

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Rider Education Program

National Newsletter...



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Announcing your new Education Directors...

Mike and Lori Stiger
Director- Rider Education

First let me say that Lori and I are humbled with the overwhelming support we have received through emails and phone calls over the last two weeks. We thank you for this. My first order of business has been to get our National team in order so that we have a smooth transition. I'm fortunate to have some very talented Region Educators who have agreed to join the team and are prepared to get things moving forward. There may be a few bumps in the road ahead but we'll work through them.

With that being said, it is my pleasure to announce two appointments to the National Rider Education team.

Jim and Nan Hall, Region N Educators appointed as:
Assistant Director- Rider Education

Contact Info:
1753 Heritage Drive, Clarksville, TN. 37043
Phone: (931) 647-5720 Cell: (931) 624-2307
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Duties and responsibilities:

Database Administrator for: Levels Program, Seminar Presenter, and Rider Course Instructor
Head a task force to continually improve the new REP Database just setup at National.

Ron and Pam Lantz, Region A Educators appointed as:
Assistant Director- Rider Education

Contact Info:
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RegionAEducator@aol.com

Duties and responsibilities:

PLP Facilitator Program, Senior Educator Program, Quarterly Activity Reports, Survivor Program, and a new program, called "Give me 5", designed to archive short 5 minute topic briefs as a resource for our Chapter Educators to use at their monthly meeting.

Remaining on the National Rider Education Staff:

Milt Sorensen, Assistant Director - Rider Education
Oversight of Canadian Rider Education Operations

Bob Berry, Director - Rider Course Programs
Training/Certification Rider Course Instructor

Larry and Rhonda Stiles, Director - CPR/First Aid
Medic First Aid Programs, Administration and Instructor Training/Certification

Charles and Nancy Mallett, Director- Motorist Awareness

Jim Graybeal, Director- Drill Teams

Also **Bill Haggerty**, who is currently the Canadian RE/Operations Webmaster, has agreed to also maintain the National Rider Education Website.

Ron and Pam, along with Jim and Nan will be a positive addition to the National Rider Education team. Please extend your congratulations to them on their appointment.

Second order of business:

There have been commitments made to make improvements to the Rider Education Program. Among those improvements three areas stand out. They are the National Website, online Rider Education Database, and the Rider Education Handbook.

National Website:

Currently the National Rider Education website is reorganized and updated. I have changed the effected forms with the correct mailing names and addresses. I am not aware of any other changes to the forms that are needed. Download the new forms N.13, N.14, N.15, N.16 and N.22. Another change that has been made is that the Motorist Awareness seminars will be password protected as the RE seminars currently are. In addition, the N.15 now includes the two Motorist Awareness Seminars as approved choices in renewing your seminar certification.

There is a brand new Co-Rider Seminar that we have just released for use. Thanks to Gene and Betty Knutson and Jim and Nan Hall this new Co-Rider presentation is much improved and will be a great addition to our program.

Two more updated seminars (Road Captain and Motorcycling for Mature Riders) will be released in the next few weeks. We will let you know as soon as they are available. While we're on this point, if there are any Rider Education Seminars that you have developed and would like to see added to our program please send them to us for consideration. Keeping our educational material fresh and exciting for our membership is a good thing.

Online Rider Education Database:

As you may have heard progress has been made. I'll be honest the roll out didn't go as planned. I guess things are not as easy as they look at first glance. The problem wasn't with the database itself, rather it was with the data we were trying to put into it. You know the expression "Bad in Bad out" or something similar. So we stepped back and evaluated what we needed to do.

We combined all of the 32,500 entrees from all of the Regions and Districts into one consolidated record and repaired duplications, formatting issues, etc. We have recorded all of the corrections onto a spread sheet for future reference. This time the data went in without a hiccup. During the initial preview of the system there were many good suggestions of things we needed to correct, change, or delete. Currently we're making those improvements to the system. We anticipate that this will be completed in the next couple days. I want to put it through a trial de-bug run with the National Staff before releasing back to the Regions for data entry. The good news is the second time should be the charm.

Once released, the system will need a "Tool Box" of features, which allow for custom reporting, bulk data entry, specific levels of access and so on. I have assigned Jim and Nan Hall to head up a task force to address where we go from here. If you want to be a part of this team that will be working on this development, please contact Jim Hall. One of the other things this team can help with is to assist others in using the system. Our very own "Geek Squad". So please lend your help to Jim and Nan.

Rider Education Handbook:

OK, it is time for it to get done and it will be done very quickly. This is not because I have a magic wand; it is because of the dedication of Tony Van Schaick who had been diligently working on it and a fired-up staff wanting to make it happen. Currently the first six sections have been tweaked and are now in staff review. Within a couple of weeks the rest of the Handbook will be edited and in review. Once were finished our plan is to have the Region Educators review for their input. Once reviewed and accepted, with Melissa's approval, we will post it on the website. Our target date is March 1st and our team is determined to make this happen.

It has been a busy couple of weeks and our team is making good headway. I would like to give Mark & Mary Zingery, Tony & Michelle Van Schaick and Dave & Anne Hay, a very big "Thank You" for the time and dedication they have given to the Rider Education Program. Because of their efforts, and those before them, this program has grown to be one of the finest in the world. GWRRA is blessed to have so many talented members willing to give of themselves for the benefit of all. Working as a team, we will continue to break new ground as we move forward.

Lastly I would like to announce two new Region Educator Appointments.

Chuck and Anne Reed have been appointed as the new Region Educators for Region A.
Gene and Betty Knutson have been appointed as the new Region Educators for Region N.

Both of these are outstanding couples and share our dream to grow our program so every member has ample opportunity to participate. Please join me in congratulating them on their new appointment. Look for both of these Regions to have a Rider Course Instructor Certification Program (RCICP) this year. If you would like to be a part of our Rider Course Instructor core give them a call or check our REP home page for classes close to you.

A quick note regarding the appointment process of Educators. In my case the Director- Rider Education appoints the Region Educators with the consensus of the Region Directors. I found that it worked quite well. Both the Directors and I first agreed on a list of candidates and then we both interviewed all of them. I'd like to add that all of the candidates were worthy and accomplished members and I appreciate their dedication to our program. Both the Directors and I had different viewpoints. Thiers leaned more toward how they would work as a member of their team and help them move their Region agenda forward. Mine was from an Educator point of view and how they would implement the goals of the Rider Education agenda. I had several lengthy discussions with both Directors. In the end I believe we settled on two outstanding Educators meeting both of our agendas. This clearly demonstrates why the appointment process has changed. It serves both Rider Education and Operations well by ensuring that we have Officers in place that will move our agenda forward while ensuring that Directors have individuals appointed to their team that they feel will assist them in their efforts of running the Region, District, or Chapter.

We would like to give thanks to all of the great Officers and volunteers in our Rider Education Program. We hear your voices and we're here to serve.

Mike and Lori Stiger
Directors- Rider Education

A Note from Ron and Pam your new Assistant Directors...

Pam and I would like to first of all, thank the National Staff, for their confidence in us, to fulfill the obligations of becoming Assistant Directors of Rider Education. We want to assure everyone that we will do the very best job we can possibly do, for them, and most of all for the members, our family.

Now a little history, for those of you who do not already know us. Pam and I are both Grand Master Tour Riders. We have been married for almost twenty five years and have two adult children and four grandchildren. We have been GWRRA members since 1993, the first year as Boosters. In 1994 we graduated to our first Gold Wing and full membership. We have owned and enjoyed our GL1000, 1100, 1200 Limited, and our 1500 SE. We are now enjoying his and hers GL1800's.

Both Pam and I are MSF Rider Coaches, GWRRA Seminar and Rider Course Instructors. I am also a Leadership Training Instructor as well as a GWRRA Master Instructor Trainer. We teach ERC's TRC's, Trailing, and ARC courses for GWRRA.

We have been Educators since 1994, first as Chapter Educator, then Assistant District Educators. We eventually became District Educators and then Senior D/E's. When our Region Directors stepped down and Bob and Nan Shrader became Region A Directors we came aboard as Region Educators and were bestowed Senior Region Educators in 2006. Later we had the honor of receiving the 2006 Educator of the year award in Billings.

We are both dedicated to Rider Education and the safety of each and every Rider and Co-rider, and strive for the concept of "every member counts" and Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge. We are saddened to leave our Region with a wonderful staff of friends but know we leave the Region in good hands with our replacement, and know they do remain our friends. Our commitment to Rider Education will only move forward with this new commitment and we can't wait to get the ball rolling.

Our new obligations as Assistants will be to promote and make the PLP facilitators program flourish. It is our view that if we can get members involved, continuing Education will come naturally, as we say, "The more you know, the better it gets." We will address this more as time continues. The second and equally important task at hand is to continue and enhance the Survivor Program. We will also be handling the Senior Recognition Program. Our new Directors Mike and Lori Stiger also would like to implement another relatively new concept, of an Educators Archive. This will be an online base for all Educators if stuck for a topic to quickly check on line for a topic for their Chapter talk. We will be calling this program "Give Me Five".

We will be asking all Regions, Districts and Chapters in the near future to submit topics of interest for posting. Topics should be able to be presented in a five minute or so timeframe. They should be interesting and to the point. We welcome any input on this idea, and look forward to serving you.

Ride Safe, Ride Often,
Ron and Pam Lantz
Assistant Directors- Rider Education

Introducing Jim and Nan your new Assistant Directors...

Nan and I are very excited and honored to be asked to serve in the position as your Asst. Director Rider Education. We want to thank Mike for giving us the opportunity to serve the members within such a great organization.

Nan and I were married in July of 1984. Our family consists of Nan's two brothers and one sister. We also have two mini Pins that do not know that they are dogs. Since we have such a small circle of family members, GWRRA has become our extended family stretching from east to west and north to south.

Nan and I are Senior Master Tour Riders. We are Seminar Presenters and Leadership Training Instructors. Nan is a Medic First Instructor and I am a Medic First Instructor/Trainer. I am also an ARC Rider Coach.

We joined GWRRA in Oct 1995 and have served in numerous staff positions at various levels. Our obvious passion is the Rider Education Program. Our most recent assignment was Senior Region N Educators.

We look forward to working with a wonderful National staff as we strive to uphold the highest of standards within the Rider Education Program. Additionally we are eagerly looking forward to working for the members in providing every training opportunity available by making everyone more aware of the risk associated with riding a motorcycle.

We would like to say thank you to every Educator for everything you do for the membership by setting the example in all that you do and working diligently to ensure that everyone receives current information on the Rider Education Program.

Please feel free to contact us if we can help you in any way and please stop by and see us at Wing Ding or anywhere you may see us.

Jim & Nan Hall
Asst. Director
Rider Education

A Simple Explanation of Rider Education Levels & Personal Choices...

As Nan & I continue to visit old friends & make new one by visiting and participating at different chapter meetings and events, we are continuing to hear the question what do all these levels mean? Most of us already know, however in order to keep the Rider Education Program growing we have to remember our new members and remind our old members as well. So, "Just what is Level I", a new member might ask. You might say, "It is just a commitment to ride safe." Or you could explain in a little more detail by saying, "It's purpose is to obtain and reward a conscious commitment on the part of the rider or co-rider to work toward enhancing their riding experience by striving for reduced risk and therefore creating a greater level of safety for all members." You might go on to say, "We encourage all members that ride with us to make this commitment."

So just what is Level II? You might say, "It is Safety by Education." You could say, "It is a level to encourage the rider & the co-rider to get as much education as possible through formal education by attending Rider Education Seminars and Riding Courses." You should also explain where they can find these seminars & courses.

So now what is Level III? You might say, "It is Safety by Preparedness." And what does that mean? You say, "It is the level that prepares the rider and co-rider for the unexpected incident by training them in CPR & First Aid. You could even explain that members can receive this training at the very low cost of only \$20.00 which is four times cheaper if they were to take this same training outside our organization.

Now what is Level IV? What could be left? You could say, "It is Safety by Enhanced Commitment." Or you could say, "It is the Total Package which allows a member to Consciously decide to SET THE EXAMPLE for others by combining all the above with additionally wearing the Proper Riding Gear. Remember we are not dressing for the ride but protecting ourselves and loved ones from what could happen. Do you really want to gamble on your life or a loved one's life?"

There's an old saying among motorcyclists; cover up what you would like to keep! Some say Experience is the Best Teacher. We hope that is one saying you never Experience!

You may go on to explain they can purchase patches to wear on their vests to show their commitment to reducing risk in our chosen sport. You should also explain where they may get these patches.

They may even ask, "What is the proper riding gear?" You could say, "It is a Personal Choice." However, if you really care about your members you will say something like, "It consist of an approved DOT/ Snell Helmet with proper chin strap." If you really care you will explain the different styles of helmets and which provides the best protection. Explain about the long sleeves, long pants, over the ankle boots and gloves with fingers. Don't forget to talk about dressing in layers and different types and styles of jackets, pants and gloves. Remember back to when you first started riding, did you have someone to show you the ropes or did you have to figure it all out on your own? Hopefully you were given some pointers.

We understand that motorcyclists are independent people, set in their ways and many other things that we probably should not mention. Because riding is an extension of their individual freedom they tend to object, especially when it comes to telling them what to wear while riding.

As Educators and members of this great organization, it is our responsibility to focus on educating and training as many as our members as possible. We can do this by offering Seminars, Scheduling Riding Classes and offering CPR & First Aid at the chapter level.

REMEMBER! If a member is committed to reducing the risk and wants to ride safe they will wear the proper gear. If they choose not to, all we can do is offer the education and SET THE EXAMPLE.

We are still waiting on the new changes to be sent from International. We will forward them as soon as we receive them.

Until next Time, Ride Safe & Never Faster than your Guardian Angel Can Fly,

Jim & Nan
Assistant Directors- Rider Education

Informing the Public to Help Ourselves...

During the period my wife and I joined GWRRA, some 24 years ago, member benefits included little more than: membership card, monthly magazine, a yearly rally, and some helmet logo stickers. As the years went by member benefits and programs grew to what they are today. Many of these benefits and programs including, but not limited to, Rider Education, LTD Training and such are provided to the members by members. In other words member volunteers are trained to provide training to benefit our members.

Membership involvement is what makes the GWRRA world go around. Without member volunteer workers things like local Chapters, District rallies, Region rallies, Wing Ding, Rider Education, MFA, and LTD Training would not be possible. The same holds true with Motorist Awareness. The Motorist Awareness Program is a viable and worthy endeavor. It is the catalyst by which we, as motorcyclists, have the opportunity to educate the motoring public about our sport. It is our opportunity to help ourselves.

Almost every time we ride, whether it's a chapter ride, road trip or a run to the mall, a curious motorist will approach. They ask questions about our bike and us. We never pass up the chance to engage in conversation with these folks. We answer their questions and slip-in other information like: "Did you know a motorcycle will stop in less distance than a car?" You would be surprised at some of the responses and questions we get. At the end of our conversations we always ask them, "Please watch for motorcycles." This, my friends, is motorist awareness in its most simplistic form; however, there is more to it than this. The Motorist Awareness Division (M.A.D.) of GWRRA has power-point presentations available for presenting seminars to groups. Two new presentations have been added to the program and are available on the National website.

In order for this program to be successful member volunteers are needed throughout the association. Coordinators and seminar presenters are needed for coordinating & presenting material to the public. Being a volunteer can be fun and rewarding.

We encourage anyone wishing to promote motorist awareness in his or her community to feel free to contact us anytime. We will be happy to work with you to make it happen.

Thank you,

Charles and Nancy Mallett
Directors- Motorist Awareness

A personal note from Mike:

Motorist Awareness is the outreach program of our Association designed to educate the public to help make our lives a little better on the open road. Even though it is a part of the Rider Education program, their agenda is 180 degrees different than ours. We educate our members on how to reduce risk in motorcycling. Motorist Awareness is educating the public to be aware of us in the hopes they don't run us over.

Motorist Awareness is a part of the Rider Education Program because of the people resources we have to offer them. That's why we are now using the two MA Seminars as one of the choices for Presenters to renew their certifications. We have tremendous and dynamic Presenters in both the Rider Education and Leadership Training Program. My hope is that we can mobilize this force and educate the public. Charles and Nancy are doing a great job in restructuring the program with fresh ideas and two brand new excellent presentations.

I encourage all of the MA Coordinators to work with our Presenter Program Coordinators to get this program in the public's eye. Please support Charles and Nancy in their efforts in getting this program moving forward.

*Thanks,
Mike Stiger
Director- Rider Education*

New Oversight of Canadian Operations...

First off, I would like to thank Mike for his confidence in me to step up to the Assistant Director's position. Having been Dave Hays assistant for the past year, has given me a whole new appreciation for the National Rider Education Staff and the dedication and hard work that is required.

I have been involved with GWRRA since July of 1997, and have held various positions within the organization starting as the Chapter Director for Chapter AB-C way back in 1998. I got involved as Chapter Educator after serving two years as the Chapter Director. It wasn't long before I stepped up to the District Educator's position, and then to RE for Region J (a position I still hold but I am actively looking for a replacement).

Region J is truly an International Region, as it encompasses the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, The Yukon, and the state of Alaska. Despite having some of the best motorcycle roads in the country, travel distances in the region prohibit face to face meetings on anything but an infrequent basis. Internet email and the telephone provide a ready substitute.

I am currently a Senior Master, and have been a Rider Course Instructor since Gordon Murphy came out to Alberta to teach the RCICP in Canada way back in May of 2003 (it snowed 2 feet overnight in the middle of the course). I teach beginner motorcycle courses for a private training facility here in Alberta and I am a Licensed Driving Instructor in Alberta as well as a Canada Safety Council Instructor.

I'm looking forward to working together with you all.

Ride Like Your Life Depends On It
Milt Sorensen
Assistant Director- Rider Education

Changes to MEDIC FIRST AID Renewals...

MEDIC FIRST AID has set up a new system for GWRRA renewals. Instructors can no longer renew online or by telephone. Renewals must be sent to me for processing. I have asked all Region Trainer/MFA Coordinators to send me the renewal checks for those instructors wishing to renew. I will be sending out all renewal forms well in advance so we should have no delays.

Several instructors have asked for renewal cards believing their cards had expired. As I indicated in several emails and in the newsletters, all renewals will now be done on the instructor's anniversary date. For example, if your card expired on 1/15/09 but you were certified on 6/20/07, your renewal date would now be 6/20/09. All Region Trainers/MFA Coordinators have access to the website and can see the renewal dates of all instructors. It is important that all Region Trainers check before approving a renewal to be sure the instructor has the correct amount of classes for renewal. If there is a problem, please contact me immediately. We have had several instructors renew in January and February, none in March, and the next group is in April.

I am almost finished with the numbers for each region for 2008, so I hope to have this information to the Regions shortly. I apologize for the delay.

I will be reaching out to a few Region Trainers for ideas to make our program better than it is. There is always room for improvement and I always appreciate new ideas.

Larry & Rhonda Stiles
Director of CPR/First Aid Programs