



# RIDER ED DIRECT

## February 2008

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators  
From your GWRRR Michigan District Rider Ed Team  
Volume 2 Number 2



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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

Level I—Safety by Commitment

Requirements: Current GWRRR membership, and the expressed commitment to strive for and practice safe riding. Same for both Rider and Co-Rider.



### **Trip Planning? Plan the Gear, too!**

So what have you been thinking about this winter? Have you been thinking about the gray skies, the rain, sleet and snow of the past two months? And how about the freezing temperatures? These are not very cheerful thoughts for those of us who are not winter sports enthusiasts. Some riders brighten their outlook at this time of year by planning for the coming riding season. A few among us are deciding which motorcycling events to attend this summer. Will it be the Americade rally in upstate New York? Maybe Wing Ding in South Carolina? How about a vacation trip to an area with great roads to ride or interesting geological attractions to see? Whatever your destination, planning the route to take is an important part of trip planning. However, don't overlook the need to plan the gear you will need to take with you on each of your trips. Having the proper gear for the ride is an essential element of a successful trip. So why not start with your most important safety gear? Inspect your helmet for wear and tear. How long has it been since you bought your helmet? Does the outer shell have chips or cracks? Has it sustained an impact while you were wearing it? Has it been repeatedly dropped from your motorcycle seat? (It can probably withstand a drop or two, but try to avoid it.) Realize that helmets are only designed to survive one impact while being worn. Also look at the chin strap. Is it frayed from many years of wear? These signs of damage indicate that it may be time to replace your helmet. Experts advise changing your helmet every 3 to 5 years for maximum protection. Time, wear and ultraviolet rays will cause your helmet's materials to degrade resulting in reduced protection to you. ([www.snellfoundation.org](http://www.snellfoundation.org).) Are you planning a hot southern tour this summer? (Greenville, SC, is in that category!) If you don't already have one, this may be the time for you to start shopping for a mesh jacket. These jackets give you the best in protection along with maximum ventilation. Good ventilation reduces your discomfort in hot weather and can help prevent heat exhaustion. Even though they have long sleeves, when you wear a mesh jacket the air flows around you almost as if you are wearing nothing. And the synthetic materials provide excellent abrasion resistance. With elbow, shoulder and back pads included, you get great protection for your 'corners' and your back. There are also gloves designed from the same kind of mesh materials to protect your hands as well. They provide you with a good grip on the controls while keeping your hands fully covered for maximum protection. Can you rely on your current rain gear? Does your rain gear have leaky seams or rips? Do you need to put a new jacket or rain pants on the shopping list? Having good, comfortable gear that fits you properly for all riding conditions will allow you to fix your attention on the ride and not on your physical discomforts. This will also help ensure that you will have a great trip. And knowing that you and your co-rider have the protection you may need will give you peace of mind every time you saddle up. Now, which route do we want to take?

### Planning Reminders:

1. Assistant District Directors are going to hold their Section meetings over the next couple of months. Rider Ed will be discussed at each meeting. Be sure to find out when your section meeting will be held and plan to attend. If you have any questions, please make yourself a note and bring them to the meeting.
2. Consider establishing a standard Rider Ed agenda for your monthly Gathering. It will make preparation easier for you each month and help you keep organized. Some items you may want to include in your standard agenda: "Gimme 5" talk, awarding pins & patches for the Rider Ed Levels Program, training opportunities in the area (ERCs, seminars, videos, etc.). You can always add to this agenda as needed. Note that each item on such an agenda counts as a separate topic when you submit your monthly report.
3. There are lots of great websites on the internet with motorcycle safety related content. Next time you are looking for something to add to your talk or chapter newsletter, do a Google search on a topic to provide you with more background on the topic, and share some of the interesting websites you find with your chapter members. They may want to go into more depth on the subject.

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