

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Rider Education Program

National Newsletter...



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Road Captain Course Update...

Here is some news concerning a change for the issuance of completion cards for the Road Captain Course. This will be incorporated in the next revision to the REP Handbook. Until then, it is requested that Region Educators pass this on to District Educators, Districts to Chapter Educators, and then to the general Membership.

When the current version of the GWRRA Rider Education Program Handbook was issued in 2004, it stated that the completion card could be issued once the classroom portion was completed. When the riding portion was also completed, the participant could then purchase the rocker patch. This has worked well for those who taught the classroom separate from the riding portion. For example: in those parts of the world where there is not a year-round riding season, when the bikes were put away the classroom was done, and later when the roads were usable again the riding component was completed. There was also a time before that, when some of you may remember we didn't have a riding component.

In addition to experiences at Wing Ding, we are hearing from Educators at Rider Ed tables for different rallies that are having difficulty confirming if the Member has completed both the classroom AND the riding component when they are asked to sell Road Captain rocker patches. Being presented with a completion card currently provides no guarantee of completion of both components. If the Educator selling the patches did not present the seminar, they were totally dependent on word of mouth to confirm completion requirements.

The best way to help out those "faulty memories" of whether the individual has completed the required components is to make a slight change in the program. Seminar Presenters are to issue completion cards only AFTER completion of BOTH the classroom and the riding components going forward. There will be a recognized transition period where people are learning about the change. The end goal is to be able to ask for a completion card that is issued after ALL requirements are complete and have confidence that you are selling a rocker patch to someone who has truly earned it. The Membership benefits by knowing that when the patch is worn it has a better guarantee that the wearer has the knowledge and practical training that it stands for.

We will start dissemination of this message through the Educators who have access to the rocker patches first, then change the presentation materials and notify the Seminar Presenters during the annual review of materials and password change. Thanks in advance for your participation in the communication chain.

(Ride with Less Risk & B+)

Tony & Michelle Van Schaick
Grand Master Tour Riders 1461 & 1985
GWRRA Assistant Director Rider Education



Identified Flying Objects

Ace H. Peterson
Region F Educator

A couple of experiences occurred while traveling to Minnesota this past month that brought to mind some common and uncommon obstacles we as motorcyclists all too often face. Penny and I were driving our car on this trip, but the reality of the situations still remains the same. Many of our members have encountered various objects laying in the byways and highways, some of which after the fact were down right amusing, but at the time most likely brought the heart rate up a notch or two. I know my blood pressure changed in the time or two this situation has happened to me.

We were heading East on Interstate 80 making good time when we started to pass an eighteen wheeler going our same direction. Being an ex-trucker, I tend to give these rigs the once over to see if they comply with D.O.T. regulations and so forth. I immediately noticed one of the tires on the right hand side of the trailer was losing the tread with chunks starting to come off the tire. Our solution was to accelerate fast and get "out of Dodge" so to speak. A similar occurrence happened on the return trip, same highway, this time heading West. Glancing at a pickup pulling a fifth wheel trainer, I noticed smoke coming out from his right hand trailer tire, and rubber shredding off fast. Again, it was time to put the pedal to the metal and reach a safer zone.

The lesson herein so far is this; when passing, pass! Dawdling along side a vehicle, especially tractor trainers, fifth wheels and the like is an invitation to potential disaster. No one wants to get acquainted first hand with a chunk of rubber weighing several pounds and coming at oneself at highway speeds. That gets ugly real quickly.

Another occurrence that comes all too often is the object thrown by a vehicle either coming towards us or in front of us. Object lesson (no pun intended) was an occurrence I had when another vehicle ahead of my riding partner and I ran over a 4-5 foot rubber tire carcass throwing it into the air directly in front of my Gold Wing. With due diligence of mind I and the motorcycle escaped with minor scuff marks on the right hand rider peg as I completed a high speed swerve. Lesson two; be aware of our surroundings leaving plenty of room around us to avoid those objects we identify as immediate hazards. We may not identify the object at the time, but the idea is to identify the object as something we definitely want to avoid!

I have heard motorcyclists tell of tires, ladders, paint cans, and many more items that have fell off some vehicle or trailer directly in front within the lane of travel. Sometimes these identifiable objects caused minor or major damage to the motorcycle and/or injury to the rider. It is at times such as these that our MSF/ARC taught skills must come into play either by executing the needed swerve or emergency braking or both. And it is or should be apparent why we should practice these skills often. Hitting the dead skunk in the middle of the road may be a wee bit stinky and messy, but things larger than that need to be avoided.

One last occurrence that by the telling of the story illustrates both the occasional flying hazard and the humor found in the story later occurred to a friend in Arizona. Riding home one night after dark, in a full moon phase,

he was startled to see a coyote running full tilt into his lane of travel. Before he could get his wits around this piece of information, the coyote slammed into the side of the motorcycle, bounced into the air, and flew over the now sliding Gold Wing and rider! The Wing sustained some plastic damage and scuffs, the rider some bruises and road rash along with a badly scuffed helmet and torn clothing. He was able to ride the Wing on home and attend to his minor injuries. He brought the helmet, jacket, and clothes to our monthly meeting for show and tell and these were an apt illustration of the following lesson.

Lesson three; sometimes things just “fall into our lap” so to speak without much we can do to avoid the unforeseen. This makes it all the more important to ride within safe speeds at all times, wear the proper clothing, and protective gear, plus keep our situational awareness as keen as possible. Try to identify those potential hazards around us as we ride, and look for escape routes in case things go awry. And above all-
RIDE WITH PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE!

CPR/FIRST AID Update...

Our MEDIC FIRST AID program is now on the website. All Region Trainer/MFA Coordinators have the new password and now can order all their equipment from MFA online. All trainers now can go online and view all their instructors to see if they are current or when they are due to renew. We are working to have everything up to date on who we show current and those who we need to be deleted. We will be sending out the renewal forms for all instructors due to renew in January 2009. The trainers and instructors can now view all orders being placed through MFA. All renewals will now be done on the month the instructor was certified. This helps the Regions and Districts who pay the fees of those MFA Instructors who make the effort to help their membership in the area and at Wing Ding. This will help reduce the cost for these Regions and Districts since they no longer have to pay a fee in one big lump sum. This is a positive change and we are looking forward to the updating of all instructors and the clean up of our roster so all Regions and National files coincide. We want to thank all the Region MFA Trainers for their efforts to get these records updated.

We are now entering the season when classes are scheduled and our membership training in CPR/First Aid begins. We look forward to receiving all the class rosters to see which Region is going to be number one. At this time every Region is doing a great job training our membership and it will be interesting to see what the numbers will show in January of the total classes taught in 2008. So far, Region E is number ONE in total classes taught and students trained. Region D and Region N are closing in. REGIONS A, F, H, B are showing great improvement in getting their regions moving in this life saving program. We congratulate all Region Trainers and Instructors for their continued efforts in training our membership.

Remember, we have a new program for all CPR/First Aid Instructors in all approved CPR/First Aid organizations. All these instructors need to do is send us a copy of their current instructor card and we will send them a GWRRA CPR/First Aid Instructor card. Several instructors have sent us forms with their card numbers on the form; however, we MUST receive a copy of their card for our records. Looking forward to announce the first instructor to apply.

Know CPR/First Aid~it May Save a Life

Larry & Rhonda Stiles
Director CPR/First Aid Programs

The Rider Education Staff wish all of you an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Chapter Leadership Unity...

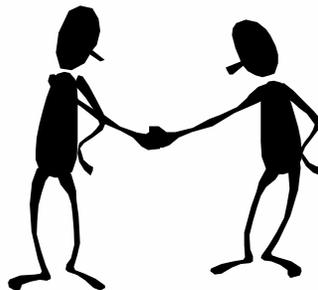
"The Makings of a Successful Chapter"

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'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!

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 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".