



# GWRRRA Rider Education



## NATIONAL RIDER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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### MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS



We are into any excuse to take a cruise around the block. Such as, I need to pre-check something or pre-ride to run out stale fuel. What ever the excuse may be we are getting into the nicer weather and wanting to get out on the road. We also need to remind the other road users that we will be cruising along with them. May is Motorcycle awareness month. Yes, this is the April Newsletter but May will be here faster than getting my side stand down at the local Dairy Queen. A yellow ribbon on the antennas is a good way to signal to other road users to notice, which is our way of saying "Hey look at me".

Some Chapter's have had banners put up on the main streets in their hometown, other Chapters have had their local radio & TV stations promote awareness using the free public service bulletins. Let us all announce May as Motorcycle Awareness month.

When you head off to your May Chapter meeting take a roll of yellow ribbon, a pair scissors and cut the ribbon about 2 feet long. Have the members tie ribbons to their bike antennas. Also to their other vehicles.

### RIDER EDUCATION NATIONAL ISSUES

Bob Lorenz



During the course of the past month a couple of issues have arisen regarding Rider Education Levels Program and I want to clarify these. Please keep in mind that the purpose of the REP is to PROMOTE Rider Education and not to be used as a tool to coerce members into participating. It is intended to be a positive and constructive program.

Applications - When a member signs up or renews their level within the program, the documents supporting their certification requirements, i.e. completion cards for CPR/FA, ERC's, etc., are to be reviewed for expiration dates. If the expiration date is valid at the time they sign the application/renewal form, they are valid. It doesn't matter if the card expires 3 days from that date or a month from that date, it is valid at the time the form is signed and that is the only criteria that will be applied.

### INSIDE

1. May, MC Awareness Level Renewals
2. Levels Continued Ride Ed. Database MFA
3. MFA continued Allergies Trips
4. Rodeo Opinions Communications

We have the opportunity to remind and reinforce our program with a member whose card will expire shortly. Let's not use this in a manner that could potentially alienate a member and turn them away from the program completely.

Jim & Donna Cox will enter the information in the database based on the date the form is signed off and the records will indicate the correct renewal/application date and the expiration dates.

Non-Renewal - It has come to my attention that in several areas of the country we are informing members that non-renewal and/or not renewing at the first of the year will result in that member being demoted or reverting to Level I. This is not the case and this information is to be corrected and communication of this is to stop. We encourage members to renew during January. There are many reasons why a member may not renew at that time. If they do not, they will not be "demoted" or "revert back" but will be shown on the database as non-renewed or non-current. They will NOT be taken down to Level I but will always be shown at the highest level they have achieved. Again, this is to be a positive and constructive program and we do not want to diminish the time, energy, and effort that a member has put into the program. I have seen two recent issues of Region Newsletters that clearly stated that members will be demoted and this needs to be cleared up immediately.

If there are any questions regarding these issues, please contact me, Bob Lorenz.



This message really nails the importance of allowing the person above us in the "food chain" to see your newsletters input. Our Educators put out what we had been taught many years ago and fortunately it was finally caught and corrected. Don't focus on the

difference between revert and demote. The message still applies. It also underlines the reason we ask to see all the District Educator Monthly Newsletter Newsletters (whether as a part of the District Educator Monthly Newsletter or a separate Educator newsletter).

This is valuable feedback that makes us all stronger. The gift was certainly well received and our bruised egos will heal. We try so hard to do the right thing and ask when we are unsure. It also reminds us that if you have a question about something you don't agree with, no matter where you are in the "food chain", we hope you would have the courage to ask – and the wisdom not to treat the question as a personal attack – depending on you being the person answering or questioning.

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## Cleaning Up The Database



Jim & Donna Cox  
Asst. National Rider Ed

Believe it or not, we are still in the process of "cleaning up" the rider education database. When we started this process we first tried to get consistency in the database. Achieving that, we started "cleaning up" the Level IV's. We have replaced missing information, corrected listings and got that pretty well under control. Next we tackled Level III's. Once again, correcting information and getting them pretty well "cleaned up". Now it is time to try for the Level II's.

With renewal time underway, we need your help in "cleaning up" the Level II's. Please verify information on renewal forms. Make sure all spaces are filled in completely that need to be filled in. This will aid us in correcting and/or filling in areas that may need it.

We still need in some Districts to have the their forms marked with Chapter designations. Remember, unless you

provide us the information, we cannot enter it into the database. The Chapter designations make it much easier for the District Educators to divide up the database and distribute it to the appropriate Chapter Educators.

The rider education database is a TOOL for each and every Educator, Chapter, District, Region and National. The more COMPLETE information you provide us, the better tool it will be. If you have ideas or suggestions on how the database can be a better tool for you, let us know. We will listen.

We would like to thank the many, many people that have helped us already by providing more complete, accurate level applications. We truly could not do this without all of you.

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## MEDIC FIRST AID...



Larry Stiles

We are doing well waiting for spring and finishing out the winter days. Here in RI & MA, the weather is so nice and the Wing is sitting at home.

Many MFA Instructors are conducting classes before riding season starts. Chapter Educators are talking to new and old members on the levels program. MFA classes are going well, and new instructor classes are getting ready.

I will be flying out to Eugene, Oregon in April to do my apprenticeship in becoming an MFA Master Trainer for GWRRA. I will then be able to train Instructor Trainers for our organization. The Instructor Trainers will in turn be able to teach and certify other Instructors within GWRRA. This will make the program more accessible for all Regions and increases the availability of our program for our members everywhere.

Medic First Aid has a process to Grandfather Instructors that have been

(MFA continued)

trained and accredited from other organizations, i.e. American Red Cross, American Heart, etc. The Medic First Aid requirements are available on their website at [www.medicfirstaid.com](http://www.medicfirstaid.com). Interested Instructors will be required to purchase the Self Study Guide, the Evaluation Test and submit your application to MFA along with your credentials from another organization. Successful completion of this process will Grandfather the Instructor into the MFA program.

Only after completion of the program will an Instructor be able to purchase the MFA instructor material and videos. If a Grandfather'd Instructor wishes to designate themselves as an Independent Instructor, they simply have to notify MFA of this and be prepared to purchase the course videos and equipment. Independent Instructors may not teach under the GWRRA Corporate number.

If an Instructor wishes to teach under the GWRRA corporate number, there are a few more requirements in order to add them to our list of Instructors and allow the Instructor to use the corporate registry number. This is being required in order to ensure the great program quality for our membership.

Grandfather'd Instructors must:

- ❖ Send a copy of the MFA Instructor Application and the instructor number to the National MFA Coordinator for the GWRRA records database.
- ❖ Contact their District Educator or Region Educator to schedule a course for co-teaching and evaluation.
- ❖ Instruct a class with a designated instructor from the Region or District.
- ❖ Successfully present the MFA course and receive a good evaluation after instructing a class.
- ❖ The evaluating instructor will notify the District/Region Educator.
- ❖ The responsible Educator will then notify the National MFA Coordinator.

District Educator or Region Educator must:

- ❖ Assign an MFA Certified Instructor to instruct with and evaluate a grandfather'd Instructor.

- ❖ Notify National MFA Coordinator when Grandfather'd Instructor has completed all requirements.

Instructors have already started to become Grandfather'd into MFA. Gene Davis has had one Instructor contact him.

Many Regions and members have taken their time and effort to make this program successful. Without this effort, we would not have one of the best CPR First Aid programs in our organization.

Shortly we will have a new GWRRA CPR/First Aid Administrative Manual available. We have a few more adjustments to make. When completed this will be made available on the Rider Education website.

Currently we have Regions A, B, D, E, and F participating in the GWRRA MFA program. Region I is getting ready for their region to start moving into the program. We have our neighbor Canada looking into ways we can get this program to their members. It would be nice to get all the regions involved, but we are taking one step at a time.

Have a safe Spring and I will look for you all on the road.

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## PROTECTIVE GLOVES

### Ronnie Prater

Chapter F Educator  
Lake City Wings  
Warsaw, Indiana



I just read the National Rider Educator Newsletter. The area on the first aid kits was of particular interest. I hope you will publish this in a future edition of your newsletter.

In our chapter we have an individual who is allergic to latex and of course that is what a lot of medical gloves are made of. She has such a severe reaction that any contact with latex can prove fatal. In other words an attempt to help could lead to more damage than good. As a result all of our chapter members who have first aid kits has been asked to obtain non-latex gloves for them. I

have no idea how common this allergy is but as a precaution, I would ask that all first aid kits contain no latex. Better safe than sorry.

\*\*\*\*\*

This very good advice Ronnie, we should think to ask about allergies when practicing CPR/ First Aid or administering it.



Even latex band-aids and other items can be a problem for some members. When checking your gloves never blow into them as some contain powder and can cause a choking problem.

How many members wear or have medical ID on their person? I am guilty of this. I carry a bee sting kit but do not carry an ID that alerts I am allergic to bees. I keep saying I will get one. Perhaps, if they were made available at the rallies, more would get them?

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## Trip to the South



Linda and I traveled to South Carolina and on to Florida for our "winter get a way".

We would like to express our heart felt thanks to all the members, during our trip, who showed us their hospitality and camaraderie.

We met with members from many Chapters. We attended a meeting with Chapter F in South Carolina. There, we met members from three other Chapters. We noted their meeting dates for future trips. "Lip Smackers Restaurant" What a name for a Chapter meeting place. We can't wait to go.

We answered questions to the best of our knowledge, and then we gave them the National Director of Rider Education's email address. "Your Welcome, Bob".



(Trip continued)

You must intensify your riding plans for "SIPDE" (Scan, Identify, Predict, Decided & Execute) especially when you are around some Sport bikes. In

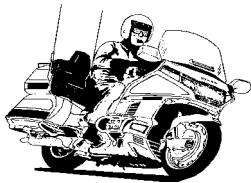
Florida, they were constantly doing wheelies and brakies. The image it gave to the non-riding public was a sore eye for all biking.

We saw any type of riding you can think of. It was easy to spot a group of Gold Wing Road Riders. They do not split lanes, they wait for traffic to clear, and they do not run on the shoulder of the roads. When in a group they were staggered at appropriate intervals, wearing helmets and cruising smoothly. That makes us proud to be a part of an Association with such good riding habits. Our Educators help to make this something to be proud of.

Many Chapters are doing parking lot practice prior to a ride. Some District's are holding a "Ride In" to help new members get informed and for some to freshen up. The next time you are recruiting a future member these are some of the items to bring to their attention. Then also explain much of this education and training is at no cost. All they need to do is come to a Chapter meeting.

Linda and I where part of the Banquet and the dedication of the Memorial for the "Daytona 200 Race". This was on the beach with quite a large audience of racers and fans. The Daytona 200 Race is the grand Race that drew riders to Daytona "Bike Week". The unveiling of the Memorial and seeing all the many race winners, reminded me of my age and why I have aches and pains.

## Rodeo



### Earl Dunkleberger

"I am Earl Dunkleberger, Dist. Educator for Okla. We are having a Gold Wing Rodeo for OK-GWRRR on April 13th. We have done this in Okla. for several years. Gordon Rozell my assistant was

the mastermind of it. It is basically practicing the turns, weave, etc. that you do in the ERC course. He just names them differently, and it is a big success. We give away a trophy for the "All round cowboy".

\*\*\*\*\*

This one was emailed to me just recently so if you are in the Oklahoma District give the Rodeo a try.



### An Opinion / A Different Opinion

#### Team Riding / Group Riding (WING WORLD April 2002)

I have taken a couple of notations from both sides of this article.

**Nick Hoppner** \*Wing World Editor

**Mike Wright** \* Executive Director

**Nick** – "I don't enjoy team riding"

**Mike** – "Unity can mean safety as opposed to riding alone."

**Nick** – "Will I be 100% percent on maintaining my speed and interval?"

**Mike** – "Most riders in a group tend to be more observant and alert in a group."

Only in the Gold Wing Road Riders Association will you can find this type of open opinions and they do not turn into a heated argument.

I tend to agree with Mike because of the last sentence he made in the article printed in Wing World.

Many of us who have been here or are new to the Association, have some team/ group rides we prefer not to talk about. Equally the same there are some we have our fondest memories. I personally have many I will talk about. I will be sending one to Nick soon about a trip to Wing Ding. I encourage all to send their articles to Wing World.

No matter whether you ride as an individual or in a group, the greatest

importance is all riders are mentally ready. Are they riding in the position they prefer to ride in? Left track vs. right track. Front or rear of the group. Take into consideration, which can stop faster – solo rider, two up, bike & trailer, bike & sidecar or Trike.

Riding by your self you have 2 or 4 eyes looking. Riding in a group of 5 Wings you have 10 or 20 eyes looking. Something to think about!

\*\*\*\*\*

As we plug in the electric clothing keep it in mind the Wing's computer must have enough volts to run. You might have to turn your (the rider) suit off so your co-rider will be warm and fuzzy. The 1500 riders have a heater, so you can share the volts. I will again impress on the difference of a comfortable ride vs. the opposite. When you are comfortable your mind is on the road. When you are distracted in any way, now your mind is being shared with the road and the distraction. The more the distraction the more unsafe the ride is.

## COMMUNICATIONS

I hope we will be soon getting the National Rider Educator newsletter to the all Chapters. When Linda & I traveled to the south we ask if they had seen the newsletter? Some Chapters had not. All Districts may not send this newsletter to their Chapter monthly but they could incorporate into their District newsletter. Thank you to those who have read it and gave us encouragement to keep stumbling along. (The real stumbling pertains to a fall I had in South Carolina).



If you have a cell phone that is no longer connected too a Cell Phone company (i.e. Alltel, Cellular, Sprint) you can still use it for an emergency. If the phone is charged-up, you can dial 911 at anytime and get help, if 911 Service is available in the area you are in. There is no cost involved

### Ride Safe