

TRAINING DAY !!

Mark Welch — Safety Officer

Last month, members of the Tallahassee Harley Owners Group traveled to the quiet town of Monticello to participate in some awesome training put on by John Pretti, owner of Florida Safe Rider (FSR). It was a wonderful opportunity for them to hone their skills and maybe learn something new. Class size was limited to twelve riders so FSR conducted two sessions to accommodate as many HOGs as possible. Riders put their bikes through low-speed maneuvers to give them more confidence in their bikes and in themselves.

As wise person once said that you are never too old to learn something. Sometimes we are inclined to think after a certain amount of experience at doing something, there is nothing more that we can learn. That leads to complacency, which can be dangerous on a motorcycle. Out of the sixteen members who participated in the training, when asked, each one said that they learned something in the four hours of training.

These were not sixteen novice riders, each one had many years of experience. (I am not saying they were old...)

The training started with some slow speed weaves to get the riders prepared for later techniques. Then we progressed to emergency stopping and limited space maneuvering. You may remember the limited space maneuvering as “the box” if you attended a Basic Rider Course (BRC) to obtain your endorsement. Since the bikes used

in the BRC were 250cc’s, the width of the box was 24 feet. The box was lengthened and widened for our much larger bikes. Lee McClellan was determined to complete

the box with the smaller margins. He came for the morning session and stayed for the afternoon session, worked diligently, and was successful!

Other exercises included gap selection, a stopping demonstration, turning from a stop (See the photo of Chase Wainwright) and the toilet bowl. If you want to know about the toilet bowl, ask someone who attended!

The morning group stayed after training and the afternoon group came early to enjoy a catered lunch of Sonny’s Barbeque courtesy of John. The fellowship and the training were wonderful. Don’t worry if you wanted to attend but were unable for some reason. FSR has scheduled more training in October, open to the public. The price is \$130. But wait, there’s more! John has

agreed to set aside one of those dates for the HOGs again. And the price is \$50, once again, for HOGs. It makes it hard to believe John rides a Hon... Hhon... Hhhond... I can’t say it. John rides a non-Harley. Many thanks to John and Florida Safe Rider!

Head and eyes! Mark

