

Big News

I guess the big news this month is that our District Directors, Ed and Jeanette Carr, have decided to step down and are being replaced by Bill and Gina Berry. When Jan and I first joined GWRRA as members of Chapter T, Inverness, Bob and Nan Shrader were District Directors. When they moved up to become Region Directors they appointed Ed and Jeanette to take their place. Now we have the Berrys as our leaders. Florida has always been recognized for having an outstanding GWRRA program on all levels. One of the main reasons for this is the competency and dedication shown by our District Directors. Bob and Nan, Ed and Jeanette and now Bill and Gina: special people with very special talents. The District has been and is fortunate to have them.

The Region Rally in Dothan, Alabama was a big success. The theme was “ An Old Fashion Hoe Down”, and the bib overalls and straw hats were everywhere. I even managed to get some ”bovine feces” on my boots. (It was really chunky peanut butter, but I’ll never tell).

We decided to offer a PLP Facilitators Certification course on Sunday, November 8th and the response was overwhelming. We had to make a cutoff at 23 members within a few days of announcing the class. If there is a call for another course it will be considered in the future. Don Danbury and I will be presenting the PLP course beginning at 8am with the classroom session at Don’s home in Plant City and then moving to a nearby range for the practical aspect. National has decreed that for liability sake, PLP facilitators must be GWRRA certified before they can arrange for a parking lot practice.

Along those same lines, we will be presenting a Seminar Instructors’ Certification Course sometime either just before or immediately after the District Rally in March. Once again, this requirement has been dictated by National and we will abide by their wishes. We will be discussing this more at the CD Conference in January.

We are looking forward to the Region meeting of officers in December at a new location. This year it will be held in Eufaula, Alabama at the Lakepoint Resort Lodge and Convention Center. During the meeting Florida is the only District where the District Educator is asked to report on the rider education program. The District Directors of the other Districts include Rider Ed. in their presentations. The reason for this is that Florida’s Rider Ed. Program has become so multi-faceted that our District Directors have graciously consented to having the educators present the facts and figures. With all of our chapter educators, area coordinators, MFA coordinators and District officers working so hard to keep us #1, we are grateful to our Directors for allowing us to do so.

The CD Conference is just around the corner. We hope you are planning on being there. It is at this conference that we set the agenda for the coming year, so please make every effort to attend. Thanks.

Ride Safe, Have Fun
Joe and ‘Gracie’