

What I've learned in the past 8 weeks.

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Before I start on what I've learned, I need to thank the good folks at Cedar Creek Motorsports who have helped out immensely. Joe, the service manager, covered for me at March's social. Cedar Creek let us use their store for our Safety Fair and even provided a factory representative as a speaker. Then they topped it off with a very generous donation of cash to help us with our fundraiser. Thanks, guys.

Last month we went to the State Operations meeting. I learned that Wisconsin district education has gone through tons of red tape to start a motorcycle school so that our Wingers will be able to get into one of the 11 ERC's that they will be holding. The cost of these ERC's is \$35 per person with all of the proceeds going into making more education available in this district. If you haven't signed up yet, get going before they are all full. We also found out that ERC's will be good for three years now instead of two for the levels program. This is in the new Educators handbook that just came out. We also learned that there are about 50 new pages in this new book. I can only hope that a lot of the pages are blank so that I do not lose the new info I just learned when I try to learn the items on the new pages. We also learned about GWRRA's new Motorcycle Awareness Division. This group will be separate from rider education and will try to promote motorcycle awareness among other drivers. We in Chapter G will be trying something special, which we will tell you about later if we can get it to work. We also learned that there will be courses for Road Captains, co-riders and trikes / side cars at the District Rally in Fond du Lac this June. If you are interested in any of these courses let me know so that we can provide the right amount of instructors for everyone who wants to obtain this knowledge.

At the Safety Fair I learned that the new Harleys that the state recently purchased for the troopers are painted impact blue. This raised the question - should a motorcycle color have the word impact in the title? Then it occurred to me they may be referring to the impact you will feel if you see this motorcycle behind you with all its pretty red and blue lights flashing. I also learned that motorcycles can legally (and should) use the HOV (High occupancy vehicle) lanes or diamond lanes. The catch is if you have a trailer on your motorcycle you no longer qualify as HOV and cannot use this lane. We also learned that the training that motorcycle officers receive is a lot tougher than we get in a regular MSF course and that this training may be available soon to the regular rider as high performance riding skills training.

Wow, I learned a lot in the last few weeks. Now I'm wondering what fell out the other side so that I could remember all this stuff. It sure would be nice if you could just get bigger memory chips or hard drives for your brain like you can on your computer.