



GWRRA Rider Education



NATIONAL RIDER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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Happy Valentines Day

Hope you and your special valentine have a wonderful day.

Get Well Wishes



We wish a speedy recovery to Sue Lorenz with her recent surgery. We have you in our thoughts and prayers. Snuggle up to your new puppy and let Bob be “Mr. Mom”



Some of us can start our thoughts about getting out on the road again. Some will do it a little sooner than others will. Those of us in the Artic cold air will have to go with the electric suits to keep us warm even without the motorcycle.



Ground Hog Day February 2nd.

The furry animal call Punxsutawney Phil will be giving his six-week forecast of good or bad weather. He is the ultimate in weather forecasting. Probably closer to being right than the weather channel. He is a small rodent that brings three national television networks and thousands of folks to a very cold, early morning to see if he can see his shadow. That will determine if there will be six more weeks of winter. I cannot see how he could miss it. Three networks of lights and a thousand of flash's from cameras. Now Phil has a cousin in Ohio, “Buckeye Chuck”. I am sure there are a few other cousins out there.

INSIDE

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4. Help for newsletter articles cont., Riding tips, Closure time

(Punzatawany Phil continued)

I am not opposed to the fun or expense it cost to put this national event on. I am curious on how some things attract the attention of many. Try to get that much attention to a Motorcycle Safety bill in congress. When we start to talk safety, most audiences get a deaf ear or will leave the area.

As Rider Educators, we accept those at the seminar; they have good reasons to be there. They want to learn and/or refresh their previous learning. These members give us that instant satisfaction. We go the extra mile hoping we reach all that may learn the skills they need for their safety.



Thanks to all who helped Linda and I complete our first year as Newsletter Editors. It has been fun. We plan to continue to pass on communications to the Regions, Districts and the Chapter Educators. The replies and comments we receive have been positive and we thank you for that.



MEDIC FIRST AID®

Is it winter? For some they would say YES, when they look out and see snow on top of snow. I am sitting here writing this article and looking out and seeing beautiful sun, but then I look and see the temperature. Then, I too say, "YES it is winter" since it is only 11 degrees outside.

What can we do during the winter; we have excellent instructors in many organizations like MEDIC FIRST AID®, American Red Cross (ARC), and American Heart (AH). These fine Instructors are waiting and willing to come to a Chapter meeting or function and train our members in the Life Saving courses of CPR and First Aid. Several years ago, GWRRA started a program within GWRRA to help our members get these very important classes at a reasonable and affordable cost. We had looked at ARC or AH to be able to use them throughout the USA but could not. We choose MEDIC FIRST AID®, because it was just as good as the others and we could go throughout our great country without fear of not being able to teach these classes to our members with our own excellent Instructors.

The entire history on MFA® can be obtained from MFA website at www.medicfirstaid.com MEDIC

FIRST AID® was started in 1980. It was called Emergency Medical Planning or EMP, and it reflected the merging of Professional Level Emergency (Medic) with Lay Rescuers (First Aid) to create a continuity of care. On April 1, 2002, EMP America INC. and EMP International INC. merged to one corporation, which is now called MEDIC FIRST AID® INTERNATIONAL, INC. This was done to stop confusion, to simplify purposes, and to better reflect the company's purpose. When you hear MEDIC FIRST AID®, you know there is over twenty-five years of commitment to give students superior response training products.

There is now more than 79,000 instructors in over 140 countries that have taught MFA® training to over 8 million people. We can be very proud of being part of this. GWRRA has become very well known in MEDIC FIRST AID® because of our continued efforts to train and teach our members these life saving programs at a very low cost to our members.

GWRRA can also be very proud of the Instructors in American Red Cross and American Heart Assoc. They have also done an outstanding job in training our members. I commend all Instructors in their efforts to help our members.

Since most of us cannot now ride, now is a good time to get our members trained. All should be setting schedules for our members to be able to go to a class where CPR and First Aid is being taught.

The very core of education in our organization, lies with our Chapter Educators. With support from the District and Region Educators. I would like Region Educators to send to me, via email, numbers that reflect what the membership is receiving in the area of CPR and First Aid. Though some think, I am only interested in MFA®, I am also very interested in how many of our members are receiving these classes with other organizations. If you would please send this information to me. I can track this information.



REPORTING

I know many members start at the beginning of the New Year updating requirements needed to keep their Levels current. Hope you also turned in the numbers for the seminars taught. The numbers from the seminars taught are very important to our Association. The numbers show we are an Education active Association. It shows our members care to ride with safety knowledge, which tells the Insurance institute we are concerned safe riders. It sets a good example for the other motorcycle groups. They see we take the time to educate and learn the new techniques.

Rider Educators, keep up the great work. Our Association receives awards for the seminars, training and the mark we make in the rider education field. We set the bar high. Other groups wish they had a record close to the one that the Gold Wing Road Riders Association. The accomplishments in our Association are also copied. Copying is the best form of flattery. Thanks for a job well done.



MFA® CLASSES

Listed is the schedule of MFA® classes at Wing Ding. I need your help in getting MFA® Instructors for these classes. The schedule shows how many Instructors I will need. I know everyone has other things to do but we need to schedule MSF Riding Courses also. Some of our Instructors instruct both types of classes, so it is imperative that I can get this schedule done soon. When we know how many Instructors are available we also know how many students we can train at Wing Ding.

If we find that we have a need for two classrooms, based on the registrations we receive, we will increase the number of classes and MFA® Instructors.

July 1. Tuesday: Full Day

Class for new students that have never had CPR or First Aid.

Class will start at 8 a.m. & be completed by 5 p.m. (inc. Lunch break)

Two Instructors

July 2 Wednesday: 2 – ½ Day

MFA® Care Initiator (about 4 Hrs)

First class will start at 8 a.m.

Second Class will start at 1 p.m.

Two Instructors each class

(Instructors may teach one or both)

July 3. Thursday: 2 – ½ Day

Care Initiator program (about 4 Hrs)

First Class will start **9 a.m.**

Second Class will start at 1 p.m.

Two Instructors for each class

(Instructors may teach one or both)

July 4. Friday: 1 – ½ Day

MFA® Care Initiator (about 4 Hrs)

One Class due to closing ceremony

Class will start at 8 a.m.

Two Instructors

I want to thank all of you for the outstanding job you are doing and look forward to seeing all of you at Wing Ding 2003.



Trike Training

As our Association is on the upswing of new members, we are also increasing the number of those riding Trikes, the Trike Special Interest Group (SIG) group has been asking for more trike training. The above picture does not depict the training

Bob Dudley from Paducah, Kentucky has worked with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to allow the Trike and Side Car Course to be held. The course will be on Saturday and Sunday April 12 & 13, 2003. The course will be from 8 AM to 5 PM. Contact Carolyn Higgins at 270-744-8866. The cost will be \$85.00. This course is a recognized training curriculum for the GWRRA REP Program and represents a milestone for our Association to get training in a needed area.

We wish to thank all whom were responsible for this event to happen. I know how difficult it can be to get those who are in power to listen to your reasons, for a project that is very much needed. Just to name a few of the hurdles that stood in the way of this event.

- Not enough numbers to justify
- Better use of funds elsewhere
- No National course certification
- Instructors and sponsors must follow state laws

I am sure there are more, of course. The reason that really gets my hair to stand up is “You only want this training to keep your Rider Education Program levels current” I have also been told that all trike riders have ridden a two wheel motorcycle so the adjustment to riding a trike should require very little training, if any. We have members who started on a Trike and have never ridden a two-wheel

motorcycle. What available training did they have?

We wish to thank all the people, in Kentucky, for their help again. We hope more Districts, can get through the red tape and be able to schedule one or two Trike classes a year. We need to get our Trike riding members the proper techniques to improve their skills for safe riding.



Helpful Hints for Newsletter Articles

1. Look for something that will pertain to the current time of year when you are writing the article.
Spring, summer or fall.
2. Remember you are writing to all members new and old. **Repeating articles can be good for new members and for reinforcing our long-term members.**
3. Keep it moving; too much detail can lose the average reader. **You can have too much Tec talk, explaining how electric moves through a wire or the principals of a radial tire vs. a belted tire.**
4. Build up to the subject with light humor if possible. **It makes the reading more interesting.**
5. Try not to use your name too often in the article, even if you where a part of it. **It leans toward you looking for a pat on the back.**
6. Always give due credit to where you found the article. Chapter member, magazine, newspaper where ever the article came from. Credit can be in the title or in the article. **Members like the recognition and it will prevent controversy in the future.**
7. When reprinting articles, keep it exactly the same or state where

you are inserting any changes including your opinion. **You may be in trouble for changing an article when stating someone else wrote the article.**

8. If you need help from your Chapter newsletter editor for laying out the article, ask them.
9. Keep open for comments or new ideas. **Does not mean you have to follow all advice given.**
10. You do not have to be a wizard with words. **You have a variety of reader skill levels.**
11. You want to get your point across in general terms. Use words and phrases that everyone can relate. **Do not use too many .50 words.**
12. If you use an acronym, explain what it means, at least once. **(Ea. MSF – Motorcycle Safety Foundation).**

Most members are not reading newsletters to articulate how you wrote the article. They want information about their interest of safety, motorcycles, riding and fun.



Areas to Find Newsletter Articles

1. <http://www.gwrra.org>/Gold Wing Road Riders Association Rider Education Newsletters
2. http://www.geocities.com/regiond/rider_ed.htm
GWRRR Regional
3. <http://www.ohiogwrra.org/>
GWRRR District of Ohio
4. <http://www.msf-usa.org/>
Motorcycle Safety Foundation
5. <http://www.state.oh.us/odps/mo/>
Motorcycle Ohio – Rider Courses

6. <http://www.amacycle.org/index.asp>
America Motorcycle Association
7. <http://www.motorcyclegearreview.com/>
Motorcycle Gear Review

Articles for Review



There are many magazines and newspaper articles to find. Here are a few that are easy to find.

1. Wing World (Gold Wing Road Riders Association)
2. American Motorcyclist(American Motorcyclist Association)
3. Motorcycle Consumer News
4. Honda Red Rider (Honda Rider's Club of America)
5. Women On Wheels



Things to Purchase

Many books have valuable information you can purchase. Examples below can be purchased through Whitehorse Press.

1. *Proficient Motorcycling* – David Hough
2. *Street Strategies* – David Hough
3. *A Twist of the Wrist* – Keith Code
4. *Motorcycling Excellence* – MSF
5. *National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety* - NHTSA

Some of the previous suggestions are articles and addresses I use in Ohio. You can find similar areas in your own Region or District.



VS

DRIVING SYSTEM

This time of the year, it is a good time to re-enforce some good riding techniques. A good topic to pick would be something that could be used when driving their cars such as the technique of SEE (Scan, Evaluate and Execute). Compare the action of the motorcycle vs. four-wheel vehicles. Have the member's practice the head checks when changing lanes and use that turn signal. The driving technique of four wheels vs. riding a motorcycle is similar, although there are more actions when riding a motorcycle. If we practice the SEE process in a four-wheeler then perhaps the process will be there when you ride your motorcycle. Bad habits are hard to break but developing good habits are the ones you do not want to loose.



CLOSURE

Closing time and I am not talking of one for the road closing time. When we approach an object from behind, we must first put our Scan in to gear. Look for an out. Path of least resistance. Then the next step Evaluate, how fast are we closing in on this object. This judgment has to be made in seconds. Remember you are travel 88 feet per second at 60 mph. Then Execute; cover clutch, brake lever, feet over shifter & rear brake pedal or roll on throttle.

All these items can be used in many different situations. You may need to panic stop, if so, do not forget to tell your co-rider you are doing a fast stop. If you need to pass the slower object, you are ready to shift and move on. As I always say, "Every situation is like a snow flake. they are all different" You have to adapt the SEE process to each situation and after the hazard has passed, you will be glad you had some Rider Education.