

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Rider Education Program

National Newsletter...



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Starting a new decade...

I would like to start by announcing the appointment of Region N Educators:

Kyle & Mitzela Craig
300 Richmond Drive
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Kyle and Mitzela Craig have served as both Assistant and District Educators of North Carolina. They are an outstanding couple and very enthusiastic about their new appointment as Region Educators. What impressed me most was Kyle's recognition of the work that Gene and Betty Knutson have done and his desire to continue the task of moving the Rider Course, and MFA programs forward within Region N. In all Regions, these two programs are the key to GWRRA's continued success. Generating Educational contact hours for our 501(c)4 compliance will be my topic of discussion with Region and District Educators.

Gene and Betty Knutson have done an outstanding job with Region N. With their move to Florida, Gene and Betty stepped down from their position as Region Educator but are continuing to assist the National Team with the REP database. One of the very pleasant things that happens to all Members of the GWRRA is the opportunity to create relationships you otherwise wouldn't have had. Lori and I cherish the friendships we've built with the Knutson's. One thing we've learned is that you need to surround yourself with talented individuals to ensure success in anything you do. We have future plans for Gene and Betty; we're just giving them an opportunity to settle in their new home in Florida.

Getting back to our 501(c)4 compliance, it has long been known that our Rider Education Program is what gives us compliance to our "Not for Profit" status. However, over the years I have seen a wide variation of understanding on what that really means. Over the last three months I've been working with the National Team on the Leadership Training Summit that will be taking place on January 8th and 9th. This has been an extraordinary effort to set in place tools that define the future of GWRRA. This discovery process has led to one very important fact; compliance activities, those activities that can be used for 501(c)4 compliance, need to be defined and understood. There needs to be balance between activities that are educational and what are social and this balance needs to favor education by at least 51% for GWRRA subordinates to be compliant. I'm not going to go into specifics at this time. I'm planning a conference call later this month with the National REP Team and the Region Educators. The conference call topic will address this issue and outline a framework that we all are going to work from. The information will be disseminated from there.

One thing I will talk about in detail is what a GWRRA compliance activity is. We need to first establish what the 501(c)4 is and how it applies to GWRRA.

501(c)4 Definition:

501(c)4 exemptions are given to civic leagues and other organizations operated exclusively for the promotion of [social welfare](#), or local associations of employees the membership of which is limited to a designated company or persons in a particular municipality or neighborhood and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, [educational](#), or recreational purposes.

By design, the 501(c)4 has a broad definition. To understand how this applies to GWRRA, we have to go back to the application made by GWRRA, Inc. for the 501(c)4. The following are excerpts from the original application in 1983 provided by Diane Baumann, Executive Vice President, of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association.

Excerpts from Original Application for 501(c)4

“GWRRA is an organization devoted to educating its membership and the “four-wheeled” public to the safe enjoyment of an alternate form of “traditional” transportation. An effective, energy efficient, SAFE, and fun transportation.

Unfortunately, motorcycling has attached to it some very negative publicity because of stereotypes made “popular” through Hollywood and certain news media. The GWRRA’s efforts to “right” these naïve misunderstandings have been difficult; but through our organized Association, progress has been made.

The GWRRA has programs that are varied and considered important to its goals and ideals; some of which are: safety education, positive public imagery, motorcycle riding courses, constructive legislative improvements, community involvement, helmet usage, maintenance techniques and clearing house for industrial improvements.”

“A typical agenda of a typical chapter would be like the Phoenix Arizona Chapter.

The first Saturday of every month is the business meeting – 8AM. Breakfast is served, and a guest speaker will talk on various topics. We have had speakers from the Red Cross – CPR techniques; a fire chief – basic first aid; insurance people on bike insurance; highway patrol on safe biking techniques; Honda dealerships on maintenance; movies from Motorcycle Safety Foundation and American Honda; an attorney specializing in motorcycle accidents; motorcycle mechanics; Muscular Dystrophy representatives; Easter Seals; March of Dimes and many other local civic and charity groups. After the meeting is a ride or related activity or event. It may be social or “business.”

The business events have been: Motorcycle Displays in shopping malls to disseminate Association literature and safety materials; parade assistance to the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon; delivery of toys to an orphanage or the Boy’s Ranch or deprived families; Easter Seals phone committee and telethon coordinators; meetings with the Mayor and the Governor for better programs on licensing, training and testing present and potential “cycle riders”; legislation involvement for supplying input on “cycle matters”; planning for our National Convention and State and Regional conventions, etc. etc. This should give you an idea of how we promote our interests.”

“Our Chapters hold a minimum of one monthly meeting in addition to various projects and events held each month. Such events would be: charity work (Easter Seals, Muscular Dystrophy, March of Dimes, Cancer Society, orphanages, etc.), sightseeing selected portions of their own geographical areas, safety workshops, mechanic clinics, motorcycle riding courses, parade assistance, public relations projects, legislative sponsorship for our safety programs, etc.

..... Our Members and the general public ages 16 to 56. However, primarily general public as this is a key “safety” project. It is a statistical fact that 90% of motorcycle accidents are caused by “4 wheelers” and the motorcyclist’s inexperience. It is also a regrettable fact that over 99% of all motorcyclists have had no professional training due to extremely limited talent, resources, abilities and sites.

Our conventions are open to all people as this is another excellent tool (and time) to demonstrate, encourage and indoctrinate these people to safety concepts.”

GWRRA favorable IRS Ruling

In 1983, GWRRA was awarded its 501(c)4 status bases on the “Education Program” we provide our membership and public. Many members perceive social welfare to mean providing a social environment, when it really means it provides education. Based on this, we must stress the importance of education to maintain our 501(c)4 status.

Based on the GWRRA 501(c)4 ruling, subordinates:

- Must operate primarily to further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community- i.e. Rider Education (Community is both the Membership and Public)
- The organization cannot be operated primarily as "a social club for the benefit, pleasure, or recreation of its members." Again, however, social functions for the benefit of members may be carried out if they are incidental to the organization's primary purposes.
- At least 51% of activities focus on Rider Education.
- When considering whether an activity is “education” or “social”, it must stand the test “Did it benefit the Community (members and/or public) by presenting “Rider Education” related subject matter?” Remember, the “Burden of proof” rests with the Director of the Subordinate to demonstrate to the IRS that stated “educational” activities are valid, and that the level of “educational” activities are greater than the level of “social” activities.

Note: As referenced a GWRRA Subordinate includes all GWRRA Chapters, Districts, or Regions.

What is needed from all GWRRA Rider Education Officers

Chapter Educators:

- Make sure you are presenting a Safety Talk at all of your monthly Chapter gatherings. Running out of ideas? Go to <http://www.gwrra.org/regional/ridered/ChapterTalks.html>. There you find 26 different Rider Education articles your National REP Team has put together, which you can use for your next Chapter Talk.
- Contact your District Educator and schedule Rider Education Seminars, PLP, and MFA classes. They need your feedback to do their scheduling.
- Fill out your Monthly Report and send it to your District Educator. It is paramount that this is being done.
- Get everyone in your Chapter enrolled in the levels program. It doesn’t cost them anything unless they would like to purchase the Level Program patches. I have never met anyone in GWRRA that isn’t committed to safe motorcycling.

District Educators:

- Number one item to accomplish is to ensure there is an **Educator** for every **Chapter** in your District. For those Chapters that don't have an Educator, it is **your** responsibility to ensure that a Chapter Talk is being conducted during their monthly Chapter gathering. Either you do it yourself, or arrange for it to be conducted by someone else (your Assistant, a neighboring Chapter Educator, or the Chapter Director, etc.).
- Achieve a 100% monthly reporting from all of your Chapters. Many Districts have gone to online reporting via their District Website. This greatly simplifies the process and only takes a couple of minutes for your Chapters to report their information. If your District does not have this feature on their website, we can put your District Website Coordinator in touch with people that can assist them with this.
- Provide and promote GWRRA Rider Courses, Rider Education Seminars, PLP, and MFA classes. Relying on State provided Rider Courses will not give your program enough training hours. The exception would be where the District funds are used to pay schools to conduct the training. Those funds are deductible as educational dollars. Funds spent personally by members do not meet this criteria. However, their training hours can be used if they are tracked. Your program needs to give adequate training opportunities to your Membership. For most Districts that would mean that you will conduct between 12 to 20 GWRRA Rider Courses annually. Rider Courses need to be affordable for our Membership. Another reason why you should have a viable GWRRA Rider Course program.
- Does your District have an active Medic First Aid program or sufficient number of outside CPR/First Aid instructors to meet your Membership training needs?
 - Larry and Rhonda Stiles, Director - CPR/First Aid, are here to work with your Region Educator to assist you with your District needs.
- Do you have an adequate supply of Seminar Presenters and PLP Facilitators to conduct classes in all Chapters of your District?
 - Jim and Nan Hall, Assistant Director - Rider Education, are here to work with your Region Educator on your Seminar Program.
 - Ron and Pam Lantz, Assistant Director - Rider Education, are here to work with your Region Educator on your PLP Facilitator Program.
- Did your District or your Chapters conduct any Motorist Awareness public seminars? This is one of the most effective ways to generate Educational contact hours. Every District needs to increase their efforts in this area. Working with the District MA Coordinator, Chapter Educators and the general Membership need to identify opportunities for these presentations. The District MA Coordinator will arrange for a speaker for the event. If you don't have a District MA coordinator, you need to assign someone to this task.
 - The Motorist Awareness Directors, Charles and Nancy Mallett, are eager to work with you and your Region Educator to ensure you have an active program.

Region Educators:

- Review the list of objectives for the District Educators and help them to achieve their goals.
- Review the REP Database and compile a list of needs based on the data. Example: push a District results to a spreadsheet and sort by Level and then expiration date on any of the requirement categories. This will produce the need for classes. Now review what they are doing to satisfy the need.
- The main role of a Region Educator is to provide training. Based on need, schedule and coordinate training for Rider Course Instructors, Seminar Presenters, MFA Instructors, and PLP Facilitators.
- Ensure that information is being disseminated down to the Chapter Level.
- Ensure your Website is designed to link users directly to the National REP Website so information is current and active. (See REP Handbook, Educators Toolbox) Review your District websites to ensure compliance.
- Attend District Officer Meetings and assist your District Educator in the training of their Educators.

Our success is through “Synergy”, we work as a team focused on a shared center point of values. This common goal is to bring our Rider Education program to the Membership and public. Every Educator is a team member of our program, constantly sacrificing individual gain and giving freely of themselves for the team’s greater good. We do this so our program prospers giving everyone on the Team gratification as the program grows. Good communication ensuring that everyone knows their objective is essential for the Rider Education Program’s success. We expect that every Educator accepts full responsibility and strives for excellence, which increases overall performance for the betterment of the program and our Membership.

I am proud to be a member of this team. My commitment to all is that I will continue to lead by example. Our program is strong and continues to grow. I look forward to this new decade and the difference our program will make in the lives of our Membership and the Community. You are Educators, you save lives through what you teach and by the example you set.

Thank you for being a part of our team,
Mike Stiger
Director, Rider Education

Pablo Alonzo...

I am sad to report that one of our GWRRA Master Instructors. Pablo Alonzo, Tucson, AZ, died of heart complications on November 29th. Pablo received his MSF certification in 1996 and became a GWRRA Master Instructor in 2002. He was the youngest of 17 children and is survived by his son, granddaughter and sister. He will be missed by his GW family.

Questions from Members...

“Questions from Members” is a new feature in the Rider Ed newsletter. Each issue we will publish one or two questions that have come from members, Educators, Instructors, etc. pertaining to the Rider Education Program.

Q. A co-rider writes “my rider is a GWRRA Instructor and thus teaches the GW Rider Courses rather than taking them as a student. As such, I do not have the opportunity to participate as a co-rider like friends who have riders that are not Instructors. How do I maintain my co-rider requirements for the Levels Program under these circumstances?”

A. If the co-rider of a GWRRA Rider Course Instructor wishes to maintain their currency by taking a rider course, they must participate in the full classroom portion of the course their rider/Instructor is teaching and;

1. be on the range as an observer for the riding portion and;
2. ride as a co-rider for all of the demo’s ridden by his/her rider/Instructor.

Rider Education Database Entry Problems...

The Rider Education Database has now been live for several months, and we are pleased and proud that things seem to be progressing smoothly. We do have a few recurring problems that we would like all users to be aware of.

1. Membership Numbers for new records:

Be sure to enter the Membership Number correctly. Format is 6 digits followed immediately by a dash (xxxxxx-).

If you are entering an early membership number that is less than 6 digits, it must be filled with leading zero(s).

The dash in the 7th position IS REQUIRED, WHETHER OR NOT it is followed by a suffix (01, 02, etc.)

2. Dates:

If a record will not update, scroll up and check the dates. Incorrect formats will be highlighted in red, and must be corrected before the record will be accepted. Some records will display zeroes in the Trainer/Presenter Information section dates, and those dates must be cleared. To clear them, highlight the date info and press Delete.

3. Chapter Affiliation:

This field should contain just the Chapter, no dashes, and no combinations of District and Chapter. For example, G2 is correct, G-2 or TN-G2 is NOT correct.

4. Rider Course Updates:

Please read the on-screen instructions carefully. The contents of this field are not validated, but entry must be consistent if we are to be able to use this field for query. All valid courses are listed with their appropriate abbreviations. For example, a Trike course should be keyed as TRC, and not as Trike.

After you have updated this field, please also update the appropriate date in the Rider Course History section.

5. Once you have filled in all the desired information, be sure to SAVE the record before exiting. Closing the screen without saving the record first, results in no data being updated. This applies to new records as well as to modifications of existing records. The 'Save Data' button is at the bottom of the page. If you select it and the display does not go back to the top of the screen, there most likely is an incorrect date, refer to item #2 above.

If errors are made or discovered in Membership Numbers or in Trainer / Presenter Information, email Jim Hall or Betty Knutson (trikerbetty@gmail.com) to get it corrected.

GWRRA Rider Courses are NOT Basic Courses...

Periodically our Rider Course Instructors find that students in the courses request teaching methods and concepts that should be fundamental to motorcycle handling. While most do a masterful job of handling these requests, Instructors must also keep the rest of the class and class schedules in mind. Members should understand that GWRRA Rider Courses, and the MSF ERC offered by our Instructors, are designed for riders who have achieved some proficiency in motorcycle knowledge and basic riding skills. The Rider Education staff recommends that members who find that the concepts, range exercises and instruction exceed their understanding of basic motorcycle handling take the Motorcycle Foundation **Basic Rider Course**.

Let's start planning now...

Hello everyone,

First I want to say Thank You to all the Educators for the great job you are doing. Especially with all the work everyone has done with the Rider Education Database.

We have received an email from Abel notifying us that the REP Database will be shutdown to purge non-members from the database. It will be shutdown this Wednesday Jan. 6th till Monday Jan. 11th. Please get the word out so we don't receive a bunch of calls regarding this.

Our members depend on us to schedule events throughout the year so they have the opportunity to keep their levels up to date. My challenge to each Region & District Educator is to schedule as many activities as possible all year long. Now is the time to be scheduling your Medic First classes & seminars. Our members like to be able to take these classes when it doesn't interfere with the riding season. So basically that gives us about six months to give everyone a chance to get current. This time also includes our Instructors to give their required number of classes & seminars.

Now that leaves us the next six months to schedule PLPs, ERCs, ARCs, etc. for during the riding season. If we schedule all these things throughout the year it will make it easier for those that are not able to go to all the different rallies. Of course we still need to make all of this training available at your rallies.

If your Region or District does not have qualified instructors you need to start planning to get some folks qualified. If not we have Instructors in other Regions that are willing to travel to your area & teach.

So in closing remember my challenge. Let's provide all our members every opportunity to attend as many Rider Education training sessions as they want. It is our jobs to schedule and provide this training.

I have no doubt that with all the great Educators we have in every Region, District & Chapter we can have a very successful year in training our members.

Thank You for all that you do throughout the year.

Jim & Nan Hall
Assistant Directors- Rider Education

CPR/ First Aid Program...

Riding season has come to a close in most areas of the country. To those who are lucky to ride all year we must say enjoy and be safe. Sitting here on the East Coast looking out at the cold 36* over-cast weather, we look back at a great year the membership had receiving CPR/First Aid. A BIG THANK YOU to all instructors who taught our members this life saving program either through MFA, ARC, AHA or ASHI.

We are pleased to get more class rosters in the mail, so this is great. Most of your regions are scheduling the classes now since the riding season has wound down.

There will be several changes in a few regions with new Region MFA Trainer/Coordinators who either are stepping down or retiring with Region staff changes.

We have updated our chart for who's who in GWRRA MFA trainers. Please review this list on the website and let us know if any changes are needed.

Also the form N. 23 has been deleted from the REP and website. Its usage has been misunderstood and after many explanations and examples it is still being used incorrectly. Therefore to make it easy we are deleting it.

We appreciate those who are sending quarterly updates on their Regions classes. It sure helps us in verifying that we have the same information that you have in your Region. There are many instructors that are past due or due shortly in renewing their MFA certification. We need these forms at least four weeks before they're due since it is taking three to six weeks for us to get the new cards back. All Region MFA Trainer/Coordinators have access to the MFA instructor website so they can view who is coming up for renewal. It is the responsibility of the instructor to be sure they are in compliance with the guidelines of MFA and GWRRA. The Region Trainers and Trainers in the districts they cover have this information and need to make sure their instructors are aware and if they will be approved for renewal or not. Remember, all instructors MUST have taught a minimum of two classes in two years. Some Regions have set a higher minimum to get the classes taught but they have to at least meet this requirement.

Have a great winter in class and hope to see you all at Wing Ding at the MFA meeting prior to our opening.

Larry & Rhonda Stiles
Directors- CPR/First Aid