

Changes

It was the middle of summer when Cherie noticed a change. She told me I was tired and worn down looking. I thanked her for the compliment and told her I was just working and playing a little to hard. After a long look I noticed it to. I have been doing too much. The candle was burning at both ends and a little bit in the middle. During the past 10 years I have been on staff 8 of those years and served as an officer for 4 of those years. So at the beginning of August I told Bob I would not be able to continue as Educator beyond the end of the year and he should pick a new educator for training. It all pretty much hit home when I spent the beginning half of October in the hospital with medical problems that will take several months to fully recover from. I want to thank all my GWRRA friends who helped me get through those two horrible weeks. Good thing it happened at the end of the season because I am unable to ride at this moment. It could have waited a couple of more weeks after the end of the great weather we had for early October.

I have enjoyed being the chapter educator but need to take a break from its benefits. If you really want to improve something you are doing take someone and try to teach them what you are doing. It will force you to look at what you are doing and make you better at the activity. This applies to being a chapter educator. To be an educator you really do not need to know it all, you just need to know how to find the answer and say to the questioner I don't know the answer right off hand but I will find it and give it to you soon. The most rewarding benefit is when there is a problem somewhere and you hear back from that person that something you have taught them has helped get them out of jam or even save them from serious harm or death.

I will still be working as a seminar presenter and will still be able to give the Road Captains, Co-Riders, Trailering, and new course that are about to be launched. This will help the new educator by taking some of his load off of him.

I do not plan on sewing on the "former" patch above the word educator on my vest. I heard someone at Wing Ding say during the educators forum say, "once an educator always an educator". This is true. The knowledge I gained as educator will not go away after I stop doing the position, I just wouldn't be responsible for the paperwork anymore.

I want to thank the chapter for allowing me to be educator and all the respect and endorsements you have given me. At operations meetings I have been pointed out as a good educator. Actually the kudos goes to the chapter members who have taken advantage of what was offered. An educator can set up all sorts of classes and talks but without someone to listen and question there is no education.

Russ Bethe
Chapter WI-G Educator