

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

**Virginia Educator News
Region N
“Communications & Cooperation”**

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE



January / February 2003



Cundiff & Ellen Simmons – District Educators

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Kilmarnock, VA 22578
c.h.simmons@juno.com

Jim Sharkey – Assistant District Educator

VA Outstanding Educator of the Year

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Dumfries, VA 22026
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Gene & Martha Davis – Region N Educators

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Virginia is the proud home of five Region “N” Educators of the Year

***Marty and Leslie Cash, VA-U, 1996-1997
Cundiff and Ellen Simmons, VA-C, 1998-1999
Kathy and Chris Hooper, VA-D, 1999-2000
Pat and Shelia McMahan, VA-C, 2001-2002
Doug & Ann Hardy, VA-M, 2002-2003***

THE **D**ISTRICT **E**ducator's **N**ews

- Cundiff Simmons

Nominations Needed for Region N Educator of the Year

The deadline for nominations for Region N Educator of the Year is **March 15th**. As many of you know, GWRRR Virginia has dominated this award since its inception in 1996, with 5 of the 7 recipients coming from VA Rider Education. The nominations should consist of a well-written letter indicating the reasons that the nominee deserves this award. Nominations should be forwarded to Cundiff Simmons. You can nominate any Educator you feel should receive this award. Get your thinking caps in gear, and let's nominate some of our superb VA Educators for this prestigious award.

Wingless Weekend

Wingless is over for another year and a successful one it was! Ninety-Eight "Winglessers" participated in Rider Education Seminars. Thanks to Pat and Shelia McMahon, Virginia MFA Coordinators, for offering two MFA Recertification sessions, Gary Wall, VA-C Educator for presenting the brand-new Team Riding Seminar, Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator, for presenting the Rider Education Game Show. and Jackie Wall, VA-C Educator, who helped organize the Team Riding and Co-Rider Seminar presentation material, handled seminar door prize tickets and distribution and generally kept Gary and me in line.

Ellen Simmons organized and ran the Rider Education table with the help of Jim, Martha Davis, Senior Region N Educator, Nick and Teresa Knox, VA-B Educators, Wade Jensen, VA-A Educator, John Bebb, VA-O Assistant Educator and others that I never got the chance to see in action.

Thanks to Gary Wall and Honda of Norfolk for the GL1500 Battery that was given away on Saturday night (George Akers of VA-C won).

Thanks to Canon Virginia and Jackie Wall for the many, many Canon logo door prizes

Thanks to the other Educators (both of you) that brought door prizes to be given out with the Rider Ed card game.

Most of all, thanks to the "Winglessers" who stopped by the table, played the card game and bought the Rider Education goodies. Without all of your support there would be no GWRRR Rider Education Program.

District Officer's Meeting

The Spring 2003 District Officer's meeting will be held on Saturday March 8th, 2003 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on Oddfellows Road, Lynchburg, Virginia. All Virginia Chapter Educators are encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 8:30 am. As always, the Educators will have a break-out session from approximately 10:00 am until 2:00 pm with a break for a buffet lunch. New programs, old programs, paperwork, individual problems and concerns will be discussed. Please bring your Rider Education Handbook with you. Please note that this meeting is for Chapter Educators. Assistants should only come in the event that the Educator cannot attend.

A block of rooms is being held at the Ramada Inn and may be reserved by calling the hotel at 804-847-4424. Please mention GWRRR when making your reservation.

Please contact me and let me know **WHETHER OR NOT** you will be able to attend. You must send the registration form below to Mike and Angie Mitchell, Virginia District Directors, no later than March 1st in order to guarantee you the complimentary buffet lunch (you can make a copy of this page).

My spouse _____ and I _____ will be attending the Officer's Meeting.

Count us in on the complimentary luncheon. _____ YES _____ NO

Return to: Mike and Angie Mitchell
GWRRA VA District Directors
3306 Listerbrook Ct.
Richmond, VA 23230

Name: _____
Chapter or District Staff Position:

Region N Rally

Plan to attend the Region N Rally in Cherokee, NC on May 8-10, 2003. Virginia Rider Education has responsibility for the Road Captain Course and helping Doug Hardy, Assistant Region N Educator with the Field Events. We could use your help.

I assigned Region N "Big Bucks" tickets to each of you at the Fall District Officer's Meeting and asked that you return them to me as quickly as you could get them sold. I've received SOME ticket stubs and money back. Some of you have indicated that your tickets are sold but have not returned the stubs and money. Others of you have requested more tickets to sell. If you have not sold your assigned tickets and don't think that you will by April 1st, please return them to me ASAP for redistribution. All tickets, stubs and monies must be returned NLT April 15th so that they may be accounted for and available for sale at the Region N Rally.

Those of you who attended Wingless Weekend no doubt saw me riding all over the hotel on that pretty, red, electric scooter. An identical scooter will be given away by Region N Rider Education at the Rally. Tickets are \$ 5.00 each or 3 for \$ 10.00 and are available through me or Gene Davis, Region N Educator.

Paperwork

Please send your Monthly Chapter Reports directly to Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator. These reports are due by the end of each month. Carry a copy of the report form to your monthly meeting and fill it out "on the spot". It will then be a simple matter to send it to Jim the next day while it's still fresh in your mind!

I've received new Rider Education MOUs from only a few of you. These were due in January. You need to complete one ONLY if you have a new Chapter Director. Please get them to me ASAP so that I may forward them to Region N.

ARE YOU AWARE?

Jim Sharkey, Assistant Virginia District Educator



I'm not talking about being aware of the normal things we talk about like potholes and weather conditions, but other less obvious things that could have a profound effect on your day.

I want to share with you some of the things that I have noticed on my travels.

I was on my way to an ERC early one April morning and it was very cool out – probably in the high 30s. As we were passing a semi, I noticed that the guy had his window down. Hmmmm, I thought. I wonder if the driver is so sleepy he has his window down to help keep him awake? I decided that I would just pick it up a bit and get by him ASAP.

Here is another one to think about. We all see lots of the rental trucks, many with trailers moving folks from one end of the country to the other. My thoughts on this are, “Does that person know how to drive a big truck? Do they know how to pull a trailer?” **ARE YOU AWARE** these people do not have to prove any driving proficiency past a valid drivers license? It would probably be a great idea to give these people a wide berth.

How many times have you seen people tooling down the pike with out a care in the world when you notice that they are running one of those space saving spares. **ARE YOU AWARE** that you are not to exceed 50 MPH and you are supposed to only go as far as the next place you can get your regular tire fixed. I have seen people running on these spares at well over 50 MPH and I actually saw one car with two of these spares on it. Scary huh! Just one more thing to be on the watch for.

ARE YOU AWARE that Chrysler is trying to make us believe this is a motorcycle. I think I see four tires – how about you?



Mon Jan 6, 4:34 PM ET

Chrysler Group Chief Operating Officer Wolfgang Bernhard motors along the stage aboard the brand-new Dodge Tomahawk V-10, 8.3-liter (505 cubic inch) concept motorcycle at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on January 6, 2003. The Tomahawk features four-wheel independent suspension, and the superbike's engine, borrowed from the Viper sports car, can propel it at speeds of nearly 400 mph. (Rebecca Cook/Reuters)

Well, I am trying to keep my long windedness in check so will close for this month but want to let you all know that if I can help you with newsletter articles or ideas for your rider education presentations at your meetings please feel free to contact me.

Ride safe!
The Shark



CHECK IT OUT!

- John Bebb, Assistant Chapter Educator, VAO – Article taken from December 2002 Newsletter

Would you feel safe flying on a plane if you heard this conversation between the pilot and the co-pilot?
“Let’s skimp on the checklist today. The plane looks safe enough.”

Pilot: *“Tires”*

Co-Pilot: *“They didn’t look flat so the pressure is probably OK.”*

Pilot: *“Lights”*

Co-Pilot: *“The ones I can see from here work.”*

Pilot: *“Oil”*

Co-Pilot: *“It was fine last week”*

Pilot: *“Brakes”*

Co-Pilot: *“We have two – I’m sure at least one works.”*

Pilot: *“Windshield”*

Co-Pilot: *“It’s not all that dirty”*

Pilot: *“I slept only four hours last night so let’s not waste any more time. Let’s fly this baby!”*



You might think twice about going on the trip at all if your pilot weren’t interested enough in safety to do a proper checklist. Is piloting a bike that’s carrying your spouse any less important? You know the answer.

Tires need the correct pressure to prevent overheating, and excessive wear. Not looking flat isn’t enough. The only way to know the pressure is to use a tire gauge. Check the tires while cold. Write down the correct pressure for your tires, and keep it in the bike.

Lights are something we don’t think about until one goes out that we can see from the rider’s seat. Yet the taillight is what lets the car behind you see you before he runs over you. The co-rider can easily check the brakes lights, taillights, and turn signals while you sit on the bike and push a few buttons.

How important is your oil? No, you don’t check the oil by looking at the engine temperature gauge. There is a convenient dipstick made just for that purpose. Don’t be a dipstick; use the one on the bike.

Always using both brakes to stop or slow is the proper way to use brakes but the wrong way to check them. If one of three brakes starts getting weak, the other two will hide this fact. Try using only the brake lever to check the one front brake that the lever operates. Then you will have an idea how that brakes are working. Using only the brake pedal with an integrated braking system uses two brakes – one front and the rear. Testing the brake pedal this way makes it easier to know whether one of these two brakes is not up to par. Of course the best way to check out all three brakes is during the bike’s regular service.

Perhaps the windshield is the easiest of all to check. You can look at it as you are walking up to the bike. Are those bug spots you see? It takes only a minute or so to clean them off. They may be only an annoyance in the daytime, but you need all the visibility you can get at night. Another time a dirty windshield really shows up is when you head directly into the sun. That’s when you’ll really wish you’d taken an extra minute or two to clean your windshield. When you have your cleaner out to clean your windshield, you might also clean your face shield and your glasses. Then the whole world will look cleaner.

Your bike’s checklist should be something you use before every ride, just as a pilot uses his before every flight.

Check it out!

ARE YOU AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER? TAKE THIS TEST

- Idaho Transportation Department



“Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac.” – George Carlin

Are you an aggressive driver? Take this test...

1. When you're late for an appointment, do you do any of the following: speed, drive too fast for the conditions, tailgate, run or push red lights, run or roll through stop signs, try to beat oncoming traffic?
2. Do you ever drive five or more miles per hour faster than the speed limit?
3. For every 10 mph you're traveling, do you leave less than one car length between you and the car in front of you?
4. If you're in a hurry, will speeding save a significant amount of time in getting to your destination?
5. If the roads are rain, snow or ice covered, do you drive the speed limit?
6. On slick roads, are you able to stop faster when driving a four-wheel drive vehicle?
7. As you approach a traffic signal and it turns yellow, do you speed up to beat the light?
8. Do you ever continue to roll through a stop sign even at a slow rate of speed?
9. Do you ever fail to make a complete stop in an effort to beat oncoming traffic?

How did you do?

If you answered **YES** to any of the questions, you are driving aggressively at least some of the time. Did you know that aggressive driving significantly increases your risk of being involved in a crash and makes the road more dangerous for everyone?

1. ***If you're speeding***, you're also likely to be tailgating, pushing yellow lights, or failing to yield – compounding the risk of being involved in a crash. One aggressive driving behavior leads to another.
2. ***Speed kills***. It's true. Crashes where speed is a contributing factor are the most severe aggressive driving crashes. More than 50% of crashes involving speed result in injury or death.
3. ***If you have to stop, six car lengths is not enough distance if you're traveling at 60 mph***. Use the three-second rule to determine the minimum, safe following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
4. ***Okay. You're late. You went 45 instead of the posted 35 mph to work – a five-mile trip***. What did you save? Less than two minutes. Think about the times someone has sped by only to be stopped beside you at the next light. Is the little time you saved worth taking a big risk?
5. ***The consequence of every aggressive driving behavior*** – failing to yield, tailgating, running red lights, rolling through stop signs, and speeding – is greatly increased when visibility is poor or roads are rain, ice or snow covered.
6. ***On rain, snow or ice-slick roads***, a four-wheeled drive requires the same stopping distance as a two-wheel-drive vehicle.
7. ***Some of the most serious vehicle crashes result from running or pushing the red light***. In an urban setting, nearly 50% of the crashes in this category of aggressive driving result in injury or death. Remain alert as you approach every intersection. Remember, you won't sit at a stoplight for long. The cycle of a typical traffic signal is one minute.
8. ***Running or rolling through a stop sign can result in a very serious type of aggressive driving crash*** – the side-impact crash. Remember, it's harder to see oncoming traffic when you don't come to a complete stop. Make a full stop at all stop signs.

9. ***Failure to yield the right of way causes more aggressive driving crashes than any other behavior.*** Always remember to yield – whether you’re leaving a driveway, alley or exiting a parking lot. At uncontrolled intersections, slow down, look both ways and be prepared to stop. If you and another driver arrive at an intersection at the same time, yield to the driver on your right.

How did you protect yourself from aggressive drivers?

- Most importantly, eliminate aggressive driving from your own driving behaviors.
- Always wear your seatbelts and be sure children are safely restrained in the back seat. Your chance of being killed or injured is cut in half.
- Drive defensively, not offensively.
- Drive as predictable as possible. It helps other drivers avoid crashing into you.
 - Use signals to indicate lane changes.
 - Make a complete stop at stop signs.
 - Slow down as you approach yellow lights.
 - Stay within speed limits.
 - Drive at a safe following distance.
- Allow ample time to reach your destination.
- Be polite and courteous. **DRIVE FRIENDLY.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGION “N” RIDER ED

By Gene & Martha Davis

Educator of the Year

Don't forget to choose the Educator who you wish to recognize as outstanding. We need for your nominations to be in by March 15. Please turn in any nominations to your District Educator today!

Trike Course

We have received a number of requests for a Trike Course. Our goal is to certify enough instructors to make the program more available and at a reasonable cost. The Trike Course to be held at the Region N Rally in May will be limited to 24 trikes. The cost is only \$30, either one or two up. The first 24 who send their money to Gene Davis (98 Colson Rd., Benton, KY 42025) will be signed up and anyone who doesn't get in is asked to check at the Rally to see if there have been any cancellations.

Seminar Presenter Program

We have been requested by WV to put on another Seminar Presenter Program. We are going to schedule a program in early April in southwest WV. More information will be forthcoming. There will be a \$10 fee to help offset the cost of presenting the program. Buck Wyatt, the WV District Educator will be coordinating the program. If you have any questions or wish to add your name, give Buck a call at 304-782-3005.

First Aid CPR / First Aid Instructor's Class

We have been asked by NC to hold another Medic First Aid CPR / First Aid Instructor's Class. We are going to schedule a class in April in NC. The cost of the class is \$55. That only covers the cost for and the shipping of the Instructor's material. Those who would be interested contact Willie Hunt, the NC District Educator at 910-739-7369. When final information is made available we need to have the \$55 sent to Gene Davis 30 days ahead of the scheduled program. This allows time for the books to be ordered from Oregon then sent to the students in time for the needed pre-study to be completed.



Email Address

If you have any questions, comments or input for the newsletter, please contact me at gdw-jlw@juno.com.

Newsletter Articles

Educators, I need your **help!**
Each month I put together your Virginia Rider Ed newsletter. I would love to include some things that YOU have to say. Articles or bits of information can be sent to my email address listed above.

Thanks!

Monthly Activity Reports

Don't forget that Monthly Activity Reports are due **BEFORE** the end of each month to Jim Sharkey. Make your life and the life of the Assistant District Educator easier and take a blank report to your chapter meetings. Just fill it out there and then send it in!

Rider Ed



Links: **Stay connected!!!**

Take a look at available.

some of the other **GWRRRA** Rider Ed newsletters that are

- ➔ *National* Rider Ed newsletter: www.GWRRRA.org - find Rider Education links, then go to Newsletter link.
- ➔ *Region N* Rider Ed newsletter: www.region-n.org – click on Rider Education
- ➔ *District* newsletter: www2.firstsaga.com/goldwing – click on Rider Education