



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
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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!*

There are still many things going on in this transition period for the District and work has been crazy, too. Once again I have reached back into the archives to find a relevant article that can be used for November. We found this article with some good information that was written by Senior Chapter Educator Lynne Snyder a few years ago.

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

MONTHLY TOPIC: Being Safe No Matter What the Season

Winter is pretty close here in Michigan and the end of the riding season is creeping up on most of us faster than we would like to admit. There may be those lucky few who live close in town and can motor around when the weather is nice between snow storms, but for most of us the riding season is over.

We talk a lot about safety and things that you can look for while riding your motorcycle but we don't often think of the things that we can do to help make our trips through Michigan's Winter Wonderland safer and more enjoyable. Here is a short list of things to look for and remember when motoring in the winter.

Slow down. Posted speeds are based on dry pavement. Clear your windows/lights/tail lights off so that you can see and be seen. Allow extra room for braking when following behind anyone. Stay well back from plows and other maintenance vehicles. Watch for ice on bridges or any other surface which is likely to freeze at a different rate than surrounding pavement. Windswept roads often have black ice on them. (i.e. If you see wind blown snow flying across the road or snow drifting across the road it's liable to be slippery there.)

Pay more attention to what's going on ahead of you. (Motorcycle riders already do this for the most part; it's a carryover from riding defensively on the road with your bike.) Cruise control can often cause a vehicle to accelerate or downshift to keep the set speed. If you're unlucky that downshift or increase of speed will be right in the middle of a big block of ice.

Just because you have a four wheel drive, don't think you're better than other drivers on the road. You may be able to accelerate faster but you still will skid on ice and slippery conditions when trying to stop. Don't pump your anti-lock brakes. They are made to be applied steadily so that you can steer while stopping.

Remember that there are things to check just like a T-Clock inspection when taking your car out on the road in the winter. Battery and lights, defroster and heater, motor oil, wiper blades and windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, belts, hoses and filters, tire pressure, brakes & brake fluid.

The American Red Cross suggests that in the winter you should keep certain emergency items in your car in addition to the obvious emergency kit containing flares and or reflectors, a shovel, and jumper cables.

They suggest the following list of items; a bag of kitty litter for traction, a flashlight with spare batteries, blankets and large plastic bags for warmth, extra clothing including mittens, a 3 pound empty coffee can, candles and matches, for melting snow, and food and a metal cup. If you're stranded during a blizzard, you should stay with the car, but if you have to move a distance away, you might need a rope attached to you and the car to help find your way back. You should also keep your gas tank as full as possible.

If you are stuck in a storm, start the car and run it for only ten minutes of every hour. This will keep you warm enough while cutting down on the chance of carbon monoxide poisoning; keep the overhead light on when the engine is on and attach a red bandana for visibility; and keep moving/active within the vehicle. The American Red Cross site also recommends keeping a window on the down wind side slightly ajar. The Department of Public Safety also suggests carrying a plastic whistle to alert rescuers to your presence.

Whatever the case may be, the more prepared you are when something happens the more likely you are to survive. Good luck and I'll see you on the road. Len.

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 opportunity for fun and knowledge. 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

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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