



RIDER ED DIRECT

December 2007

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRR Michigan District Rider Ed Team



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Rider Education Division of GWRR

Our Mission:

*To Save Lives
Through Quality,
World Class Education*

Our Motto:

"Safety Is For Life"

Rider Ed Levels Program

Level I: Safe Rider / Co-Rider

Level II: Tour Rider / Co-Rider

Level III: Certified Tour Rider /
Certified Tour Co-Rider

Level IV: Master Tour Rider /
Master Tour Co-Rider

December Topic—Christmas Gifts for Your Favorite Rider

December is here. Oh boy! That means it is time to shop for something nice to give to your favorite Rider or Co-Rider. What to get him/her that would show how much you care? Well, can you go wrong giving a gift that says you want your best friend to be safe and protected? Here are a few gift ideas that fill that requirement:

1. Perhaps a new helmet that gives superior coverage—a full face helmet, or a flip-front helmet (also called convertible or modular style) would be appreciated. The flip-front style combines the features of a full-face with those of a three-quarter. It covers the head and face/chin areas, and allows comfortable conversations or a quick beverage break without removing the entire helmet. These helmets tend to be quieter, blocking out more wind noise and traffic noise, too. And when worn with the chinbar down and locked in position it provides virtually the same level of protection as a full-face helmet.

2. Given that temperatures will be cool over the next few months, a nice pair of electrically heated gloves will keep fingers warm and functional. Cold hands don't move as easily, and operation of controls becomes difficult. This can lead to a ride that is less than smooth, and safety can become an issue. It is also easier to focus on the operation of the motorcycle and the hazards on the road when one is comfortable. The gift of warm hands would be appreciated by both a rider and a co-rider.

3. And how about fog lights? These add to motorcycle conspicuity which is a year-round benefit to all aboard. Besides helping to light the roadway, fog lights add an extra dimension to the motorcycle that will help others judge its distance and closing speed more accurately. These factors can help others make better decisions about pulling out in front of an approaching motorcycle. Poor decisions by motorists often result in the motorcyclist paying the price of that bad judgment.

So take a few minutes to consider which gifts can make you and your loved one safer while riding, whether riding in January or July. You will both feel better for it. And safer, too!

Planning Reminders:

1. Schedule seminars for your chapter during the non-riding season. Co-Riders meet their Rider Training Course by attending a Co-Rider Seminar to keep them current in their Level II, Level III, or Level IV. Other seminars can be scheduled, too, such as Team Riding, Trailering, and Seasoned Rider Seminars.

- ◆ See how many Co-Riders need to update their training to remain current or progress in the Levels program (Level II, III & IV)
- ◆ Rider Training Course is needed every 3 years to remain current
- ◆ Consider working with neighboring chapters to present a seminar for a larger group.
- ◆ Team Riding and Trailering seminars can lead to good group discussion and improve understanding of proper riding techniques
- ◆ Our District Seminar coordinator is Valerie Jones, MI-A (rlj@comcast.net)

Seminar request form in Adobe .pdf format is available at:

http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/Seminar_Request_Form.pdf

2. When preparing or approving Rider Ed Levels Application forms for chapter members, be sure to check their membership card for expiration date. They must be current (card not expired) to participate and progress in the Levels Program. For Riders moving to Level II and above, check their driver's license for a cycle endorsement. A cycle endorsement is legally required in Michigan.

3. Prior to your Chapter Gathering, spend a few minutes preparing to discuss at least one Rider Education topic. When you know you will not be able to attend your monthly Gathering, ask your CD or ACD or a former Chapter Educator to deliver the Rider Ed message you prepared in advance. Remember that the topic does not have to be motorcycle related, especially in the winter when so few members are out riding.

Thanks for all you do for Rider Education! And remember: **Safety Is For Life!**