

Rider Education in Canada Progress Report

Welcome to the new Rider Education Web page for Canada. This very professional looking website has been developed by Region J's Bill Haggerty from Keremeos, BC. I believe Bill has done a superb job and he deserves our grateful appreciation.

Taking full advantage of current communication technology, this website is intended as a very helpful tool in keeping all our Canadian Members of GWRRA informed on the Rider Education Program. As time goes on and changes occur in the Program, expect to see revised forms, policies and processes posted on this site. Again, thanks so much, Bill, for your volunteer assistance in this very worthwhile endeavour.

As many of you would be aware by now, I was appointed, effective October 2003, as the first National Director for Rider Education for Canada. Of course, I will be very ably assisted by Assistant National Director, Dave Hay, who has been deeply involved in GWRRA's Rider Education Program for a number of years, assisting the National Rider Education staff out of Phoenix, AZ.

Why was it necessary, you may ask, to establish a national rider education position in Canada? Well, though the total GWRRA membership in Canada is less than 4,000 Members, compared to the over 77,000 Members in the United States, the President of our Association, Mike Wright, has an unwavering loyalty to our Canadian membership and he has listened intently when we have sometimes complained that the "one size fits all" principle does not necessarily work in our country. The issues involving cross-border customs / duty costs, the monetary exchange rate differential, the regulatory differences, etc., suggest that, while the Rider Education Program is excellent in its current format, some adjustments and revisions are necessary in Canada if we are to make the Program fully operational. So, Mr. Wright decided that it would be a good idea to initiate any necessary changes from within Canada. Given the international nature of GWRRA, it is the intent of the International Office to use the changes that we initiate as a template for similar programs in other countries where GWRRA has a presence.

So, what are some of the things we plan to do?

First of all, revisions are necessary to some of the current forms to "Canadianize" them. This will be a work in progress over the coming winter months.

In a breakthrough, as well, in attempting to reduce waiting times and to make the procurement of pins and patches more efficient, I am very pleased to announce that I will be setting up a "Stores" supply of all Rider Education pins and patches as soon as an adequate supply is forwarded to me from Phoenix. When this becomes operational within the next couple of months, therefore, Regional Directors / Educators will be able to order their Rider Education supplies from the Canadian Rider Education Program office at 14 Charlottetown Place, St. John's, NL A1A 2P4. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

During the coming months we will be refining as necessary the paperwork process for the Rider Ed Program. This should simplify to the extent possible the process for Member enrolment in the REP. We believe there is no reason why the greater majority of our Members should not be enrolled in this Program.

Commencing immediately, all data entry for participating Members in the Rider Ed

Program in Canada will be processed by the undersigned. Your Regional Educators will therefore be forwarding all Rider Ed paperwork to me for processing and regular monthly reports will be returned to the Rider Educators so they can be aware of Rider Ed participation. With the exception of Level IV applications, which will continue to be forwarded directly to Phoenix, all Rider Ed paperwork will be processed to conclusion here in Canada.

That's all I have to report at this point. Continue to check the Rider Education Program – Canada Web page for continued reports on the progress of "Canadianizing" the Program. Please be patient as we work through these revisions / changes as it will take some time to finalize the Program as we wish it to be. But also please understand that the Rider Education Program as it now stands is world class and if "things ain't broke," they will not be "fixed."

One other point, however, Rider Education Renewals and Seminar Instructor renewals are due January 1, 2004. So get your renewal forms completed and submitted as soon as possible.

So long for now.

GORDON MURPHY
National Director –
Rider Education – Canada