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# GWRRRA Rider Education



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## GROUNDHOG DAY



Will that furry animal see his shadow? How can he not? Have you ever seen the media coverage and lights on this pet? I guess Cabin Fever is setting in big time if that's all we have to do.



The riding season will soon begin. Although some members ride all year, even they have days of lay up and do not travel as many long trips. Normally we ride to a Chapter meeting or for ice cream and/or a feed bag ride.

Since you are not riding regularly, you will want to prepare for the season with shorter trips to start out before you reach for bigger and better things.

Remember head turns!! Start to practice that chin to shoulder look. You can do this in your four wheels while you check for blind spots. Do not cheat! You are only cheating guess who? Make that chin touch that shoulder. If it was an itty bitsy bikini your head would turn that far.

## **“Make A Difference”**

Webster's new world Dictionary

**Make** – Is the general term meaning to bring into being and

may imply a producing of something physically or mentally.

**A** – (Abbrev). About

**Difference** – Condition, quality, fact, or instance of being different

The motto of “Make a Difference” can mean a variety of things to you the member. But we, as Educators, should strive to “Make a Difference” to members who are unaware of the knowledge of safety and riding courses.

Rider Education Seminars, Medic First Aid® classes, riding classes are there part of the Education in our Association. They are there for YOU!!!

To sum it up YOU can “Make a Difference”.

## INSIDE

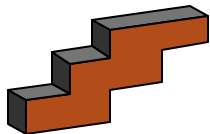
1. **Groundhog Day, Riding Again, Make a Difference**
2. **National Rider Education Newsletter, Chapter Leadership Unity**
3. **Chapter Leadership Unity, Winning Chapter Formula, MEDIC FIRST AID®,**
4. **MEDIC FIRST AID®, Cold Winter Riding, Safe Cycling**



# NATIONAL RIDER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Often we are asked how to get the National Rider Ed. Newsletter? I will make an attempt to explain, hopping you, the member, will receive. National Rider Education Newsletter is to be forwarded down the line for communications.

## NATIONAL



## MEMBERS

1. The Newsletter will be sent from myself, [GWdatadoc@AOL.COM](mailto:GWdatadoc@AOL.COM), to the National Staffs and Regional. We send it to all Regional Directors and Regional Educators.
2. It is then to be sent to all District Directors and District Educators.
3. The District Educator is to send it to the Chapter Educator, if the Chapter has no Educator, then to the Chapter Director.
4. The material from the National Newsletter is then to be used in other newsletters or it can be used for topics at a Chapter meeting.
5. Having a copy at a meeting for the member to read can work also!!

The officers listed on the first page of the National Rider Education Newsletter write very important articles to be passed on to the members. Even with the invention of email to send important messages or newsletters quickly, email is not always the correct answer since everyone doesn't have computers. We make changes in the Rider Education Handbook, how and where to send Level Applications, what is new in Medic First Aid®, new changes in the Rider Education Rider Course Program, plus many safety articles.

These articles are not to be ignored. I cannot emphasize enough to get this information to the members, they need it and they want it.

We ask around to see if the members are getting a National Newsletter, most do not know that it exist.

Although the Regions and District are to forward this newsletter to the Chapters, they can also explain to the members how to go and find it on the home page.

## GO TO GWRRA.ORG

### CLICK ON SITES

### CLICK ON RIDER ED.

### CLICK ON NEWSLETTERS

While we are talking about the National Newsletter articles make sure you read this month's article from the Region D Rider Educator, Mike Stiger.

This is the way the newsletter is intended to be used:

1. You have an article, send it to any of the International Officers listed on page one and it will be reviewed.
2. They will forward it to us or if we have it we will print it in the newsletter for all to read.

I will thank you in advance for sending this communication to all. Please, I don't want it to be GWRRA's best kept secret.

# STATISTICS

We have just attended a motorcycle safety information meeting and the riding course stats were presented to us. GWRRA members can hold their head high. The Education with in our Association has everyone looking at us as good examples. We are being copied and that is a great form of flattery.

The education goes beyond riding course's, to the Medic First Aid® Program, the Seminars, Chapter talks and Newsletters.

One of the concerns given and where many incidents are occurring, is when there is a pause in riding. This is the time between the last motorcycle and the next one. The usual averaged is six years. You have heard the story, "When the kids came I had to sell my bike". The person still has an endorsement, knows how to ride because they did before. And in the six years of non-riding many things change or are forgotten. Technical knowledge of the motorcycle, horse power, heavier traffic and six years of age add to the problem.

The wrap up information is to continue to educate, inform, practice and wear proper attire. Practice good habits; do not be offended when someone gives you good critiquing, about your driving. You could talk to an Instructor or take a riding course to see if your friend is right, only a friend will tell you and they are a friend by trying to save you from an incident.

## Chapter Leadership Unity

### "The Makings of a Successful Chapter"

By  
Mike and Lori Stiger  
Region D Educators

Often times I hear conversations in jest about them and us, Operations and Education. I know that people are just joking around. However, the conversations can be counter-productive. Without realizing it those comments can create barriers that can prevent a unified Leadership front for our Chapter members to follow. The unfortunate thing about this is that it can affect the true potential success of a Chapter. In the member's eyes, the Chapter leadership is who GWRRA is. Their contact with the District,

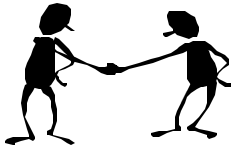
Regional or National Staff is limited to only a few events a year. So you are the "Tip of the Spear". The opinion that members form of GWRRA is primarily based on the

(Chapter Leadership Unity cont.)

Chapter Leadership's actions and comments. That is why a unified leadership team with a common positive voice is so important for a successful Chapter.

People join GWRRA because of their Dream. Their Dream of experiencing the freedom of riding their Motorcycle with friends with a common interest. They stay because of the "value added" things they receive from experiencing our motto, "Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge". Only the combined efforts of Operations and Education working together as a team with a single positive voice will produce a Chapter environment where the membership flourishes and grows.

## Operations + Education



### A Winning Chapter Formula!

By  
**Mike and Lori Stiger**  
Region D Educators

As Region Educator I have the opportunity to view and evaluate why some Chapters are more successful than others. I have found that success is directly linked to the teamwork of the Chapter leadership. When the Chapter Director and the Chapter Educator are unified as a team the Chapter simply clicks. This is true in many aspects of our lives. A parental unified front is importation when raising our children. In Business, the teamwork between the managerial direction and engineering technology leads to a successful company. In our public schools when the administrators and teachers work together as a team the students receive a better education. There are many examples where good teamwork leads to a successful outcome in all aspects of our lives.

However "Lip Service" alone does not demonstrate good teamwork. It is said that actions speak louder than words. Through our actions we demonstrate how good our teamwork is. For instance, for a Chapter Director to encourage their members to participate in the Levels program without actively participating themselves, the program will not be as effective. Likewise, for an Educator to encourage good attendance to an organized Chapter function only to never attend and/or help organize the ride is also sending the wrong signals. It is important for both the Operation and Education personnel to work together as a team in all functions and programs within a Chapter.

We talk a lot about the need for better retention of our members to sustain a healthy association. What I have witnessed is that retention and growth takes care of itself in those Chapters with a strong leadership team working together providing fun activities coupled with a strong educational program.

Motorcycling is a risky business and the founding members of GWRRA realized this when they created our motto, "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge". Members join our association to have Fun on their motorcycle. One of the reasons they stay is because of the "value added" benefits like our Rider Education program. Remember as Educators you are their "Dream Makers". You provide the opportunity for them to gain the knowledge and skill to help minimize their risk. It requires both Operations and Education working as a team for our members to truly have Fun in their motorcycling adventure with us. So let us all set forth with a New Year's resolution to be sure to work together as a team with our associates on the operation side to insure that our Chapter members are getting the most out of "Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge".

### EDITOR, BILL

We, on the International Rider Ed. Staff, greatly support this article. It

is also saying for us to communicate to all. We are in office to work for the member. There is no Mr. or Mrs. Chapter. The Chapter belongs to the members and as an officer we are to listen to their wants and needs and try to support and grant these actions in the best interest of all.



### MEDIC FIRST AID®

By  
**Larry & Rhonda Stiles**  
ASST.  
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR  
MEDIC FIRST AID®

After the "Blizzard of 05" we can look out the window to see 30 inches of snow and up to five feet of snow drifts, and hear that we may get another 6 to 8 inches on top of it all. Everyone is complaining and would like to know where to put it all.

Sometimes we hear this at Chapter meetings. How can we do this and that and we just don't have time. Teaching our members the life saving program for their self-worth or for the levels program takes some time and effort. Chapter Educators make time and a place to have this training; we have many wonderful instructors out there willing to teach this class. Let's make sure our membership has what they need. Don't listen to the excuses, Just do it.

All MEDIC FIRST AID® Instructors, Trainers and Coordinators, please be aware of a new guideline in MEDIC FIRST AID®. We must be sure to use the full name all in CAPITAL LETTERS whenever we are talking about this program.

This is a copyright requirement and must be used this way, as I have it showing. We can still use MFA® when just talking about the program or in a little message, but when we use it in an article we must use the full name with the trademark symbol (®).

(MFA@ continued)

New DVD's have been produced and are now on sale. If you are tired of the Basic "Video", they now have it on "DVD" which is simpler to use with less hassle. The DVD Basic includes: Care Initiator and AED, just like the VHS and the cost is \$295. This may be a less costly way for any District or Region coming on board.

We have had a good number of students taught per Region in 2004. I will have the numbers out by the next article so you may see how good the Regions have done.

To all Trainers, I still need the listings of who renewed for 2005. All renewals were mailed to you in December and I should have your list of renewals and non-renewals by now. Please forward them ASAP so I can keep my records up to date.

Bob Lorenz and other Staff members have worked hard to update the REP. Please take a look at it; we have updated the MEDIC FIRST AID® section as well.

Wing Ding will be coming up quickly and I am looking for some Instructors to cover the CPR/First Aid classes we will be having. We are going forward with the same two classes a day, morning and afternoon, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and one class on Thursday morning. We will have also have classes for new students and recertification each day.

We will need two instructors per class with a maximum of 24 students. I need a total of 26 Instructors, so far I have 8. This is a great time for any instructor who has not taught a class or wants more training to get involved. If interested, please contact your MEDIC FIRST AID® Trainer or Coordinator as soon as possible. If you are having a problem contacting them, feel free to email me at [larrystiles@msn.com](mailto:larrystiles@msn.com). You can also go to the GWRRA website [www.gwrro.org](http://www.gwrro.org), Rider Education

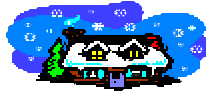
area or International Staff listing and email me from there.

I also would like to have the shirt sizes of all Instructors who notify us they will be instructing classes at Wing Ding, so I can take care of that at the same time.

For those of us in the cold climate dreaming of spring and the Wings coming out again, stay warm and stay safe. Those in the warm states loving the riding, think of us that can't ride and also stay safe.

Have a wonderful 2005 and see all of you at Wing Ding in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

## COLD WINTER RIDING



Poor Larry and Rhonda buried in the snow.

I saw a V-Star today on the highway. It was (zero) at 7 am. There was salt dust flying up from the tires as he went cruising by.

The dust is hazardous in many ways. Chrome and aluminum do not like it.

If it is spread too thick on the roadways, tires do not have the traction they need. Cold tires also do not have as much traction. If you ever saw a NASCAR race, you can see the drivers moving the car side to side to warm the tires for more traction.

The suspension is also at a slower than normal action due to all the parts and oil being cold. Take time to warm the parts of your motorcycle before and during the ride in frigid weather. The wind chill, while riding, will not let parts warm up. It is good to check how cold the temperature is and remember the wind chill keeps the Bike parts temperature lower.

What about our body temperatures? Hypothermia is a creature that can sneak up on you. Many have the

heated grips, gloves, jackets, pants and all the electric warming items. Remember you are warm but there are some body parts that are not covered with electric and you will still have to be careful not to let hypothermia set in.

I think we have more of a problem with members riding off during a warm afternoon and not preparing for the cold ride home. Try to always plan for the extreme, then if it you do not need the extra, it did not cost you any thing.

MSF



Which of the visual leads (2 seconds, 4 seconds, and 12 seconds) is the most important? All three are important.

- ◇ In the terms of sequence, the 2 second minimum following distance is most important because not having this distance to brake and/ or swerve in an emergency makes the others moot.
- ◇ In terms of time and space management, the 4 second immediate path is the most important because if a rider has this much time to respond to factors ahead, a collision may be avoided,
- ◇ In terms of overall awareness of traffic and road conditions, the 12 second anticipated path is the most important because a rider will have time to adjust to changing conditions ahead.

As a point of reference these times were developed based on research by the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility in the late 1960s. An understanding and proper application of the visual leads is a key part of the overall strategy a rider should use to avoid trouble.



Happy Valentines Day