

MAY INCLINATIONS

Well, things have quieted down a bit for us since the District rally in March. We were privileged to travel to Fort Walton Beach in April to spend a few days as houseguests of Danny and Rebecca Donaldson. They are the chapter directors for FI 1-E2, Ft. Walton Beach. They were kind enough to put us up while we attended their rally on April 6th. Luckily, the rains that plagued those who attended the rally in Mobile only gave us a spritz on Sunday during the rally. While there we were able to visit Hurlbert Field in Ft. Walton to sanction their ERC range. We now have two ranges in the Panhandle to accommodate all our GWRRA chapters there. Under the auspice of our Panhandle Area Coordinator, Bobby Roy, we already have an ERC planned at the new range on May 3rd. There is also a TRC scheduled at the Corry Naval Air Station in the Panhandle on May 25th. Our instructor/members Jim Wells and Ken Grant will be teaching that.

Our Miami range was out of commission for a while as the state had them change the direction of markings in order to meet state regulations. Instructors Ray Vega, Ray Lijoi, and Southern Area Coordinator, Rodney Cullen painted the new trike markings, and now the range is once again fully operational. Rodney will be supervising a TRC on this range on June 1st. Ron Jackson, West Coast Area Coordinator, will be running two safety courses in St. Pete. The first is a TRC on the 20th of April, and the other is an ERC on April 26th.

As of this writing, we have added twenty two new Level IV Masters to our Rider Ed program in 2008. How great it is to see so many of our members dedicated to the motorcycle safety programs. Hopefully, many more will follow their example, especially since Rider Education is now paying the Masters' application fee.

Governor Charlie Crist has declared May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month. In his edict he mentions that motorcycles are a regular means of transportation which reduces fuel consumption and is energy efficient. In addition, as we all know, a lack of motorcycle awareness is and always has been the major cause of accidents in which an automobile and a motorcycle have been involved. "I didn't see him." How many times have we heard that? Hopefully, being aware that we are out there will in the long run cut back on many of these collisions.

We extend a note here to wish our friends and fellow GWRRA members, Jim and Rebecca Iverson the best of luck in their recovery from the terrible fire that took their home and one of their beloved pets. We understand there was also some damage to their motorcycles. It is at a time like this when our GWRRA family pulls together to do as much as we can in such a tragedy. We heard that the day after the fire Jim and Rebecca were at their chapter rally, doing what Chapter Directors do when overseeing their own rallies. Meeting their commitments to their chapter in this way just goes to show what we already knew about Jim and Rebecca. They are very, very special people and we are all the better for knowing them.

Ride Safe and Have Fun,

Joe and Jan "Gracie" Mazza
District Rider Educators