

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE

March 2004



Gary & Jackie Wall – Virginia District Educators
10 Sanlun Lakes Drive
Hampton, VA 23666
gdw-jlw@juno.com



Nick & Teresa Knox
Assistant Virginia District Educators
NKnox3951@aol.com

Cundiff and Ellen Simmons – Region” N” Educators
485 Simmons Lane
White Stone, VA 22578
c.h.simmons@juno.com

Jackie Wall – Newsletter Editor
gdw-jlw@juno.com

***Virginia is the proud home of six out of eight
Region “N” Educators of the Year***

Gary & Jackie Wall, VA-C, 2003-2004
Doug & Ann Hardy, VA-M, 2002-2003
Pat & Shelia McMahan, VA-C, 2001-2002
Kathy & Chris Hooper, VA-D, 1999-2000
Cundiff & Ellen Simmons, VA-C, 1998-1999
Marty & Leslie Cash, VA-U, 1996-1997

From the Desk of the District Educator

- Gary Wall, Virginia District Educator

Hello Educators,

We just completed the Spring Officer's Meeting and if you were not able to attend, you missed a good time. To bring you up to date, if you were not able to attend, please get with your Chapter Director, as they have your packet we passed out. We will soon be getting a new Educators manual, the word we have is "shortly", we will let you know when it is available. Once it is available, you will need to go to the National web page to download.

We would also like to announce a new addition to the Educators ranks – Nick and Teresa Knox. They have stepped up to become the new Assistant Director Educators. We welcome them to our distinguished group. They bring experience, ideas and the commitment to Rider Ed. Starting with your April monthly meetings, please forward your monthly reports to them. Their email address is ***NKnox3951@aol.com***.

Region N Rider Ed is selling raffle tickets for a Garmin Street Pilot GPS. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each; you do not need to be present to win. The GPS will give directions and help prevent a lot of those "corrective measures", otherwise known as U-turns. Please help out Region N by selling and buying tickets.

Speaking of raffle tickets, the Educators at the Officer's Meeting thought that our Fast Cash tickets that we sell at RIV would sell better if they were sold for \$10, instead of the \$20 we now charge. The downside of this is that we will need to sell 500 tickets instead of the 250. We will still be giving away the \$1,000 Grand Prize; we will just need to sell more to make the same amount. With the lower cost, they should be easier to sell.

Rally season is quickly approaching. The first weekend of May is the Region N Rally in Cherokee, North Carolina. The first weekend in July is Wing Ding in Grapevine Texas. August 12th – 14th is the Waller in the Holler in West Virginia. This is quickly followed by the Kentucky rally on the 26th of August. The month of September (23rd – 25th) is the Wings Over the Smokies and of course October 8th – 10th is

Rally in the Valley. If you can make another rally in the Region, take time to introduce yourself to the District Educator and volunteer a little of your time to help out. We all know how much work it takes to make a rally successful and if we can help out, it will be appreciated.

I guess I have taken enough of the space allocated to the newsletter and she hasn't quite kicked me hard enough to hurt yet, so I will close this article. As always, keep your articles coming into the newsletter editor and she will be happy. This will keep me out of the doghouse to which I have become very accustomed.

Ride Safe,
Gary

Highlights From Spring Officer's Meeting

The Spring Officer's Meeting was held at Natural Bridge Virginia on March 13th. We hope that all the Educators that attended enjoyed their stay. Here are some of the highlights. EDUCATORS – on the last section of this newsletter is a summary of what was included in your Educator package. Please take time to review.

NEW ASSISTANT DISTRICT EDUCATORS - We would like to say congratulations *to Nick and Teresa Knox* for being appointed Assistant District Educators. They received their Officer patches at the meeting. EDUCATORS – beginning with your April monthly reports, please send them to Nick and Teresa at ***NKnox3951@aol.com***.

NEW CHAPTER EDUCATORS - Welcome to *Bryan and Debbie Chandler* for being our newest appointed Chapter Educators for Chapter X. They also received their patches at the Officer's meeting.

UPDATED VIRGINIA EDUCATOR LIST – The Virginia Educator List has been updated. It is posted on the Virginia District web page. If you have any changes, please notify me as soon as possible.

PIN AND PATCH ORDER FORM – All

Educators should have received a Chapter Pin and Patch Order form (email). Please use this form to order all pins and patches in the future. The spreadsheet will automatically calculate the cost of the order. Please send all order forms to the District Educator.

GWRRA RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM HANDBOOK 8th Edition – Coming Soon!!!

The new Rider Education Handbook is expected to be released soon from National. .

REGION N RALLY X – Region N Rider

Education needs your help. If you are planning on attending the Region N Rally in Cherokee in May, please volunteer at the Rider Ed table. Virginia is responsible for staffing the table for a half-day period (day yet to be determined).

GWRRA TRIKE COURSE – Region N is offering a GWRRA Trike Course at this years rally. The cost is \$20 PER BIKE. This class is **LIMITED** to the first 12 bikes who register and pay. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Cundiff Simmons at ***c.h.simmons@juno.com*** or at 485 Simmons Lane, White Stone, VA 22578. Don't wait to register. This class is filling up fast! Only 12 bikes will be allowed to take the course.

GARMIN STREET PILOT TICKETS – Region N is raffling a Garmin Street Pilot at the Region N Rally. Tickets are available to see. EDUCATORS, if you would like to have a batch of tickets to see, please contact me ASAP. Tickets are \$5 each. The winner does not need to be present to win.



Let's Get Ready

- Les & Diana Warren
Chapter Educators, VAR

This is the start of the best riding season there is ... **Spring!** Now, before the shops are strangled with work, is a great time to get any needed, but "put off" maintenance done on our rides. Need tires or brakes or due for an oil change maybe? Brake and clutch fluid over a couple years old and starting to look dark? Battery acting a bit sluggish lately or last time you used the bike in the Fall? **Now** is a good time to be getting them tended to. Please perform a thorough T CLOC inspection on your bike, remove the Tupperware when needed to get access to those hidden items now while in the comfort of your garage (*easy to clean and wax those hidden areas too!*) and lay down on your back and get up close and personal like with the tires and bottom sides of the bike. Look for any signs of leakage around all hose connections, check wires for chaffing, check terminals for tightness (*clean terminals and reapply dielectric compound for trouble free connections*), check the tires all the way around the tread for any foreign objects (*nails, screws, etc*) and check the tread and sidewalls for age cracking. Check all the lights, getting a helper to operate the various items like "brakes" to make sure all switches work properly (*front and rear brake switches please*).

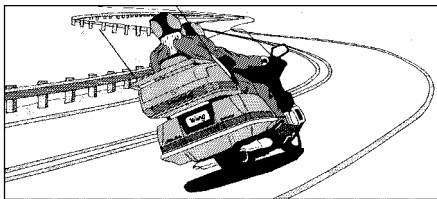
Let's take a close look at that 15 year old leather jacket that has the zipper that we have to use a safety pin to keep closed, or those gloves with the creative black duct tape across the palm, or that favorite old helmet that has the chin strap that you're afraid to pull to tight on because of the worn and frayed stitching around the D rings and attachment points. These things don't last forever. The jacket zipper can be replaced at least, and maybe it is time for that newer jacket equipped with the cooling slots (*after all, Summer is just around the corner!*). The gloves have some life left in them maybe, if used around the shop or out in the yard ... **but** they have long outlived their usefulness as protective gear on a bike, get new ones. And **that helmet?** What can I say ... its days are over. Use it for a planter, **get a new one.**

On the subject of helmets ... If the helmet has ever been dropped from any height onto a solid surface, it should be inspected by a qualified

person and likely replaced. If it has even sustained an impact in a crash, it definitely should be replaced. If it's more than 5 years old, it probably is due replacement based on general wear and tear and deterioration. Moisture and perspiration take a toll on helmets. Storage in a dry and unlit location can prolong a helmets life, and if all else is well except for "that odor", there are sprays such as "Helmet Fresh" that can be used. A covering such as a "Slicks" (*made of silk and worn under a helmet*) can also extend a helmets useful life ... but consider what is at stake, the "why we wear a helmet" of it all, and I think you'll agree that if there is any question, it is best to err on the side of safety and replace any questionable helmet. Some safety groups recommend the replacement of any helmet over 3 years old, and while that may seem to be a short life for a helmet, such a tactic does insure a greater likely hood of a rider being equipped with the **lightest, coolest, and safest head gear available** with current technology.

Many of you are planning trips already for the coming months, motel reservations have been booked, brochures have been obtained, vacation days requested, sights to see have been specified, travel partners have been determined. The one item that will most enable us all to enjoy our plans with the least down time, the one item that will most ensure the safety and enjoyment of our trip is our Goldwing, let's not neglect her.

Till next we see y'all, Take care and Ride Safe
..... Les & Diana Warren

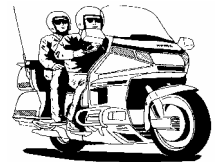


Safe Riding is Always Good Riding

- MN Motorcycle Safety Center

Riding safely is mostly a matter of knowledge and attitude, and riding safely doesn't have to be boring. In fact, practicing safe techniques could add years of fun to your life.

Simply put, here are 10 habits to practice that will help keep you safe and make riding more enjoyable.



1. Be ready: mind, body, and bike.
2. Be smooth.
3. Know where you are.
4. Use your head (to look where you're going.)
5. When your line of sight or path of travel becomes restricted, reduce your speed and use great care.
6. Before proceeding through any intersection, check left, check front, check right, then check left again.
7. Whenever you slow, first check your rearview mirror.
8. Keep a 2-4 second following distance.
9. Ride with a great attitude.
10. Practice.

Motorcycle Tip of the Day!

Pretend you're invisible. Assume everyone out on the road is trying to make you crash. That way, any surprises from other road users will be pleasant surprises. - Pat Hahn

▲ Tips for Motorists

- MN Motorcycle Safety Center

The Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center encourages everyone--car drivers and motorcyclists--to practice these techniques to make motorcycling safer for everyone.

Watch aggressively for motorcycles.

- Search the traffic around you constantly and expect to see motorcycles.
- Check your blind spots before changing lanes or merging, especially in heavy traffic.
- Double-check traffic at intersections before you turn or pull out.
- Motorcycles can easily be hidden in traffic. Look for a helmet above, tires below, or a shadow alongside a vehicle that you can't see around.

Anticipate hazards that may confront the motorcyclist and predict how the motorcyclist may react to the situation.

- Poor road conditions, bad weather, flying debris, oil slicks, and heavy traffic pose high risks for motorcyclists.

Allow a minimum two-second "space cushion" when following a motorcycle.

- Pick out a fixed object ahead of you. When the motorcycle passes the object, count off, "one thousand one, one thousand two." If you haven't passed the same object after two seconds, your following distance meets the two-second minimum.
- In poor driving conditions, at higher speeds and at night, use a four or five-second following distance to give the motorcyclist more space.

Watch out when turning left.

- Most crashes between cars and motorcycles involve turning left at an intersection. If you are preparing to cross traffic or turn left, take a second look for motorcycles.
- Because motorcycles are smaller than cars, it is harder to see them and more difficult to judge their approach speed in traffic.

Share the road.

- Do not drive your car in the same lane as a motorcycle. It is unsafe and illegal.
- Treat motorcyclists with the same respect and courtesy you afford to other motorists.

Observe and obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals

- Failure to obey and yield the right-of-way can result in the death or serious injury of a motorcyclist.
- Stay focused on the driving task. Inattentive driving is a major cause of car-motorcycle crashes.
- Use turn signals to indicate your next move. This allows the motorcyclist anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- Remove all possible distractions that can interfere with the driver's attention, and remove any objects that may block the driver's view.



Monthly Activity Reports

Monthly reports should now be sent to:
Nick & Teresa Knox
9 Sol Thorpe Lane
Chesapeake, VA 23325

Nknox3951@aol.com

EDUCATORS – please take a few minutes after each meeting to complete the Monthly Activity Report and send it to Nick and Teresa immediately.

CHAPTER DIRECTORS – if you do not have an Educator or if your Educator did not make the meeting, please help out by completing the Monthly Activity Report for them. It MUST be completed each month.

Need Forms, Brochures, Information?

Check out the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website for safety materials like flyers, videos, posters and fact sheets. All this information is FREE.

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

RIDER EDUCATION
NOTES FROM THE OFFICIER'S MEETING
March 13, 2004

These notes go with the handout in the folder given out at the meeting.

Page 2 – Rider Ed Forms: (on the right side of your folder)

Monthly Activity Report - Make sure it is completely filled out after each Chapter meeting and sent to Nick and Teresa Knox by the end of the month at NKnox3951@aol.com.

“Greenbar” (Area Report) Correction Forms – Any corrections to the Green Bar should be filled out showing what the report presently shows and what the corrected information should be. Send these forms to Gary and Jackie Wall. The “True” on the Green Bar means there is nothing Wrong with the information and “False” means something is wrong with the information and needs to be corrected.

Rider Education Application (Levels I – III) – Make sure the application is completely filled out. This includes the applicant’s name, GWRRA number, chapter and complete address. Before signing off on the application for Level II make sure you see their M/C license or Endorsement and ask to see their cards for an approved rider course. For Level III ask to see their cards for CPR/First Aid and for an approved rider course. You will need the expiration dates.

Pay close attention to the cost for each new level and cost of renewing Level II and III. When renewing Level II or III make sure the number of years at their current level is filled out.

Safe Miles – include safe miles on any Gold Wing or Valkyrie. Pins are \$2.00
If a person wants to update their safe miles and not receive a pin, they can do so by sending in the application without the \$2.00.

High Mileage – is not a part of GWRRA Rider Education Program, the total miles is on any motorcycle.

Master Tour Riders – is a different application and the applicant must meet all the requirements, completely fill out the form, Have it signed by a GWRRA officer and send it with \$35.00 to Gary and Jackie Wall. For renewals, fill out the application and send it with the \$10.00 renewal fee to National.

Pins and Patches – use the order form in your folder and try to up-date supplies all at one time. If your chapter can afford to do so, try to order several Level I, II, and III patches so you can give them out when a person signs up for the level. When you send the application to Jackie, she will send you new patches for your supply and any safe miles or high mileage pins to be given out at your next meeting.

Page 2 Forms Cont.

KLE – Knowledge Level Exam – in your folder, it looks like a multiple choice test. Note the correct answers are in bold. This is an overview of what the Chapter Educator should know. (Check page 6 - 7 of your handout.)

T-CLOC – is a check list every rider should have to check his motorcycle out before riding. The Chapter Educator should make copies of this form to give to each member at a Chapter meeting. The member should fill out the form themselves, not the educator.

Emergency Information Form – The educator should make sure each rider and co-rider has this form to fill out and put in the trunk of their motorcycle. Stress the importance of putting the form in the truck, not in the saddlebag, so it will be easier for a person trying to help, to have access to the information. (If the bike goes down, it will most likely be blocking access to one of the saddlebags.)

Page 3 & 4 – Seminars

Rider Education Seminar Training Programs – must be a certified Seminar Presenter to present a seminar for GWRRA.

Some of the core seminars are:

Co-rider (must take the seminar, can't just watch the video)

Team Riding or group riding (Where communication is very important)

Road Captain Course – (learn more of the hand signals and roles of the lead and drag bikes)

For any riding seminars, you must wear long sleeve shirts or jackets, boots, gloves, jeans and helmet. Add on sleeves can no longer be worn during training.

Page 5 – Rally in the Valley

Promote Rider Education, the seminars and courses offered at the Rally.

Nominate an outstanding Educator for Virginia Educator of the year – this person should go above and beyond promoting GWRRA's Rider Education Program

Offer to work at the Rider Ed table during the Rally and/or bring door prizes

Sell the Fast Cash Tickets - \$10.00 per ticket and only 500 tickets will be sold (these should be sold prior to the rally).

Page 8 – Communication

Newsletter articles – should be included in the monthly Chapter newsletter. The articles should be interesting topics pertaining to motorcycles – examples:

- The levels of Rider Education in GWRRA
- Renewing licenses and tags
- Riding in different weather – proper riding gear
 - Road conditions – sand and pot holes
- Taking medication while driving
- Drinking and driving
- Riding in groups
- The role of the Co-rider
- Packing the motorcycle for a trip

You can get articles from many sources – example:

- GWRRA web site
- AMA web site
- Wing World
- Other Chapter Educators
- District or Regional newsletters

Chapter Presentation – can use the article you wrote for the newsletter or some other topic. Try to get chapter members involved in the presentation. Ways to members involved:

- Questions and answers - hand out cards to be read by different members with one question and multiple choice answers on the card.
- Take time for a brief discussion on each question. (Use 5-10 questions)
- Visual Aids – Helmet or clothing of someone who had an accident
- Fashion Show – a rider and Co-rider in the proper rider gear and another rider and Co-rider in improper gear.

If you don't know the answer to a question, tell the person you don't know, but will find out and get back with them as soon as possible.

This was compiled by Nick and Teresa Knox, Assistant District Educators