

1 In the World

That's right folks. According to Wing World, January, 2008, there are 76,277 GWRRA members worldwide. As you know, we are an international organization. 75,000 of those members are in the U.S.A. and Canada. That leaves 1,277 scattered throughout the rest of the world. The Rider Ed Program here in Florida has already been declared the best in the country by G.W.R.R.A.. We have the statistics and plaques to prove it. In the month of February, thanks to the hard work of all our Chapter Educators and newly appointed District Area Coordinators, we were able to successfully complete our "Level Two Extravaganza." That is, we instructed, FREE OF CHARGE, just over 100 members, mostly level I, in our E.R.C's and T.R.C's in a one month period. We defy any organization anywhere in the world to compete with these numbers. All this was due to you, the membership, and the organizational skills of our area coordinators. I've said this before and I'll say it again and again until they throw me out of office, which, by the way, may be after this article, that without your participation we would have the greatest Rider Ed program in the world that wasn't working? Thank you all.

Our District Rally was once again a great success. Our District Directors, Ed and Jeanette Carr did a magnificent job of putting together a well organized and fun rally. Congratulations to the two of you. Now that I have my brownie points, allow me to thank the following people who made the Rider Education portion of the rally as successful as it was. First, we thank our assistants Don and Judy Danbury, without whose help Jan and I would not have been able to survive such a hectic pace. We are truly blessed to have them as assistants. Next, our seminar presenters: Don Danbury, Ron Jackson, Mike Duquette, Moe Dalton, Rick Buck, Doug Gray, and Jim and Linda McGuiness. Jim and Linda trained 162 members in First Aid/CPR. That's 40 more than last year's record. We put 22 new Road Captains on the road and trained a total of 150 members in our other Rider Ed. Seminars. That's a grand total of 334 GWRRA members trained FREE OF CHARGE in three days. I would venture to say that only Wing Ding could best those numbers. If I sound passionate about Florida Rider Education, it's because I am.

Gracie and I were in the teaching profession for many years but we have never been so proud of anything as we are in being associated with such a great organization as the GWRRA Florida District and it's Rider Education Program.

Our raffle was one of the most exciting in recent memory. The first lady of GWRRA, Mrs. Margie Hodge, drew the winning ticket, and it belonged to Rich and Lucy Schaad, Chapter Directors of F1 1-M Clearwater. They were sitting in the audience and when we announced their names it was bedlam. Rich told me later that he lost his voice that night from all the shouting and had a sore back from all the back slapping he got. The second prize of \$1,000 went to Chapter 1-A's Chapter Educators Curtis and Kathy Matthews. The \$500 third prize was won by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Anderson of Franklin, Ohio. They were very excited when we called them.

Once again, we wish to thank all who helped make this rally and raffle so successful. The chapters selling 1,000 tickets or more were: 1st place with 5,100 sold was F1 1-Q Milton, 2nd place with 4,029 sold was F11-12 Wesley Chapel, 3rd place with 4,000 sold was F1 2- Miami. The other chapters receiving plaques for 1,000 or more were: F11-M Clearwater, F11-H Daytona Beach, F12-G Ft. Myers, F12-L Lakeland, MREC Mr. Curtis Palmore, F12-C2 Naples, F11-A Tampa and F11-S Zephyrhills.

Finally, because we now can, the Florida District Rider Education program will pay for all future level 4 masters applications submitted. That's a savings of \$35 per application. It is our way of continuing to give back to our membership.

Ride

Safe, Have Fun,

Joe and Gracie Mazza
District Rider Educators