

Rider Ed Fair/ Manufacture Dates of Tires

Once again we were fortunate to have a successful Rider Ed Fair held in St. Petersburg in November. We would like to thank Don and Judy Danbury, our District Assistant Educators, for administering this event. We would also like to thank Curtis Palmore of Motorcycle Rider Education of Clearwater for once again letting us use his facilities for our fair. Also helping us this year with their seminar expertise were Rick and Madalena Buck, Bob Groff, and Tina and Rex Prince. Tina and Rex are our Medic First Aid Co-ordinators now, and they conducted a great FA/CPR class, even with limited classroom space. We received a great deal of positive feedback from members who took the class. We were able to train 23 riders in ERC courses, 19 TRC riders, 12 co-riders, seven road captains, and 22 in FA/CPR.

As was evident, the classroom situation at the fair has become quite a problem since the college now closes its rooms on weekends. We will have to make some adjustments for next year. Since we will have 12 additional Medic FA/CPR instructors after the District Rally in March, we may have the FA/CPR courses taught at the chapter level and at the District Rally in the future. The same would apply to other seminars, because they are more effective when taught in a room more conducive to learning. The November 14, 2009 date for next year will remain available and dedicated to ERC and TRC courses in ST. Petersburg.

Paul Perrillo, Chapter Educator for FI2-C2 in Naples recently made us aware of a video aired recently on the TV program, 20/20. It concerns checking new tires for manufacture dates. It stated that tires have a shelf life of about six years. In other words, although a newly purchased tire may appear to be new, if it was manufactured six or more years ago before being installed on your bike, it does not meet the standards of being "new". The inside of the tire may have dried up enough for the tire to fail when driven on. This can cause serious injury or death from an ensuing accident. There is a quick and easy way to check the tire's manufacture date. It appears in a box on the side of the tire. The numbers indicate the week of the year of manufacture and also the year of manufacture. For example, the numbers 1502 indicate the tire was made in the fifteenth week of 2002. The numbers 156 mean the tire was made in the 15th week of 1996. The numbers on the tires we purchased recently all ended in 07 or 08. That's a good thing. You might want to check the dates on any recently purchased tires to make sure they are truly new.

By the way, please feel free to share these articles with your chapter members or print them in your newsletter.

We wish you all safe and happy holidays, and we hope to see you at the CD conference.

Joe and Jan Mazza
District Educators