

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

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

***SAFETY IS FOR LIFE***

***December 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***

## **From the Desk of the District Educator**

- Gary Wall, District Educator

Hi There Educator's,

We have some great event's coming up in the very near future. For instance, on January 9-11, there is the **International Motorcycle Show** in Washington D.C. Our fearless leader, Keith Lindgren, has reserved a booth for GWRRA to show off it's pride and let other's know what we are all about, Rider Ed as well as recruiting. It has been posted on the District web page, and if you are interested, send an e-mail to Wayne and Lynette Stewart. We could always use some help in these kind of events.

Then, in February, we have our "**Wingless Weekend**" planned for February 6-8. It is a great time to get together with friends, and meet new friends, and have fun! We will be having the Rider Ed table up and running, so if you would like to volunteer, send your reservation for the table to Jackie, and she will enjoy the help. Now would be a good time to hit your favorite motorcycle shop and see if they would like to donate something to the Rider Ed door prize table. We already have a set of tires that we are going to be giving away, and we could sure use some more stuff to give away. Oh come on, everyone needs more stuff to take home, or at least more chrome to put on our Wings. Just ask your friendly motorcycle shop if they would like to donate anything to the Rider Ed program. It sure wouldn't hurt to ask. We will also be having some seminars that I will be asking for some support from anyone who will be attending.

The weather is surely changing, warm to cold to snow to rain, pass the word on being prepared for anything and everything to your chapter members. Better to have stuff to take off, than not have enough on in the first place!

Now a personal note from Jackie and myself. We are very happy to have such a good bunch of educator's here in our District. We appreciate all of your time and efforts to make Rider Ed in Virginia number 1. We are hoping that all of you

have a wonderful holiday season, and a prosperous New Year. So, until we meet again,

Ride Safe and Have Fun.

Happy Holidays,

Gary and Jackie

## **BE ALERT**

*(The world needs more Lerts)*



- Jim Sharkey, Assistant District Educator

There's a nip in the air (along with a few rain drops and the occasional snowflake). So am I going to stop riding? Heck NO! Unless the roads are icy/slick I will most likely be riding my wing. You are thinking, "He must be nuts". Well – yeah but what else is new. I figure that any day that starts with a motorcycle ride can't be all-bad. You are now asking yourself, "but doesn't he get cold and wet?" Well actually I stay warm and dry because I have learned over the years how to dress for this kind of riding. Now I have a question for you, "Besides personal comfort, why is it so important to me to not be distracted by the discomfort of being cold and wet?" Come on now, I even gave you a clue here. Okay, here is another question, "what percent of riding is mental?" Now for those of you that have attended any of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses you will know that the answer to the last question is 90% mental. So if you can follow my logic here, if I am distracted by being uncomfortable, I may not be able to devote 90% of my mental capacities (as limited as they are) to riding. So if I am not alert I could easily get into trouble. **The bottom line safety message** here is to keep your distractions to a minimum so you can pay attention to the task at hand.



Now I would like to thank all of you out there for supporting Rider Education over the past year. I am very proud of the fact that Virginia is a leader in Rider Education and that I am a part of that. However Virginia could never be tops without the hard



work of all of our Chapter Educators and Chapter Directors out there promoting the program.

I also want to wish all of you a very merry and happy holiday season. I hope this last year has been one of your best and that next year will even be better than this one.

You all ride safe (and warm). I like seeing your smiling faces around.



Jim Sharkey

Virginia Assistant District Educator

## Rider Education Program Levels Applications

- **Cundiff Simmons, Region N Educator**

Well, we have talked about Rider Ed renewals, what better time to talk about the Level Applications. Here is some information on how to complete them:

All Level's Applications except Level IV, must be turned in to the District Educator. We ask that they all be printed. **Level IV's should be sent directly to National to Bill and Linda English.**

Be sure to check the **GWRRA Membership #** to make sure it is correct and not the Agent # 16540D that everyone has on their card.

Then make sure the **Chapter designation** is on the form. We need a validation Officer's name and title at the top. Only the participant's name applying should be on the form.

Follow the information for **Level I**. If you have the safe miles, put them in (these increase in increments of 5,000 and can only be since joining GWRRA). **Level II**, fill in all the squares. **Make sure the type of safety program is noted** (including the TYPE of First Aid/CPR courses) or the Co-Rider's case, the Co-Rider Seminar if they haven't ridden behind the Rider and the expiration dates.

**Level III** – bring down all the Level II information and fill in either or CPR/First Aid and expiration date. If renewing, all of Level II and/or Level III information must be in the blanks or they cannot renew.

**On High Mileage** - 50,000 miles begins this section and mileage increases by increments of 50,000. Any bike or trike may be used. These must be filled in (use the back if necessary).

District Educator must verify the above is correctly done before adding their name.

District Educator must verify the above is correctly done before putting a zero in the amount enclosed, noting this information somewhere in case you need it and sending it on to Bill and Linda English, Asst. National Directors Rider Education.

Make sure a copy of 'how to do' a Level's program is at the Rider Education table at your functions for all helpers. There is a document called "**Filling Out Rider Ed Applications**" in the "Levels" folder on the disk that you received at the Officer's Meeting, PLEASE read it.

## *Pins and Patches*

On the Rider Ed disc that was distributed at the District Officer's Meeting, there was a District Educators Pin and Patch Order Form. Some of you had asked for a form for the Chapter Educators to use when ordering pins and patches. You should soon be receiving (or may have already received) a Chapter Educator Pin and Patch Order Form for use/distribution to your Chapter Educators, if you so desire.

## **▲ Do You Know What Time of the Year it is?**

- **National Rider Ed newsletter, December 2001**

It's that time of the year again, you know... RENEWAL TIME. Remember, when January rolls around, all Level II, III, and IV's need renewed at their highest level. Can we get to 100% renewals? It is possible. The more important we make it, the more important it will become to the members.

Now that winter is upon us, indoor courses can be encouraged and set up. What a perfect time of the year to hold a first aid/CPR class. How about taking care of the Co-Riders by holding a Co-Rider Seminar. Taking care of some of the required courses will go far in encouraging REP renewals.

Start now by reminding members that it IS that time of the year. Be sure to have forms available at the Chapter meetings. The easier we can make the renewal process for the members, the more renewals we will get. We challenge you to make this the highest renewal year ever!

## **▲ SAFE DRIVING TIPS**

- Article taken from Chapter A- Nov 2003 Newsletter

- Never use cruise in the rain. It may cause your car to hydroplane if your tires lose contact with the road surface.
- While fueling your car with gas. DO NOT use your cell phone. Don't turn it even on. It can ignite fumes. A person suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket ignited the fumes during fueling. DO NOT re-enter your car while fueling because when you exit the car you carry static electricity that can ignite the fuel.
- If you run off the edge of the road: Take your foot off of the accelerator or roll off the throttle on your cycle. *Don't* jam on the brakes. Brake slowly. Don't try to get back onto the road until you have control of the car or motorcycle. Turn your wheel slowly toward the road and do not cross the center line.

### TOP 15 driving distractions:

1. Rubbernecking: 16%
2. Driver fatigue: 12%
3. Looking at scenery or landmarks: 10%
4. Passenger or child distraction: 9%
5. Adjusting radio, changing CD/ tape player: 7%
6. Cell phone: 5%
7. Eyes not on the road: 4.5%
8. Day Dreaming: 4%
9. Eating or drinking: 4%
10. Adjusting vehicle controls: 4%
11. Weather conditions: 2%
12. Unknown: 2%
13. Insect, animal or object entering the path or striking the vehicle: 2%
14. Document, book, map, directions or newspaper: 2%
15. Medical or emotional impairment: 2%



### Newsletter Articles

Educators – each month you should be putting a Rider Education newsletter article in your Chapter newsletter. It doesn't have to

be something you have written. You can “borrow”, but please give credit if you do.

Each month I also put together a newsletter and I need YOUR help!!! Please forward me a copy of your newsletter articles and I will see about putting some of them in the District newsletter.

Thanks!

## 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

### 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.

### 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).

### **International Motorcycle Show January 9-11, 2004**



The 23<sup>rd</sup> International Motorcycle Show will be held in Washington DC at the Washington Convention Center.

**EDUCATORS** – we need your help .Please contact Wayne and Lynette Stewart to volunteer some time!!

[westewart01@earthlink.net](mailto:westewart01@earthlink.net)