



# 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

October 2009

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators  
From your GWRRA Michigan District Rider Ed Team  
**Volume 3 Number 8**

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!*

As you are probably aware, the Michigan District Staff has had some changes. Though the Rider Education Staff was not affected, there are still many things going on in this transition period. Once again I have reached back into the archives to find a relevant article that can be used for October. We found this article that was written by former Senior District Educator Tom Rushman a few years ago and dusted it off by making a few minor updates.

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

**MONTHLY TOPIC: Continuous Improvement**

When you first decided to ride a motorcycle you probably learned by one of three methods. You took a basic training class, taught yourself to ride or got help from a friend or family member. You obtained and retained enough skill and information to survive with other traffic on the road. You knew how to ride but you also knew that you could be better. Over time, as your riding skills improved, you began to consider yourself a pretty competent rider.

But the learning shouldn't be over with yet. There is always something that can be improved. If you put people in motion, some percentage of the time something will go wrong. But if people do the right thing, any given accident can be avoided. In fact, most potential accidents are avoidable. We avoid accidents every day. GWRRA Rider Education is all about learning to avoid accidents and reduce the risks of riding motorcycles by increasing our skill levels, both mental and physical. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of your GWRRA Rider Education benefits, however, you can also do a fair amount of learning on your own.

Each one of us will have an occasional “close call” (one of the accidents that was avoided) while riding. What did you do right or wrong just before the incident? What did the other driver/rider do right or wrong? What should be done in the future to avoid a similar occurrence? Asking and answering these questions will turn a “close call” into a learning experience that will increase our knowledge and advance our riding skills. Another way to gain knowledge on the road is to play the “What If” game. Decide ahead of time what actions to take IF that driver with the cell phone in his ear should wander out of his lane. Have an escape route planned JUST IN CASE the bicycle rack on that travel trailer in front of you breaks loose. In most cases these things will not happen, but if they do you will be much better prepared with the correct actions to deal with the emergency. Do you know someone who seems to have more close calls than anyone else? Almost every time you see them they relay some incident that happened to them that they were able to avoid with their “superior” riding skill. Chances are their superior riding skill is more luck than anything else and they are not paying close enough attention to what is going on around them. They are not looking for likely problems nor are they learning from past situations. We need to be actively SEEKING out the potential dangers around us, ANTICIPATING what could go wrong and ACTING to avoid those dangers.

Anyone who has been involved in an accident has probably “replayed” the series of events in their mind trying to figure out exactly what happened and what could have been done to prevent the mishap. It doesn’t matter if it was a single-vehicle or multi-vehicle accident. It doesn’t even matter who was at fault. Something could have been done differently to change the outcome. The driver of the car may have violated your right-of-way but maybe if you had been watching further ahead you could have stopped before the point of impact. Some accident survivors wish to share their experience with others and will write an article about their accident. If they make an honest attempt to present enough factual information to form a clear picture of the incident, this allows the reader to gain knowledge without having to pay the high cost of road rash, broken bones and damaged bike parts. Learning a lesson from another’s misfortune is a cheap and easy way to improve skill levels and become a safer rider.

Surviving on the roads with today’s traffic requires that we make learning an ongoing process. We need to pay attention to the lessons that are available to us, whether they come from a Rider Course classroom and range, a seminar or an experience on the road. Continuous Improvement of our riding skills (both mental and physical) will lower our level of risk and make us safer riders.

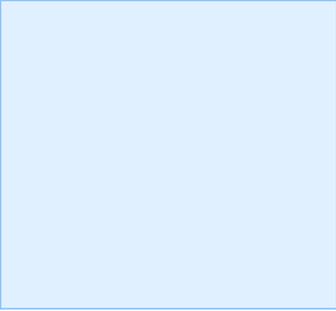
Planning Reminders:

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. The Seminar Request form is available here:  
<http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/REQUEST%20SEMINAR%20FORM.doc>
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](http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/MFA_Request_Form.pdf)
3. The Fall Officer’s meeting is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>. 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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