



RIDER ED DIRECT

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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

Level II—Safety by Education
Requirements: GWRRR current membership, enrolled in Level I, 5,000 safe miles. Riders: Cycle endorsement, rider course. Co-Riders: 2-up rider course or Co-Rider seminar. Training good for 3 years.



Rider Course Season – ERC, ARC & TRC

How about that! March is here already and we can realistically begin thinking about clear roads and warm temperatures. At least warm enough to encourage us to unplug the Battery Tender, bundle up in full gear, and take the steed out of the garage for the first ride of the season, possibly. Okay, maybe I am rushing it a bit, especially for those of you in da U.P., eh? March also means the Rider Course schedule has been established, posted on the District website, and distributed at Wingless Weekend. If the course is not offered right in your backyard, and you have a bit of a ride to get there, so what? Sounds like a good reason for a chapter ride. In fact, you could practice *team riding* both ways - there and back. Maybe spend the night near the training site, if it makes sense. This could help you get the season off to a great start (if you enroll in one of the early courses). Remember, the chapter that trains together, ... uh..., has a lot of trained riders! Right? Seriously, we can all improve our riding skills. Even if you have taken the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Rider Course (ERC) every year for the last 10 years, there is something you will learn, or re-learn, from one of our rider training courses. I say that with confidence because there is now a new course available for those experienced and frequently trained riders among us that are looking for something different. The new class is the Advanced Rider Course (ARC). This is a rider course developed by GWRRR for its members. The class includes new exercises found only in this class. And they were designed specifically to help you deal with real-world riding situations. If you can ace this class, then you have some riding skills to be proud of! That is not to say that only the top riders should take this class. Every motorcycle rider among us is eligible for this class. (Sorry, this course is only for 2-wheelers.) There are no prerequisites to meet other than the usual for current GWRRR members. Your bike needs to pass a T-CLOCS inspection and you must wear the proper riding gear. (Did you forget what comprises proper riding gear? Hint: There are 6 items included!) And of course you need a cycle endorsement on your driver's license, and proof of insurance. Classes start in April again this year. Register for any of the classes – ERC, ARC or Trike Riding Course (TRC) - by completing an application. The sooner you mail it in, the better your chances are of getting the training site you desire. What else can you expect from this new course? Just as with the ERC, it is presented to you by two trained and qualified instructors who will tell you how to perform the exercise, demonstrate the exercise for you, and give you tips to improve your technique while you practice it on your own motorcycle. The ARC also includes some classroom instruction prior to the fun on the range. Altogether, it is pretty much a full eight hour course. As long as you participate in the classroom and practice the exercises on the range, you will get a completion card. It is as easy as that! There are no minimum performance standards to meet. And, hopefully, everyone finishes with better awareness of the risks of motorcycling and improved riding skills. And isn't that the point of a rider training course?

Planning Reminders:

1. Parking Lot Practices (PLP) help riders recall the proper techniques for braking, turning, and swerving. Practicing triggers the muscle memory to recall how to maneuver the bike properly through each exercise. The beginning of the riding season is a great time to hold a PLP. Consider partnering with neighboring chapters for this. We have booklets that show how to set up the exercises. It takes time to plan and coordinate, so if you haven't already, it is time to get going!
2. Recognize members enrolling in the Levels program or advancing to the next level. Bring them up in front of the group at your Gathering and present them with their patches or pins. Show the whole chapter what they have done. And don't forget to put their achievements in your chapter newsletter. It doesn't take much writing at all, and delivers big rewards in member recognition and continued participation.
3. Check your Rider Ed report (or ask your members) to see which of your chapter members need to take another rider course to remain current in Level II, Level III or Level IV. Remind them they need to register for a course. Why not provide copies of the Rider Course Registration form for those in your chapter who want to take a class? Find the form at this link:

http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/2008_Rider_Course_Registration.pdf

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