Posted by: Michael Davis, Missouri Motorcycle Safety, Program Manager   January 31, 2013

2013 RiderCoach Preps

Due to a surplus of coaches I won't be conducting any RCPs in my state this year. We conducted two last year so I'm in no danger of losing my RCT certification, but I'd rather not let myself get rusty by taking the entire year off.
If anyone is conducting RCPs this year and is interested in additional trainer support at no cost to your program, drop me a line and let's discuss logistics. If the scheduling works out, I'd be glad to assist at my own expense.

NORTH CAROLINA

We are having the same issues in North Carolina. It is compounded by the fact that many current RiderCoaches, (and RCT's), move to or retire to NC. We too, are having issues with offering enough RCPs to keep our trainers certified. As a result, we have a very short list of RCTs that we work with and most of us attempt keep our certification by "other" activities, such as Quality Assurance, etc.
This is a double edged sword, as we want to get "new blood" and younger riders involved as RiderCoaches, but we have to ensure that our coaches teach often enough to be effective. In NC, we require 3 classes per year to stay state certified. We believe that this is the minimum needed to ensure that the RC's are "fresh".
Anecdotally, it appears to be an issue in most places as I have talked to a few directors from other states. Also the MSF didn't offer a RiderCoach Trainer Certification course last year...
This brings me to a question that I have for the group...
Our issue is compounded by RC's that want to teach everywhere. In NC, the coaches apply at the individual schools and can teach at any site as long as they are on the state "approved" list. We have a few coaches that teach at as many as 7 separate sites... Some of these coaches teach 25 classes a year. Keep in mind that classes are only offered on the weekends, for the most part, and it's evident that these coaches inhibit the ability for some coaches to teach their mandatory 3 classes. Several RC's have complained that they can't get enough classes because someone is traveling across the state to teach at their local site. I have toyed with the idea of limiting the number of sites where a RiderCoach can teach to "level the playing field"... Does anyone do this? Do you think it would be fair to do so? Michael, Best of luck with your search and let us know how it turns out.

– Bob Wagner, NC

TENNESEE

 In Tennessee we have seven Rider Coach Trainers. We haven't had the problem that Bob discussed in North Carolina although we do have a few Rider Coaches that teach at several sites. So far they haven't been willing to travel very far so most work fairly close to home. The state went to a contract system about five years ago and we divided the state into four sections for QARs and three for RCPs. We do RCPs east, middle and west Tennessee once a year with a "catch up" class in middle Tennessee in the

late fall. All depend on having enough candidates but so far we have one going in Knoxville in April, Nashville in March and Memphis June.

– John Milliken, TN

SOUTH DAKOTA

Regarding the issue of RiderCoaches and the number of classes they teach and where they teach:
In South Dakota each RiderCoach selects a 'home' site. The home sites hold their scheduling sessions at a time when all or most RiderCoaches can attend. Available calendar dates for training are identified before the scheduling session and are provided on a master list which is forwarded to all RiderCoaches prior to the meeting. Prior to the start of the scheduling session all RiderCoaches draw a number (example: 1 through 20). The individual that selects number 1 is allowed to select the first date he or she would like to teach. The person with number 2 selects second and we continue to proceed in this manner through the RiderCoach with the last number. Round 2 starts with the last person (in this case # 20) and we then we proceed in descending order through the RiderCoaches with each again selecting a preferred date. Round 3 begins as round 1 started and we continue to follow the above process until all RiderCoaches have selected the number of classes they wish to teach. Once a RiderCoach reaches his or her preferred quota (personal choice) they drop from the list and are then skipped in succeeding rounds of the round-robin procedure. This process allows all RiderCoaches an equal and fair opportunity to teach at their 'home' site.
If an individual is not able to attend the scheduling session they may send a list of preferred dates they wish to teach to the site coordinator. The site coordinator selects a number for this person as if they were present and then selects dates for the missing RiderCoach as it is his or her turn in the round-robin procedure.
Once all the sites around the state have set their schedules utilizing the above process we then identify dates and sites where vacancies occur and open these up to all RiderCoaches regardless of 'home' site designation. The same round-robin approach as described above is utilized to fill the remaining open dates. Again, this gives everyone an equal and fair opportunity to select and teach additional classes outside of their designated 'home' site.
I think this process would work for you in North Carolina but you would need to start by having each RiderCoach declare a 'home' site.
To date we have not had the problem with RiderCoaches or RiderCoach Trainers retiring to South Dakota in search of year-round warm riding weather. Once people realize the 'South' in South Dakota does not mean we are actually located in the southern U.S. they quickly look elsewhere. Sadly, I have heard of cases (not RC's) where this mistake has actually occurred. Apparently not all people are geography wizards but Mother Nature is a great teacher. I hope this helps!

– Rick Kiley

MARYLAND

I understand your situation. In Maryland we are only conducting two RCP's this spring. This is an issue I suggest you bring to the MSF's attention to see if they will grant you any special dispensation. Regards.

– Philip Sause