

Update - REP – Canada

by Gordon Murphy, National Director – Rider Education – Canada

A belated happy new year to all of our Canadian GWRRA Members – and especially those in the Rider Education Program.

In the last REP update I gave you a brief overview of what our plans were for a revitalized rider education program in Canada. You will note that we have already “Canadianized” some of the forms we use in the program. This is not to suggest there was anything seriously wrong with the forms as they were; however, we just wanted to reflect any distinct Canadian characteristics to make them more “user-friendly” for our Canadian Members.

We are continuing our efforts with respect to the forms and you may expect to see further updates over the coming months. In this regard, if anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to advise either myself or Dave Hay. Our contact information is listed on this Website.

For your information, all databases relative to the Rider Education Program for Canadian Members now reside on my computer. Consequently, any updating will be done by myself – at least for the present.

In this regard, it is important to note that January 1, 2004 was the renewal date for all Members participating in the Rider Education Program in Levels II, III and IV. There is no renewal requirement for those in Level I or those who enrolled in Levels II or III after October 1, 2003. Make sure you use the correct form for Levels I through II. This form can be downloaded from this Website at www.vwh.ca/rider-ed-canada/ Level IV paperwork must be forwarded directly to Phoenix while Levels I to III paperwork is forwarded through your local Rider Education Officer or Chapter Director to the respective Regional office and, subsequently, to this office for entry in the database.

I have received some questions regarding course eligibility for Co-Riders who are enrolled, or who wish to enroll, in the REP. You will note the REP Application / Renewal form states for Level II “Approved Rider Course / Co-Rider Seminar within two (2) years.” That means a Co-Rider Seminar by a certified Rider Education Seminar Instructor (who should be issuing completion cards). Members are not required to submit copies of their certificates as long as an Officer validates that they have them.

Some Co-Riders have taken the same riding courses as the Rider and this counts for a Co-Rider Level II, as well, if the Co-Rider chooses not to become a rider. Road Captain and Team (Group) Riding seminars are great tools for learning but are not accepted for REP advancement eligibility.

Now, just a couple of other points.

In order to meet insurance requirements, certified Seminar Instructors, who are certified to present GWRRA sponsored seminars such as the Co-Rider Seminar, etc., are required to be renewed each year. The database shows about 20 such Seminar Instructors in Canada, but to date I have received only two applications for renewal for 2004. Unless the remainder submit their application for renewal, many of our Canadian Co-Riders will not be able to renew or advance within the REP if they have not taken a Co-Rider Seminar within the past two years. The Seminar Instructor application is included elsewhere on this Web page and would only take about ten minutes to complete. I would appreciate your taking the time to do this and scan / forward or snail mail the completed application to me.

Once again, before I end these comments, I would like to thank Bill Haggerty for his sterling work in keeping this Website continually updated. The proof of his competence in this regard is evident every time you sign on to the Website.

So long for now. Remember: Safety is for Life!