

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE

July 2004



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***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

Hi There Sport's Fan's,

We hope everyone is doing well, and doing everything that they can to stay hydrated while riding in the stifling heat and humidity. We all know that it doesn't take long to start feeling the effects of dehydration, and we don't want any of our friends or family to make a mistake. Stress the importance of drinking more water, and taking more breaks while riding. Even though we might not feel the effects yet, if we don't stay hydrated, we won't know when it does start to and then it is too late.

A couple of things are going on in the very near future, such as, Rally in the Valley. We (meaning Nick and Teresa, and Jackie), have sent out the Fast Cash ticket's last month. I personally know that Jackie and Teresa are beating Nick and me as far as selling the most tickets. We know, we know, beauty always sells, and of course, who could say no to anyone as persistent as these two!!!! Hopefully, we are selling as many as we can, Because as you know, this is how we pay for the rooms for the seminar rooms, and riding courses at our rally. If anyone needs more ticket's, please contact Nick and Teresa, and send a "check" to them as well, we don't want to lose money through the mail. And they will send you more ticket's to sell. We have 2 ½ months to sell the 500, and it sure would be nice to give that money to a lucky winner we have sold to.

Speaking of the Rally in the Valley, try and visit one of your Gold Wing dealer's, and ask for a donation for the Rider Ed table. Everyone likes to win something, especially if it is for the Wings. We will be having a couple of tire drawings, for both the 1500 and 1800's. Jackie and Teresa have asked that we need volunteer's for the Rider Ed table at the rally. We all know the importance of Rider Ed, and it takes a lot of people to make things work smoothly. This is our rally, and we need to make our guest's feel as welcome as we possibly can. Let's make it a rally for everyone to remember and enjoy. The more people we have helping out, the more fun everyone will

have. If you would like to help out at the Rider Ed table, contact Jackie and Teresa, and they will be more than happy to let you know where you can help. They always tell me where to go anyways!!

Now for the soapbox. Last quarter, Virginia did not have 100% reporting for the meetings. This is the first time in a long while that we didn't lead the Region in that respect. I know that this is volunteer, and that everyone is very busy. But folk's, let's be honest for a moment. Reporting after a monthly meeting is one of the easiest parts of everything we do in Rider Ed. Send the monthly report to Nick and Teresa after your meeting and before you do happen to forget. Let's all of us take a couple of minutes to make sure we follow through with this and make our District #1 in reporting again.

If anyone need's any help, please let us know and we will do everything that we can to help you. You are the one's that make Rider Ed in Virginia what it is, not us. You all know how any officer from District or Region has a staff that they depend on, well, you are our staff and we do depend on you for everything that you do. You are the ones walking the walk, and talking the talk, we are just the rudder. We will be addressing this in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned.

Until we meet again, Ride safe and have fun.

First Aid/CPR

- Nick and Teresa Knox
Assistant District Educators

This month's subject does not pertain to motorcycle safety, but to safety in general. We will talk about First Aid/CPR.



Are you ready for an emergency? Do you know how to respond? I am not going to teach you First Aid/CPR in a newsletter article, but I hope to get you to stop and think about the subject. Hopefully enough that you will want to take Medic First when it is offered.

The first question is: "If not you, who?"

Your role in the EMS system includes four basic steps:

- (1) Recognize that an emergency exists
 - (2) Decide to act
 - (3) Call the local emergency telephone number for help
 - (4) Provide care until help arrives
- (1) How to recognize an emergency
 - (A) Unusual noises: screams, calls for help, breaking glass, crashing metal, sudden loud voices
 - (B) Unusual sights: broken glass, downed wires, smoke or fire
 - (C) Unusual odors: stronger than normal or unrecognized odors
 - (D) Unusual behavior: difficulty breathing, clutching chest or throat, slurred speech
 - (2) Decide to act: In order to help, you must act

Common influencing factors are:

 - (A) The presence of other people:
 - (a) Ask if you can help if someone is already on site
 - (b) If no one is helping, start by asking others to call 911, to direct traffic or to help provide care for the victim
 - (B) Uncertainty about the victim, most accidents happen in or near home, so you are likely to know the victim.
 - (C) The type of injury or illness
 - (a) An injury or illness may be very unpleasant and you may need to turn away to compose yourself before providing care
 - (b) If you cannot give first aid, then help by securing the site for safety and ensure that someone has called 911
 - (D) Fear of catching a disease
 - (a) It is extremely unlikely that you will catch a disease by giving first aid
 - (b) Minimize the chance of infection by using protective barriers EX: gloves, CPR mask
 - (c) Wash thoroughly and inform your doctor if you had contact with a victim's body fluids

(d) Most likely you will be helping a family member, friend or co-worker

- (E) Fear of doing something wrong
 - (a) If you are not sure what to do – call 911 for help
 - (b) Some people are afraid of being sued; there are “Good Samaritan” laws in most states and lawsuits are rarely successful if you act as a “Reasonable and Prudent” person would under the same conditions
 - (1) Move a victim only if their life is endangered
 - (2) Ask a conscious victim for permission before giving care
 - (3) Check for life threatening emergencies
 - (4) Summon professional help
 - (5) Continue to provide care until more highly trained personnel arrives

The worst thing to do is nothing.

The life you save maybe your spouse, son, daughter, mother, father, friend or other family member. Will you stand by and do nothing or will you know how to handle the situation?



Why Conspicuity?

“The greatest risk to all motorcyclists is the violation of their right-of-way by the driver of another vehicle.” The failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the predominating cause of motorcycle accidents. A significant “Hurt” finding was that conspicuous motorcycles and riders were less likely to have their right-of-way violated by other vehicles.

Why Are Motorcycles Difficult to Detect?

There is no clear answer. But there is a great deal of conjecture and many theories. It is known that the problem centers on at least three potential factors.

1. **Detection of the motorcyclist!** People truly fail to detect a motorcycle in the traffic environment.
2. **Human visual-perception limitations.** People fail to attach valid, meaningful relationships to what they observe. They're matching, comparing, and association of the information they gather yields them inaccurate conclusions.
3. **Misinformation.** The observer sees a motorcycle, and then identifies it in the same category as a bicycle or moped. They do not view the motorcycle as a threat to their safety.

Motorcycling Facts

- Riders are responsible for their own well-being in traffic. Conspicuity is a rider/co-rider responsibility.
- Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of all motorcycle accidents involve another motor vehicle.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of these accidents were caused by the motorist failing to yield the right of way.
- Left Turns – Over 40% of all motorcycle accidents occur at intersections.
- Motorcycles are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a "quick look" due to their smaller size. Always ride where you can be seen.

How To Be Seen

⇒ **Bright Colors** – Wear brightly colored upper-torso clothing and a light-colored helmet. Use retro-reflective material on your clothing, your motorcycle, and your helmet to increase your visibility in low-light conditions.

⇒ **Headlights** – Ride with your headlights on high beam during the day. You might consider a modulator that pulses your headlights during daylight hours. Headlight modulators are

federally regulated lighting devices, and as such, all state laws governing them are preempted.

⇒ **Position Lamps** – Many modern motorcycles are equipped with position lamps in their front turn signals. This may help other motorists to identify the vehicle as a motorcycle and enable them to better judge its distance and speed.

⇒ **Turn Signals** – Communicate with other road users by signaling your intentions. When legal, combine hand with electric signals whenever possible. Remember to cancel your turn signals. A false signal is as dangerous as non at all.

⇒ **Brake Light** – A flashing light is more visible than a steady one. Use your brake light before and during stops to make yourself more conspicuous and to communicate your intentions.

⇒ **Horn** – Use your horn to gain attention, but don't rely on it. Most motorcycle horns cannot be heard over traffic noise and a 4-speaker stereo.

⇒ **Lane Positioning** – Rider traffic strategy strongly affects visibility. Position yourself within a lane to avoid windblast from other vehicles, avoid roadway hazards and to create a space cushion between you and other traffic. Don't hide among other vehicles. Position yourself so drivers ahead can see you in their mirrors.

⇒ **Fairings** – Motorcycles equipped with fairings were under-represented in crashes where motorists violate the motorcyclist's right-of-way. The larger the fairing and the brighter the color, the more effective it seemed to be in preventing other vehicle right-of-way violations (Hurt, 1981)

Conspicuity

A Motorcycling Must

Virginia Educator of the Year



We still have not received **ANY** Virginia Educator of the Year. **CHAPTER DIRECTORS**, do you think **YOUR** Chapter Educator has been doing an outstanding job? Do you know of another Chapter Educator that you feel has gone above and beyond the “call of duty”? If so, write a nomination letter.

We need nominations for Virginia Educator of the Year. Who can nominate them? **ANYONE...** Chapter Directors, other Chapter Educators. You don't have to just nominate someone in your chapter. If you know of someone in another Chapter that you feel is deserving of this award, nominate them.

Nominations need to be sent to Gary Wall, Virginia District Educator at gdw-jlw@juno.com.

Rally in the Valley

It's not too early to be thinking about Rally in the Valley. This is another **BIG** event for Rider Education. This year we will be offering lots of seminars as well as rider courses. Here are some of the things that you can expect:



* **Note** – GWRRA of Virginia reserves the right to alter the Rally schedule.

Advanced Sidecar/ Trike Course

2 slots left

Cundiff Simmons will be giving the Evergreen Safety Advanced Sidecar / Trike Course. This course will be approximately 8 hours long. The classroom portion will be held on Thursday evening, October 7th from 5pm – 9pm and the range portion will be held on Friday morning, October 8th, from 8am – 12pm. You will need to provide your own Trike or Sidecar. The cost of this course is \$20 per Trike or Sidecar. It is **LIMITED** to the first **PAID** bikes. This class is almost full. If you would like to take the course, please contact us **IMMEDIATELY** and send a

check or money order payable to *Virginia Rider Education* to the following:

Gary and Jackie Wall
Virginia District Educators
10 Sanlun Lakes Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

Please provide me with an email address (if you have one) when you send your money. Once I receive your money, I will send you a confirmation that you are in the class. This class will fill up before the Rally. If there are any no shows or if there is still space available, there will be a sign up sheet located at the Rider Ed table.

ERC Course

We will be offering an ERC course at the Rally this year on Friday, October 8th from 7:30am – 12:30pm. The cost for this course is \$20 per bike. The number of spaces are **LIMITED to 12 bikes per class**. If you would like to reserve your space in the class, please send a check or money order for \$20 payable to *Virginia Rider Education* to the following address:

Gary and Jackie Wall
Virginia District Educators
10 Sanlun Lakes Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

This is on a first come, first pay basis. If you include your email address, I will send you a confirmation that you are in the class. If the class becomes full before the Rally, we will have a stand-by list located at the Rider Ed table.

Seminars

We will be offering lots of Rider Ed seminars at the Rally this year. Make sure you take time out of your day to attend. We will be handing out door prizes to a few lucky winners at each class. Some of them include:

- Trike Seminar
- What You See Is What You Get
- Trailering Seminar
- Be Prepared
- Co-Rider Seminar
- Road Captains Seminar / Course
- Team Riding

Education Program Data Form (Form N.11) is a suggested chart form that may be helpful to set up a record keeping system. It is not necessary to use this exact format. This information can be tracked manually or electronically using a computer. The important thing is that these records be kept current so the Chapter Educator is aware of the needs of the participants and is able to keep the participants current in the Rider Education Levels Program.

G.2 - Rider Education Levels Program Application

Within the Rider Education Levels Program there are two application/renewal forms. One form, the Rider Education Levels Program Application (Form N.7 or N.8) is used for new applications and renewals for Levels I-III, the Safe Miles and the High Mileage programs. The second form, the Master Tour Rider/Co-Rider Application (Form N.9) is used for new applications and renewals for Level IV and the application for the Master Recognition Program. Both of these forms can be found in Forms Section as well as on line at the GWRRA Rider Education web site.

Please note: The requested dates on the applications for Rider Training Courses, Co-Rider Seminars, CPR and First Aid Courses for Levels II, III and IV applications are **Expiration Dates**, not the date the course was taken. Expiration dates are based on the Rider Education Levels Program requirements (Rider Courses/Seminars – 3 years) or by the requirements of the providing organization (CPR/First Aid renewal requirements will vary).

G.2.1 Rider Education Program Levels Application Form

The Rider Education Program Levels Application Form (for Levels I-III) contains checklist of requirements for each of the levels and for both rider and co-rider. This form is used for new application to Levels I-III as well as annual renewal of Levels II & III. It contains the application for participation in the High Mileage Program and for updating the members Safe Miles.

The checklist of qualifications for each level contained in the form must be complete and validated by a GWRRA Officer. The applicant should fill out the form and present it, along with supporting documentation for validation and the

appropriate fee(s) to the Chapter Educator or other GWRRA Officer. All level requirements must be complete and validated and the correct fees submitted with the application.

The Officer will validate the information, sign the form and, if the Chapter maintains inventory of the Levels Patches and Pins, should present them to the member at the time of the application and validation.

If the patches and pins must be ordered, the Chapter Educator should forward the application along with the correct fees to the District Educator and request the patches and pins be returned to the Chapter Educator for presentation.

The renewal date for Level II and III is January 1st of each year. The same form is used, filling out the RENEWAL box on the form. (Renewal on January 1st is not required if Level II or III was first issued in October or later of the previous year). Life Members do not pay a renewal fee but must submit a completed form annually to remain active in the program.

G.2.2 Level IV Form

The Level IV (Master Tour Rider/Co-Rider Application) form is used both as the application for initial qualification Level IV and renewal. It contains a checklist of the required qualifications and specifies items that require validation.

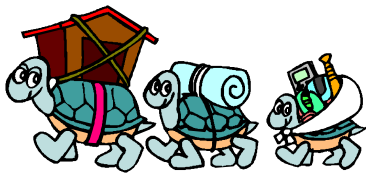
When applying initially for Level IV, the box on the form entitled **NEW** is to be used. The application fee for new Level IV applicants is \$35 per applicant. All qualification information on the form must be validated, and the form signed by and dated by a GWRRA Officer.

The renewal date for Level IV is each January 1st. The same form is used, filling out the **RENEWAL** box on the form. (Renewal on January 1 is not required if Level IV was first issued in October or later of the previous year). The renewal fee is \$10 each year except for Life Members, who may renew for no charge.

The completed form should be forwarded directly to GWRRA International Headquarters office at the address on the bottom of the form. When Level IV patches are returned via the Region Educator, the District Educator, District

Director, or an appropriate appointee will make the presentation at the Chapter gathering.

Next month's feature will be Rider Education Activity Reports..... Until then, ride safe.



Moving to Maggie!

The Region N Rally is moving to Maggie Valley, NC for 2005!

Planning is well underway to enjoy the facilities of the Eagles Nest as our Rally site. The Eagles Nest has an 800-seat theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre and space to hold all of our seminars and activities on site! Maggie Valley has a wide array of accommodations and many restaurants to enjoy. Right down the street is the **Wheels Through Time Transportation Museum** that many of you visited this past May. We're in the heart of some of the best riding roads in the country and for the gamblers; we're still close to Cherokee. More information will be coming soon! Please make plans join us for the

Region N Staff Meeting in Maggie Valley on November 13. You'll get a sneak preview of the facilities offered.



Rally in the Valley Rider Ed Table

Educators, as usual, we need your help and support at the Rider Ed table at the Rally in the Valley. We will be responsible for the table from

Thursday afternoon through Saturday. If you are planning on attending the Rally, please volunteer for an hour or two. Be sure to let me know if there is a certain time that you would like to help. We will also have a sign up sheet located at the table.

Door Prizes

EVERY Educator is asked to please provide at least 1 door prize for the Rider Ed table at the Rally in the Valley. We have been known for having the BEST door prizes.

MONTHLY REPORTS

EVERY Chapter is responsible for submitting a Monthly Activity Report. If your chapter does not have an Educator, the Chapter Director is responsible for making sure this report is completed. Please send your reports MONTHLY to Nick and Teresa Knox. Don't wait until the last minute to send those reports!

EDUCATORS – CHAPTER DIRECTORS, please, please submit your monthly reports!! We MUST have a report for every month. Make it simple. Print off a blank Monthly Activity Report before every meeting. Fill out the report and by the end of the meeting, you have everything you need. The next day, simply email or mail the information to Nick and Teresa, the Assistant District Educators.

Don't let Virginia Rider Ed fall below

100%