

The Umbrella Maker

This is the story of an umbrella maker. He came up with a unique, new umbrella that would slough off the rain, was easy to use and had a very nice logo. He had many customers who bought this new umbrella and liked the cool logo. Most of his customers read the brief instructions and found the umbrella very easy to open and use and enjoyed their time protected from the rain. They and their friends traveled everywhere enjoying the protection it provided. There were a few who didn't read the instructions (or weren't taught how to use it) and got very frustrated with the umbrellas. They still carried them around, cool logo and all, but they got awfully wet when it rained. A third group thought they didn't need the instructions, they just wanted to carry around the popular umbrellas. When it rained, they tried this and that, trying to get the umbrellas open or just holding it folded over their heads and wondered why they were getting wet.

Founded in 1977, Gold Wing Road Riders Association invented a new way to enjoy riding motorcycles safely and with your friends. For the people who have taken time to learn a little about all the information and support National passes on to us, GWRRA is a fun, safe and enjoyable experience. The chapter members enjoy the leadership of a knowledgeable staff and participate in a well-organized group of friends. Then there are a few who haven't bothered reading the manual or taken any training to learn how to guide a chapter. They figure they can do it alone, they don't need anyone telling them what to do, they can "reinvent the umbrella".

We pay good money to be members of GWRRA. I for one expect my money's worth. When I was Chapter Director, I took the training and read the manual so I knew how to manage a chapter. I tried to take advantage of every resource GWRRA had to offer. Now I expect my current directors to do the same and am proud to say they have. Taking the training and reading the manual makes it a lot easier to "open the umbrella".

So if you're out running around in the rain, getting wet and your chapter director doesn't know how to open the umbrella maybe you can start by asking him how you can help. Take the training that GWRRA has developed over the past thirty years and learn from the experience that the trainers have to offer. You don't have to be an officer in a chapter, or plan on being one, to benefit from this knowledge but you and your chapter will be the better for it.

By Sandy & Earl Slack, Region E Asst Director

BUILDING YOUR UMBRELLA – PANEL BY PANEL

This program ties together and is designed to recognize Chapter Participation in Rider Education as well as Leadership Training (LTD) educational programs. Members can use it as well to track their participation in the many excellent educational topics available.

This program will be tracked on the Region level by the Region Director. A bi-yearly report (on or about April 1st and August 1st) by Region back to the District will be provided so Districts will know their Chapter standings. Chapters will report their accomplishments to their respective District Directors and monthly the District Directors will pass this information to Region.

Rather than counting points and "claiming a winner" the program is designed to be an incentive program within each chapter. To monitor the success of the program we (the Region) will look at the numbers of people in each chapter that participated in educational programs provided by GWRRA. This is not a competition, one chapter will not prevail over another chapter, and the goal is to get the participants educated and participating. A chapter that succeeds at this goal will get recognition as an "Umbrella STAR" chapter. Each and every chapter in the Region can qualify for Star chapter recognition.

There are two levels to the “Umbrella Star” recognition.

- Silver Star: 15% of the Chapter Members* participating in all levels of the Construction.
- Gold Star: 25% of the Chapter Members* participating in all levels of the Construction.

* Chapter Members are based on the Area Report January 1, 2008 every January 1.

- With the achievement of Umbrella Star status each Chapter will receive:
- Recognition as such on the Region Web Site.
- The Program Logo can be displayed on the Chapter’s Web site and in their News Letters.
- A Program Logo Patch can be purchased, at cost, for all Chapter members.
- Special incentives by the Region will be presented at the yearly Region E Rally.
- The Regional incentives to change yearly.

Chapter can earn their percentages as follows. The Umbrella Program acknowledges that within LTD training and Rider Education training there are other modules available. Four modules have been listed in each Division. These selected four, we believe, have the most overall benefit. However, the presentation and attendance of any module in the LTD or Rider Education programs will earn points as below.

LTD Educational Opportunities

**Knowledge Enhancement Program
**Horizon Program
Advanced Leadership Program
Life Skills Program
Any other LTD module

Each participant is tracked by head count times two for a starred module.

Each participant is tracked by head count times one for other modules.

LTD participation will be tracked through attendance rosters forwarded monthly through District Trainers to the Region LTD.

Rider Education Opportunities

**Experienced Rider Course (or any course allowed for levels maintenance)
**Co-Rider Seminar
Group Riding Seminar
Road Captain Seminar
Any other Rider Ed seminar

Each participant is tracked by head count times two for starred courses/seminars.

Each participant is tracked by head count times one for other seminars.

Rider Ed courses/seminars will be tracked through monthly Chapter Rider Ed reports forwarded through District Educators to the Region Educator. Seminar attendance rosters will be forwarded monthly through District Educators to the Region Educator as backup.

First Aid Course

Medic First Aid (or any other approved course)

Each participant is tracked by head count times three.

First Aid courses will be tracked through monthly Chapter Rider Ed reports forwarded through District Educators to the Region Educator. This will allow credit for any approved First Aid course.

Chapter & Co-Chapter Events [Must have one officer and one member minimum in attendance for an event to be counted.] This is an event that is planned by the Chapter’s staff and advertised via newsletter, web sites and/or

monthly gatherings.

Each participant is tracked by head count per chapter times one.

Chapter event participation will be tracked monthly through reporting by the Chapter Directors to the District Director and forwarded to the Region Director.

Ideas for events:

Dinners, ice cream or pie runs, day rides, over night or multiple day events, pot luck dinners, movie nights, parties, picnics, shared RE, LTD, first aid training or MAD events, shared fund raisers or safety fairs.

MAD Events

[Must have one officer and one member minimum in attendance for an event to be counted.]

Each participant is tracked by head count times one.

Event participation will be tracked through monthly reports through the District MAD Coordinator to the Region MAD Coordinator. The Region MAD Coordinator will report the results monthly to the Region Educator.

Course/Seminar/Module Presentation

Any LTD, Rider Ed, or MFA course/seminar/module given by a certified GWRRA presenter will earn the presenter's home Chapter 10 points whether the course/seminar/module is given for their home Chapter or for another Chapter.

These points shall be tracked by the GWRRA presenter sending a copy of the attendance roster (with their name and home Chapter noted) for the course/seminar/module directly to the District Director for inclusion in their monthly participation report to the Region Director.

The Example:

Chapter A, according to the Area Report has 100 members on Jan. 1, 2008. By June 1, 2008 Chapter A has participated in every level of construction while building their Umbrella towards Umbrella Star status.

Category	Participants	Event	Awarded Points	Percentages
Leadership Training	2	Knowledge Enhancement	4	
	2	Horizon	4	
	1	Life Skills	1	9%
Rider Education	3	Experienced Rider	6	
	5	Co-Rider	10	
	5	Road Captain	5	21%
Medic First Aid	6	MFA	6	6%
Motorist Awareness	6	Mall Show	6	6%
Chapter Event	10	Dinner Ride	10	
	10	Day Ride	10	20%
Chp. Presenter	1	Road Captain	10	10%

What does the Example show us:

First and foremost Chapter A is doing an outstanding job towards achieving their Star. It displays to the Chapter Director that in order to receive the Star he needs to schedule another Medic First Aid class, or at least get four of his members to attend an up coming class at another Chapter. This Chapter needs to attend a local car show and hand out some of the Motorist Awareness Brochures. It reaffirms to the District & Regional Director that the Seminar Presenter in this chapter is maintaining his/her instructor certificate. It also suggest to the District and Region Director that this Chapter is not very active as a group. They have had only two reported social events in six months.

As with every program there are questions. Feel free to contact any Region Officer for clarification.

Presented by, Your Region Staff

