



RIDER ED DIRECT

May 2008

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRRR Michigan District Rider Ed Team
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RIDER EDUCATION DIVISION of GWRRR

Our Mission:

*To Save Lives
Through Quality,
World Class Education*

Our Motto:

"Safety Is For Life"

Rider Ed Levels Program

Level IV - Master Tour
Rider / Co-Rider



Require-

ments: Current member GWRRR, current in Level III for 1 year, maintain current First Aid & CPR, carry First Aid kit on the motorcycle, minimum 25,000 safe miles, commit to wear proper riding gear.

MONTHLY TOPIC: Why Should I Take a Rider Course?

This question is one that many of us find easy to answer. What we may not understand is why anyone would need to ask it. There are some in our chapters that choose not to participate in an instructed Rider Course. Let's examine this and try to understand why, and look at what a Rider Course can do for you. Some may say, "I've been riding for years. I don't need to take a class." Do you try to persuade people with that attitude that a Rider Course might help them be an even better rider? Their position can be so negative and so strongly put that you don't want to talk to them about the benefits of rider training. Sometimes, people hide their self doubt behind a curtain of confidence and bluster. Is it possible to have all the knowledge and skill necessary to avoid any accident? If you don't choose to ride very far or very often, then perhaps it is possible. But I wouldn't bet *my* life on it! Do you remember a single season in your riding career without at least one close call or near miss due to another motorist's driving behavior? If you ride around the state or across the country, you expose yourself to many different situations that require anticipation of all the possible actions of other drivers. You have to be prepared to counter with the proper response - *whatever their action* - and do it in a split second! A motorcycle Rider Course helps prepare you to execute whatever maneuvers are called for by driver's unexpected actions. We look upon these classes as an opportunity to learn and improve our riding skills in a safe environment. The instructors are trained to spot the little techniques riders forget to employ during range exercises. They provide reminders to all students in a positive manner. Their trained eyes and constructive comments are geared to put each of us on the path to being the safest riders we can be. This can help with your attitude and performance on the road. Being reminded of the proper, or best, techniques to execute different skills does not hurt at all. It is painless. The practice and coaching helps to improve our skills, whether we never knew the technique to use, or just need an occasional reminder. Hey, who doesn't appreciate a reminder from time to time? Especially when it is about something you want to do correctly and safely, but may have just forgotten the best method. In athletic training we are taught that practice makes perfect. And when you practice something you enjoy doing, it's just a lot of fun! Practicing motorcycle riding maneuvers in a closed parking lot with someone else (the instructors) monitoring the range to protect the riders from outside hazards helps you focus your attention on the task at hand - becoming a better rider! On another level, taking a Rider Course will help you qualify for advancement in the Rider Education Levels Program, to Level II or above, or keep you current in your present level. And there is one more thing to remember about *all* GWRRR Rider Course offerings. Nobody fails! Everyone who completes the course receives a course completion card. There are no minimum performance requirements. You are asked to push yourself to improve your abilities. You won't get better at it if you don't try. Sign up for a Rider Course today. You will thank yourself later!

Planning Reminders:

1. The Coloma Rider Course was canceled due to lack of registrations. Remind your chapter members to submit their Rider Course Registrations as soon as possible to make sure they have a spot reserved in one of the five remaining course locations around the state.

http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/2008_Rider_Course_Registration.pdf

2. Change up your presentation each month to keep your Gimme 5 fresh. Try different things, such as, bring in a guest speaker, ask questions and reward correct answers, do a role play, use a white board to note replies to questions, diagram a traffic situation before hand and discuss it as a group. Be creative! Your members will show more interest, and thank you for your efforts!

3. Are your chapter's Road Captains well seasoned? Perhaps it is time for them to freshen up their skills. Encourage them to re-take the Road Captain Course. This course can be scheduled for presentation in your area. Work with other chapters to bring the Course to you. Ask others to become Road Captains to share the fun. Minimum number of riders / bikes is 12. Contact Val Jones, Rider Ed Seminar Coordinator.

4. Remember that May is Motorcycle Awareness Month! Promote it in your chapter and community.

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