight-hour ride into ten hours when it is 100 degrees. We stopped often to cool down and hydrate and also saw the efficacy of drinking electrolyte replacement drinks such as Gatorade. When you sweat, you lose not only water but sodium, potassium, and calcium. Replacing them can keep your body functioning properly and keep you alert. So we survived and arrived, a bit droopy and yucky (don't make the mistake of pouring Gatorade over yourself to cool off), but very excited to be attending the largest WD ever.

Since 9/11, we Americans have lived with sadness, frustration, and disappointment, fearful that the American dream has been tarnished. If and when any of you feel that way, get with Goldwingers. Getting with over 13,000 Goldwingers at Wing Ding made us extra happy and joyful and proud to be Americans.

All the people we met made our spirits soar. When we entered the Gaylord resort, we were awed by its beauty, and we could sense it was the largest turnout ever. The feeling was reminiscent of our first view of the Polynesian Hotel in Disney World in the 1970's. How fortunate are we as Gold Wingers to be able to experience this each year as WD moves about the country. Events, seminars, etc. were plentiful: something for everyone, and not enough time to do everything.

One of the events at WD was the Masters' luncheon. During the ceremonies, plaques were presented for many achievements. We are proud to announce that the Florida District received an award for being the #1 District in the country for its' Rider Education program. We feel there are two major reasons for this achievement. First is the work of Bob and Barbara Groff in further developing and administering this remarkable program. The other factor is the work so many Chapter Educators and Members have contributed to this effort. We thank all of you again for your dedication in selling raffle tickets each year so classes can be given at no cost to the members.

Your Florida District Educators  
*Joe and Jan (Gracie) Mazza*