

Summertime Fun

Hello Everyone:

Yes, summertime is here in full force and Joe and Jan, like all other serious riders, have made plans for some well deserved time away to travel north to visit with family and friends with a stop at the Georgia District rally before turning west for Wing Ding in Tulsa, OK. In July, since this will have them away for three weeks or so, they asked Judy and I if we would take up the slack and write the rider ed article for the district newsletter which we were thrilled to do. Having covered that, let's talk about summertime fun and the need to start thinking about and promoting safety issues like hydration, cool wraps, cool vest, wind wings and other ideas for riding cool and safe. Additionally, consider safe riding gear for protecting your body. I know that all chapter educators have been talking to their chapter members about these issues all along because chapter educators are constantly reading and studying safety articles that they can pass on to their chapters.

By the time you read this article, every chapter will have received their motorcycle raffle tickets and are formulating a plan to successfully sell all their tickets to help the district rider education, which provides us the means to offer all our GWRRA members with free ERC's, TRC's, CPR/FA, Co-Rider, Trailering seminars to name a few at absolutely no cost to the members. The reason we can do this for our members is due to the generosity of the guy with the big heart who provides us with the new 2010 GL 1800 to raffle off this year. Please join me in a big round of applause and a tremendous thank you to Mr. Mark Allen of 1st Coast Honda in St. Augustine, FL!

Because of the funds raised, it gives me great pleasure to report that since January 1, 2009 to present, we have been able to put on 8 ERC's, 6 TRC's not to mention our very own medic/first instructors Rex and Tina Prince and their capable assistants have put on 10 CPR/FA classes and the year is only half over.

Due to the wonderful job that Bobbie Roy is doing to keep the district green bar updated and e-mailed, chapter educators are now able to keep their chapter members up-to-date in the levels program. We've had a great response in all levels of the program especially the new level 4's with over 30 new level 4's since the first of the year. Bobbie Roy's hard work keeps chapter educators informed so they know what they need to work on to keep their chapter moving forward.

Having said all that, let's talk a little about safe riding gear. Yes, I realize that it's cumbersome, hot, and makes you feel like a stuffed turkey, but let's look at the alternative if we go down:

1. Wearing fingerless gloves are cooler and it's easier to operate the controls, however, your natural instinct in a fall is to put your hand out to catch yourself. I know of a few people that lost some fingernails doing just that.
2. Wearing shorts as opposed to a pair of jeans or riding pants – road rash takes a long time to heal and is usually very painful and difficult to explain to others.
3. Boots as opposed to sneakers are far better in providing better traction when putting your foot down, not to mention better grip on the pegs and the protection from hot pipes and valve covers.

I've just touched on a few articles of proper riding gear. I would like to suggest here that you cover all the parts of your body that you intend to use later on in life.

Here's a quote from our new National Asst Rider Educators Ron and Pam Lantz:

“We have noticed that many GWRRA members actually believe that we do not need to wear proper riding gear when riding at slow speeds, like at a rally, just going to the vendors, or moving the motorcycle. However, consider the question, where and when is a motorcycle the most unstable? The answer is at slow speeds, and since the GWRRA motto is Friends for Fun Safety and Knowledge, should we not practice what we preach? What example do we send when we talk about riding gear and then ride without it? What do the new members see, and what will they do when they see long time members riding without proper riding gear?”

Remember, we set the example and if we are going to talk the talk, we need to walk the walk, so to speak. If this sounds like preaching the same old same old, it is! GWRRA recommends that all motorcycle events should be done in proper riding gear. This would in my eyes, mean games, parades, lighted bike shows, and any other moving event.

In closing, I would like to say TILL NEXT WE MEET, KEEP THE SHINEY SIDE UP AND THE RUBBER ON THE ROAD.

Don and Judy Danbury
Assistant District Educators