

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE



October 2003



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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

THE DISTRICT EDUCATOR'S NEWS

- Cundiff Simmons, Senior District Educator

Rider Ed Participation

EDUCATORS – please look at the Rider Ed levels in your chapter and let myself or Jim Sharkey know if you feel your chapter is 100% in Rider Education Levels. I need to know this BEFORE the Rally in the Valley, so please email one of us no later than Monday, October 6th.



Rally in the Valley - *Fast Ca\$h Tickets*

Rally in the Valley Rider Ed Cash Give-a-Way tickets have been mailed out to all Chapter Educators. Each Chapter Educator has been 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. Please return all your sold tickets to me ASAP!! **SUPPORT RIDER EDUCATION!!!**

Rally in the Valley - Trailing Course

Virginia is planning on hosting a Trailing Course at Rally in the Valley. This course is for two-wheel motorcycle and trailers only. Many of us pull trailers and most may have attended a trailing seminar but very few have had the opportunity to actually take a trailing course. Don't pass up this opportunity to gain valuable experience.

Rally in the Valley - Educator Assignments

We need **YOUR** help at the Rider Education table at the Rally in the Valley. This is your event and a rally of this size does not just happen. It requires a lot of time, planning and commitment from many. Please give the District a few hours of your time and help out! **Please contact me ASAP and let me know when you would be willing to donate a few hours of your time.** We know that you will be busy working with your chapter and doing the "rally thing" but we also hope that you can find time to give 2 hours to Rider Education.

Rally in the Valley - Door Prizes!!!

Every Educator is asked to please bring at least 1 door prize to the Rider Ed table at RIV. If you are not going to attend the rally, please give your door prize to someone who is attending. Remember that YOU can make it happen!

Rally in the Valley

October 9-11

Do You Ever Feel Like People Are Out To Get Ya?

- Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator

Recently I have been reading distressing news about and witnessing all kinds of scary activities by those that are driving “other than motorcycles”. Recently in South Dakota the former governor and current congressman was speeding, ran a stop sign and killed a 55-year-old motorcyclist. I personally have people pulling out in front of me or trying to cut me off on a regular basis, so yeah – they are out to get ya!



We, as Educators, provide a lot of great information on how to prevent accidents but seldom talk about what to do after a close call soooooo here we go. I think most everyone's initial reaction is to insure that the offending individual knows how you feel. I know that I certainly do. However over the years I have trained myself to try to take the calm approach and let the “jerk” do whatever he wants to do. It is so much healthier if you can just let it go. I have noticed that as I have aged grown older wiser, I am more able to keep the cool and calm head and not let the “&\$%#>@” ruin my day. So okay maybe muttering unprintable epithets helps a little bit, but I keep it to myself. The main thing here is to get over it and the sooner the better. Get your “rider radar” back on line and continue your ride. Believe me when I tell you that this will lower the acid level in your stomach.

The longer you keep the “mad on” the more distracted you will be. Consider this, if you had been distracted before your close call would it have still be a close call? Maybe not! It may have been a lot worse. I guess in the scheme of things a close call is a lot more preferable than the alternative. Be proud of yourself that you were a skilled enough rider to avert a catastrophe, then refocus and move on down the pike. If you are shaken (not stirred) then simply and safely pull over to the side of the road and compose yourself before continuing.

One thing you can do is smile at them – it will drive them nuts trying to figure out what you are going to do to get even!

So now that we have had this conversation (admittedly a little one sided) you all are going to go tout there and ride in a calm and cool manner despite however the other “yoyos” decide to drive – RIGHT? Good! I like seeing your smiling faces around.

Ride safe! - Ride cool! - Ride calm!

See ya,
Jim

GWRRA Region N Rider Education Newsletter Highlights

- Gene & Martha Davis



Grow, Stagnate, Die

These three words can tell the whole story for an individual or an organization: grow, stagnate, die.

In regards to the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, growth does not pertain to a Region, District, Chapter or Member, but a combination of all. When we think of growth we too often think only of numbers, however there are many areas to be considered.

We can address the issue of numbers by utilization of the Recruiting and Retention concept. National publishes a list of new members for the area they live in. We can work through our local Honda Dealer and conduct a proactive public relations program. We can hold bike shows, advertise events, and best of all, encourage our members to recruit by word of mouth.

In regard to retention, again personal attention, recognition and utilization are key elements. If a member has declined in Chapter participation, a call or note or best yet, a personal contact would be in order. By using a sign-in sheet for Chapter meetings and other Chapter activities we can keep better tabs on our members.

To further aid participation, encourage members to get involved by serving in staff positions, become Officers. Keep track of members' activities; then reward them once a year with a special party or meeting with certificates plaques or prizes.

Any organization depends on the effectiveness of their Officers and supporting staff. The GWRRA Motto identifies the areas in which to strive to be a vital and real element of your Chapter program, ***Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.***

Friends – Create a friendly atmosphere. Use a greeter to welcome visitors or members who have missed out on Chapter activities. You never know, the next visitor may become a Chapter participant and possibly a valuable staff member or Officer.

Fun – Conduct a variety of activities that give everyone an opportunity to take part and “have fun.”

Safety – Encourage members to take part in the Rider Education program (it is very important to recognize the accomplishments of the member).

Knowledge – Now knowledge is a broad term. Sometimes Directors, Educators and Trainers look on knowledge as their area of responsibility by itself. Knowledge through education is a team effort.

Tools of the Trade

By Tom Lankard, MSN News 9/15/2003



Buying a bike? Great. But before you venture out on the open road, get the gear you need to stay here.

You may have seen the commercial.

It has one of the hottest young NBA stars riding through the streets of Los Angeles to the multi-million-dollar building housing the hardwood court where his team plays its home games. Yes, he's wearing a leather jacket and gloves and long pants. But after he pulls into the garage, he dismounts and profiles his sponsor's shoes, a pair of low-cut sport shoes.

Low cut? Not a good idea, unless he's ready to endure some serious skin grafts in the event he, say, low-sides his bike while navigating one of those heavily patched intersections in downtown L.A. and grinds some epidermis off an ankle.

Always remember the adage about people adventurous enough to ride motorcycles: There are those who've crashed and those who are going to crash. When that time comes, proper protective equipment – including over-the-ankle boots is essential.

And to better the odds against that crash, one of the most important pieces of equipment isn't something you wear. It's a card issued by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Hardware First

Bell Helmets' Web site perhaps says it best: *"If you have a \$10 head, wear a \$10 helmet."*

Here are some things to think about. Do you value your chin and nose? If so, buy a full-faced helmet. This also holds if you're concerned about flying debris. Full-face helmets come with full-face shields. A bug in the eye or rock in the mouth can be more than a bit disconcerting when you're trying to maneuver a single-track vehicle in heavy traffic or around a curve at speed.



And while you may be bidding on a used bike, please don't even think about buying a secondhand helmet, especially given the newest materials, which can take a fairly solid pavement hit with a head inside and show only an apparently superficial scratch. *"I'd no more buy a used helmet than I'd buy used underwear"*, says Ed Becker, executive director of the Snell Memorial Foundation.

Then Comes Software



Speaking from experience as a motorcycle road racer, if there's a gap here skin is exposed to pavement, the pavement will find it. For obvious reasons, then, T-shirts, shorts and tennis shoes invite major road rash. Leather is best but heavy-gauge denim is next best. It's a good bet Levi Strauss never thought about this back in the days of the California Gold Rush. And regardless of the material, gloves, long sleeves and long pants are *de rigueur*.

And Now the Card

Whether you're a new rider, a Rubbi (rich, urban biker) or a Bambi (Born-Again, Middle-Aged Biker – a Brit term), riding a motorcycle isn't the same thing as riding a bicycle. And data collected by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show those Bambis are contributing increasing numbers of motorcycle injuries and fatalities, more than doubling from 1990 to 1999.



Maybe there's a reason. A task analysis conducted by the MSF in the early 1970's found that only walking a high wire required more decision-making than riding a motorcycle. From this study, the MSF developed a rider-training course that's become the standard followed by every state with a motorcycle license endorsement and accepted by every insurance company in the US offering a motorcycle training-related discount. The basic, two-day course combines seven hours of classroom with eight hours of on-bike, range sessions. Motorcycles and helmets are provided as part of the course. The MSF also has developed a one-day, seven-hour, refresher course for experienced riders. You do this one on your own bike, and wearing your own helmet, but as does the basic course, it renews with most insurance companies your eligibility for a premium discount.

Do the MSF courses deliver on their promise?

"We know 92% of crash-involved motorcyclists are self-taught or taught by friends," says Elizabeth Piper, director of corporate affairs for the MSF.

Carry the card.



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!

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: www.frashure.com/goldwing – click on Rider Education

Rally in the Valley Reminders

- Please make arrangements to get your sold and unsold Fast Cash Tickets to Cundiff Simmons at the RIV!! He must have IN HIS HAND all the tickets either BEFORE or at the Rally.
- Cundiff and/or Jim need to know if your Chapter has 100% participation in the Rider Ed levels BEFORE October 6th.

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!