

MAY 2004



# GWRRA Rider Education



## INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

### SENIOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR RIDER EDUCATION

**Bob & Sue Lorenz**

Voice: (517) 548-9028

E-mail: [blorenz@ameritech.net](mailto:blorenz@ameritech.net)

### ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR RIDER COURSE PROGRAMS

**Bob & Althea Berry**

Voice: (908) 730-8842

E-mail: [bobberry1@earthlink.net](mailto:bobberry1@earthlink.net)

### ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER / LEVEL DATA

**Bill & Linda English**

Voice: (330) 799-8603

E-mail: [gwdatadoc@aol.com](mailto:gwdatadoc@aol.com)

### ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR MEDIC FIRST AID@ PROGRAM

**Larry Stiles**

Voice: (508) 567-1307

E-mail: [LarryStiles@msn.com](mailto:LarryStiles@msn.com)

### ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR Administrative Functions

**Mark & Mary Zingery**

Voice: (989) 386-3391

E-mail: [mzingery@chartermi.net](mailto:mzingery@chartermi.net)

## CANADIAN OPERATIONS

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR CANADA RIDER EDUCATION

**Gordon & Elsie Murphy**

Voice: (709) 753-2318

E-mail: [gmwing@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmwing@nf.sympatico.ca)

### ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR RIDER EDUCATION CANADA

**Dave Hay**

Voice: (250) 923-8664

E-mail: [dhay@telus.net](mailto:dhay@telus.net)



Have you got one? There are many new Gold Wings on the highways and the folks riding them are often looking for a great Association like ours. When talking about our Association, Rider Education will always bring an interest to new Gold Wing Riders. I have found to keep your conversation short and let the prospective new member ask you about GWRRA. If you know a new or improved way of recruiting, share it with Wing World or email us, and we will publish your way of making a Gold Wing Rider a new part of the family.



May is motorcycle awareness month. The month when motorcycles are pulled out of family rooms, sun porches, sheds barns and a list of other places. Motorist must be aware the motorcycles have not been sharing the road with them but are now back on the road.

The motorcyclist also has to be in top defensive riding and use the SEE process AGGRESSIVELY. Search, Evaluate, Execute. This is an ongoing mental attribute to a rider's skills. You can never let your defensive guard rest.



For The Motorcycle RiderCourse Nearest You.

Maybe you can not get into a MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) class, but your Chapter Educator can schedule a parking lot practice to help tune up your skills.

The point I like to remind all, is "you go where you look". My suggestion is to always keep looking for the hazards and take the path of least resistance. Most accidents, 77% happen in front of the motorcycle. Keep your head and eyes up. Look through your turns with good head turns, not a lazy eye look. Rider Education Instructors have stated these words many times. Hopefully you were listening to them.

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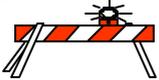
# ROAD HAZARDS



At the beginning of the riding season it is also the beginning of many things that have been dormant all winter. For example, grass! Why do folks have to blow it on the road? It is a known fact it is beneficial for the grass to rot in the yard.



Then there is the winter gravel at the edge of the roadways and on the edge of lawns. This also must be swept or raked into the street! Do they think this will help fill the pot holes?



The orange wooden horses with yellow blinking ears are out along with their relative the orange barrel.



The roadways are being prepared to have a new surface paved. That is great; the road may have grooves but will be smooth compared to before. I think there is only one machine used to remove the old surface and they all share it. Many roads are done weeks in advance of the completion of paving. Usually they will do that on or around a holiday or long weekend when many folks travel. These are my thoughts and you may not agree.



I did see in one of the states we traveled last year; a sign warning the motorcyclist of the road conditions ahead were grooved. Most warning signs give a general warning of road work. I like seeing the signs showing only one lane have been paved. Uneven pavement is very hazardous. We were riding in the rain and came upon this situation. I was half on and half off before I knew what was going on. It will make you get a little closer to the seat when the squiggle stops. I was lucky to have time and space to bring the bike to

the smooth part of the paving. I have always read, "Never act fast in these situations". I really have that in stone now.



Spring time detours, will take you on a scenic ride. Maybe you are a GPS owner and can find a quicker route. Most detours are set up to another route which will have heavy traffic and include semi traffic. A detour will 99% of the time add miles and time to your trip. To some this may be enjoyable. Many times we have found a new place to eat, ice cream or a few sales to look at as we go by.

## Work zone Accidents

Increasing Number Of Highway Work Zone Accidents Require New Safety Strategies, Say Highway & Labor Officials

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Highway Administration, state officials, and labor organizations told a Congressional panel that deaths in highway work zone accidents are increasing, and outlined current and potential strategies to improve work zone safety.

**E. Dean Carlson**, Kansas Secretary of Transportation, "This is a point that should be driven home in every campaign for work zone safety, because research shows most drivers don't think this is 'their problem'," "The Georgia DOT found that 70 percent of the drivers in its focus groups believed work zones were more dangerous for the workers, not vehicle occupants."

## Helpful Tips for Long Motorcycle Trips

When it comes to traveling the highways and byways on a

motorcycle, it is often said that the joy is not in the final destination, but in the journey itself.

**Know your limits:** If you don't have experience taking long rides, plan your trip to allow for an adequate number of stops. Put in longer days on the front end of the trip as they are probably going to be the days you feel the best and have the most stamina. Keep a close check on how you feel. If there's any breakdown in your attention, you are putting yourself and others in danger.

**Don't rely on caffeine to keep you awake:** If you're feeling tired, you need to stop. Operating a motorcycle when your senses are less than one hundred percent is hazardous.

**Prepare your bike before the trip:** Change the oil and filter, check fork oil levels and fork seals, adjust cables, adjust drive and lube chains, inspect tires, check tire pressure and tighten fasteners. Check all gauges, lights and signals to ensure everything is working properly

**Test out any new accessories or gear before the trip:** Don't wait until you're out on the road to pull that new rain gear out of the package or test out a new helmet only to find it doesn't fit correctly, is defective or is different than what you thought you bought.

**Upgrade your tool kit before heading out:** Make sure you have the necessary tools to avoid being stranded on the side of the road if something comes disconnected, or needs to be tightened or replaced. Consult your owner's manual or shop manual for your bike and see what types of tools are recommended for your model. If the bike comes with a tool kit, examine it and determine if you need more tools.

## Helpful Tips continued

### **Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage with Towing and Roadside Assistance: (TOW BUSTERS)**

Although you don't want to think about bad things happening on your trip, there is peace of mind in knowing that if something goes wrong you have a customized insurance policy to cover it. And if your bike breaks down and can't be ridden, there is nothing that takes the place of Towing and Roadside Assistance to bring you gas, a battery or to tow your bike to the nearest repair shop.

**Pack Wisely:** Make sure that you are aware of what you're taking, that you pack light and only bring what you'll need. Some things are necessary such as clothing, toiletries and rain gear, but limit the amount of things you pack and try to distribute weight evenly.

**Eat right:** When you're out on the road, it's important that you keep your energy and stamina up by eating well and frequently enough. Make sure that you build time for these stops into your travel plans. Carry water with you at all times and stop occasionally to drink and keep yourself hydrated.

**Dress appropriately:** Even in the summer, it can get chilly at night and in higher elevations. Bring along extra layers or an electric vest for warmth. Purchase good quality rain gear and put it on before it starts raining. Once your clothes are wet, you'll be very uncomfortable with damp clothes on underneath your rain gear. You should also dress to be seen. Make sure your outer layers are bright colors, and a brightly-colored helmet is helpful as well. The better other motorists can see you, the safer you are.

**Get gas before you need it:** Don't wait too long; otherwise you could end up far from a gas station and in need of fuel. Bring a cell phone along just in case you need

to call for Towing and Roadside Assistance or to help someone else in an emergency.

**Plan ahead:** Spend time each night going over your travel plans for the next day. Get a feel for the route, how long you think you'll ride and places where you might want to stop.

Remember the reasons you chose to take a long trip on your motorcycle. Enjoy the scenery, use opportunities you get to meet new people and see new things if that was one of your reasons...or enjoy your freedom and time alone if that was your goal.

If you plan ahead and are prepared, long motorcycle trips can be incredibly rewarding, fun and memorable. Following these tips can't guarantee that nothing will go wrong... the possibility surely exist when you're dealing with the elements and unfamiliar places. But it will help ensure that you're prepared for just about any surprises that may occur

The following story is great and I would wish more newspapers would do this instead of the reporting of "Biker Killed had no helmet" Maybe a letter to your editor of your local newspaper would tell of good things happening in your District.

## **Motorcycle Safety Stressed**

**By Brad Bauer,**  
[bbauer@mariettatimes.com](mailto:bbauer@mariettatimes.com)

With more motorcycles out on Ohio's roadways than ever, motorcycle safety is being stressed to help keep the number of accidents down this spring and summer.

Both bikers and motorists can help prevent accidents by being alert and driving defensively, according to the Ohio Highway Patrol.

The patrol reported 3,045 crashes involving motorcycles last year. The accidents resulted in 136 deaths.

"That's a lot of people who were involved in motorcycle crashes," said Lt. Mary A. Pfeifer, of the Marietta post of the Ohio Highway patrol. "That's more than all of the students at the area high schools combined."

While the number of motorcycle crashes in Ohio has decreased in the last three years, the number of fatal motorcycle accidents has increased in two years.

With the fifth-largest number of drivers with motorcycle endorsements in the nation there is going to be a number of accidents. Nearly 600,000 Ohioans have valid motorcycle endorsements this year.

One way to help reduce the number of accidents - or to help reduce the severity of an accident - is to participate in a rider safety course.

"We recommend that everyone take a safety course," Pfeifer said. "Even experienced riders will benefit from taking a course."

Marietta resident Tink Thomas said taking a safety course could have prevented an accident he had last year. "That's one thing that I wish I would have done ... is take a riding course," Thomas, 30, of Strecker Hill, Marietta, said. "I probably would have been more aware and had a chance to react. I was looking straight ahead and didn't give myself a chance."

Thomas was traveling on Ohio 555 last July when he hit a deer that ran out in front of him. He was sent by medical helicopter to Charleston with severe injuries, including a broken neck. He had only been riding for two days before the accident. "The guys I was riding with were all a lot more experienced and saw it coming," he said. "My one buddy behind me was able to react - I didn't."

(Safety Stressed continued)

Thomas considers himself lucky to have survived and recovered from the accident. "You've not only got to be watching out for yourself, but for everybody and everything else, too."

Motorcycle safety program coordinator Pete Cline, of Motorcycle Ohio, said being aware of your surroundings is essential to the safety of all bikers. "That's one of the things we can't stress enough," Cline said. "Scanning and predicting allows riders time to react."

Cline said of the 136 motorcycle fatalities in Ohio last year, most riders had no business being on the roads. Forty-three percent of the fatal involved drug or alcohol use, and 38 percent of the riders did not have a valid motorcycle endorsement.

Cline said of the people who died last year in motorcycle crashes in Ohio; seven had graduated from safety courses. One problem with safety courses is the availability. Courses are booked across Ohio through the spring and summer. Fall registration begins this weekend. "We understand that there's a demand," Cline said. "But we have restraints." Cline recommended riders look to other areas, including out of state, if necessary, to take a course.

It is exactly what Reno residents Bill and Brenda Adams had to do. The couple is taking a safety course this month in Zanesville. Bill, 43, has been riding for years; Brenda, 52, is just getting back into riding after a long break. "You have to do everything you can to be safe, but at a certain point you just have to believe - have a faith," Brenda Adams said. "This course is one way I can learn how to be safe. I don't want to live my life not enjoying it because I'm afraid."

Bill Adams said despite being an experienced rider he expects to learn from the class "There are

courses for beginning bikers and advanced bikers ... everyone should consider this."

## Things to Remember for Motorcycle Safety

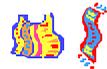
Source: Ohio Highway Patrol

This can apply in any state you may travel



### Remember the law.

Ohio law requires helmet use by motorcyclists operating on a permit and riders whose motorcycle endorsement is still in its first year. Also, no one under the age of 18 can operate a motorcycle or be a passenger on a motorcycle unless they are wearing a helmet.



### Ride bright.

Choose light-colored clothing, or wear a reflective vest to make yourself more visible to other motorists.

### Never assume the right of way.



Always consider how vulnerable you are on a motorcycle. Be especially careful of vehicles in front of you. One-third of all motorcycle-vehicle crashes occur in this manner.



### Sharing lanes.

Never ride more than two abreast in a lane, and never share a lane with a vehicle other than a motorcycle.

### Communicate with other



### drivers.

Flash your lights or sound your horn to alert other motorists of your presence. Always use your turn signals to communicate your intentions.

### Take a safety course.



Good for even the most experienced riders. All will benefit from taking a motorcycle safety course.

## VISIBILITY



It is a very common when you purchasing a new Gold Wing, normally your old helmet color won't match the new Wing. A lot of motorcyclists like to wear black helmets and I can not understand why. They are hotter in the summer time, harder to see anytime.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Association is in disagreement with us when we color match out helmets to our bikes. The same color bike and helmet flow together and is not as visible as a different color helmet from the color of the bike.

The four top colors are orange, lime green, yellow and white. I thought when I was riding my 1975 Teal Gold Wing; folks were looking at the motorcycle. Instead, I was in the high visibility class by wearing my 2003 candy orange helmet.

I do not expect to see many members rushing out to buy a different color helmet to just be more visible. The next time you buy a helmet, the thought could be in your mind. Another way would be to go to a vendor who has high visibility tape to put around the base of the helmet. The majority of helmet decals and tapes are reflective at night. "See and be Seen".

Remember

