



## MARCH 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

Ok, we have had our sweet look at coming weather, and then been smacked by reality! On Monday, we enjoyed a truly wonderful “riding” day, temperatures were in the 70’s, skies were clear and blue, and then on Tuesday, we had a 25 degree change in temperature in 1 hour, followed by the rain, and with the temperature plummeting by the minute, the dreaded snow and ice. Personally, I prefer the nice warm riding weather, to the biting cold. It seems like we can always get cooler, but it takes a while for the old bod’ to adapt to being cold. Once you are cold, you stay cold for a while. Oh well, we should have about 3 more weeks of winter weather, (cold-no snow hopefully); before we actually can start to really get into riding season. Are there any more people out there who cannot wait to open the windows and let our home’s breath?

We all know that with the passing of winter, comes the day when most of us get the Wing out of the garage, start doing a T-CLOC, attending the Chapter bike clinic, getting her nice and shiny, and going for our rides. We have all been cooped up in the house for 3-4 month’s and can’t wait any longer to throw our legs over the saddle and feel that sweet vibration from the 6-cylinder, 1520CC monster of a motor we have straddled, and drop her into first gear. Yep, those first ride after a hard winter can get us all going and dreaming of the upcoming riding season. The one thing we have forgotten is that we have been kept inside for a BIG reason. That reason is old man winter. Most of our state has been hit rather hard this winter, with bitter cold, snow, ice, and everything Mother Nature can throw at us. The roads now have new potholes, bigger potholes, sand, debris, and the normal gamut of debris from winter ravages. And in our eagerness to get the rust off of our skills, have totally forgotten some of our lessons from last year. You know the ones, while diving into that curve, we “see” the sand that has been blown into that curve, but did we **comprehend** that it was there? And did we remember that pothole, yeah that one that will jar your eyeteeth loose? We thought we did, but we can’t take our eyes off this monster pothole that we cannot take our eyes off of. Yep, same area, same pothole, just much larger and deeper, and since we couldn’t take our eyes off of it, we ran slam through the middle of it. Wings do not come with ejector seats, but the way your co-ri-der came off the saddle, you would have thought they did. And you know that you are going to hear something coming through your headset, you just know you are! Remember, with our Wing’s

setting still through the winter month's, our skills are setting still also. Take those first few rides like they were your first. Get your skill's back up to par, and make the coming riding season the best it can be. It wouldn't hurt to take that ERC course you have been putting off, just to get those skill's back up to par. Let your Chapter know about the ERC classes, and see if the local college has an open weekend for your Chapter, or possibly another local Chapter, take the class.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Officer's meeting will have come and gone, and all the information has been put into the Educator's hands, or the Chapter Director's hands. If you were unable to attend, make sure you get your packet from the Director, so you can look it over. We now have our fund-raising tickets printed, and gave them out at the meeting. If you were unable to attend, let us know how many you would like to sell, and we will get them to you. We will also be putting any information out in next month's newsletter.

Just to give our Region a bust, err boost, the Region N Rally on May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, promises to be a good one. The area has truly opened the town for us, and are awaiting us to get there. It is a beautiful area for riding, or doing nothing but relaxing. Get your reservations in early, as from what we are hearing, there are a lot of us that want to ride, and ride a lot!

There is always time for that CPR/First Aid class. If you are interested, contact Pat and Shelia McMahon at [psmhhi@erols.com](mailto:psmhhi@erols.com), and let them know you want to have a class. If you do not have enough member's interested in your Chapter, combine with another Chapter. Pat and Shelia have stated that with enough notice, they will go anywhere in our District. Or, as another idea, make it a Rider Ed. Day. Have the CPR/First Aid with the Road Captain's course, or Co-Rider Course. Just remember that a Certified Seminar Presenter must give these 2 last courses. And after March 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have more of these member's to choose from, as Virginia District has 18 folk's who have signed up for that course. **Great Job!!!**

I feel like I have gone on long enough, for now my brain hurts!! Doesn't take much though. So, I will close this article.

Remember to Ride Safe, and Have Fun!

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## Fast Ca\$h Tickets

Fast Cash Tickets were distributed at the Officer's Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received your Fast Cash Tickets to sell, please contact Teresa Knox as soon as possible. Educators, if you take the tickets, you are responsible for selling them and getting the ticket stubs and the money back to us ASAP. There will only be 500 sold so if you can't sell your tickets, please return them so we can distribute them to someone else who can sell them.

Also at the Officer's meeting we gave out Region N GPS tickets for those who wanted them to sell. Please note that the ticket stubs for both of these sets of tickets look the same (different numbers). To help keep them straight, if you have both sets of tickets to sell, please put on the stub wither "VA" or "Region N" so we can try and keep them straight.

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## National News

I have already sent out the National Rider Ed newsletter for March but I did want to point out a very important article by Tony and Michelle Van Schaick, Assistant International Directors and REP Levels Database Administrators.

### **How do I use the Rider Education Levels Database Report?**

We often are asked how to use the tool once known as the Rider Ed green bar to benefit the Member and make the Educator's task easier. For this article, we will look at a few of the many reasons why it is important to you and the Member.

As an Educator and any other office in the Association, this should be the first place you look when the Member hands you a Levels Application for validation. We see far too many people signing up for a level they already have attained years earlier. There are also cases where people are not signed up at a lower level and are applying for a higher level. This could be the result of misinterpretation or unreported data that hasn't been integrated into the Rider Ed Levels Database yet for some reason. At the Chapter level, the Educator and Operations Officers need to know or have a ready resource that tells them the current status of the participants. This is spelled out in the Handbook as a function of the Educator – bring a copy of the latest report with you to the Chapter gatherings so it is a ready resource for Officers as well as interested Chapter participants. Make the information visible (while protecting Member information confidentiality) to each individual – you can read it off to them, remind them when their courses need renewal, suggest a class date for the Chapter that will take care of renewals and initial training alike. Generally just make it a part of normal Chapter business. If the participants know you care and re looking at the information, they are likely to be more interested as well.

As a Member, the report can save time and money by reminding you when you are due for recertification on one of your courses. Approved rider and co-rider courses are good for 3 years now. As evidenced by a majority of levels applications we4 receive, many still have not gotten the word that these count for 3 years in the Rider Ed levels program, I spite of the expiration date on some of the completion cards. Communicate! Communicate! We have also seen a limited number of cases where people are at Level I and are renewing. Remember that there is NO renewal at Level I. If you have questions on what information is in the database report, the Region Educators have been provided a help file that breaks each column down by the expected type of information in it. One correction we would like to communicate is the date formats are in the MM/DD/YYY form instead of the DD/MM/YYYY originally included in that document. Thanks to those Educators that caught that one!

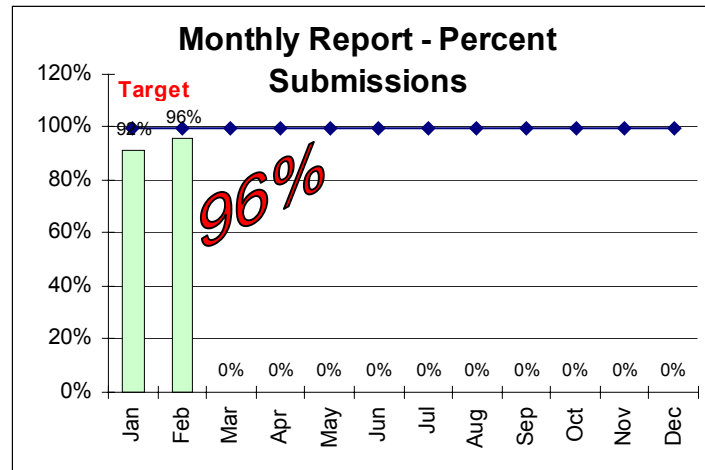
Many Members will be wondering how the column entitled "current" figures out the YES or NO answer in it for each person. We have programmed the spreadsheet to compare all the Level requirements: applicable expiration dates for courses, current renewal information, safe mileage totals, etc. to arrive at the proper YES/NO status. The Member may ask for help from an Officer/Educator to determine what is holding them up from a YES. Remember to compare what they think they have done to what is listed in the Levels Database Report. Any discrepancies should be corrected using Form N.10 in the GWRRA Rider Education Program (REP) Handbook. Once it is sent to us (not Bill and Linda English) the change need only be entered once, as opposed to some Chapters that choose to update their version locally every month.

Enjoy your new tool!

Ride with Less Risk & B+

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## Wall of Fame



We stand at 96% for the month of February for our Wall of Fame. Good work Educators! Let's try for 100% next month.

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## Region N Rally



**May 19-21, 2005**

Mike & Angie Mitchell, Region N Appalachian Adventure will be in beautiful Maggie Valley, NC. seat newly built music theatre

have plenty of room for all activities and vendors on site. There are plenty of hotels, campgrounds and full service restaurants in Maggie Valley to take care of everyone. The townspeople have opened their arms to us and are as excited to have us as we are to be there. The Region Staff will be working the area over the next few months to secure sponsorships, host hotels and other goodies that will enhance the Rally." We will be setting up a pretty extensive display on the website for all to view.

Directors, announce that the 2005 Region N held on May 19 - 21 at the Eagles Nest Theater, The Mitchell's say "The Eagle Nest is an 800 that should suit our needs wonderfully. We will

Along with the new site, Region N Rider Education has some great things going on too. Back by popular demand, Region N Rider Education will be giving away a GPS. [Raffle tickets are now available](#) (please let your District Educator know if you would like to receive tickets to sell). The Core Seminars will also be offered. In addition to the seminars, there will also be a MEDIC FIRST AID ® Instructor's Course. I hope everyone will try and attend this year's rally in Maggie Valley.

Educators – if you are planning on attending the Region N Rally, Virginia will be responsible for the Rider Ed table for part of the time. If you would like to help out at the table, please let me know. We could always use your help.

### Region N Educator of the Year

GWRRR Rider Education Division recognizes and honors outstanding Educators who have distinguished themselves through performance and dedication above their peers. It is not too early to think about **Region N Educator of the Year**. ANYONE can nominate someone for this award. Do you know of a Chapter Educator that you think deserves this award? If so, write up a nomination and send to Cundiff Simmons ASAP. The deadline has been extended so please get your nominations in right away.

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## Instructor Programs

### Certified Seminar Presenter Program

March 26<sup>th</sup> was the date of for the Certified Seminar Presenter Program. We had 20 people from Region N take the course. Everyone did a great job. This is the first step to becoming a Certified Seminar Presenter. Congratulations to the following members:

- Gordon Combs - VA
- Greg Kestner- VA
- Rhonda Owens - NC
- Kyle Craig - NC
- Jimmy Shanks – VA
- Faith Daulton - VA
- Jeff Sterling - VA
- Pat McMahon – VA
- Shelia McMahon - VA
- Jack Snead - NC
- John Williams – KY
- Kristy Williams - KY
- John Smorto - VA
- Dave Huey - VA
- Lee Fortier - NC
- Marty Link – VA
- Jim Hicks - VA
- Evelyn Hicks - VA
- Roger Hamner - VA
- Ed Land - VA

The next step in this process is that they must teach a Core Seminar (Road Captains is the exception) while being monitored. After they have been certified, they will be able to teach a Rider Ed seminar at any Chapter levels or a rally. Let's all give them a hand!!

### MEDIC FIRST AID ® Instructor Training Class

In addition to the Certified Seminar class, there will also be another instructor class being held at the Region N rally – MEDIC FIRST AID ® Instructor class. If you are interested in becoming a MEDIC FIRST AID ® Instructor, you must contact either Gary or Jackie or Cundiff Simmons immediately.

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## REP Level Applications

-Jackie Wall, Virginia District Educator

A big thanks to all the Educators for sending in those REP Level Applications. As you can see from below, I have been receiving lots of new levels every month. I would like to point out a common mistake that is happening VERY frequently.

When you receive a level application, the first thing you need to do as an Educator is go to the latest Area Report to review the current information on file for that individual.

**What level is the member?** You need to know that when they go from one level to the next. Remember, a member must be current in their level before going to the next level. For example: You receive an application for NEW Level III. You MUST go to the Area Report to see if they are current in Level II. Under the column "last renew" if that date is January 2003, then you need to have the member renew for Level II for 2004 and 2005 before they can advance to Level III.

A lot of the new Level IV applications are also coming to me incorrectly. Before a member can advance to Level IV, they MUST satisfy the following:

- Must be CURRENT in Level III (showing on the Area Report)
- Must have been a Level III for at least 1 year (showing on the Area Report)
- Must have at least 25,000 safe miles (showing on the Area Report)
- Must have a current CPR/First Aid course within the past 2 years
- Must have a current rider course within the past 3 years
- Must carry a first aid kit on the motorcycle
- Must receive a written recommendation from any GWRRA officer

All NEW Level IV applications must go through me and then through the Region N Educator. ALL applications that do not meet the criteria listed above, will not be processed. Please note that the member must be CURRENT in Level III before sending the application to me. Go to the Area Report, see when they renewed. If they are not current, then they must complete a Level III renewal to bring them up to date BEFORE sending the Level IV application.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Keep those apps coming!!

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## New REP Levels

Along with the New Year, come new ideas. Starting this month, I am going to start putting in the newsletter the members who have either joined the Rider Education Level Program or who have moved up. I will be getting this information from the REP forms that I receive each month. Please keep in mind that is only as current as the reports that I receive.

Congratulations to the following members reaching **New Levels** in the Rider Ed program:

- Wallace Waggoner (VAB) – Level I
- Michael Sebert (VAD) – Level I
- Kristi Johnson (VAD) – Level I
- Everett bowers (VAF) – Level I
- Steve Cedor (VAF) – Level I
- Keith Rutherford (VAF) – Level I
- Jason Taylor (VAG) – Level I
- James Jackson (VAH) Levels I and II
- Linda Jackson (VAH) – Levels I and II
- Brian Barbaour (VAJ) – Levels I, II and III
- Doug Poole (VAJ) – Levels I, II and III
- Robert Pierce (VAL) – Level III
- Kelsey Waggoner (VAL) – Level I
- Ronald Zerkel (VAR) – Level I
- Micki Zerkel (VAR) – Level I
- Marshall Cooper (VAR) – Level I
- Gary Good (VAR) – Level I
- Cherry Kagey (VAR) – Level I
- Lois Nichols (VAW) – Level I
- Joe Gee (VAW) – Level III
- Carrie Haley (VAW) – Level II and III
- Robin Patterson (VAW) – Level III
- JoAnne Rayfield (VAW) – Level II and III
- Ed Land (VAW) – Levels II and III
- Mary Kay Land (VAW) – Levels II and III
- Ed DeGennaro (VAW) – Level III
- Barbara DeGennaro (VAW) – Level II
- James Shanks (VAW) – Level III
- Faith Daulton (VAW) – Level III
- Bill Martin (VAW) – Level I
- A.M. Mullins (VAW) – Level I
- L. Scott Osmundson (VAW) – Level I
- Lee Montgomery (VAX) – Level I
- Julie Montgomery (VAX) – Level I
- Ashley Terry (VAX) – Level I
- Sarah Montgomery (VAX) – Level I
- Jean Schneider (VAX) – Level III

Let's all give them a big hand!!!