

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

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

***SAFETY IS FOR LIFE***



***April 2003***



***Cundiff & Ellen Simmons – District Educators***

485 Simmons Lane  
Kilmarnock, VA 22578  
[c.h.simmons@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:msgshark@aol.com)

***Gene & Martha Davis – Region N Educators***

98 Colson Road  
Benton, KY 42025  
[Martygene@vci.net](mailto:Martygene@vci.net)

***Jackie Wall – Newsletter Editor***

[gdw-jlw@juno.com](mailto:gdw-jlw@juno.com)

***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 McMahon, VA-C, 2001-2002  
Doug & Ann Hardy, VA-M, 2002-2003***

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

- **Cundiff Simmons, District Educator**

## **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.

**Trike Course** A GWRRA trike course is being offered at the Region Rally. The cost is \$30.00 and it's open to the first 24 registrants. Contact Gene Davis, SRE ASAP to register.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, please return them to me ASAP for redistribution. All tickets, stubs and monies must be returned NLT April 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **"Share The Road" License Plates**

The Virginia General Assembly authorized the issuance of a Motorcycle Awareness License Plate. The plate has the VRTP (Virginia Rider Training Program) logo on one side with the caption **"Share the Road"**.



Unlike plates previously available, the new plate is available for motorcycles too! They can also be ordered "vanity style" with your choice of 5 characters for the car/truck plate or 4 characters for the motorcycle size. 350 plates must be reserved before the order can be placed. To date, nearly 300 have been reserved. You may obtain an application from any DMV office or download from the DMV website [www.dmvnow.com](http://www.dmvnow.com) or directly from VCOM's website [www.vcomonline.org](http://www.vcomonline.org). Fill out your application and mail it along with a check (reservation fee) for \$10 to the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists:

**Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists  
P.O. Box 4851  
Richmond, Virginia 23220**

VCOM is collecting the forms and fees and will forward them to the DMV once 350 have been submitted. The plate will be available for trailers (permanent type) but you'll have to pay full price for a new plate. A total of approximately \$72.

While you're at it, save .37 cents on the price of a stamp by including a VCOM Membership Application in the same envelope. The \$15 annual membership to VCOM is one of the best investments you can make in motorcycling. VCOM is our watchdog and lobbyist with the Virginia General Assembly. They have done much to guarantee and protect your rights as a motorcyclist.

**▲ SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**

**Jim Sharkey, Assistant Virginia District Educator**



I just know you all have been eagerly awaiting my next newsletter article so after due deliberation I have decided to discuss the ergonomic benefits of the wonder bra as compared to the miracle bra ----- APRIL FOOLS!

As the riding season begins in earnest there are so many things that came to mind that I wanted to share with you all. We have to make sure our rides are road worthy. We have to be aware of the less than desirable road conditions. The weather could still use some improvement and we need to insure that we ourselves are road worthy.

Our bikes can be made road worthy with a little preventative maintenance. We will have to keep our eyes peeled for left over sand, potholes and all kinds of road hazards. As for the weather, we will probably have to be carrying some extra clothing as the temps from morning to midday could easily go from crisp to hot. As far as getting ourselves roadworthy, well how about signing up for an Experienced Riders Course (ERC)?

The ERC is new this year with several of the exercises coming from the beginner rider's course (BRC). It is conducted entirely on the range and it only takes about 5 hours. You may find these new exercises challenging but please don't let that keep you from giving it a shot. At the very least this course will knock the rust off of your riding skills and get the riding season off to a safe start.

Okay, the bikes ready and you are ready now its time to go riding with your friends. Riding with your friends? Maybe you need to brush up on your group riding commands. Once you have brushed up on group riding you may want to share the information with your new friends that have not had the opportunity to go on a GWRRA ride.

Okay, bikes ready, roads are repaired, weather is good, I've had my ERC and I have boned up on my group riding commands. Now where are my bike keys.....

In all seriousness, please take reasonable precautions in preparing to ride this year. I want to continue to see all your smiling faces around.

Ride Safe!

Jim "The Shark" Sharkey  
Assistant District Educator

## SAFETY AND RIDING TIPS

- Taken from Honda Owner Link

### The S.E.E. System

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) created the S.E.E. System for riding safely in traffic. So what does it mean?

- **S**earch around you for potential hazards.
- **E**valuate any possible hazards, such as turning cars, railroad tracks, etc.
- **E**xecute the proper action to avoid the hazard.

Use the S.E.E. System as a reminder whenever you ride to help you stay alert and keep safe. Visit the MSF web site at [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org) for more safe riding tips.

### Increasing Your Visibility to Others

Too often, accidents occur because drivers simply aren't looking for motorcycles. To make sure you're visible to motorists, it's up to you to attract their attention. Here are some tips from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) for maintaining maximum visibility:

- 👁 Keep your headlights on at all times, even in bright sunlight.
- 👁 Wear bright clothing and utilize retro reflective material (it shines when a beam of light hits it) whenever appropriate.
- 👁 Always signal your intentions. Use your turn signals when you change lanes or make a turn. Sometimes it helps to use hand signals too.
- 👁 Don't be shy about using your horn in some situations. If drivers are dozing, or about to pull an unthinking maneuver, give them a BEEP. Make them aware of what they're doing, and of your presence.
- 👁 Position your motorcycle where it can be seen. Don't put yourself behind a large truck or in the blind spot of a vehicle near you.

## WHAT COLOR DO YOU WANT?

- March 2003 Issue of National Rider Ed Newsletter

Do you like reflective products? Anything that helps you or your motorcycle to be seen can save your life.

One way we have increased being seen at night is adding the 1/8 inch reflective white tape on our antennas. You would not believe how much it stands out at night. It is neat to see four or five GoldWings ahead with the antennas shinning down the road. The white tape blends in with the chrome antenna during the daytime. Check out this computer site that has some good-looking reflective products at reasonable prices – [www.reflectivedecals.com](http://www.reflectivedecals.com).

## **LANE EDGE LESSON**

- **Motorcycle Consumer News, April 2003 Issue**

You've been thinking about a long cross-country trip for years, and finally you've made the arrangements. When you get to the mountain states, you're enjoying the roads, but you're also captivated by the scenic views. You stop frequently to soak in the landscape and take photos. You notice an orange sign along the road – something about “lane edge,” but the surface is in excellent condition, so you continue to gawk at the mountains and lakes. A mile or two later there is a gorgeous view, and you ease off the pavement onto the shoulder to take another photo.

When it's time to go, you ride along the shoulder for a few yards to get the bike rolling. Before you try to ease back up onto the pavement, you look carefully behind you to ensure you aren't about to pull out in front of another vehicle, and then point the bike toward the pavement. But instead of climbing up onto the new pavement, your front tire slides along the edge, and you lose balance. The bike crashes down on its side, dumping you off. Your injuries are minor, but you're embarrassed at not being able to handle the bike in this situation.

It's always smart to check for traffic before pulling onto a busy highway. But you should be aware that a steep (“abrupt”) pavement edge could cause you to drop the bike unless you cross it at a wide angle. Riding off the edge of the new paving, your front tire easily dropped down onto the shoulder. But attempting to ease up onto the pavement trapped your front tire against the edge, preventing you from counter steering to maintain balance. When climbing back up onto the higher surface, you must point the bike at a much greater angle – 40 degrees or greater. You can use engine power to bounce the front wheel up. Keep the bike moving so the rear wheel also bounces up.

## **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION AND THE GWRRA AFFILIATION**

- **Steve Mead, Chapter Educator, VA-I**

Those of us who have whole-heartedly embraced the GWRRA Rider Education Program (“REP”) are more than casually acquainted with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (“MSF”). For newer members of GWRRA, you have undoubtedly heard the term MSF used in conversations with other Chapter members, by the Chapter Educator, seen it in articles similar to this one or, overheard it from conversations between others.

Regardless of the manner with which you've become aware of it, most of us associate the MSF solely as the GWRRA endorsed/sanctioned entity that conducts either the Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course.

Since March 1973, the MSF has set internationally recognized standards of excellence in motorcycle safety. The MSF works with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, state governments, and other organizations – such as the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators – to improve motorcyclist education and operator licensing.

One of the primary goals of the MSF is reducing motorcycle crashes and injuries through quality rider education and training programs.

The MSF is a national, nonprofit organization sponsored by the U.S. distributors of BMW, Ducati, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha, and most recently, Harley Davidson motorcycles.

**BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!!!**

Besides GWRRA approved seminars, there are three outside organizations endorsed by GWRRA. Let's take a look at who they are and what they bring to the GWRRA REP table. (Keep in mind, at this juncture we are discussing motorcycle-riding skills/education. I will cover the areas of CPR and First Aid at a future time).

First, the ***Motorcycle Safety Foundation:***

***Basic Rider Course*** – This is a 20-22 hour course that teaches basic riding skills for the true novice through the experienced rider. It presents riding strategies as well as fundamentals techniques. Includes classroom sessions and range instruction.

***Experienced Rider Course*** – A 5-8 hour course which combines classroom sessions with on-range riding instruction. Designed for the experienced rider with at least 5,000 miles. The course focuses on braking, swerving and cornering techniques.

***2-Up Experienced Rider Course*** – The 2-Up ERC is identical to the standard ERC but allows for the inclusion of the co-rider during the course. This is an excellent opportunity to involve the co-rider and provide for coaching in preparation for actual on-road experience.

Second, the ***Canadian Safety Council.*** This organization is, for all intents and purposes, the Canadian version of the MSF. Should you find yourself in Canada and have the opportunity to take a course conducted by the CSC, it will be recognized by GWRRA.

Now, the ***Evergreen Safety Council:***

***Sidecar Course*** – The US sidecar Association course is now offered by ESC. This course is for enhancing and training sidecarists in the unique techniques necessary for handling the rig.

And of course, the ***Goldwing Road Riders Association:***

***Trike Rider Course*** (6 hours) – The course is designed to provide trike riders with coaching and instruction focused on braking, swerving and turning. A unique experience for the three-wheeler set.

***Trailer*** (6 hours) – With classroom and range instruction, this course prepares the rider for pulling a trailer. Includes discussion for set-up and on-range practice for backing up, braking, swerving and cornering.

***Advanced Rider Course*** (8 hours) – This course is designed to provide riders and co-riders with the necessary skills and knowledge to make their riding experience safer and more enjoyable. It combines three hours of classroom instruction with five hours of on-range riding skills training and coaching. The course is all new while focusing on the critical skills of cornering, braking and swerving.

For whatever reason you want to improve your knowledge and skills, whether it be simply to renew or improve your rider level certification or your own personal desire to continue to learn and improve your own knowledge, there is certainly a course for you.

Until next month – *ride safe and keep the rubber on the road.*



### Rider Application & Renewal Forms - REMINDERS

EDUCATORS!!! Please be sure to include the “years at current level” when completing your Rider Application & Renewal Forms. Also, make sure the checks that are sent in with the forms are made out to **Virginia Rider Education**.

**Level IV will need to still be a separate check and should be mailed directly to National.**

Thanks!

### Medic First Program

Interested in putting on a Medic First / CPR Program? The class is \$20 per person. Contact Pat & Shelia McMahon (757-867-9323) for more information.

### 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!

### Email Address

If you have any questions, comments or input for the newsletter, please contact me at [gdw-jlw@juno.com](mailto:gdw-jlw@juno.com).

### 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](http://www.GWRRA.org) - find Rider Education links, then go to Newsletter link.
- ➔ **Region N** Rider Ed newsletter: [www.region-n.org](http://www.region-n.org) – click on Rider Education
- ➔ **District** newsletter: [www2.firstsaga.com/goldwing](http://www2.firstsaga.com/goldwing) – click on Rider Education