

Off to a Quick Start  
Russ Bethe  
WI-G Educator

The New Year is starting out quick. It will be very soon that we will be getting the wings back out and will be running down the roads again. If you get them out early because you just can't stand it anymore, be careful. It may have been a few months since you rode and the skills we felt so good about at the end of last season will have slipped away. You may never forget how to ride bicycle but the finer skills of riding a motorcycle may take some time to remember when they have not been used for a while. Also remember there will be lots of sand, salt, and debris on the road until we get a few really good rains to wash it away. The funny part is that most of this unwanted stuff ends up where we want to make a turn.

I have set up some fun and some educational event for the year. The first fun one will be an Admirals night with the defending Calder cup champions March 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Spring Safety Fair will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Creek Motorsports. We will have several speakers and hope to do some demonstrations on bike also. I am also working on a three-day trip to Munising, MI for August 19-21. This will be a motel trip with excursions out on to Lake Superior by glass bottom boat to see what happens when you don't do boating right or a sunset cruise through the National Pictured Rocks Lakeshore area. I also hope to run some slow speed turning and practice sessions early in the year to help everyone get ready for group ride u-turn season.

The district Educational crew is setting dates for Experienced Rider Courses (ERC). If you did not get one last year I recommend that you get one this year. If you do not want to take this course for you, take it for the people you ride with in group rides or the passenger you put on the back of your bike. The life this course could save could also be someone else's.