

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE



August 2003



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

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

THE DISTRICT EDUCATOR'S NEWS

- Cundiff Simmons, Senior District Educator

Trailing IP Course at Rally in the Valley

Virginia is planning on hosting a Trailing Instructor Preparation Course at Rally in the Valley. We need both student instructors and students for the class. In order to participate in the IP program, you must currently be an MSF Instructor and a member in good standing in GWRRA. Please contact Cundiff Simmons if interested. Note, this course is for two-wheel motorcycle and trailers only.

Rider Ed *Fast Ca\$h* Tickets

Rally in the Valley *Rider Ed Cash Give-a-Way tickets* will be mailed out to all Chapter Educators soon. Each chapter educator will be provided 10 tickets to sell. There will only be 250 tickets printed at the cost of \$20 per ticket. Each Chapter Educator is responsible for their 10 tickets until they are either sold or returned back to me. You lose them, you buy them. **SUPPORT RIDER EDUCATION!!!**

Rally In The Valley Seminars

If you are a GWRRA seminar presenter and have not yet presented a seminar for final certification and would like to participate in the seminar program in the RITV, please contact me ASAP. If you are already certified and would like to present one of the GWRRA seminars at RITV, please contact me ASAP.

We Need Door Prizes!!!

Each Educator is responsible for bring 1 door prize for the Rider Ed table at Rally in the Valley. If you can't make it to the Rally, give your door prize to someone who will be there. Help support YOUR Rider Ed!

Clarification on Riding Gear

When you commit to Level IV, you commit to wearing full riding gear whenever you ride. This includes a helmet, eye protection, full fingered gloves, long sleeves, long pants and over the ankle footwear. Detachable sleeves are fine for anything except GWRRA sanctioned riding courses. They are perfectly legal for Chapter rides. We are NOT, however, the Rider Education police. We encourage our members to wear protective riding gear but do not try to enforce its use. If a Chapter has a policy that full riding gear be worn for any Chapter event, that's entirely up to the Chapter and its membership. As far as Rider Education goes, any member can wear whatever they are comfortable with as long as it's not a GWRRA sanctioned (and sponsored) Riding course. These sanctioned and sponsored events would include the MSF ERC, GWRRA Trike Course, ESC Sidecar/Trike Course, GWRRA Trailing Course, Field Events, Parking Lot Practice, Top Gunn, Road Captain Course or the new ARC.

Chapter Educators

Every Chapter in Virginia should have an active Chapter Educator. If your chapter does not currently have an Educator, please look around for *talent* within your chapter. Contact me to obtain the requirements to become a Chapter Educator.

SUMMER RIDING

- Taken from the July 2003 National Rider Education Newsletter

We are into the great time of the year for some hot summer riding. There are many areas that have not been as fortunate to have good riding conditions. All the adversities of riding have been out there. Some of the unfortunate have had the high winds, floods, tornados and cold weather. Make sure you look at the weather forecast for the entire area you will be riding into before leaving. Even for short day trips. More than once I have seen it rain on one side of the street and not the other.

▲ BE PREPARED! YEAH, RIGHT!!

- Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator

I always try to follow my Boy Scout training and be prepared. However, recently I got zinged twice.

The way I attempt to be prepared is to make sure my motorcycle is well maintained and that all parts are replaced when they need to be, if not before. I also replace my riding gear as it becomes worn or defective.



This spring I bought matching ¾ helmets from a discount house on the Internet. The helmets were a well-known brand and I personally already owned 3 helmets made by this particular manufacturer.



With less than a weeks wear and absolutely no misuse what so ever, I noticed two cracks in the plastic vents plus a hairline crack near the visor. The end result of this exercise is that despite ordering new gear, the new gear had a defect. It has been a long and painful journey but I am getting a replacement helmet from the manufacturer.

The next zinger that got me was having to replace a rear tire that had only 7,000 miles on it. I normally get 20,000 plus miles on this brand of tire. As I was washing my Wing I noticed a bubble in the sidewall of my fairly new rear tire. Dang it – going to miss some riding – hope I don't miss that 3 day trip I have planned for the 4th of July. Wouldn't you know it – not one Honda dealer in Northern Virginia had a rear tire for my bike in stock. At least the riding gods were with me on this one. We were able to get the tire in and mounted Thursday night and I was able to head out Friday morning on a very enjoyable 3-day tour. The bottom line here is the tire manufacturer is going to send me a free tire, but I did have to pay for my current replacement tire and installation.



So what's his point you are asking yourself? Well the point I am trying to make is despite good preventive maintenance and buying new equipment – problems can still pop up. Just because you have new tires doesn't mean you shouldn't be checking them regularly.

Our two wheeled steeds are not unlike horses in that they require constant care and an occasional reward for a job well done. So change your oil, check your tires and riding gear and add an occasional piece of chrome to your pride and joy.

Ride safe and see ya soon,
Jim "The Shark" Sharkey
Assistant District Educator

▲ PACKING LIST ENCLOSED

- Taken from the July 2003 National Rider Education Newsletter, Bill and Linda English

Who would think hypothermia would be a problem in June. In Ohio and surrounding states, the temperatures have been running 10 to 20 degrees colder than average. This makes it difficult when packing for a trip. We leave from a cold area and ride into temperatures that we have not seen since last year. Dressing in layers is the best advise for these conditions.

When we pack, we need to be ready for the different conditions. I know when Linda and I go for any Rally or weekend trips, she will pack it all. More often than not, we come home with half of what we hauled for 2,000 plus miles, not touched. Her statement is "it is there if we need it". I think she is still using the Girl Scout motto "Be Prepared"



"NATIONAL RIDER EDUCATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – from the Region N July 2003 Newsletter

- Gene and Martha Davis

District Educator's send in Level's Applications monthly. With new database people on board, we dare not let our Level Applications pile up. We would ask that the District Educator's please send in their Level Applications monthly.

January 2004 Gordon Murphy – Canada – will become an Assistant National Rider Education Director. We have met Gordon Murphy and you might know him as the Educator who wrote the ARC Advanced Rider Course. We welcome him aboard.

Joe Allen will be doing a Trailer IP course for the VA Rally – two wheel bikes only. More about this will be coming out as we get nearer to the Rally. Any MSF Instructor is welcome to join this Trailer IP course. We need lots of two wheel bikes with trailers to take this course from the Trailer IP's. Contact Cundiff Simmons at c.h.simmons@juno.com.



A Co-Rider who takes any riding course will also get a card. Co-Rider's who took the trike course at Region Rally asked if they would get cards. Any Co-Rider who takes any riding course will also get a card as decided at the National Rider Education meeting.



Medic First Updates are due. To maintain Medic First instructor status, you must teach at least 1 course a year and renew your certification annually by submitting a \$25 fee to your Region Educator.

Please push the Database (Greenbar) on to the Chapters. Make sure the Database (Greenbar) gets to the Chapter Educators. Jim and Donna Cox finally have this with Chapter designations on it so it can be broken up into Chapters. Please pass this on to the Chapter Educators.

Send in "Skill Day" and statistics at Rallies to put on the Activity Reports. Please keep track of those "Skill Days" and Rallies statistics so they can be put on the Activity Reports. This is where we can see our training in action.

All Officer information must be on record at National. Name, address and email addresses should always be in the National office.

If change of Officer, D.E. or C.E. must do a new M.O.U. This is pretty standard; National must have MOU's for Officers. Any change of Officer occurs, please do a new MOU.

When doing Level I on anyone, do give the 5,000 mile pin because this is included in the \$6. We have found that the 5,000 mile pin has not been given when a person becomes Level I. Even if the person doesn't have 5,000 yet, this pin is included in the \$6. If the person has more than 5,000 safe miles, of course give that amount of mileage.

The new Rider Education Program Manual will be available on the GWRRA website. This manner of publication should allow for continuous updates. All of the Educators should have a copy of the Rider Education Program Manual. Updates can be obtained on the GWRRA website. Any Educator who doesn't have a computer should ask their Chapter Director or District Educator to help them obtain the new updates.

Any questions about any of the above items from National, please contact your District Educator and they will contact us to clarify.



Monthly Activity Reports

It's riding time again! With all that is going on, we still need those monthly reports on time!!!

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 Education 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!

Email Address

If you have any questions, comments or input for the newsletter, please contact me at gdw-jlw@juno.com.

Stay connected!!!



Take a look at some of the other GWRRA 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