

Update from the National Director – Rider Education – Canada

In my last irregular update, I provided some information concerning our plans for the GWRRA Rider Education Program in Canada. In other updates I had asked for your patience in seeing some changes that would make our REP more accessible to our Canadian Members. Well, we are making progress!

As you are all aware by now, we have the Advanced Rider Course (ARC) available for our Canadian Members (it is also becoming more available in the US, as well, as Instructors are being trained), as well as the other GWRRA Rider Courses and Seminars. Feedback from those who have participated in the ARC has been extremely positive. It is important to note that, while the ARC is a long awaited course that will allow our Members to advance in the REP levels program, the ARC also provides important on-bike training that will make our riders more skilled and proficient operators of their motorcycles.

While the ARC is becoming more available and is being taken by an increasing number of our Members, we are restrained considerably in some areas by the availability of qualified and certified Instructors. One of the impacting difficulties associated with this availability to this point has been the prerequisite requirement that our Instructors currently be Canada Safety Council (CSC) certified (or have been CSC Instructors in three of the past five years). This, of course, has severely limited the number of Members qualified to present our rider courses, including the ARC.

Well, I am pleased to report extremely good news on this front! The leaders of GWRRA have agreed that it is now time that our organization develop our own Instructor Training Program. GWRRA is sufficiently large and over the years has acquired and developed enough expertise in the area of rider skills training that we need not be dependent on outside organizations – as good as these organizations are – to train our Rider Course Instructors. In short, GWRRA has the resources, the skills inventory, the rider course base, the insurance underwriters and the will to become self-sufficient in this area.

When will this happen? We are in the process, as this is being written, of developing our own GWRRA Instructor Training Program that will provide a comprehensive Rider Course Instructor certification process for those who have the interest and aptitude in presenting our various rider training programs. Our optimistic aim is to have this program operational by next spring (2005) so that interested applicants can be trained to complement our current cadre of GWRRA Rider Course Instructors.

Is this great news? We believe so and we look forward with great anticipation to this further advancement in this important element of our motto of “*Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.*” Stand by for further information over the coming months.

Remember: **“Safety is for Life!”**

Gordon Murphy
National Director –
Rider Education – Canada