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GWRRA Rider Education



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We are in the "Golden Years" and I am only getting rusty. Will this rain ever end! It has really been a bad year and I believe I have more time on the training bikes (also in the rain) than on my Wing. Recently a friend's home was washed out from a flash flood. Although we have had a few problems in our area it is only a small amount in distress compared to Florida. I know the police, fire and emergency crews are out in full force. As I look at the news today, Florida may be hit again with another hurricane.

Keep in your thoughts and hearts all who are working so hard to clean the mess the storms are leaving behind and for the loss they all are suffering.



The International Staff sends our heart felt condolence to the family and the many friends of Region K Gary Ptolemy. Because the action of others has caused the infliction of loss, grieve and emptiness in many hearts.

The following is from Senior International Director Bob Lorenz and the staff echoes his words.

"It is with heavy heart and a great deal of personal sadness that I must inform you of the passing of Rich Ores, Senior Region Educator, Region E. As many of you know, Rich has had some health issues he's been battling the past few years and he lost that battle today. Rich has always been a very strong supporter of our programs and worked tirelessly on promoting and building the program in Region E. If you knew Rich you knew his smile and his tremendous sense of humor. His smile was as infectious as any man I've ever met. He will be missed greatly by all who came in contact with him and will leave a very large gap in Region E. I considered Rich a very dear friend."

Inside

1. Thoughts and Storms, Condolences
2. Sidecar Rider Course, Communications, Road Captain's Course – Co-Rider, REP Handbook Updates, REP Levels
3. Database Corrections, CPR Trainers, Know Your Tires?
4. Know Your Tires continued, Thank You, Wearing Layers, MSF Challenge

GWRRA Sidecar rider Course Field Test

**BOB LORENZ
SIDRE**

During Wing Ding, Grapevine, we were able to successfully complete the field test of the all-new GWRRA Sidecar Riders Course (SRC). The results of the field test will assist us in finalizing the course material. Our thanks to Bob Berry and Mark Zingery for their efforts in conducting this field test and to the members who participated in the course.

The course session provided us with invaluable feedback. The course will be finalized in the near future and will be ready for release in early 2005.

This course will be provided through certified GWRRA instructors but will be limited in its presentation, as it will require an experienced sidecar rider/instructor for the range demonstrations. Effective demonstration of the course exercises is vital to the success of the range course.

Communications! - REP Handbook and the National Newsletter **BOB LORENZ SIDRE**

During some of my travels and discussions with various educators it has become apparent that we are failing to communicate throughout the entire organization. This may not be a universal issue but I've received enough feedback to indicate that we have not gotten her word out to all of our educators.

In many cases educators were not aware of the new REP Handbook and did not know it had been released in March. Many are aware of it but have not read it and may not have a copy of it. I have had many questions that could easily have been answered if the educator had only known of the new handbook and had taken the time to read it.

The handbook is the basis for administering our programs. As such it is required that all educators read and review this to have any chance of success with the program. Please contact and communicate this to all educators within your network. Do not assume that it has been done – validate that it has been done.

As for the National Newsletter, again the responses we get are that many educators are not aware that we are even publishing the newsletter, are not aware that it is available on the Rider Ed web page and are not notified from their next level educator. This forum provides the single source of communication throughout our educator network and must be shared with all educators. It is the responsibility of the Region and District Educators to make certain that this information gets to the chapters. Please review your communication process and the effectiveness of that process.



**BOB LORENZ
SIDRE**

With the release of the REP Handbook, Revision 8, the Road Captains course was further defined and left a gap as to how to best recognize the co-rider as part of the team. This situation has been remedied with the issuance of the new "Co-Road Captain" black and gold rocker at Wing Ding. All of the Region Educators that were present at the Educator's meeting, expressed very positive feedback regarding this rocker and felt it would go a long way to providing the recognition that our co-riders so just deserve.

The rocker is available for any co-rider completing the Road Captains course including the road ride segment. Rockers should be available through your Region or District Educator. If not, simply request the rocker from them and they can order them through Phoenix.

RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM HANDBOOK UPDATES

**BOB LORENZ
SIDRE**

Over the next couple of months we will be updating the REP Handbook based on the feedback received since we released Rev 8 in March. Many of these updates are clarifications and corrections to the revised handbook.

One change that will be implemented affects the Level IV, Master Tour Rider Program. The Level IV applications (for new applicants, not renewals) will be required to be submitted to the appropriate Region Educator for review and approval prior to forwarding the application to Phoenix for processing. The RE will review the application to validate the member's time as a Level III (minimum of one year required) and for accumulated Safe Miles (25,000 required to be ON RECORD prior to the application). This change is to be communicated to all DE's and CE's and placed into effect immediately

REP LEVELS UPDATE

**BOB LORENZ
SIDRE**

All renewals for Levels II, III & IV require the completion and submission of the appropriate renewal form. No telephone or e-mail renewals will be accepted, as this method does not provide us with the required data for verification and inclusion in the National REP Database. All Level I, II & III renewal forms are to be forwarded by the Chapter Educator to the appropriate Rider Education Staff member then to the National Staff Level Data Coordinator. All Level IV renewals, after review of the Regional Educator will be forwarded to Phoenix for processing.

DATABASE CORRECTIONS

We are going to try a few changes in our system to help improve our database at the same time make corrections easier for the Educators.

Corrections needing to be made to the database can be made with the Level's Greenbar Correction form or by email.

The problem with using the email system we do not always have the information we need to complete the data requesting to be changed.

When using the email system we must have the member's name, number and the correct information requesting to be changed.

Most often the Chapter or address is the information needed changed. This is short and completing the Corrections form may be redundant.

Hopefully this will help you in your endeavors with the database information.



MEDIC FIRST AID®

By
Larry Stiles

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer, if you had one. Here on the East coast it seems like we had very little summer so far. We have had cool weather, rainy days and all this when you want to ride. Thanks to Bill and Linda complaining about all the rain they have had, it has now caught up to all of us on the East coast. I think we all should get together and have the weather turn West and go back were it came from so Bill and Linda wouldn't feel left out.

All the rallies and fun and are soon to be over since it is now August and the really cold weather will be coming too soon. This is the time we can get our Chapter Educators and Districts scheduling their CPR and First Aid class for the membership.

It has been a great year for training our members. All the regions and districts have worked hard to be sure our members get the training they need. It seemed to show at Wing Ding (members must be getting their training at home). We had offered four classes of recertification on Wednesday & Thursday and we had no students. I am hoping this is showing a good trend that all of our Instructors in MFA, ARC, and AHS are doing the job of getting this information to our membership.

After three years of working with all the Regional Educators, it has finally been a successful reward to GWRRA. Thanks to the hard work of all the Region and District Educators, we now have a MEDIC FIRST AID® Trainer in every Region in the USA. There have been a lot of ups and downs to get this to finally happen, but it has. At Wing Ding this year, we trained 8 new MFA® Trainers. Now we can move on to train the Instructors we will need in each Region so we can be sure that our membership has the training they have been asking for.

I want to thank them, Regional Directors and Regional Educators for allowing this to happen. The following are the new Trainers for their regions:

Region A:
Eldon Shirley -Meridian, MS

Region B:
Anthony Van Schaick – Oswego, NY
Wayne Ketenheim – Johnstown, PA

Region D:
Carol Basel - Wheelersburg, OH

Region E:
Mike Buzick – North Pekin, IL

Region F:
James Scorse – Dana Point, CA
Mickey Maxwell – Dana Point, CA

Region I:
Jim Cox – Federal Way, WA
Donna Cox – Federal Way, WA

Region N:
Patrick McMahon Sr. - Yorktown, VA
Shelia McMahon - Yorktown, VA

These folks have worked very hard to be your leaders in this life-saving program. Each region is now certified in the MFA® Basic 5.0 CPR/First Aid, A.E.D., and the new Child/Infant Care CPR. All Regions do not have the new program in their system yet, but all the trainers have been certified. When their Regions do decide to move forward with these programs they will be ready to go.

We are now working very hard with the good neighbors up North to get their folks educated and we are hopeful that soon we can welcome Canada into this great program.

Be safe, be alert, and may we see you all on a safe journey as we ride.

Larry & Rhonda

Do You Know Your Tires?



Deciphering sidewalls

Have you tried to read those hieroglyphics on the sidewall of

(Deciphering Sidewalls continued)

your car's tires? If you are replacing your tires, do you know what size tires to ask for? Deciphering the information from a tire's sidewall can be a confusing exercise. For most of us, it ranks right up there with decoding the Egyptian markings on a mummy's tomb. Let's take a look at the markings on a tire and break them down.

DOT Markings

The U.S. Department of Transportation markings signify that the tire meets DOT tire-safety standards. The DOT markings help track the tire in the same way a lot number tracks a food product.

- The first two characters designate the tire manufacturer and plant code. This could be important if the tire receives a safety recall.
- Characters three and four denote tire size.
- The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth (optional) characters identify the brand as well as other characteristics important to the manufacturer
- The final three numbers (four beginning in 2000) denote the date the tire was produced. The first two indicate the week, and the last numbers specify the year.

The most important part of the tire is AIR PRESSURE. You must maintain proper air pressure. Low pressure will cause excessive wear, improper handling and creates drag on the tire as if you had the brake applied on that wheel with the low tire. This causes overheating and expansion of the tire cords with the possibility of a blow out.

Many motorcycles have a decal of air inflation pressures with and without loads. If you do not have a decal, check your owners Manual. If you do not have an owners Manual look on the sidewall of the tire it is located there also. However, the tire pressure on the sidewall references the

MAXIMUM allowable tire pressure for the MAXIMUM rated load. This pressure would typically be too high for normal operation.



I recently received an email attachment thanking a District Educator for all the back ground work that goes into becoming a GWRRA Rider Instructor. Thanks to the many who spend their time and monetary losses, as some will take off work, drive to another State or many miles in their own State, to become certified to teach for the Association. Their attitude and desire to have safe riders is a gift to the members and is greatly appreciated, but not conveyed enough to those who have in their hearts to bring safety to the members. I do wish this message to get to all members, the Instructors and the students. Chapter Educators the ball is in your court now.



As I read the newsletter's from many Region's and some District's, that I receive, I can see that the International Newsletter is starting to get to more and more Chapters. That makes it more worthwhile for me to set here and write this newsletter one finger at a time.

The Newsletter is information for all to use and to communicate to others. You can send me articles and we will do our best to edit them into a newsletter.

There are many Rallies we cannot attend but we hear of great safety programs and seminars that were done at these Rallies. Send the information about these programs or Seminars to us and we can

spread the word to all. Maybe others will borrow your safety thoughts to use at their Events.



As the cool evenings are starting (Ohio they never got warm) the suggestion to wear layers is still the best advice. We have the summer "Joe Rocket" jacket and after 65 degrees or below it will require us to put on an extra layer or change jackets.

If you have taken a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course, you would have seen an example of hypothermia in the basic class. "Riding at 45-55 mph on a warm day of 65degrees the chilling effect is equivalent to 33 degrees".

MSF INFO

If you have access to a computer, and would like to take an MSF challenge, go to this site:

<http://www.msf-usa.org/MotorcycleChallenge/index.html>

It will help you brush up on your knowledge and have some fun.

RIDE SAFE