



# Michigan District

Region D "The Great Lakes Region"

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"



**Director- Rider Education**  
Mike & Lori Stiger

**Region D Educators**  
John & Laurel Kuehl

**District Educators**  
Randy & Lori Westcott  
ranlorwing@charter.net  
810-636-9117

**Asst. District Educators**  
Dan & Billye Dulyea  
angelwing1@charter.net  
616-893-5402

Our Mission:

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

Our Motto:

**"Safety Is For Life"**

## RIDER ED DIRECT

June 2009

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators  
From your GWRRA Michigan District Rider Ed Team  
**Volume 3 Number 5**

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!*

Due to unplanned issues with keeping the rubber side down, this issue is coming to you a little late this month. It does, however, give me a topic to write about that is very near and dear to my heart (and ribs and shoulder) at this time.

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

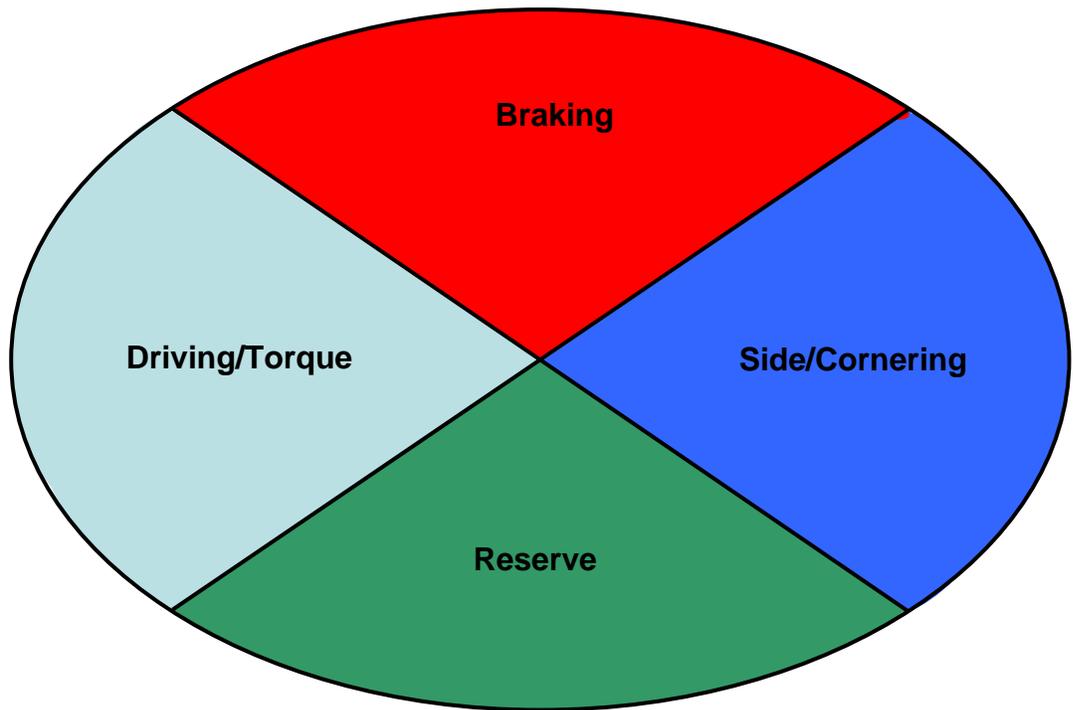
**MONTHLY TOPIC: Let's talk about traction!**

If any of you may still be unaware, your intrepid District Educator, Randy Westcott, had an accident on May 22 and spent Memorial Day weekend in the hospital with a broken scapula and 5 broken ribs. Let me take a moment here to offer my sincere thanks for all the good wishes and prayers that I have received from all my friends and family in GWRRA. The good news is that I had all the protective gear on which helped to minimize my injuries. The wing fared better than I and is in the shop for relatively minor repairs.

What happened? I was performing straight line braking in heavy traffic and, unfortunately, hit a slippery substance on the road which immediately consumed all my reserve traction. The tires shot out from under me (following the crown of the road) and I hit the pavement.

We discuss traction in our Rider Courses every year. Traction is the force of friction or the amount of varying grip that the motorcycle tires have on the road surface. In layman's terms, it is "where the rubber meets the road." For a two wheeler, each tire has a traction patch about the size of your fist pressed on a flat surface. That's not much rubber meeting the road even in the best of conditions. Traction can be reduced by tire condition and temperature, improper inflation, your suspension, ROAD CONDITION (wet, oily, debris), and by what you are asking your bike to do, turning, braking, etc. The goal of traction management is to have sufficient traction to successfully complete any maneuver required during your ride.

We use the traction chart to try to visualize how the forces acting on the motorcycle use up the available traction.



As depicted in the traction chart, the total available traction in the oval or “pie” is split between the braking force, the side or cornering force, the driving force (also called torque or acceleration), and a reserve. If we use the pie analogy, as any one of the forces increases the size of their “slice,” the others must decrease the size of their “slice.” In the picture above, each of these forces is given an equal share of the available traction. But in actual riding, each of the forces is constantly adjusting the size of their slice based on the conditions of the moment. As long as there is still a reserve “slice,” we maintain traction. If, at any time, one of the 3 forces, or a combination of them, eat up all the pie and there is no reserve remaining, there is NO remaining grip on the road surface. Any time you have NO TRACTION, you have NO CONTROL.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the rider training courses offered through GWRRA. We believe everyone can benefit from them. I hope we see you on the range, soon.

Planning Reminders:

1. There are still openings in the Advanced Rider Course and Trike Rider Course classes at Stockbridge, Sault Ste. Marie, and Grayling. The registration form is available here:

[http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/2009\\_Rider\\_Course\\_Registration.doc](http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/2009_Rider_Course_Registration.doc)

2. 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>

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:

Randy & Lori Westcott, MI District Rider Educators, [ranlorwing@charter.net](mailto:ranlorwing@charter.net), or call them at: 810-636-9117

Dan & Billye Dulyea, MI Asst. District Rider Educators, [angelwing1@charter.net](mailto:angelwing1@charter.net), or call them at: 616-893-5402