

## **“ANOTHER REALLY GREAT RALLY”**

The 2009 Florida District Rally was a resounding success, and it seemed like everywhere we looked, we saw “Fun, Safety, and Knowledge” being practiced. Our Rider Education seminars were well attended, and the Rider Ed Raffle was well received. Howie Taylor of Wesley Chapel was the grand Prize Rider Ed winner of a set of tires donated by Trikes by Design of Inverness. Many other excellent gifts were also won by attendees at the rally. With over 1400 in attendance this year, we were delighted to say it seemed like most of them at one time or another during the rally visited the Rider Ed table.

We thank everyone who helped us at the Rider Ed table and with the raffle tickets. With 45,000 tickets/stubs to deal with, the table was humming up until closing ceremonies. We feel extremely fortunate to have so many helpful members to support our efforts. It is these people who help keep Florida rider Education in the # one spot in the nation. Our assistants, Don and Judy Danbury, as well as Bobbi and Mike Roy were invaluable in making things go smoothly. All chapters will soon have a copy of the 2009 Rider educational manual just released by National. Don and Mike were instrumental in having them made in Kissimmee so we could distribute them to all our chapters. This manual is the bible of the Rider Ed program and is ‘must’ reading for chapter educators.

Seminar presenters this year were: Dan Thomas, Rick Northrup, Ron Jackson, Bob Groff, Rick and Madalena Buck. Mike Duquette, and Mo Dalton. As usual all were superior and well attended. We were also honored to have Mr. Buddy Shirley, Medic First Aid Coordinator for Region A at the rally. Along with Rex and Tina Prince, Florida District Medic First Aid coordinators, Buddy presented a Medic First Aid Instructors’ certification course on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Medic First Aid (MFA) is GWRRA’s exclusive approach to first aid/CPR. Although we still accept certified instructors from American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and American Safety and Health Institute, Medic First Aid is the preferred program. Nine of our members were certified to teach MFA. They are Rick Northrup (Zephyrhills), Larry and Sue Ross (Ocala), Marcia Shad (Daytona Beach), Kathey Johnson (St. Petersburg), Jim Iverson and Norm VanDame (Brandon), Dana Voight (Ft. Myers), and Connie Zimmer (Zephyrhills). It is our long range goal to have every chapter self-sufficient by having at least one member MFA certified. How great would that be?

This summer at Wing Ding in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rex and Tina Prince will become certified as MFA Supervisors. That means that they will then be able to certify instructors themselves. It will no longer be necessary for Buddy Shirley to come all the way from Mississippi to help us out.

A number of events occurred at our closing ceremonies. Gene Heaney, Daytona Beach, was recognized as the Charles Logan educator of the year. Curtis Palmore received the “special friend to rider education “ award for his generosity in donating his range for our ERC and TRC classes. The 1,000 raffle tickets sold plaques were awarded to Clearwater, Daytona Beach, Dunnellon, Ft. Myers, Lakeland, MREC Mr. Curtis Palmore, Naples, Tampa, Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills. Third place ticket sales winner with a \$100 cash prize for their chapter was Miami with 4,080 tickets sold. Second place winner of \$200 was Milton with 4,865 tickets sold and first place winner of \$300 was Winter Haven with a record 6,100 tickets sold. Special recognition

went to Liz Kinsey, Winter Haven Chapter Director, Rose Markland and Waco Corgnell. Waco sold 4,100 tickets on his own. These 3 people put forth a yeoman's effort in selling this year. Last year, before Liz took over, Winter Haven sold 200 tickets. This year because of Liz's extraordinary effort 200 became 6,100. UNBELIEVABLE!!

We were very fortunate to have Mr. Mark Allen of First Coast Honda, St. Augustine, this year's sponsor of our Grand Prize 2009 1800 Gold Wing speak at the closing ceremonies. Mark has been an avid supporter of our program and we encourage all our members to stop in and visit Mark and his staff and check out the many bargains they offer GWRRA members. Mark did the honors this year in pulling the first, second and third place winners of our raffle. Third place winner of \$500 was Michael Sweeney of Auburndale, Florida. Second place winner of \$1,000 was last year's bike winners Rich and Lucy Schaad, Clearwater CD's. The Grand Prize winner was Mr. Rogger Tuscione of Tampa. A pisan (Italian). He was very happy when I spoke to him. He is 24 and rides a small sports bike. He said he bought the ticket outside a restaurant in Tampa. I should also mention that our new ticket barrel which easily held 45,000 tickets was constructed by the very talented Mr. Gary Sober of Daytona Beach.

Thanks goes to all who contributed their time and effort in once again making the Florida District Rally one of the most well run and organized rallies in GWRRA. Special recognition goes to Jeannette Carr and that guy she's married to for putting it all together.

**Ride Safe, Have Fun**  
**Joe and Gracie**