

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

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

***SAFETY IS FOR LIFE***

**October 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 Everyone,

My, here we were just a couple of month's ago, worrying if we had forgotten anything in the planning stages for the Rally and now that time has come and gone. This year's Rally can only be classified as a tremendous success!! Yes, it was our "first" Rally, however, "we" did not put it on. It takes a lot of work by a lot of people volunteering their time, energy, enthusiasm and experience to make a Rally really work. To all those Educators who did all that and more, Jackie and I are extremely thankful, grateful and proud to have such a great group of Educator's. The editor has informed me that I am only allotted a certain amount of space for this newsletter but we have included a small "Thank You" in this edition. Those people are the ones who helped out in the seminar, and riding courses. There were also those who helped out at the Rider Ed table. Without you, we couldn't have done it. Over 230 people took part in some part of the seminars and riding courses. The "Fast Cash" tickets were a tremendous hit and we had a huge crowd for the drawing of the door prizes. One more note on the Rally, if you have any ideas on what we can do for our guests at next year's Rally, let us know. This is also your Rally!

It is now the beginning of the fall season, the leaves are turning colors, falling, and the mornings are getting cooler. The pine needles are falling and getting blown into the corners of the curves by the cars and other user's of the roadway. The dew point is a lot lower (have you looked at your windshield on your car when you go to work). Put this combination together and you have a formula for a terrible ride. Let your member's know about the changing of seasons, dressing for the weather, and proper maintenance of the Wing. Every time we put out any information for Rider Ed, it goes out to all of our "friends".

The fall Officer's meeting is almost on top of us. This year's meeting is on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning on attending, please let Jackie and I know, so that we can include you for the luncheon. And Educator's, remember that your spouse or better half is also invited if you would like to include them. Without their help, where would we be? I know I personally would still be stuck on page 1!!! Also, if you or members of your chapter have any ideas for the Rally, now is the time to bring them together at the Officer's meeting.

Before signing off of this commentary, let us say a hearty congratulation to Nick and Teresa Knox in being selected as the "Educator of the Year". They were nominated by members of their home chapter and have done a tremendous job at their chapter and have also helped Jackie and I out. They are deserving of this honor.

Until we meet again,  
Ride safe and have fun.

Gary and Jackie

## **Area Report – "Greenbar"**

The latest Area Report (September 2004) is now available. You should have received in via email by now. Please review your Chapter members. If you need to make any corrections, please complete a "Levels Data Correction Form (N.10). All correction forms should be returned to me. I will compile them and send them onto National.

## News From Your Region N Educator

- Cundiff Simmons, Region N Educator

Please note the new process for Rider Ed applications. It is **EXTREMELY** important that you follow the new process:

All **renewals** for Levels I, II, III and IV require the completion and submission of the appropriate renewal form. **NO** telephone or email renewals will be accepted, as this method does not provide us with the required data for verification and inclusion in the National REP Database.



All Level I, II & III renewal forms are to be forwarded by the Chapter Educator to the appropriate Rider Education Staff member then to the National Staff Level Data Coordinator.

## CHANGE

The Level IV applications (**for new applicants, not renewal**) will be required to be submitted to the appropriate Region Educator for review and approval prior to forwarding the application to Phoenix for processing. The Region Educator will review the application to validate the member's time as a Level III (minimum of one year required) and for accumulated Safe Miles (25,000 required to be ON RECORD prior to the application). This change is in effect immediately.

## Food For Thought

- Les and Diane Warren  
Chapter R Educator

Well, hello again. We had a fun meeting again back on October 3rd, beautiful day to get out and ride, lots of bikes and trikes in the parking lot, it was a good meeting. It's now going on Monday after the Rally in the Valley. We had a

great time down there, and from the looks of it, so did some of y'all. There are others of you that we sorely missed seeing down there, but maybe next year we can all be together down there. I don't know about all of y'all, but I **won less** this year at the drawings ... and I **spent more** at the vendors ... so I guess **it all evens out** sort of (*it's some kind new accounting principle that allows me to reach that conclusion, I forget the name of it*). Great food was aplenty, we started out the first day with coffee and biscuits at one vendor, then Scooter Dogs and Strawberry Shortcake at another, and the Friday a great meal at the Homeplace and the banquet Saturday night. We skipped the Road Kill Cafe in anticipation of the evening meal. There were lots of prizes given away at every turn, and plenty of classes and seminars.

One thing I did notice after the meeting and then again at the Rally, and that is how fast the warmth of the day leaves now ... Winter is coming folks. This is Fall and it seems every year that the weather changes faster than the year before. We left the meeting on the 3rd and we dressed warm, and it still was markedly cooler when we got home a little over an hour later. Heavier gloves than were initially needed felt good real fast. The days are only going to get shorter until Dec 21st and now is a good time to put the chaps, the extra warmer gloves, neck warmers or scarves, the heated vest and gloves out where they will be thought about on every ride, ... all should be out where we will think of them before we leave the house on that afternoon ride. If we are in the habit of using a tinted face shield, we need to carry a clear one as well. It is inevitable that darkness will catch us, lets not let it catch us unprepared. Now is also a good time to check those **batteries** in our emergency flashlights we have in our bike and in our cars.

Down at the Rally, several members (*Diana included*) took the opportunity to purchase a new helmet, the flip front full face variety. These helmets allow one to open the chin bar at lights and to talk as one pays for gas, etc ... but for the best protection, the chin bar should be down in the locked position. These helmets are intended to be worn with the chin bar locked shut, as the chin bar being open in a wreck could cause increased spinal cord injuries. With the chin bar shut, these helmets offer greater protection than

a 3/4 style, and on these cooler evenings, a warmer face is a side benefit.

One last thing this month, I was watching all the pretty bikes & trikes at the Rally Saturday night as they lined up and left for the ride to the Star on Mill Mountain, and I noticed that a few (however **none** in Chapter R come to mind) are running the blue and green and red "Rings of Fire" and some other neon or LED lighting of these "off colors". In the interest of possibly saving someone some unexpected expense, I just want to mention that when considering colored lights for motor vehicles, a good general guide line is "amber to the front, red to the rear" (there is more to it, but that will take care of those extra lights which are more like marker lights). Some of the accessory lights purchased have not been approved for roadway use, so if one is going to use them, it is best to at least have the colors correct for location and use. I only say this in an effort to point out that the use of red to the front, or of any "off color" (blue, green, purple) anywhere on the bike may draw unwanted attention.

Till next time, take care all ..... Les & Diana Warren

## ⚡ District Officer's Meeting



The Fall Virginia District Officer's meeting will be held on Saturday, **November 6, 2004** in Lynchburg, VA. This meeting is for all District Staff, Chapter Directors, Chapter Educators and their spouses. Assistants are only to attend in place of the Director or in the event that they are going to take over the Chapter in the next few months.

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn just off Route 29 (Odd Fellows Road), in Lynchburg. We will begin the meeting promptly at 8:30 AM for everyone, with the Educators breakout somewhere around 10:15 AM and lunch at 12:00 PM. We invite you to join us for a complementary luncheon buffet. In order for us to provide this, we need to know the number of meals to be served. Please contact me **IMMEDIATELY** if you are planning on attending.

The meeting will end No Later Than 2 PM in order to give people going to VA J's Gold Wing Celebration time to get to South Boston and freshen up prior to the VA J event. South Boston is less than an hour away from Lynchburg so folks will have plenty of time to do both events.

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

## ⚡ Rally in the Valley "Rap-Up"



Rally in the Valley has come and gone and we would like to say thank you to all the Educators and people who helped out this year with Rider Education. We had help at the Rider Ed table, we had help selling the Fast Cash tickets, we had help with the seminars and riding courses. Without all of **YOU**, we could not have put on such a great event.

So, what all happened??? We put over 230 people through the Rider Ed seminars and courses!! We donated 34 pints of blood to the American Red Cross. We gave away money, tires and more:



\$1,000 Fast Cash – Bob DeBerantinis  
\$500 Fast Cash – Billy Dotson  
\$500 Fast Cash – Steve Flournoy  
\$100 Fast Cash – John Smorto  
\$100 Fast Cash – Rhonda Owens  
\$100 Fast Cash – Diana Warren  
\$100 Fast Cash – Tommy Broughton  
\$100 Fast Cash – Larry Gray  
Bruce Ryan Hand-Made Knife – Julie Steele  
Set of new Dunlap Tires – Larry Martin

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nick and Teresa Knox for receiving the Outstanding Virginia Educator of the Year. Nick and Teresa had done a tremendous job as Chapter Educators of VAB as well as a great start to Assistant District Educators. We congratulate them on a well-deserved award!

## Thank-You

A big thank-you to Pete Woodruff for his help at the Rally. Pete put on several seminars on both Friday and Saturday. He also entertained everyone at the Master's Breakfast with his "words of wisdom". Thanks again!!

## Super!!

Where would we be without everyone who helped put on a seminar and riding courses. You are why we are #1

**Pat and Shelia McMahon** – Medic First  
**Dave Timbs** – Medic First  
**Cundiff Simmons** – Advanced Trike  
**Pat McMahon** – Advanced Trike  
**Jim Sharkey** – ERC  
**Greg and Karen Kestner** – ERC  
**Donald Riffey** – ERC  
**Jim Sharkey** – Be Prepared  
**Bud Plymale** – Team Riding  
**William Lee** – CoRider  
**Cundiff Simmons** – CoRider  
**Nathan & Rhonda Owens** – Road Captains  
**Nick Knox** – Road Captains  
**John Newbauer** – Be Prepared

## Special Note from Jackie

I would especially like to thank **Teresa Knox** and **Ellen Simmons** for their hard work and support at the Rider Ed table. This was my first Rally in the Valley and without them I would have been lost!! They really helped out and I do appreciate everything they did. Are you available next year???

## Did You Know...



Each month, I will try to highlight a part of the Rider Education Program Handbook. I hope that each of you have had time to go to the National website and download a copy of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.

This month's feature is .....

## G Educator Program Administration

Proper administration of the Rider Education Program requires good record keeping, knowledge of the Rider Education Program Levels Application forms and their correct completion, and the completion and submission of statistical activity reports.

### G.1 Levels Program Record Keeping

At least every calendar quarter the National Rider Education Staff will distribute a copy of the current Levels program "Greenbar". This report is provided through the Region and District Educators for the use by Chapter Educators in tracking and monitoring the accuracy of levels information and status of members participating in the Levels Program. It is intended that this information serve as a reference for Educators

in maintaining active participation and growth in the Rider Education Levels Program. It must also be noted that member information is confidential and it not to be shared with anyone other than the member.

It is highly recommended that Chapter Educators maintain Chapter files of member data to assist in organizing and administering the levels program and chapter participant activities. The Chapter Educators' Member Rider Education Program Data Form (N.11) is suggested chart form that may be helpful to set up a record keeping system. It is not necessary to use this exact format.

Any discrepancies should be resolved by correcting the inaccurate record and forwarding the corrected data to the International Director or his/her designee. It is suggested that the Rider Education Levels Program "Greenbar" Correction Form (N.10) be used to expedite this process.

## **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 (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 Levels Program Application Form**

The Rider Education Program Levels Application Form (for Levels I –III) contains a checklist of requirements for each of the levels and for both rider and co-rider. This form is used for new application to Level 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.

The Officer will validate the information, sign the form and present the patches / pins (if the Chapter maintains inventory of the Levels Patches and Pins).

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. If the District can provide the patches and pins, the District Educator will then forward the application to the National Rider Education Staff member administering the program.

The renewal date for Level II and III is January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The same form is used, filling out the RENEWAL box on the form. (Renewal on January 1 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 applications is \$35 per applicant. All qualification information on the form must be validated, the form signed and dated by a GWRRA Officer.

The renewal date for Level IV is each January 1. 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 at no charge.

The completed form should be forwarded directly to the 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 a Chapter gathering.

### G.2.3 Processing Applications

All applications for Levels I, II and III should be processed through the Chapter Educator and then forwarded to the District Educator.



All **NEW** applications for Level IV MUST be sent to the **Regional Educator**.

*NOTE: Please send all NEW Level IV applications to me (District Educator) and I will verify that they have been completed correctly and forward to the Regional Educator.*

All **RENEWAL** applications for Level IV need to be sent directly to National.



## 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!

If you need a Monthly Activity Report, you can download it from the National website. Please make sure you always use the most recent forms.

### 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.



### News From National

- Taken from the October 2004 Rider Ed Newsletter

We have a new International Assistant Director Rider Education added to the Rider Education core. Welcome Tony and Michelle Van Schaick. Their duties will be the Data Base administrators. Their responsibilities will be to enter all the data for all the levels. The level applications do not go to them directly; use the

proper chain of communications for your District or Region, as in the past.

Linda and I hope you will work with Tony and Michelle as well as you did with us.

**Tony & Michelle Van Schaick**  
**Assistant International Directors**  
**Rider Education**  
**94 Edwards Circle**  
**Oswego, NY 13126-6068**

## 3 YEARS VERSUS 2

As a reminder, the “Approved Riding Course” as well as the Co-Rider Seminar is now good for 3 years. We still recommend you have the training more frequently (some think it is a great idea too, and do so annually).

## HAZARDS

As we enter the fall riding season, let's be more alert on some of the safety hazards that come with this time of the year.

Do tire pressure checks before each ride as the cooler temps will change the pressure.



Keep clean your windshield, visor, goggles or glasses, to reduce the glare from the fall setting sun. It seems we always take the Chapter dinner rides toward the west in October.



The animals are on the move mating, storing food, and just plain restless. I rode 25 miles to a training class last weekend and I observed 20 road kills.

My ride was not through the countryside.

Leaves on the road can have hidden hazards. While riding you encounter leaves on the road, even if they are dry as can be, give yourself more following distance from anything front of



you. The dry leaves fly around, although it is an impressive site to watch, but the smaller pieces you do not see will be headed for your eyes. Yes they can swirl around the windshield and fairing to find your eyes.



Layers can give comfort in riding gear. More layers in the AM and less as the temperature increase. If you are lucky enough to still be out riding as evening comes, you might need to add layers. If you add enough, when you stop for the ice cream on the way home, you will not be too cold to eat a scoop or two.

If you happen to encounter some morning dew, be extra alert to the temperature, as 34 degrees and below the dew becomes black ice. Black ice is not easy to recognize, but is as it says ICE. Many roads have been resurfaced during the warm months. These roads can also be a hazard with a fall rain. It takes more time for the rains to wash off the oil that is on top of “fresh” blacktop. Along with new pavement is newly painted road markings.

This last road hazard really gets me excited, “repairing of cracks in the pavement”. The material that is used is supposed to be done to specification, according to DOT. This is what raises my blood pressure; the State contracts the repairs to a vendor whom they have no control of. The State guide lines are the patch can only be 2 or 3 inches wide and not to run a constant long distance, which you know they don't follow. The problem is you can have a 2 or 3 inch wide patch then a one inch of pavement and another 2 or 3 inch patch and so on. There is no check to ensure they are following specs.



**RIDE SAFE**