



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

April 2009

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRRA Michigan District Rider Ed Team
Volume 3 Number 3

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!*

Your District Rider Education staff apologizes for the late arrival of this issue. There were some technical issues with trying to get the Rider Ed Direct combined with the new Michigan District Newsletter, so we have chosen to continue with this format until we get those issues worked out.

(Possible "Gimme 5" for Chapter Educators for **April, 2009**)

MONTHLY TOPIC: IT'S SPRING!

Spring has officially sprung! Just this weekend many motorcyclists have taken their favorite "ride" out of storage and out onto the road. This is what we look forward to most during the long, snowy winter months.

However, this can be one of the most dangerous times of the year for motorcycle riders. Those we share the road with are not used to seeing us, and therefore are likely not to. It is imperative for us to be especially alert as we begin the new riding season. Look out for "them" because they may not be looking out for us.

Of course we need to be awake and alert EVERY TIME we get on our two- or three-wheeler. Being mentally prepared is as important as putting on our "riding gear". If you did not inspect your riding gear at the end of the last riding season, do not neglect to do that now. Be sure that your helmet fits properly to give you the most protection. Do your gloves or chaps need attention? What about your over-the-ankle footwear? Are the soles in a condition to hinder you keeping your bike upright at a stop or should you replace or repair them? And don't forget your eye protection. Is it clean and clear? We must have clear vision to see all those other vehicles that we share the road with, as well as pot-holes, critters, road debris, etc.

Is it time to take your rider course? Although a rider course is "good" for three years in the Rider Education Program, nothing says you can't take it every year!

Now that we are well prepared, let's get out there and get some miles on our bikes and promote the GWRRA motto; "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge".

Here's hoping for an SAFE spring,
Your Michigan Rider Education Staff

ADDITIONAL TOPIC: PARKING LOT PRACTICES

Our goal in holding a Parking Lot Practice is to give Members a structured program to build confidence and reinforce basic riding abilities. We want to enhance skill levels and provide preparation toward other experienced rider courses. A PLP is not meant to train the beginning motorcycle rider, nor meant to take the place of professional motorcycle riding instruction.

We try to provide a starting point from which our members can build their confidence and to motivate them to participate in more advanced rider courses. Statistically around 35% of our membership participates in the Rider Education Levels program. Of those only half have taken a Rider Course. That leaves only 17-18% percent who have participated in a Rider Course program to enhance their skills. Members who have taken a Rider Course have always felt that it was beneficial and would recommend it to their fellow GWRRA members.

Membership surveys indicate that a primary reason for low participation is that members feel intimidated by our advanced rider courses and, therefore do not have the confidence to participate. This is an unfortunate misconception. The Rider Courses employ a "Building Block" method of learning designed to improve the Rider's skill level and confidence step-by-step in early exercises to prepare them for success in the later advanced exercises. However, the fact remains that we require a program that addresses this issue, hopefully resulting in higher participation by our members. To accomplish this we created the Parking Lot Practice.

There are two Parking Lot Practice Guides. One is for Motorcycles and the other is for Trike, Sidecar and Add-on Rigs (such as Voyager, Tow Pak, or Insta-trike type kits that make a two wheeled motorcycle into a four wheeled vehicle with different operating and handling characteristics than a Trike). Both PLP guides use the same format and cover the basic skills of braking, cornering and swerving. PLP Facilitators may **NOT** under any circumstances offer instruction, suggestions, riding tips, etc. They may only facilitate by allowing the Rider to "Discover" how to improve their skills and techniques through practice and application of the "**Rider Self Evaluation Tips**" they read in the PLP Guide.

One mission of our Rider Education Program is to provide the opportunity for our members to get the needed instruction and training to travel the open road with confidence. The goal of this program is three fold.

- To continually increase the level of safety of GWRRA Riders and Co-Riders through continuing education and practice
- To increase the Levels participation of our members in a structured program which they may find less intimidating and more appealing.
- To demonstrate through taking this program that they have the skills and "it's no big deal," thus giving them the confidence to continue on in their Education by taking one of our formal Rider Courses.

When a Parking Lot Practice is coordinated through the District Rider Educators and sanctioned by the Region Educator, participation may be applied to satisfy the requirements of the GWRRA Rider Education Levels Program. The key word here is **sanctioned**.

- Sanctioned Parking Lot Practices must be approved by the District Educator and will be conducted by a certified PLP Facilitator in good standing of their choosing.
- A PLP sanctioned by the Region Educator is good for **one** year and can be used for the riding requirement to advance to Level 2 only.
- A sanctioned PLP cannot be used to advance to Level 3 or Level 4.

- For maintenance purposes a PLP sanctioned by the Region Educator can be used as a **one** year extension for the riding requirement of any Level.
- A Member completing a sanctioned PLP will receive a GWRRA Rider Course completion card with the PLP box marked. Expiration is one year from the date of issuing.

Planning Reminders:

1. Co-Rider, Team Riding, Road Captain, and other 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/REQUEST%20SEMINAR%20FORM.doc>

2. There is still time to set up your off-season First Aid / CPR / AED training. The request form is available here:

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

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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