

# Gold Wing Road Riders Association



## Rider Education Program

*National Newsletter...*



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### The Role of the Region/District Educator in the RCICP Application Process

*From: Bob Berry, Director Rider Course Programs*

The International Rider Education staff relies heavily on District and Region Educators for appropriate input about GWRRA members seeking certifications to present Rider Ed programs. The local leadership is connected with the membership in their areas more than the International Staff could ever hope to be considering the breadth and scope of GWRRA. So, members applying to become GWRRA Rider Course Instructor candidates are asked to forward their applications through their District and Region Educator.

The role of the DE/RE is to be familiar with the requirements for participating in an RCICP and review each application to ensure those requirements are met. If there is something amiss, the DE/RE should contact the candidate, correct the error, and forward the application to the Director, Rider Course Programs. If the error can not be corrected, or, if the DE/RE has a reason why the member does not meet the criteria or should not be considered for training, he/she should attach an explanatory note to the application and forward it. At no time may a DE/RE refuse to forward an application. If the attached note creates a question as to the eligibility of the candidate, the Director, Rider Course Programs will discuss the issue with the DE/RE and act accordingly. Conversely, if the candidate does not meet the criteria but the DE/RE makes a case for Instructor need in his/her Region, an exception may be made in certain specific circumstances.

For example. Let's say there is a Region with few or no instructors and the members are clamoring for courses. A member sends in an application to participate in an RCICP to become an Instructor candidate. But, she is not a Level 3 mainly due to the shortage of courses in her Region. The Region Educator adds a note about the issue to the application asks for an exception due to the Instructor shortage, and forwards it to the Director, Rider Course Programs. In this case, the candidate would be permitted to participate in an RCICP because the RCIT would count as a Rider Course and thus qualify her for Level 3. If she successfully completed the RCICP, the RCIT Master Instructor would withhold her Instructor certification until she completed the appropriate paperwork for Level 3 and it was recorded in the GWRRA database.

So to review:

1. All applications must be signed by the District and Region Educator and all applications must be forwarded to the Director, Rider Course Programs unless he/she has designated a manager for a specific RCICP.
2. District and Region Educators may;
  - a. Attach additional positive or negative information to the application;
  - b. Request an exception based on Instructor need.

## **Burnouts – It can be a real problem**

*By: Keith & Elaine Price Region B Educator*

Burnouts, and not the spinning tires kind, can be a real problem with District Educators. Usually the new D/E has come from a chapter setting. You know everybody in the chapter. You've ridden with them. You've talked to them face to face. You've been to their houses and they've been to yours. Hopefully you've been able to instill in them some of your passion about rider education and rider safety.

Now you find yourself thrust into the position of a District Educator. You may have more than two dozen chapters in your district. You may not have or never will meet all of your chapter educators or chapter directors. If you have met them, you probably would not recognize them if they were not riding or did not wear their vest. What's worse you get the feeling that some of these people don't give a damn about rider education. They do not send you reports. They do not respond to your e-mails. You never hear a word from them! And what's worse, they absolutely refuse to follow your advice and ride safely! YOU ARE TRYING TO DO YOUR JOB, BUT IT'S FRUSTRATING!!

What are you to do? Remember, you are not alone. Most educators have faced this dilemma. It happened to me. I've known good educators who couldn't handle it and just quit. That's a shame. Sometimes quitting the job is necessary but it should be the last resort. However there is no dishonor in leaving the post if it's the only way out. Remember the "Fun" part of the GWRRA motto? We, as officers, have the right to have fun too.

Short of quitting, what can you do? Keep the following in mind: You will not be able to reach everybody! There are a lot of "REINO's" (Rider Educators – In Name Only) out there. Too many Chapter Directors, and some District Directors, do not care about rider education and never will. All that we can do is to do our job in the best way we can. We must offer our help to those who desire it and if they don't, there is nothing else we can do. If they change their minds and want our help, we must do our best to give it to them. Don't get frustrated because they don't care to do their job, just do yours. Sometimes you get someone beneath you who refuse to do his or her job or refuse to follow the REP Manual. As hard as you try they are the self proclaimed expert and will not do what is required from them. It's regrettable but once in a while you have to throw your weight around. You may even have to relieve them of their duties. Yes, I mean fire them! If you decide that this is the only course of action left, follow the procedure in the "Officer's Guidebook". Terminating someone is regrettable but, for the good of the organization, is sometimes necessary.

I remember what Bob Lorenz told me, "You are an educator – not a dictator". Do your best to help those who desire it and, until they come around, forget those who don't want your help. Have fun and be happy too. You deserve as much as the next person.

Ride Smart – Ride Safe

## The New GWRRA Parking Lot Practice Facilitator Program

*From: National Rider Education Team*

This article covers the following topics regarding the Parking Lot Practice Facilitator Program.

- Purpose and Goals
- Usage in the Rider Education Levels Program
- Administration of the program

### **Objective and Goals**

The objective of the Parking Lot Facilitator program is to give Members a structured program to build confidence and reinforce basic riding abilities. It is intended solely for the use of GWRRA Members to enhance skill levels and as preparation toward other experienced rider courses. It is not meant for the beginning motorcycle rider, nor meant to take the place of professional motorcycle riding instruction.

The key is to provide a starting point from which they can build their confidence and motivate them to participate in more advanced rider courses. Statistically around 35% of our Membership participates in the Rider Education Levels program. Of those only half have taken a Rider Course. That leaves only 17-18% percent of our Membership who have participated in a Rider Course program to enhance their skills. Members who have taken a Rider Course have always felt that it was beneficial and would recommend it to fellow Members.

Membership surveys indicate that a primary reason for low participation is Members feeling intimidated by our advanced rider courses and, therefore not having the confidence to participate. This is an unfortunate misconception. The Rider Courses employ a "Building Block" method of learning designed to improve the Rider's skill level and confidence step-by-step in early exercises to prepare them for success in the later advanced exercises. However, the fact remains that we require a program that addresses this issue resulting in a higher participation of our Membership. Thus we created the Parking Lot Practice Facilitator Program.

This program has two basic components; the training of Facilitators and Parking Lot Practice Guides for Motorcycles, as well as Trike, Sidecar and Add-on Rigs.

### • **Training of Facilitators**

Our Facilitator Certification consists of two sections, a 3-4 hour classroom presentation and a range review. The Facilitator's specific goals are to ensure:

- Proper preparation of equipment and facilities for the event,
- That the orders of the exercises are correctly followed,
- The Range is managed correctly keeping a safe environment for Members to participate in.

Facilitators may **NOT** under any circumstances offer instruction, suggestions, riding tips, etc. They may only facilitate as described above.

- **Parking Lot Practice Guides**

There are two Parking Lot Practice Guides. One is for Motorcycles and the other is for Trike, Sidecar and Add-on Rigs (such as Voyager, Tow Pak, or Insta-trike type kits that make a two wheeled motorcycle into a four wheeled vehicle with different operating and handling characteristics than a Trike). Both PLP guides use the same format and cover the basic skills of braking, cornering and swerving. They are designed to allow the Rider to “Discover” how to improve their skills and techniques through practice and application of the “**Rider Self Evaluation Tips**” they read in the PLP Guide.

One mission of our Rider Education Program is to provide the opportunity for our Members to get the needed instruction and training to travel the open road with confidence. The goal of this program is three fold.

- To continually increase the level of safety of GWRRA Riders and Co-Riders through continuing education and practice
- To increase the level participation of our Membership in a structured program which they may find less intimidating and more appealing.
- Demonstrating through taking this program that “it’s no big deal” giving them the confidence to continue on in their Education by taking one of our formal Rider Courses.

#### **Usage in the Rider Education Levels Program**

If a Region Educator chooses to sanction a Parking Lot Practice, the Member may apply his/her participation to satisfy the requirements of the GWRRA Rider Education Levels Program. The key word here is **sanctioned**. Region Educators are instructed to sanction the PLP for this use only in extreme cases where formal Rider Courses are not available. We encourage Members to download a copy of the Parking Lot Practice Guide from the GWRRA Website. Even though we encourage the use of this program at the District level, every District has different needs and we feel it is important that the Region/District Educator have the freedom to decide on how the PLP program will be implemented. However, when a Region Educator decides to allow the use of a “Sanctioned” PLP, everyone will follow the same guidelines on how it applies to the Levels Program.

- PLP usage guidelines All Parking Lot Practices, regardless of use must be approved by the District Educator and will be conducted by a certified PLP Facilitator in good standing of their choosing.
  - The Facilitator must meet the following criteria:
    1. Be a current paid GWRRA Member.
    2. Preferably is a Chapter Educator or someone who has demonstrated their commitment to the Rider Education Program.
    3. Is currently certified as a PLP Facilitator and has a card to prove it.
    4. Commits to maintaining his/her certification through submitting a renewal very two years.
  - A PLP sanctioned by the Region Educator is good for **one** year and can be used for the riding requirement to advance to Level 2 only.
  - A sanctioned PLP cannot be used to advance to Level 3 or Level 4.
  - For maintenance purposes a PLP sanctioned by the Region Educator can be used as a **one** year extension for the riding requirement of any Level.
  - A Member completing a sanctioned PLP will receive a GWRRA Rider Course completion card with the PLP box marked. Expiration is one year from the date of issuing.

### Administration of the program

The administration of the program is primarily done at the District level by the District Educator. The District Educator must get the Region Educator approval prior to "Sanctioning" a PLP. As previously mentioned, even though we encourage the use of this program at the District level, every District has different needs and we feel it is important that the Region/District Educator have the freedom to decide on how the PLP program will be implemented.

- Steps to implementing the Program
  1. The District Educator will train a pool of Facilitators through the use of the PLP Facilitator Certification program. All files for this program can be found in the "REP Officer Section" of the GWRRA Rider Education website. Typically the Region or District Educator will conduct this training class. It would be a good idea for them to first be trained themselves to understand how to conduct the class.
  2. Regardless if the PLP is sanctioned for use in the Levels program, **all** PLPs must be approved by the District Educator. The District Educator will assign a Facilitator to conduct the PLP.
  3. With the Regional Educator approval, the District Educator can conduct sanctioned PLPs for use in the Levels Program in multiple areas throughout their District as "District Events" or have Chapter Educators request a sanctioned PLP from them.