



RIDER ED DIRECT

January 2008

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRRR Michigan District Rider Ed Team
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RIDER EDUCATION DIVISION of GWRRR

Our Mission:

*To Save Lives
Through Quality,
World Class Education*

Our Motto:

"Safety Is For Life"

Rider Ed Levels Program

Safe Miles: Number of accident free miles driven on a motorcycle since joining GWRRR. Pins are available in 5,000 mile increments; patches in 100,000 mile levels.

45,000



It's All About the Traction

We turned the calendar to December and, suddenly, winter was here! The signs of winter were everywhere: the cold temperatures, snow flurries, freezing rain, and ice on puddles. In winter we see the most driving problems (accidents and spin outs) when conditions include freezing rain and black ice. It does not matter that we are driving our four-wheeled vehicles. When the road surface is icy, traction is greatly reduced. So when there is ice on the road, the best thing to do is stay home. If you have to drive in icy conditions, go slowly and smoothly. No, check that. Go VERY slowly, and VERY smoothly! As we know from our motorcycle training, when we lose traction, we lose braking and steering control of our vehicle. The same applies to a car. Even with four tires on the ground, it is easy to lose control of a vehicle on ice. To increase traction in icy conditions, look for surfaces with more texture. Many of Michigan's two-lane roads have unpaved shoulders. The rougher surface on the shoulder will provide better grip for your tires. Keep in mind that accelerating, braking and steering should all be done smoothly to maintain control. Use a light touch on the accelerator. You will not be able to accelerate rapidly on ice anyway, so just plan to keep speeds down. Slow down before entering curves, and keep a steady speed through the turn. Increase your following distance behind other cars to allow more time to stop. Consider using your emergency flashers for added conspicuity. As always, it is important to look ahead and think constantly about your best escape route or reaction to various situations. Keep alert to your best options. You can practice these tips in an empty parking lot at slow speeds, and learn how your vehicle responds. Just like a motorcycle training class, you want to practice in a safe space. And remember, it's all about the traction!

Planning Reminders:

1. Schedule First Aid / CPR training for your chapter during the non-riding season. All members seeking to move up to Level III, or maintain Level III or Level IV status, need to take this training every 2 years.

- ◆ Check to see which members want to take Medic First Aid (MFA) CPR/FA training
- ◆ Automatic External Defibrillator training is included in MFA training
- ◆ One instructor can teach up to 12 students, 2 instructors can teach up to 24 students
- ◆ Consider working with neighboring chapters to maximize students for trainers required (1 or 2).
- ◆ Our District MFA coordinator is Steve Gates, MI-X (pgates@kresanet.org)

MFA training request form in Adobe .pdf format is available at:

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

2. The New Year is ahead of us. This is a good time to plan your Chapter's Rider Ed activities for the year. Perhaps you are interested in pursuing the Rider Education "Chapter Educator of the Year", or the Rider Education "Chapter of the Year" awards. The criteria for each of these awards are outlined in two separate documents. The documents are found on the District website at the following link:

<http://www.gwrra-mi.org/Forms.htm#RiderEducation>

Scroll down and find them in the Rider Education section under General Informational Files.

3. Please ask your chapter members if they would like to donate a craft item to the Rider Ed table at Wingless Weekend for our Dutch Auction. Remind them to bring craft donations to the Rider Ed table at Wingless before noon on Saturday, February 16th.

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