

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE



March 2003



Cundiff & Ellen Simmons – District Educators

485 Simmons Lane
Kilmarnock, VA 22578
c.h.simmons@juno.com

***Jim Sharkey – Assistant District Educator
VA Outstanding Educator of the Year***

15605 Montview Drive
Dumfries, VA 22026
msgshark@aol.com



St. Patrick's Day
March 17th

Gene & Martha Davis – Region N Educators

98 Colson Road
Benton, KY 42025
Martygene@vci.net

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

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 breakout 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.

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, GWRRA 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.

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!



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Jim Sharkey, Assistant Virginia District Educator



We have all heard that annoying sound caused by hangy-down thingies scraping the pavement as we are leaning into a curve. This can be unsettling even to the most experienced rider. A couple of years ago I was following a rider that experienced this activity for the very first time (*He meets the profile of a lot of us in that he had ridden many years ago and was just getting back into our sport*). He chose the corrective action that comes most naturally – he stood his bike up. Now we all know what happens when you stand your bike up while trying to negotiate a curve. Yup – that’s right – you go straight and straight he went – across the oncoming lane of traffic straight into a small ditch between the road surface and guardrail. Thank goodness there was no oncoming traffic. The end result of this was one shaken (not stirred) rider and a slightly damaged Gold Wing.

So let me ask you this. What would you have done? Applied brakes? The ERC teaches not to brake while in a lean. Continue to drag parts? Maybe but this may have resulted in catching on the road surface resulting in a much more severe outcome.

We all know, or should know, the right thing to do was not to have placed yourself in this situation to start with. This situation could have been prevented how? That’s right, by slowing your entry speed enough to allow gentle roll on all the way through curve using less lean.

So, okay, you have come into the corner too fast and you have to deal with it. Your options are:

- If room is available – stand bike up and apply maximum braking and then reinitiate your lean.
- You may try gentle braking while in your lean.

- You may choose to do like the your butt off the seat to the inside of up. This counter balance maneuver same arc with out scraping off your



professional racers do and drop the curve and stand your bike will allow you to continue in the hangy-down thingies.

- You may choose to just go straight and explore whatever is off the road in the direction you are headed.

I personally think the best option is to immediately drop your butt off the seat to the inside of the curve and stand your bike up. This maneuver can be completed faster than any of the others (except for the running off the road option).

This maneuver is a little hard to get used to so what I do on occasion is as I am enjoying a leisurely ride is to practice in the nice and easy curves. It may look a little silly, but you will be able to prove to yourself that you can indeed maintain a constant arc thru the curve using this method.

So go out there and practice moving your butt off the seat. Who knows, the butt you save may be yours.

RIDE SAFE!!

The Shark



GET READY TO RIDE

- Les and Diana Warren

Warm weather will be upon us soon ... I hope ... and with it comes the time we will get out and do some riding. It's been a long cold winter (well, it feels like it's been colder than normal to me anyway) and I haven't had the Wing out for a ride since back in October as far as I can recall. It's been too cold, or I had to work, or something came up ... but it has been quite a while. I suspect that many of y'all are in the "same boat". I am going to go over the Wing with a fine-toothed comb before I get out on the road. I'll get my shop manual or owners book out and use it like a map. Lots of things can go wrong when a motorcycle is left sitting for months in a basement (or garage or shed). Things like brake hoses starting to crack, tire sidewalls or tread developing cracks, brake or clutch fluid turning to sludge due to absorption of moisture (it happens). Tires go half flat, gasoline, if not pretreated with "Stabil" or similar preservative can have the lighter ingredients evaporate and leave the heavier contents behind to form a varnish. Maybe you forgot that back in the Fall you needed tires, but you put it off because winter was coming on well, now it's time to get those tires before the "Spring Tire Rush" takes place at the shops, and if it hasn't been done lately, NEW VALVE STEMS would be in order. If a valve stem is deteriorated and has been on for the last several sets of tires, it is possible that it may someday fail and when it does, it results in a rapid loss of air and a spoiled ride. Check the fluid levels (brake, clutch, coolant, final drive) and if due for a rear tire, make sure that whomever you allow to change tires for you, that they clean and relube the drive splines with the correct Moly Lube (available from Honda reasonable like). A good cleaning and wax application is also in order. You have been watching the battery haven't you? Keeping it charged with a low amperage charger or maintenance charger over the winter. Wings don't have kick-starters ... a good battery is a must!

Well, that's enough for this month I guess, Please be SAFE out there, and let's don't be "too proud to give an inch" to the other fellow. See y'all soon Les & Diana Warren

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH NATIONAL RIDER ED NEWSLETTER

Winter Storing

Do you store your helmet and gear indoors or with the motorcycle? If you store in the cold, it is a good idea to bring it in and warm it up.



Check to see if any varmints found the mints you left in the pocket or made a bed in your helmet. We keep our bikes in a well-used garage and I still like to take a peak into the air cleaner to see if there has been some winter storage from any varmints. This is due to a prior experience.



Try things on, we sometimes find winter shrinkage after all the holidays and food gatherings. In addition, the helmet might be loose,. Some of us are starting to have less hair to fill it.

When we have all this done and the sun pops out, we are ready to get out and enjoy.

Make a List



You have made an appointment for service on your Gold Wing. You have a strange noise or you want to ask a service manager/mechanic about your Gold Wing. More often than I want to admit, I get sidetracked tire kicking with the sales person or to other folks, possibly perusing new members, I forget about that noise or item I wanted to ask about until I am almost back to the house. There is a form available you can download from the computer. This will help with any questions you have. (Hope you remember to take it with you). Check the boxes that pertain to your question.

There are eleven checks for the engine, eleven for noise and vibration, three for transmission, then for brakes, two for steering and handling and a list of vehicle sounds like buzzing, grinding knocking and thumping to name a few. If you have, the senior moments occur as I do; you will find this list helpful. It is like a t-clock for the mechanic to try and understand what you mean when you state, "the ting on the right has been clicking". I found that interesting download at – <http://www.ahm-ownerlink.com>. You have to log in with your name and a password of your choice. Then go to service. This site you can also register your own Gold Wing by the VIN number. There are many items, about your Gold Wing, you can check out. This site can be helpful to maintain your records for service you do or have had done.

▲ HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY REGION "N" NEWSLETTER

- Gene and Martha Davis

Activities are being planned for the Region N Rally that will be both fun and naturally, educational. We hope that our members will take advantage of the programs and join us as Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge. We will be offering a Trike Instructor IP, a Trike Course, Road Captain Course, Field Events, Safety Seminars: Co-Rider, Team Riding, Be Prepared and Parking Lot Program. To those members who wish to take advantage of the Trike Course. The program will be held in two parts, the in class portion will be on Friday and the on field portion will be on Saturday (see the February 2003 Region N Rider Ed newsletter for more details).

As if January 1, 2003 any GWRRA member who wishes to present a seminar must be certified through the GWRRA Seminar Presenter's program. Region N has conducted one program and had two of the sixteen who completed the first part of the program present their seminars during the VA Wingless Weekend. If these two, Cundiff Simmons and Gary Wall are an example, we are really on a roll. We are looking forward to many more Presenters completing the second phase of the program at the upcoming events.

What are the responsibilities of the member who wishes to renew their levels within the GWRRA Rider Education program?

- a. Complete all requirements for the level they wish to renew.
- b. Show the validating officer your course or seminar cards.
- c. Pay the required \$2.00 for Levels II and III.
- d. All of the above.

Answer: d.

What are the responsibilities of the validation officer?

- a. Inspect the applicant's current course or seminar cards.
- b. Inspect the application for completeness, correctness and legibility.
- c. Decide whether the applicant can review or not.
- d. Have sufficient knowledge of the Rider Education program to assist the applicant in completing the form.
- e. All of the above.

Answer: e

SAFETY AND RIDING TIPS

-Taken from Honda OwnerLink

Did you know that two-thirds drivers?* Drivers may not see do you stay safe and avoid an



of all car-motorcycle crashes are caused by car you until it is too late to avoid a crash. So how accident?

Be smart.

It's up to you to be smarter than the drivers. Scan ahead, ride responsibly, and be prepared. Always wear a helmet, and please, **do not operate a vehicle after consuming alcohol or drugs.**

The bottom line?

Only you can take responsibility for your safety and your passengers'. Before you ride, review the important [safety information](#) and [riding tips](#) in your Owner's Manual. And whether you're a beginner or an expert rider, be sure to take advantage of the certified training courses available to you.

* Source: [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#), May 2002

Don't rely on a four-leaf
clover for your luck!
Take a safety course
today!!!





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 some of the other **GWRRA** Rider Ed newsletters that are available.

- ➔ *National* Rider Ed newsletter: www.GWRRA.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