



GWRRA Rider Education



NATIONAL RIDER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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MAY Motorcycle Awareness Month

Welcome to RIDING WEATHER here in the north. It has been some time for a few of us to be able to get wheels turning. However, remember, there are all the elements of unfriendly roadways awaiting you. Other road users await you too. Such as guardrails, signs, paint markings, railroad tracks, poles etc. We should have an idea of where they are, we have been looking at them as we have been waiting for the weather to change, riding in our four wheels cages.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation and National Highway Safety Transportation Association have joined up to promote Motorcycle Awareness to the public with Public Service announcements, posters and other communications.

MOTORIST AWARENESS PROGRAM PUSHED BY GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

The following was released on April 10, 2003

Phoenix, AZ – Mike Wright, President of the Gold Wing Road

Riders Association, announced the formation of a new division within the Gold Wing Road Riders Association. The **“Motorist Awareness Division”** which is based on the already existing *“2 by 4 – Side by Side”* program created by Allen & Paula Platt of Gilbert, Arizona. The Platts have accepted the position of National Directors for the newly formed division.

The Motorist Awareness Division (MAD) has as its two-fold mission to reduce motorcycle accidents by increasing motorist awareness of motorcycles as well as increasing the motorcyclists’ awareness of motorist’s. The motorist’s lack of familiarity with motorcyclists’ in traffic is frequently the cause of many accidents. MAD will accomplish its mission through public speaking engagements, media releases and through the activities of 85,000 Members and its network of 950 Gold Wing Road Rider Chapters located worldwide.

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(MAD continued)

The Platts, who created brochures, have accomplished much of the groundwork for the Motorist Awareness Division and bumper stickers with the “2 by 4 — Side by Side” campaign name, logo, and message. They also established a Web site: (www.driveaware.org). Sponsors have helped defray expenses.

A volunteer "Motorist Awareness Liaisons" will be drawn from the membership of GWRRA to disseminate the “2 by 4 — Side by Side” message. By putting its full support behind the “2 by 4 — Side by Side” program, GWRRA anticipates a more far-reaching level of success for the Platt’s message due to increased personnel and financial resources. An application for a supporting grant from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation is being prepared to further support the program.

“This is an important project and will get our complete backing in all respects,” says Mike Wright. “Our GWRRA members are well aware of the importance of motorists’ awareness of motorcycles on the highway and how that relates to their safety. It’s the motorists we want our focus on with this program.”

Congratulations



We welcome Allen & Paula Platt. You can count on support from the Rider Education newsletter to help you promote and communicate to the members. You have a tough project trying to educate the cell phone users, beauty treatment drivers, coffee drinkers, donut and whopper eaters, smokers and so on. I am sure I speak for all the Educators, saying we support you and your efforts. You can call on us anytime.

GWRRA Policy

Conduct of Training & Skill Events, Revised April 23, 2003

By
National Director
Rider Education
Bob Lorenz

We sometimes assume consistent and common safety practices are employed when conducting various GWRRA training and skill events. Based upon information received recently, however, exceptions have occurred.

In the interests of safety, adequate and consistent safety standards must be maintained when conducting National, Region, District, or Chapter motorcycle or trike training and/or skill events for the good of all participants as well as to eliminate unnecessary liability for the Association.

Effective immediately, the following requirements must be adhered to by all participants in GWRRA Region, District and Chapter rider training and skill events. (Including, but not limited to the GWRRA Advanced Rider Course, Trike Rider Course, or Trailering Course; Field Events or Top Gun competitions, Parking Lot Practice sessions or any other MSF, CSC, GWRRA or ESC-sponsored instruction or riding practice.)

- Rider Licensing - All Riders must hold a valid driver's license with motorcycle endorsement or, at minimum, a motorcycle operator / learner's permit. Riders who do not hold a valid license will not be permitted to participate.
- Proper Riding Attire - All Riders and Co-Riders must wear "proper" riding gear while riding. This will include, at a minimum, a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, full-fingered gloves, over-the-ankle foot protection (boots preferred), with the balance of the body fully covered (leather or abrasion-resistant attire preferred; denim accepted.)

Jackets or shirts should be a single piece of apparel and not be modular (i.e., not "riding sleeves").

- These requirements shall apply to any GWRRA-sponsored rider education or competitive riding event. They do not apply to any "non-educational" or "non-competitive" riding activity, such as a Chapter ride, parade, fun/poker run, etc.



CERTIFIED
INSTRUCTORS ARE
NEEDED

BY
Bill English

Budget cutting is a primary topic in the news lately. The fact that there is less to spend leads to reducing programs and people. This budget cutting is starting to effect training in some States. Raise the rates, first words you hear. Just like General Custer “Charge More, Charge Hard”. We are members of the best Rider Training Association in the world. The only way we can stay on top is through members who volunteer their time to help other members learn.

How much time is needed? It is not a lot. Do you have a desire to learn how to pull a trailer correctly? Maybe you will take a seminar and learn. Then you will want to tell everyone you see something wrong, when you have learned how to it the right way. This is how you start. Learn the correct way then pass on the good news, perhaps, how to ride a trike.

I do not own a trike but I do train riders for Trike Riding. Well, I am sure I will hear from the trike riders about this. You can train the proper way of riding with out being an owner. I know you are saying no way.

(Certified Instructors continued)

We have our Asst. National Ride Education Director for Medic First Aid Program, Larry Stiles, who trains us to do CPR and first aid. Do we do this every day? So how can we train CPR if we do not use it ever day? The same is true of any type of training. If you are properly trained and complete updates to stay fresh on the current curriculum and Technical knowledge, you can train people to ride, pull trailers or save a life. Your desire to train is the motivator. You may not have real life experiences to talk about and that is OK.

I know the real world is full of change and every situation is like a sky full of snowflakes, with every snowflake being different. The techniques for being able to deal with the changes are trainable.

Now that I have you thinking of giving a couple of days a year to train other members, let me tell you how to be come an Instructor for class room or on the range.

First, contact your District Educator and let them know what you are certified to do. They can get you the information when seminars will be needed pertaining to your expertise.

Second if you wish to train at Wing Ding contact Bob Berry, National Assistant Rider Education Director. The phone number and email address are listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Volunteering will not only give you the satisfaction of educating where needed, but you will meet many great members. If you have trouble with your forgetter, as I do, you will not remember their names either.

Ride training classes requires that you be a MSF Certified Instructor.

Volunteering and training can be fun and interesting, if you make it so. With constant instructing and practice, you can become a better rider. I am proof of that statement. Prior to becoming an Instructor, I would not look up, turn my head in the direction

I was turning, or lean the bike by pressing. I have, thru much practicing and by instructing others, now correctly use the proper techniques.

This last weekend I used the press more in a turn technique. I approached a blind curve, and half way around the curve a pile of winter gravel was in the middle track. I had to lean the bike more to miss it. Now, the rest of the story: I looked where I wanted to go, (not to see if I missed the gravel).

These two items were missing in my riding 15 years ago. I can only thank GWRRA Rider Education program and the levels program for inspiring me to take classes and become an Instructor, which I maintain good habits by training others.

INSTRUCTOR STATISTICS

BY

Bob Berry

National Assistant Rider Education Director

We currently have:

- 117 GWRRA Rider Course Instructors
- 11 Master Rider Course Instructors
- 3 Master Rider Course Instructor Trainers

- 131 Total

Of the total Instructors:

- 10 Canadian Safety Council Certified
- 1 Evergreen Safety Council Certified
- 120 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Certified

- 38 Trike only Certified
- 4 Trailering only Certified
- 60 ERC Certified
- 29 Trike and Trailering Certified

I have no breakdown as to who is teaching the Basic Rider Course (BRC) vs. the Riding Street Strategies (RSS). Not all districts have changed from the old MSF course (RSS), to the new course (BRC).



RIDER EDUCATION WING DING TABLE AND RAFFLE SUPPORT

BY

Joe Allen

Asst. National Director Administrative Support

This is a reminder that I need a final list of names, day they will give support and time they will volunteer for the Rider Education table. **ASAP**

We will need the floor covered each and everyday, all day. If there is someone who would like to assist in raffle sales, they do not have to be a Rider Education Officer to participate. Here is the list of Regions supporting the Rider Education Table. For the rest of the Regions out there, we need your help as well, with sales and filling in for times where we need extra help both at the table and on the floor selling raffle tickets.

📅 **Monday, July 30th.** The day before Wing Ding starts. We need support for those registering for classes, seminars, etc.

📅 We would like to have 4 or 5 Chapter Educators assist whomever on the National Staff who will be there, at the table, answering questions on schedules of classes, courses, etc.

These Regions will be responsible for volunteers working the Table and Floor.

🌸 **Tuesday, July 1st:** Region D

🌸 **Wed., July 2nd:** Region A

🌸 **Thursday, July 3rd:** Region E

🌸 **Friday, July 4th:** Region N

Remember, if everyone pitches in, it will make easier on all to support Rider Education for this great event.

The members who support the table need to be the Chapter Educators. These Officers, need the additional training of filling out paperwork, etc. What better ways to have them feel more comfortable by handling this.

The Region Educators need to just oversee the table & floor and handle the volunteers for their day.

If you have any questions on this or any other thoughts, please feel free to contact me. Phone and email listed on first page of this newsletter.

I would like to have this list in my hands by May 20th, as we are running out of time and it will be July before we know it.



Volunteers are a part of the team effort put forth by the members, of our Association that makes us number one. Members who step up to do seminars, rider coaching, CPR/ First Aid and many other tasks are supporting the Association by being a part of the training team.

The number's from Bob Berry's report show's we do not have many GWRRA Rider Trainer Instructors. We really need more.

By volunteering in the Rider Education Rider Program, you can

learn how the program works and a very become an important part. Along with the members who ask questions, suggest changes and bring new ideas, you can be an integrated part of the changes as they happen. Many ideas and changes have been of great value to the RERP.

If I sound like a salesperson, I am. We need more volunteers and new ideas. The fact that "SAFETY IS FOR LIFE" is forever present, training is the tool to help manage our risk to insure a safe and fun filled journey.



Affects of Allergies to Riding

Having been able to get a few miles on the Wing already, I have noticed the wonderful aromas of the budding of the trees, flowers, and fresh cut grass. With this come allergies. Many of us take medication for allergies. Some are over the counter and some prescription. You need to know what is in the medication you are taking. Some contain the same ingredients as sominx, the sleeping medication. Often the bottle will state "may get drowsy" or "do not take with alcohol". Consider this warning to very serious if you are riding. If the medication you are taking have these effects on you, then consult with your doctor. They may prescribe something that will help you and has less or no types of ingredients to cause drowsiness.

Not being a doctor I can only prescribe a remedy that I believe would appropriate for a sleepy rider. Pull over and freshen up. Do not try to ride to a rest stop or a coffee house. Find a safe spot quickly and pull over. Walk around the Wing a few times. Take your helmet off and wake up, then continue your trip. If you are with a group let them know you need to freshen up. Do not hesitate to tell the other riders in the group. They can help you and may notice before you, if the medication is causing an erratic

move in your driving. Do not try to fight if off while riding. Stop and get it out of you system.

WATCH FOR MOWERS



The roads are full of debris from all over. I wish we could have a law and have it enforced, to stop the folks who insist on mowing their ditch's and lawns into the street. The trash and piles of grass they leave on road ways is a real hazard to us. Not only can some debris ruin tires but also the grass piles create a loss of traction.

If you happen to see a mower in the ditch, try to prepare yourself and your passenger of flying objects. If you can cover the side of you face, with your hand and turn your head a little away from the mower. I sometimes duck down behind the windshield, for protection. That is easy for me, since I am a solo rider 90% of the time.

I do know that a running mower can have a blade speed of 160 mph. That means a propelled object, from that mower can destroy an average pair of glasses. Protection from shatterproof glasses and shields will help to deter a flying object.



We have many other flying objects on the move also. The type with stingers. Are you allergic to them? Do you carry a bee sting kit? Your doctor will prescribe one for you. We need to communicate these problems to the people that are riding with you. The majority of the members do not discuss their pill habits, the fact they are diabetic or any important medical problems. Many do not wear a medical tag or have medical information on them. Have a chat about the importance of communicating at your Chapter meeting.