

# Gold Wing Road Riders Association



## Rider Education Program

*National Newsletter...*



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## The Rider Education Program is moving forward...

We had outstanding Membership participation in our Rider Education Program at Wing Ding. Thanks to all of our volunteers that helped make this a great success. Your service and contribution to this event is greatly appreciated by all. Coming in to Wing Ding, I had my reservations as to whether we were completely prepared for the event. All I can say is the outstanding team of Region, District and Chapter Educators, along with our Rider Course Instructors, Seminar Presenters and MFA Instructors, pulled together and worked extraordinarily well with the National Rider Education team to put on a very smooth running event, performing well beyond anything I could have imagined. We had no complaints and nothing but praise from our Membership.

All scheduled events were held except for the "Drill Team Exhibition". Unfortunately we experienced rain the morning of, and after pushing the start time back two hours, we finally had to cancel the event. We were able to get Top Gun in, so it wasn't a complete wash out.

For those that were unable to make it to Wing Ding, you missed a great party. We have had a team review of Wing Ding 31 and plans are in the works to make next year's Wing Ding in Des Moines, IA even more entertaining for our Membership.

Each year at the Wing Ding Master Breakfast we have our Annual Rider Education Award ceremony. This year Charles Schultz, Region K Educator, was named "Educator of the Year". Below is a picture of Lori and I making the presentation to Charles.



Congratulation to Charles for being an outstanding Region Educator and the recipient of this year's "Educator of the Year" award.

Also during the award ceremony we awarded "Rider Education Merit Awards" recognizing a few of the many outstanding GWRRA members that contribute so much to the GWRRA Rider Education Program. This year recipients were:

- Jesse Sammons- Region A- SC-E Chapter Educator
- Eldon "Buddy" Shirley- Region A- Mississippi SDE
- Joe Mazza- Region A- Florida DE
- Tim Grimes- Region B ARE- Maryland DE
- Randy Westcott- Region D- Michigan DE
- Larry Oberholtzer- Region D- OH-V Chapter Educator
- Robert Lake- Region E- ARE- Nebraska DE
- David Gormley- Region F- AZ-A Chapter Educator
- William "Bill" McBride- Region H- Arkansas DE
- Mike Jastram- Region H- Louisiana DE
- Dennis Joynt- Region H- Kansas SDE
- Harry Dollarhide- Region H Director
- Stan Woychuk- Region J- AB-B Chapter Educator

Over the last few months our program has had outstanding participation with the renewals of current participants' requirements and a surge of new participants in our program. The National Rider Education Staff would like to thank all of our dedicated Officers helping to make this happen, especially our Chapter Educators. Without their commitment to administer the program at the Chapter Level, our program would never reach our Membership. We acknowledge this and are here to serve our Chapter Educators to provide them the "tools of the trade" to educate our GWRRA family.

Speaking of the "tools of the trade" we're continuing to move forward updating our Rider Education material. Here are a few of the items on our plate.

#### **Seminars:**

Most of our Seminars have been recently updated giving them a fresh look with new graphics and illustrations. We will continue to review and update them as needed.

We have decided to create a new Seminar called "Street Strategies". Using information from GWRRA sources and outside sources, this Seminar will focus on conflicts a motorcyclist will encounter in everyday riding and strategies on how to prepare and minimize the risks these bring. We are very excited about this new Seminar and plan to have it released in early 2010.

#### **Rider Course Updates:**

The "consistency project", that Bob Berry started last winter with Jerry Borge (CA District) regarding our Rider Course programs, showed great results at Wing Ding. Firsthand observation at Wing Ding illustrated that the new curriculum is right on and has great flow. The comments from the participants reflected this in their "Student Evaluations". Bob and his team have done an outstanding job in refining our Rider Course program curriculum. They are continuing to evaluate the programs and already have identified additional improvements they will be making.

The GWRRA Rider Course Instructor Training is still in full swing with RCICPs being held in Alabama and Texas over the next two months. The fruits of our efforts were evident at Wing Ding with 1/3 of the Rider Course Instructors having been trained through our GWRRA RCICP program.

Bob Berry and I would like to recognize three new Rider Course Master Instructors.

- Bruce Thayer, Region D, Michigan District
- Robert Lake, Region E, Nebraska District
- Chuck Caldwell, Region N, Tennessee District

Having Master Instructors in the field is an important key to the continuing success of our Rider Course Instructor Training. They have three primary roles in our program.

- Conducting Quality Reviews of our Instructors
- Conducting annual Rider Course updates reviewing the latest material and ensuring we're all teaching from the same playbook.
- Conducting ICC (Instructor Certification Class) for current instructors who wish to cross train in other GWRRA Rider Courses.

We are grateful to have these outstanding members stepping up to ensure that our program continues to have the finest integrity possible.

#### **Introduction of Parade Teams:**

This is an exciting new program that is the dream child of Jim Graybeal, Director- Drill Teams. Jim's idea is to put together training material that Chapters, Districts and Regions can use to form Parade Teams for Grand Parades, Light Parades, or any event like this, that Chapters, Districts or Regions will be conducting. Their purpose would be to lead the parade, just behind the flag bearers, and conduct precision maneuvers to jazz up the parade and entertain the crowds. Many Members are excited about this and Jim is currently working on the preliminary material. Our plan is to have this available for use in the spring of 2010.

As always we're here to serve the needs of our membership and are interested in your ideas to help further our cause.

Thanks for everything you do and being a part of this great program,  
Mike and Lori Stiger  
Directors- Rider Education

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### **MFA Program getting it done at the Region, District Level...**

Hope that everyone attending Wing Ding had a great time. Due to scheduling, we had to fly there. We left Providence, RI in rain and 59 degrees, got to Tulsa, OK and it was sunny and 103 degrees. Had a great week and returned home again to cold and rain.

What a time for MFA! With the outstanding work being done in all the Regions we had the lowest student count in eight years. We only trained 11 in Basic and 11 in recertification. This shows what great work the GWRRA MFA Trainer coordinators, Trainers, and Instructors have done to take the program where it belongs; in the Regions and Districts. The members can now come to Wing Ding to enjoy the great time and take advantage of other training they may need.

We want to thank Richard Morgan, Region A, Robert & Angela Williams, Region D, and Gary & Marge Mason, Region E for coming forward and teaching the students who did take the time to take the Basic or

Recertification classes. Their hard work again shows the dedication to help our members in this life saving program.

We also would like to congratulate the following members for becoming new MFA Trainers in their regions.

- Eugene Knutson, Region N, New Region MFA Trainer Coordinator
- Betty Knutson, Region N, New Region MFA Trainer Coordinator
- Rex Prince, Region A
- Tina Prince, Region A
- Steve Beckhaus, Region H, New Region MFA Trainer Coordinator
- Terri Beckhaus, Region H, New Region MFA Trainer Coordinator
- Steve Gates, Region D
- William Price, Region B
- Richard Morgan, Region A

Enjoy the rest of the summer and may you all ride safe and ride smart,

Larry & Rhonda Stiles  
Director- First Aid and CPR

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### **A Note from Jim and Nan...**

Hello to all Educators,

First we want to say "Thank You!" to everyone that worked with us at Wing Ding 31. We could not have done what we did without each of you teaching, instructing, working at the Rider Education Booth and helping the way you did. We really appreciate you helping the members and us.

We are already looking at ways we can improve to make thing even better next year. So if you have any suggestions please feel free to let us know.

As we continue to improve the Data Bases we ask you to remind your folks to send their renewals in to us so we can issue their new cards as soon as possible.

Remember if you need anything we are only an email or phone call away.

Thank you again!

Until next time, Ride Safe and Often  
Jim and Nan Hall  
Assistant Directors- Rider Education