

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Virginia Educators News Region N “Safety is for Life”



JANUARY 2005

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Virginia is the proud home of six out of nine Region N Educators of the Year!

Marty & Leslie Cash – VAU
1996–1997

Cundiff & Ellen Simmons – VAC
1998-1999

Kathy & Chris Hooper – VAD
1999-2000

Pat & Shelia McMahon – VAC
2001-2002

Doug & Ann Hardy – VAM
2002-2003

Gary & Jackie Wall – VAC
2003-2004

From the Desk of the District Educator

- Gary Wall, Virginia District Educator

Happy New Year to all,

My, I don't know about the rest of you, but I am glad the stress of the holiday's are over!! Now that the weather has changed again, be prepared for the "regular" winter weather to set in quickly. I don't know about everyone else, but the 2 days we had of 70-degree weather down here, brought out all the rider's trying to enjoy the good weather for riding. I wonder how many didn't do a proper pre-trip, because they just wanted to get out and ride? We all know what happens to air pressure when it gets cold outside. If we don't take the time to get on our knees and check the pressure, we could be riding on really low tires. This will not only affect the life of the tire, (more money), but could also affect our riding abilities if it suddenly deflates. Stress the importance of doing a thorough pre-trip, and let's keep our friends and loved ones with us a while longer.

Now I am going to get on my soapbox for a few minutes. It is concerning the timeliness of the monthly reports. This is one of the easiest things we can do in Rider Ed., and yet it seems like we try and make it the hardest. When you are at the monthly meeting for your chapter, after giving your section on Rider Ed, do a quick count of how many member's and guests are there, if anyone had taken a course for Rider Ed (CPR, Co-Rider, etc), update the levels at the bottom, and when we get home, take the 2-3 minutes to send it to Nick and Teresa. And then that month's reporting is done, and you don't have to worry about the e-mail or phone call coming asking where are the reports. We have to report these figures to Region Educator, who then sends them on to National. If we have to keep calling for a number of reports, we are keeping others from completing their job. Let's see if we can't do a better job of reporting and make someone's life just a little bit easier!!

Wingless Weekend is just around the corner, February 4th-5th. For those of you who have never been, it is a lot of fun. What with the skits, games, fellowship, and tall tales, you can't help but have fun. This is one of those times where the folk's in Rider Ed have time to enjoy the atmosphere, as we only have 3 seminars, plus the CPR/First Aid re-certifications going on. Speaking of which, if your chapter would like to schedule a CPR class, or would like to go in with another chapter, give Pat and Shelia McMahon a call or e-mail them at PSMHHI@Erols.Com, and they would be more than happy to give the course. They have stated a number of times, that with proper notice, they will go anywhere in the District that they are asked. That includes all chapters' north, south, east

and west in the state. So far, they have given 5 classes for the chapters, and are just waiting to hear from you. Give them a call for specifics.

If anyone in your chapter needs a riding course, be sure to check out this website and see where you can go to set up a course for your Chapter members. Remember, a Riding course does not just have to be an ERC; it can also be a BRC, (Beginner's Riding Course). Now before you start laughing about the BRC, let's think about this. Yes, we all know how to get on a bike, how to start, shift, brake, etc. but how about those bad habits we have also started? You know the ones, 2 finger's on the brake, not squeezing the tank while turning, or not looking to where we want to go in a turn? A bad habit is the easiest thing to start, but one of the hardest things to break. A riding course is a riding course; it still qualifies for Rider Ed, and is also good for 3 years. The website is www.learn2ride.com.



Here is a listing of the rallies that we know of this year. Hopefully, you will be able to go to one or two and see how other rallies are ran. Look over the Rider Ed area, and see if we can make things better for our Rally. Jackie and I will be attending all of the rallies in our Region, and also going to Wing Ding in Ft. Wayne Indiana. We will be getting numb rears this year with the riding we will be doing. Look over the list and see where you would like to go, or have never been before, and enjoy the ride!!! Please take note that there is a new location for the Region N rally this year, and the town is going all out to make sure that all rider's are welcome. And of course, it is a great riding area to boot!!! Nothing like riding the mountains and scraping chrome.....

Tennessee Rally	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee	April 21-23
Region N Rally	aggie Valley, N. C.	May 19-21
Wing Ding	Ft. Wayne, Indiana	July 4-8
Waller in the Holler	no location as of yet	August 11-13
Kentucky Bluegrass	Paducah, Kentucky	August 25-27
Wings over Smokies	Fletcher, NC	September 22-24
Rally in the Valley	Salem, Virginia	October 6-8

Well folks, I have rattled on enough for your cold weather reading. We hope that you and your family are doing well, and are looking forward to riding season again. Take care and,

Until we meet again,
Jackie and Gary
Virginia District Educator's

A Few Words from your Assistant District Educator

- Nick and Teresa Knox, Assistant District Educators

Three weeks ago we were riding in 70 degree weather, not bad for the first week in January. Now it's 25 degrees and I have put my battery on the charger. What a change!

It looks like winter has set in this time and will last for a while. What better time to set up for a training seminar? If it is too cold to ride, you might as well talk about riding. There will be seminars for Co-rider and Medic First at Wingless Weekend in February. If you can't make it to Wingless, then why not set up some training for your chapter? There are seminar presenters and Medic First instructors who will work with you to set up the training your chapter needs. Take advantage of the "down time" and encourage your members to take all the training they can get and to move up to the next level in Rider Education. Speaking of Rider Ed levels, do not forget that renewals for level II, III and IV are due this month. Remind your members that it is important to keep their current level up to date and sign up any new chapter members for level I

A reminder to all Chapter Educator/Chapter Directors filling out the Monthly Activity Report, please use the new form to send your report to us at NKnox3951@aol.com.

We hope to see everyone at Wingless Weekend.



Renewal

Have you renewed your Rider Education Levels for 2005?

Crosschecking the Rider Education Area Report against the list of current Educators within Region N was a real “eye-opener”. **A very large percentage of Educators ARE NOT up to date with their own renewals!** (While I haven’t checked the records of the Operations Officers, I suspect I would have a similar result.) This is not acceptable. How can Officers within this organization expect for our membership to keep up with their Rider Education renewals if we don’t set the example. **Officers by definition are leaders.**

Why renew?

In order to renew, a Rider Education participant must meet all of the requirements of their current Level as outlined in the Rider Education Handbook and as listed on the Rider Education Levels Application forms. The intention is to try and insure that our members keep up with the classes and programs that can potentially save their own lives or the lives of others. We all get rusty when we don’t practice those skills on a daily basis. We tend to forget the details over time and revert to old (and often bad) habits. Taking Rider Education classes periodically helps us to hone those skills and remember the details so that in the unfortunate event that we need them, they’re fresh in our memory or practiced to the point that the execution of the skill is automatic.

Renewal reinforces our own commitment to rider safety and Rider Education. Participation in the Rider Education program is demonstrating our commitment to the safety of everyone in our organization.

“I’d renew BUT I can’t find a class”.

If you “can’t find a class”, help to organize one! You don’t have to be an Educator to do this. Be a leader (See above).

For Riding classes, contact your District Educator or contact your State Motorcycle Safety Program Coordinator to find contact information for the nearest state Rider Training Program facility. Most State Programs will be happy to arrange an ERC for your group.

Check the schedule for upcoming National, Regional or District rallies. Many offer Rider Training courses but may require advance sign-up. Remember that many rider courses qualify for renewal or advancement in the GWRRA Rider Education Program. For instance you may qualify by taking any of the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) classes, CSC (Canadian Safety Council) classes, ESC (Evergreen Safety Council Sidecar/Trike Education Program) classes, and of course the GWRRA Trailering, Trike, Sidecar, and ARC (Advanced Rider Course) classes.

For non-riding courses see the schedules for GWRRA Rallies and Winter Events. Contact your District Medic First Coordinator or find out whom your local GWRRA/MFA Instructor might be. They will be happy to help you set up a class for your Chapter. There are many GWRRA Certified Seminar Presenters out there that would love to help you organize a live Co-Rider Seminar. Your Chapter Educator may arrange to show the GWRRA Co-Rider Seminar Video to your Chapter or group and can issue a Co-Rider Seminar card.

Talk with your neighboring chapters about setting up joint training sessions.

“When do I renew?”

There is no renewal for Level I. Levels II, III and IV must be renewed annually for participants to remain active. Renewal for these Levels is due each January 1st. The exception to this is if the Level II, III, or IV was issued in October or later of the previous year (less than 3 months at the current Level on January 1st), then no renewal is necessary the following January. Remember, participants renew at their **highest level only. If you’ve missed the January 1st renewal date, don’t wait until next year, you may renew at any time.**

“How do I renew?”

Renewals for Levels II and III should be administered at the Chapter level. You may also renew at the Rider Education tables of most GWRRA District, Regional or National rallies. Renewals for Level IV, Master Tour Rider, are administered only through GWRRA International Headquarters, Phoenix, AZ. GWRRA will send you the renewal form near the end of each calendar year or you may download it from the GWRRA web site.

“Where do I get information and forms?”

Contact your Chapter Educator. He or she should have the correct forms available and will help you fill them out. Any GWRRA Officer may validate the forms BUT be sure that they are filled out correctly and that all supporting documentation is reviewed and noted. If you don't **know** how, ask.

Rider Education is not a secret society. **ANY** GWRRA member may go to the GWRRA.org website and view or download the Rider Education Handbook or any of the forms.

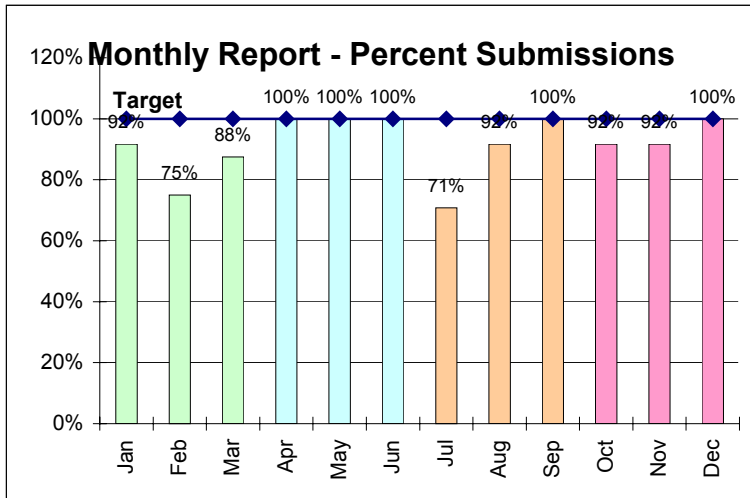
Be a leader. Set the example. Renew your Rider Education Levels annually and encourage your members to do the same.

Cundiff

Wall of Fame

Congratulations to these Chapters for submitted their reports on time for the month of December!!

A-A1-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-M-O-P-Q-R-U-V-W-X-Y-Z



Starting with this year, you will see the Wall of Fame in the newsletter every month. This chart will show the percent of reports that are submitted on time. Monthly reports are due to Nick and Teresa NO LATER than the 5th of the month for the previous month (for example - on February 5th, you need to have the monthly report to them for January). If your report is late, you will not show on this report!! I will also be sending out this chart via email in order to keep you updated and informed.

As you can see from the chart, Virginia had 100% reporting for December. You should also note that for the 4th Quarter though, we were at 94%. When only a few chapters don't turn in reports, this will bring down the numbers. Educators and Chapter Directors, please make sure you or your Educators fill out a monthly report at the end of EVERY Chapter meeting and forward it to Nick and Teresa immediately. If your Educator did not make the meeting, it is the Chapter Directors responsibility to complete this form and send it in. If a report comes in late, it will not contribute towards that month's submission.

Let's keep Virginia District Rider Education on the top!!!

Wingless Weekend



Wingless Weekend is right around the corner. I hope that most of you will be able to attend. As always, there will be lots of fun, friends and seminars. The Rider Ed table will be "open for business" on Saturday from 8:00am until 2:30pm. I hope each of you that are planning on attending will stop by the table and volunteer some time. It is a great way to get to know everyone and learn more about Rider Ed. Don't worry; there will be someone else there to help you out in case you have questions. You may say, "What do I have to do?" Well, you will be asked to help out with the Rider Ed card game, assist with Level Renewals or help out with the door prizes. It's a great way to get to know everyone and have a great time.

Speaking of door prizes. We are asking ALL Educators to donate a door prize to the table. If you are planning on going to the event, just bring it with you. If you can't attend, then please send it along with someone who is attending. Rider Ed's reputation is that we have the best door prizes. Don't let this change. If every Chapter brought in a door prize, we would have over 24 door prizes!!

Medic First and Rider Ed Seminars

We will be offering 2 Re-certification classes for Medic First/CPR at Wingless. The times will be 8:30am – 10:30am and 10:30pm – 12:30pm. Please pass this along to your Chapter members. The cost is \$20 per member and the certification is good for 2 years. There is not a sign up for these classes, just show up and take course. We will also be offering 3 Rider Ed seminars – Co-Rider, Be Prepared and a Rider Ed game. Please encourage your members to attend one of these seminars. These seminars will be at the following times:

- 9am – 10am – Be Prepared
- 10am – 11am – Co-Rider Seminar
- 11am – 12pm – Rider Ed Games

Everyone who attends a Rider Ed seminar will be eligible for drawings for some prizes. Don't miss out on the fun!

We look forward to seeing you at Wingless Weekend!!

Happy Renewal

- Tony & Michelle, AIDRE

A New Year and already things are buzzing. Numerous Rider Education Levels Program renewals for Level II-IV have already been received and entered. Many more are sure to come. If you made your latest Level since October 1st of 2004, you need not renew again in 2005. For the rest of us, all it takes is to continue to meet the conditions you needed to initially qualify for your HIGHEST level, a completed form and an amount just enough to cover the cost of the pin/bar and postage.

If you haven't sent yours in yet for 2005, get it done as soon as possible. For Levels II-III, the cost is a mere \$2. Any profit from these levels (little if any unless there is a lot of volume) goes to the Regions and Districts. You get a YEAR # (where the # = 3 to whatever your number of years renewing at your highest level) bar or a "YEAR 2 hanger pin for your trouble.

For the Level IV Master Tour Riders the cost for renewal is \$10, which helps in a number of ways to fund the Rider Education Program. Initially the renewing Level IV receives a "RENEWAL" hanger pin which is much like the YEAR-2 pin that the earlier levels receive. From that main pin, the additional years renewed can be hung using a year bar such as "2005". We have all heard that Level IV Members earn a free breakfast at Wing Ding each year. This includes the first year as well as in the future.

Ever wonder where the renewal mail-outs are funded from? Members have let us know that they have been receiving multiple reminder mail-outs and in some cases multiple pins or bars. Mike Wright has let us know that the International Headquarters is looking into the cause and appreciates the honesty of all those who have returned the excess pins and bars.

Under the new Masters Recognition program, if the Master Tour Rider has remained current for 5 years, he or she qualifies for a Senior Master Tour Rider patch. This also entitles the new Senior Master to a savings on their renewals for the next 5 years. The cost to them is \$7.50. After those five years, the Member qualifies for an additional discount to \$5 plus a Grand Master Tour Rider Patch, signifying at least ten years staying current as a Level IV. (Consult the GWRRA Rider Education Program Handbook to find out how to get caught up if you have missed a year or so in renewals.)

This past year marks the first Life Grand Masters with 15 or more years as Level IV's. Their renewal fee is free. They also get a special patch to wear on their vests. Life Members in GWRRA of course may waive their renewal fees, unless they wish to receive a renewal bar for \$2. All the renewal fees from Level IV riders is the resource for those extra patches and breakfasts that certainly costs more than \$7.50, \$5, or free.

On behalf of the Membership, we wish to thank those who have entered the Levels Program and continue to take the classes and refreshers to remain current. That makes you an asset to yourselves and fellow Members – someone who cares enough to better themselves and be prepared to lend assistance if needed. If patches and pins aren't your thing, don't wear them. It is the idea that counts – the skill, knowledge and preparation. It is not difficult, but it does require you stick it out to attain the highest levels. Are there better riders that have never entered the Levels program or attained Level IV? Sure. Are they committed to doing anything for you, a fellow rider? Many REP Level Program participant Riders and Co-Riders have also stepped up to become providers of the training which benefits all of us. We truly are Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge!

Happy New Year, Ride with Less Risk & B+

Certified Seminar Presenter Program

Everyone has been asking when the next Certified Seminar Presenter Program was going to be offered and here is the answer. March 26th is the date for the next class. The location has not been determined yet. This will all depend on how many participants are signed up in each District. In order to teach one of the core seminars, you must be a Certified Seminar Presenter. The core seminars are:

- Co-Rider
- Be Prepared
- Team Riding
- Road Captains



Please keep in mind that the Road Captains Course is one of the four Rider Education “core seminars”. As such, the instructor for this course MUST be a GWRRA Rider Education Seminar Presenter. In addition, the way the Road Captain Instructors have always been certified to teaching Region N and Region B before that, a potential instructor must have taken the class, preferably more than once, must have assisted an experienced instructor at least once and must have taught under the guidance of an experienced instructor before teaching on his/her own.

Chapter I's Medic First Class – What a Blast!!!

- Jeff Sterling, Chapter Educator, VAI

Chapter I recently offered a Medic First Class to their Chapter members. The class was taught at the home of Bruce and Gayle Babcock of Manassas on December the 18th after returning from Kimball West Virginia where we presented 403 students Christmas gifts for the holiday season along with 750 pounds of school supplies. The class was taught by Pat and Shelia McMahon, the Region N Instructor Trainers and assisted by Gary Wall. Chapter I members in attendance were myself, Bruce and Gayle Babcock, Ken Ball, Jim Sharkey, Hank Brandenburg, and Chuck Karl. All passed the class and received their cards with certificates presented at the Chapter I meeting in January. It was a very interactive experience with many questions posed by the students regarding various CPR/First Aid scenarios. The instructors gave numerous tips as to how to handle injured persons and perform limited movements of those requiring medical attention without causing additional injury. Legal aspects of providing first response assistance were also covered and the responsibilities of First Aid providers. Much time was spent learning correct procedures for administering CPR.



Spring Officer's Meeting

The Spring Virginia District Officer's meeting will be held on Saturday March 12, 2005. This meeting is for all District Staff, Chapter Directors, Chapter Educators and their spouses. Assistants are only to attend in place of the Director or in the event that they are going to take over the Chapter in the next few months

Our meeting is going to be held at the Natural Bridge Inn & Conference Center in Natural Bridge, Virginia. Their telephone number for reservations is 1-800-533-1410.

We will begin the meeting promptly at 8:30 AM for everyone, with the Educators breakout somewhere around 10:15 AM and lunch at 12:00 PM. We should be finished and wrapped up no later than 5:00 PM. We invite you to join us for a complementary luncheon buffet. In order for us to provide this, we need to know the number of meals to be served. You should have received your confirmation form via email by now. Please complete and return by March 1st. If we do not receive your notification form back by February 25th, we cannot guarantee you a complementary meal.

Some of the things we have in store to cover are:

- Seminar Presenter Program
- REP Applications
- Medic First Seminars
- Monthly Reporting
- Area Reports
- Wall of Fame



This is a great time to get together with other Educators and talk about issues and problems you may be having. We hope all of you can make the meeting and look forward to seeing all of you at the Natural Bridge.