

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

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

***SAFETY IS FOR LIFE***



***November 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 McMahon, 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 Virginia District Educator to Region N Educator

- Cundiff Simmons, Region N Educator

### **I Saw.....**

The Rally's over! I didn't visit the vendors or see the drill team but that's ok, I was doing other things that I enjoy. I saw sooo many people enjoying themselves. I saw tension on the faces of the ERC participants as they anticipated the start of their class. I saw their looks change to concentration as Gary and John got the class underway. When I got back a little later there were smiles as they began to relax and really enjoy themselves. I saw ear-to-ear grins as the class finished up. I saw hunger in their eyes as they realized that the Road kill Café was getting ready to close!

I saw brand new Seminar Presenters getting ready to give their first Rally Rider Ed seminar. I saw the looks of relief as their seminars came to an end and they realized that the participants hadn't realized it was their first BIG presentation.

I saw "old hands" quietly and efficiently going about the job of getting their seminars and classes underway. I saw people puffing away at the manikins as they learned CPR for the first time or demonstrated their skills for renewal of their certifications.

I saw excitement on the faces of new members as they left the seminars they had participated in for the first time and the nods and knowing looks on the faces of those who've done it before and have just gone back to brush up on the finer points.

I saw the sense of satisfaction on the faces of the new GWRRA Trailering Instructors as they shared their knowledge with participants that had never seen or been a part of a hands on trailering course.

I saw lines of people at the Rider Ed table, updating their Levels, asking questions, getting pins and patches for their vests to demonstrate pride in their Rider Ed. accomplishments. I saw grins and heard the laughter as they beat the card game, winning tickets for a chance at the Rider Ed door prizes. I saw the faces of so many of you that dug in and worked behind the table answering those questions and selling tickets for the big prizes.

I saw hungry faces (again) as the Level IV Master Tour Riders patiently waited for the biscuits to show up at the Master's Breakfast. I saw the hands waving greedily as Pete Woodruff was entertaining everyone giving out the tee shirts and bike "stuff" that he collects all during the year, just so he can give it away at "OUR" Master's Breakfast.

I saw nervousness in the eyes of (some of) the blood donors as they waited to get "stuck" and the smiling faces of the Red Cross workers as they joked with and distracted them to the point where the needle stick was over before they knew it.

I saw LOTS of happy faces as the winners came forward to claim their tires and cash at the Rider Ed drawings during closing ceremonies. I saw the looks of accomplishment in the eyes of those who received their Master's patches for reaching the highest and most exclusive Level in Rider Education.

I saw so many of you that worked so hard to make "Our Rally" a success. Without you, it literally couldn't be done.

Rider Education has been the Rally in the Valley for Ellen and me for the last few years and I've enjoyed every minute of it. It's time to pass the "I saw" along to someone else now. Gary and Jackie Wall are

taking the reigns of Rider Education in Virginia. They'll do a great job but they'll need your help and support just as we did. I know they'll get it!

I'll see the vendors and drill teams at next year's Rally in the Valley but I'll miss the "I saws".  
Cundiff & Ellen

## **Changing of the Guard**

November 1<sup>st</sup> marks a new beginning for us. Let me see, more paperwork, more pins and patch orders, more emails..... just kidding. As everyone should be aware, there was a change of Educators, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Cundiff and Ellen have moved up to Region N Educators and we have stepped up to Virginia District Educators. We do hope we will do as good of a job as our former Educators.

With our new position, we now have more responsibility. Effective immediately, please send us all pins and patch orders, Level renewals, and anything else that you used to send to Cundiff and Ellen. Our address and email is listed on front page of this newsletter. Speaking of e-mail's, if you ever have any articles for the newsletter, please send them to Jackie and she will do what she can to get them in the newsletter. She is always looking for an article, and believe you me, if I am late in getting her an article, do I hear about it.

Now a little bit about us. We are new to the District level, but not new to Rider Ed. We have served for the last 4½ years as Assistant Chapter Educator, and as Chapter Educator for Chapter C. I am an MSF certified Instructor, and have been certified, (that is a play on words!!), as a GWRRA seminar presenter, as well as an instructor for the GWRRA TRIKE course. I will be getting updated to give the beginner and advanced riding course under GWRRA as soon as possible. We firmly believe in Rider Education, and try to learn something every time that we get on the bike. Riding is a great way to enjoy life, and to be able to spend it with friends is truly special.

We will be sending out e-mails from time to time, as well as by phone, just to see how everyone is doing, or if anyone needs any help. Please let us know when and where we might be of help to you all. We are a team, and the way I see it and heard it, there is no "I" in team. We can make Rider Ed fun, and people will learn from that.

With the Holidays quickly approaching, spend time with your families, be grateful that we live where we do, be thankful for what we are able to do, and spend a minute thinking about those men and women that are not able to spend the holidays at home. For they are where they may be defending our rights, and we should never take them for granted. Have a Happy Holiday!!!

Until we talk again, "Walk the walk, and talk the talk..."

Ride Safe,

Gary and Jackie

PS- "We saw, but we didn't know what it was we saw" 😊



## **S\*&% Happens!!!**

- **Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator**



I hope all of you had an enjoyable Rally in the Valley. I sure did, at least up to the point where I saw my two best friends tumbling down the road in front of me. As most of you know by now Lou and Patti Card, ACDs for Chapter I had a little mishap on the way home from RITV. Lou was leading a group of 7 bikes and I was the number 2 bike. We were within about 25 miles of home and topped a small rise to see a couple of cars stopped in our lane and the bottom of a small hill. The first time I noticed any problem with Lou was when I heard his brakes squeal. After that everything happened so fast and also in slow motion – go figure. Before I knew it, I saw their Wing go down on the right side. I remember seeing lots of sparks. Seeing them tumbling down the road and then seeing their beautiful red wing take a jump into the air. I swear it went at least 20 feet up and one of the riders near the rear of the group also saw it so it must of got pretty high for that to happen. It seemed to take a split second for them to go down but at least 30 minutes for them to stop tumbling down the road. I stopped my Wing near Patti and Renee hopped off to see if she was okay. I got off and went down the road a bit to check on Lou. Both were communicating with each other before we could get to their sides. Both sustained road rash. Patti also has a broken wrist and toe. Lou has a broken tibia and some damage to his knee, which may require some surgery in the future. I am so proud of the folks we were riding with. 2 of our qualified folks immediately began to administer first aid, the rest started directing traffic and policing up Lou and Patti's "stuff". Other members of the Chapter met us at the hospital while some others retrieved Lou and Patti's trailer from the accident site. No one wants to see his or her friends have a motorcycle accident but it was very heart warming to see how everyone came together and helped out with a not so nice situation. We eventually got Lou and Patti both home where they are both well along the path of their speedy recoveries.

Now to the crux of the issue. How the heck did this happen. I have ridden a lot of miles with Lou and Patti. Lou has 30 or 40 years of riding experience. Believe me when I tell you that we all have been over this incident numerous times. Several of us have investigated the accident site since. We can only see one skid mark and it is obviously from the rear tire. I am not a trained accident investigator but this is what I think happened. As you know when you top a hill and start down the other side your suspension unloads and the bike gets lighter for a short time. I believe in that instant Lou saw the stopped cars and started braking but since the bike was lighter at that particular point in time, the pressure that Lou used locked up the rear brakes. This caused the bike to fish tail a little and then their trailer continued to push the rear end of the bike around. Now I know that because Lou is my friend I may have a little bit clouded judgment of his riding abilities but I don't think so. I think that the bottom line here is that regardless of what exactly happened, it clearly comes under the heading of "**S\*&% Happens!!!**".

My point is you just never know what's going to happen so please do all that you can to keep yourselves safe. Take a motorcycle rider safety course, listen to your Chapter Educators safety talks, wear all the recommended protective riding gear, use your rider radar and arrive safe.

Remember I want to continue to see your smiling faces around. **Ride safe!**

Jim Sharkey  
Virginia Assistant District Educator

# ▲ GWRRA National Rider Education December Newsletter

## Highlights



### ROAD DIRT

Hidden hazards from road users. On the other hand, are they really hidden from us? While at a Chapter meeting, the Chapter Educator was talking about an incident he saw another rider have. A group was riding through a small town preparing to make a left turn. With oncoming traffic, they had to come to a stop and wait. The rider in the lead could not stop. He was a believer of “do not use the front brake, your front wheel will slide.” When he finally did get to the front brake lever, it was too late; the rear wheel had slid out and the bike went down. Speed was maybe 5 or 8 miles per hour. Embarrassment very high. What caused this problem? Improper braking and a hidden leftover piece of a turtle shell. It was the bottom of the shell, which is flat, and about the same size of your tire’s contact patch.

Remember to scan the entire roadway, and look for color changes. The different color will tell you to take a fast look again. People believe the trash they throw out their car window will evaporate. These items can be the size of your tire’s contact patch. When you cross the debris, do not change speed or direction.



Do you practice your motorcycle skills while driving in the “CAGE”? That is the expression my friend, Katie uses whenever they have to ride in the car. Good riding plans are useful in cars also. Head turns - find that blind spot where a small vehicle can disappear in. Turn signals - when changing lanes, a big plus. Head lights – before daylight, at dawn and during rain. I really would like to see a positive “**get back**” gesture for the tailgater who is trying to pick my wallet at 65 miles per hour.

All the above will become automatic when riding your bike if you practice a good riding plan all the time.

## Motorcycle Accessories and Storage

At this time, this will probably not apply south of the Mason Dixon line. I know, get your laughs out now.



When placing your motorcycle and accessories away for the winter, all clothing should be clean and put on hangers.

Do you have a reflective vest? Do not fold them, but hang them on your jackets on hangers. Do not hang two reflective vests side by side. The material can stick together.

Helmet lining may be cleaned with a mild soap and place in a warm place to dry. Check the strap for fraying. If in doubt, due to the fact you have dropped it a couple of times, replace it. Some helmets may be made from petroleum-based products. They may deteriorate with time. Some newer helmets are made of composite materials and will be around a lot longer. To get the information about your helmet contact the manufacture or Snell Foundation, if it is Snell approved.



Drain your engine and remove old contaminated oil. Even if you only have 100 miles since your latest change, oil is contaminated with acids and combustion blow by. This is not good for the aluminum case.

In your gas tank add fuel stabilizer and fill the gas to the top so condensation cannot form when there are warm days to cold days.

Do you fill the air in your tires from a (so-called filling station) tire pressure stand? Ever notice how much moisture is in the airline? We have a lot of humidity in our area and the air pump station has a lot in their lines. This results in water inside the tires and no way out. Not a good thing for any wheel made of steel or aluminum. Have a tire dealer fill your tires or your motorcycle dealer. They have water filters on their lines to prevent their air tools from getting water in them.



You can make blocking to bring your tires off the ground. The block needs to be about 12 ¼ inches tall. Place it under the motor while the Gold Wing is on the center stand. Both tires will be off the floor and no flat spot will occur.



Critters – remember to protect everything from those little varmints. I know of a few friends who have had to replace the entire wiring for their motorcycles.

Cover the Wing with a breathable material. With temperature, rising and falling, condensation occurs and that brings moisture. With a light cloth or cotton sheet, the moisture can evaporate and leave the Wing dry.

Battery tender or equivalent helps to keep the battery charged during the storage time. Check the cells and fill to the full level. Check periodically to make certain they stay filled.



Last but not lease, remember the first aid kit. Check for items you may have used and replace them. Latex (or non-latex) gloves should be replaced in the when you bring the bike back out of storage.

The old saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. These are some tips on tucking in the Gold Wing, which will help when you are ready to go next year.



### 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!

### Monthly Activity Reports

Monthly reports still need to be sent to Jim Sharkey BEFORE the end of each month.

**EDUCATORS** – please take a few minutes after each meeting to complete the Monthly Activity Report and send it to Jim immediately. Unless of course, you want to talk to Jim at the end of the month, because he will call you!!

**CHAPTER DIRECTORS** – if you do not have an Educator or if your Educator did not make the meeting, please help out by completing the Monthly Activity Report for them. It **MUST** be completed each month.

### Virginia Educator List

I have updated the Virginia Educator List. For the most current list of Virginia Chapter Educators, please visit the Virginia website - Rider Education.

### 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)**.

**Stay connected!!!**



Take a look at some of the other GWRRA 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: **<http://www.frashure.com/goldwing>**– click on Rider Education