

## The End of the Year and All That!

As we get older (everyone does, you know!) everyone says that the time seems to slide by an awful lot quicker than it did in years past. It seems like only yesterday that I wrote a little article for our website, passing along best wishes for the holiday season and for 2004. Well, that's almost gone and another brand new year is upon us!

As we look back at 2004, a lot of things have happened, both in our personal circumstances and in our GWRRA organization. I trust that everything has been positive in your personal circumstances. However, in our GWRRA family we lost one of our good Rider Education friends in the person of Gary Ptolemy from Region K. His loss, while difficult for us, must be particularly difficult for his wife and family as Christmas approaches and our thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Ptolemy and the family.

Our Rider Education Program continues to progress with a good number of our Members having participated in the Advanced Rider Course across the country. We even presented the first 2-Up ARC this year with great success. We believe, however, there are many more who can benefit from the various GWRRA Rider Courses and we will be working towards that end as 2005 advances. We hope to have our own GWRRA in-house Instructor Certification Program operational by the spring/early summer of 2005. This, we believe, will encourage more of our interested Members to become certified Rider Course Instructors.

However, while participation in the Rider Education Levels Program is good, we believe many more of our Members can benefit from making the commitment to ride safe that comes with participation in the REP. Now is the perfect time to download the REP application form from this website, complete it and pass it along to your local Rider Education Officer or Chapter Director and make the safe riding commitment for 2005. Those who have already enrolled in the Program should be aware that renewal or advancement becomes effective January 1, 2005. All you need do is complete the same form referred to earlier in this article and pass it along to your Chapter Educator or Chapter Director. You will be very glad you did!

Meanwhile, on behalf of my wife, Elsie, and our family, we extend to everyone out there the very best compliments of the season. A very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to all!

We look forward to seeing you somewhere in 2005!

*Bon jour!*

GORDON MURPHY  
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