

September 2006



**GWRRA**

# **INTERNATIONAL Rider Education Newsletter**



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**ATTENTION ALL REGION EDUCATORS AND DISTRICT EDUCATORS. DUE TO SOME CHANGES AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, OUR NEWSLETTERS HAVE NOT BEEN POSTED TO OUR RIDER EDUCATION WEBSITE FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CHAPTER EDUCATORS AND OTHERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OUR NEWSLETTER GET THEM BY EMAIL OR HARD COPY.**

**WE NEED TO BE SURE THE NEWSLETTER GETS OUT UNTIL THIS CAN BE RESOLVED.**

## **Safe Riding Tips**

*by Gordon Murphy – National Director –  
Rider Education – Canada*

For the past few Newsletters we have been presenting safe riding tips, based on riding principles we teach in our Advanced Rider Course and other GWRRA riding courses. I hope these tips will be of some help. To get more information regarding these tips and to practice them under controlled conditions, enroll in an ARC or ERC course at your next available opportunity.

### **1. Changing Lane Position.**

In a previous article we discussed the principles involved in cornering or turning the motorcycle. In some cases this may involve a requirement to change the lane position or the position in the lane in which you may be riding.

It is critically important, on every occasion in which you change the lane position of your motorcycle, that you do a “**shoulder check.**” For those who may not be familiar with the term, a **shoulder check** is a “blind spot” check, a quick check over the right or left shoulder, depending on which direction you are about to proceed. This will assure you that nothing is about to enter the lane or lane position you are about to enter.

A shoulder check should **always** be performed on **every** occasion **prior to** making a lane change or changing a lane position.

### **2. Stopping in a Curve.**

In a previous Newsletter we discussed the principles involved in braking or stopping in a straight line. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to stop in a curve.

Stopping in a curve incorporates all of the principles of stopping or braking in a straight line, but incorporates three additional principles. Simply put, these are the additional principles:

**Straighten** Reduce the lean angle of the motorcycle, i.e. bring the motorcycle up as straight as possible.

**Square** Square the handlebars, i.e. push the handgrip on the side opposite the direction of the turn

**Squeeze** Firmly and progressively apply the front brake with decreasing pressure on the rear brake pedal

**Never brake and swerve at the same time!**

We all ride many miles each year and we have seen beautiful sites and ridden many beautiful areas. We rode with a group or we rode on our own. How many times as you were riding did you encounter driving of others that made you wonder where they learned how to drive. Here on the East Coast they took a survey of all 50 states and came up with the best to worst states where drivers had no idea of the “rules of road”. Out of 50 states RI was the worst state to drive in. They took 100 people from ages 18 to 65 and came up with a combined score of 68% passing the written test. MA came in at 74% and Oregon came number one at 97%

One of the members here in MA Chapter F sent us a little National Drivers Test of only 20 questions. I am going to reproduce it here for you to take to your chapters for fun to see how everyone made out. If possible, for the fun of seeing what kind of great riders we have in GWRRA, I would like you to have the districts or chapters who have fun with this send the results back to me so I can publish the results in the newsletter. This is for fun. I would like to thank GMAC Insurance company for providing this test.

## National Drivers Test

At GMAC Insurance, we're more than just an insurance company — we're here to keep people's lives moving. One way we do this is by educating people on the rules of the road, empowering them to become safer, better drivers. Hopefully they'll never need to use our services, but we're always here to help if they do.

With this focus on driver education in mind, we set out to gauge the current knowledge of the American public with the second annual GMAC Insurance National Drivers Test. Shockingly, **1 in 11** licensed drivers **would fail a written drivers test** if taken again today.

Now, you can take the test yourself and see how you measure up. Answer the following 20 questions taken from written state drivers tests, and you will be given your score at the end. Good luck!

Choose only ONE answer to each question. Correct answers will be listed on the last page of our newsletter.

**1. Where should you park when you need help after your tire suddenly deflates while driving on a highway?**

- In the right hand lane
- Off the pavement
- Where your car will be visible for 200 feet from the front.

**2. This Sign means:**



- Business district ahead
- Divided highway ahead
- Obstructed roadway ahead

**3. Use your high beam headlights at night:**

- As little as possible
- Only on unlit streets
- Whenever it is legal and safe.

**4. When you are driving in the left lane of a four-lane freeway and wish to exit on the right, you should:**

- Carefully cross all lanes at one time.
- Change lanes one at a time until you are in the proper lane.
- Slow before beginning each lane change.

**5. This sign means:**



- The road ahead has many curves
- There is a sharp curve in the road ahead
- The road ahead may be slippery

**6. Highways are most Slippery:**

- During a heavy rainstorm
- During a light rain
- Just when it starts to rain after a dry spell.

**7. When waiting to make a left turn, you should give the right-of-way to vehicles coming from the opposite direction:**

- Until at least two vehicles have passed
- Until dangerously close cars have passed
- Until all of the cars have passed

**8. Turn your front wheels toward the curb when you are parked \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Facing uphill
- On a level road
- Facing downhill

**9. On a sharp curve, you should use your brakes to slow your vehicle:**

- During the entire time you drive through a curve
- Before you enter the curve
- Just after you enter the curve

**10. If you have trouble seeing other vehicles because of dust, precipitation, or smoke blowing across the roadway, you should drive slower and turn on your \_\_\_\_\_**

- Parking lights
- Interior lights
- Headlights.

**11. If your vehicle starts to hydroplane, you should:**

- Drive at a constant speed to gain better Traction
- Apply the brakes firmly to prevent your vehicle from sliding
- Slow down gradually by easing the gas, and not applying the brakes.

**12. When a car with bright headlights comes toward you at night, you should:**

- Move toward the right edge of your lane
- Look above the oncoming headlights
- Look below the oncoming headlights
- Look toward the right edge of your lane

**13. A pedestrian crossing at the corner has the right-of-way:**

- at marked crossed walks only
- At marked or unmarked crosswalks
- Only at intersections controlled by signals, lights, or stop signs.

**14. An Orange and red sign of this shape means:**



- Roadwork ahead
- vehicle has the right of way
- Slow-moving vehicle

15. The following sign indicates:



- a. The right lane will end ahead
- b. The highway will be divided ahead
- c. Less space between lanes ahead

16. This sign means that you should not pass:



- a. Other vehicles for any reason
- b. Unless it seems safe to do so
- c. Until after passing the sign

17. Which of the following must you obey over the other three:

- a. A steady red light
- b. Police officer
- c. Stop sign
- d. Flashing red light

18. Which of the following is used on some highways to direct drivers into the proper lanes for turning:

- a. Flashing red lights
- b. Flashing yellow lights
- c. White lines on the side of the road
- d. White arrows in the middle of the lanes

19. What vehicles must stop at all railroad crossings:

- a. Pick-up trucks
- b. School buses and passenger buses carrying passengers
- c. Motorcycles
- d. Vehicles towing a trailer

20. What are the colors of the warning signs that indicate hazards ahead, such as curves in the road or narrow bridges:

- a. Black letters or symbols on a white background
- b. Black letters or symbols on a yellow background
- c. White letters or symbols in a blue background
- d. White letters or symbols on a green background

Good luck and hope you have fun with this.

You can go online to:

[www.gmacinsurance.com/SafeDriving/2006/test.asp](http://www.gmacinsurance.com/SafeDriving/2006/test.asp)

This will bring up the test and you can do this online. You can not get the answers unless you take the test as I did to copy down the correct answers to put them on here. Yes, I got a 100%.

Larry & Rhonda Stiles

Some more fun to cover our pages.

#### SHORT AND FUNNY

I dialed a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but Thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the Beep. If I do not return your call, You are one of the Changes."

At pilots training back in the Air Corps they taught us. "Always try to keep the number of landings you make Equal to the number of take Offs you make".

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

My wife and I had words, But I didn't get to use mine.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

Mid-Life is when you go to the doctor and you realize you are now so old you have to pay someone to look at you naked.

#### GWRRA a New Beginning With a New Executive.

Melissa Nordeoff has been named new Executive Director of GWRRA

By now many of you have read the press release naming Missy as the next Executive Director. She will work with the new International Operations Director, Jim Hodge, who will be coordinating efforts in the field. Many of you may not realize that Missy has a Rider Education connection as well. She has been supporting Rider Ed activities for years. She has worked at the International Headquarters for over 10 years. Many have already benefited from her assistance and don't realize who did all the leg work in Phoenix to support them.

This is a typical quote from her back as far as November 2004: "I will do anything I can to help make your job easier." There is nothing staged or other than genuine in the press release about her willingness to help the Membership. She has never missed a beat and has the same eagerness to help the Membership today.

You may not be aware that for some time, most of the Level IV applications have been processed by Missy. She has helped anytime we asked for something from the International Headquarters, with not so much as a single complaint!

Over the years, we have come to trust that what she says she will do and will get done without delay. Not intentionally trying to take anything away from the other great folks working hard for us in Phoenix, we noted that many of the more difficult tasks/requests would routinely be sent to her attention at the International Headquarters office.

She is a mother (of a 5 year old daughter) on top of all that she has been doing for GWRRA. She has already taken the MSF course to get her license, but prefers to be a Co-Rider. Phoenix, to her is kind of a dangerous place to ride a bike. She is very picky about who she rides behind though. She enjoys a peaceful Saturday afternoon ride. It has been a few years since we last talked with her about riding, so there may have been changes since then. Missy constantly asks if we are enjoying the riding.

Perhaps some of you have already seen evidence of how much she did in Phoenix. It is not such a big change to add a title to the "behind the scenes" person for so many years. We think you will be pleased at the choice of this very capable and caring person. Withdrawing your support without giving her a chance could be a self-fulfilling action. It would also serve to hurt other Members.

Why not give her the same backing you would Mike or Don and see how far we can go working together for the Membership?

Congratulations on the new appointment Missy!

Tony & Michelle Van Schaick

The National Rider Education Staff also would like to extend to Missy a very deserved "congratulations". We look forward to working with Missy to make GWRRA even more successful by helping our membership grow and enjoy .

Answers to the Driver Test

- 1 B
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 B
- 5 C
- 6 C

- 7 C
- 8 C
- 9 B
- 10 C
- 11 C
- 12 D
- 13 B
- 14 C
- 15 A
- 16 A
- 17 B
- 18 D
- 19 B
- 20 B

**I GOT STOPPED FOR SPEEDING THE OTHER DAY.**

**I THOUGHT I COULD TALK MY WAY OUT OF IT UNTIL THE COP LOOKED AT MY DOG IN THE BACK SEAT.....LOL.**

