



Michigan District

Region D "The Great Lakes Region"

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"



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Our Mission:

**To Save Lives
Through Quality,
World Class Education**

Our Motto:

"Safety Is For Life"

RIDER ED DIRECT

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A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRRA Michigan District Rider Ed Team
Volume 2 Number 10

To: All **Chapter Educators**, and **Chapter Directors** *without* an Educator

This is intended to *support* your Rider Education efforts. If you need a topic idea for your required "Gimme 5" talk at your Gathering or for your chapter newsletter article this month, feel free to use this material in part or in whole. It is **not** mandatory that you use this either for your talk or in your newsletter. If you choose to use it, feel free to change it to suit your audience. If you use this as your article *without change*, however, please credit the MI District Rider Ed Team. *Thanks!*

(Possible "Gimme 5" for Chapter Educators for **October, 2008**)

MONTHLY TOPIC: Thoughts On an Autumn Rider

It is early autumn in Michigan; mostly sunny with just enough wind to make it crisp. As I drive down our winding country road headed to the super-slab, I encounter a lone Gold Winger at the first stop sign. I motion him to go first and he turns in front of me. Being a motorcycle rider myself, I give him plenty of room and simply follow and observe. This is a Gold Wing that I have not seen in my neighborhood before. Where did he come from? I can't help but wonder if he is a member of our wonderful association. He is an experienced rider and he seems familiar enough with the drive as he deftly maneuvers around road kill and keeps his head turning, constantly scanning for potential hazards. He is clothed in what we call "full riding gear"; helmet, leather jacket, leather gloves, chaps and boots.

As we make it to the super-slab, he continues west as I turn to the south. I find myself whispering a little prayer for his safety as I so often do when I encounter motorcyclists on the road.

How about you and your chapter? Are you preparing for a "fall color tour"? Please remember in your planning that there are dangers lurking everywhere in the fall scenery. There is the possibility of fog in the early morning and late evening. There may be dampness on the roads or piles of damp leaves that folks have raked out into the streets. If you encounter these leaves in the early morning or in shady areas, they may hold the frost longer than the surrounding pavement. The "critters" are on the move, preparing for winter by stocking up on groceries, or being spooked by hunters. The sunshine disappears quickly this time of year, so you need to plan carefully if you do not want to be caught in failing light. The sun is also deceptive; you should dress in layers of protective clothing, and stop often in order to add layers to stay warm.

It is early autumn in Michigan; a beautiful time for a fun, safe color tour.

Planning Reminders:

1. Team Riding and Road Captain seminars are available for presentation at your chapter. Invite neighboring chapters and share the knowledge opportunity. Seminar request form is available here:

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

2. This is a good time to set up your off-season First Aid / CPR / AED training. Beat the mid-winter rush. The request form is available here:

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

3. The Fall Officer's meeting is scheduled for November 1st. This time it does not conflict with Deer Camp (for rifles)! We hope to see all the Chapter Educators with their CDs & ACDs at the meeting in Bay City at the Doubletree Hotel. Make plans now with your CD to attend. Educators are chapter officers, too!

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

Your comments about this communication and your questions about Rider Education can be directed to:

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