

# THE HUMAN ELEMENT

## Motorcycle Rider Training and Education

Paper Title: INTERMEDIATE RIDER TRAINING

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In 2000 TEAM OREGON launched a program designed specifically for the intermediate rider. This program, known as the Intermediate Rider Course, or IRC, has met with good initial support from the motorcycling community. This paper will explore the background and basis for this program, and show how this instrument can be used to improve program efficiency, train more riders and enhance motorcycle safety for a much larger audience.

### BACKGROUND AND BASIS

TEAM OREGON sponsors three other rider training programs: The *Motorcycle RiderCourse:Riding and Street Skills* (MRC:RSS), the *Experienced RiderCourse (ERC)*, and *Advanced Rider Training (ART)*. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation developed the RSS and ERC. TEAM OREGON developed the ART program.

The demand for RSS training is huge. It is not uncommon to have wait periods of up to two months at certain training centers. The problem of demand exceeding supply is common among state motorcycle safety programs. Potential solutions are framed by the need to train more riders without tying up sites, motorcycles, and instructors. It presents a classic case of "you can't get there from here."

The demand for training is exacerbated by the absence of demand. There are an unknown number of riders in need of training who do not enroll in an RSS but lack the skills, confidence or licensing credentials to take an ERC (in Oregon, riders must be endorsed to take an ERC). Riders represented in this demographic shun the RSS out of concerns that the program fails to meet their needs. The most common complaint is that it's "too basic, I'm not a beginner" followed by "it takes too much time." We were convinced that this audience was not being served by the current two-class (RSS, ERC) structure. Marketing a program to this constituency held promise on two fronts: 1) It could attract an absent market of current riders into training, and; 2) It could open up seats in the RSS. By providing a course for the intermediate rider, it was hoped that students fitting that profile would select this course instead of the RSS, thus creating more space in the RSS for the beginning rider.

The decision was reached in September 1999 to pursue a program for the intermediate rider. The curriculum selected was the Interim Experienced Rider Course.

### THE INTERIM EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE

For several years prior to the release of the ERC, MSF's curriculum for the experienced rider was the *Interim Experienced Rider Course (IERC)*. The IERC treated the student rider to excellent training using RSS Level II classroom and range exercises. This program was shelved after release of the ERC, but revived and repackaged by TEAM OREGON for the intermediate rider. The advantages - instructor training is minimal, the curriculum

accommodates RSS ranges without modification, students use personal motorcycles, and the program can be completed inside one day with no negative impact on current course offerings. On the road to a win/win!

### **PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Approval was granted from the Oregon Department of Transportation to proceed with this plan. A proposal submitted to DMV requesting a skills test waiver for IRC course graduates was approved. The Policies and Procedures Manual was updated with the following program guidelines:

Student Qualifications - Riders must be 21 or over and possess a valid driver's license and motorcycle instruction permit. (Riders under 21 are required by Oregon law to complete the RSS).

Student Experience - The course is targeted to riders returning to motorcycling or those who have some experience on their own motorcycles. The first few exercises determine if the student possesses the skills to safely continue. Those who lack sufficient skills to safely continue are transferred to the RSS.

Motorcycle Qualifications - Student-owned motorcycle must be in good operating condition and subject to instructor's inspection and approval. This procedure adopted is similar to one currently employed for the ERC and ART.

Instructor Qualifications - Instructors who are approved to teach the RSS may teach the IRC.

Site Qualifications - RSS approved. Non-standard ranges are allowed.

DMV Tests Waived - Skills test.

Course Schedule - See attached.

## TEAM OREGON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

### Intermediate RiderCourse (IRC) Schedule

Module	Location	Topic	Time Allocated	Time
Module 1	Classroom	INTRODUCTION: Objective of IRC; Risk Awareness and Acceptance; Protective Gear; Expectations	20 Minutes	8:00 - 8:20
Module 7	Classroom	STREET STRATEGIES  <i>CONDUCT ENTIRE MODULE</i>	60 Minutes  Includes 10 min. break	8:20 - 9:20
Module 9	Classroom	ADVANCED TURNING AND BRAKING  <i>CONDUCT ENTIRE MODULE</i>	60 Minutes  Includes 10 min. break	9:20 - 10:20
Module 13	Classroom	SPECIAL SITUATIONS <i>CONDUCT ENTIRE MODULE</i>	45 Minutes	10:20 - 11:05
Module 14	Classroom	RIDING STRAIGHT <i>CONDUCT ENTIRE MODULE</i> Safety Rules, T-CLOCK	30 Minutes	11:05 - 11:35
Lunch			55 Minutes	11:35 - 12:30
Exercise 1 Exercise 2 Exercise 3 Exercise 4	Range:	PRACTICE AND OBSERVATION  Offset Weave ( <i>ERC 1</i> ) Stopping On Command ( <i>RSS 13</i> ) Stopping On A Curve ( <i>RSS 14</i> ) Offset Weave ( <i>RSS 22</i> )  Break	15 Minutes 10 Minutes 15 Minutes 15 Minutes  10 Minutes	12:30 - 1:35
Exercise 5 Exercise 6 Exercise 7	Range:	BRAKING SKILLS  Sharp Turns ( <i>RSS 11</i> ) Gap Selection ( <i>RSS 15</i> ) Stopping In The Shortest Distance ( <i>RSS 18</i> ) Break	15 Minutes 10 Minutes 20 Minutes  10 Minutes	1:35 - 2:30
Exercise 8 Exercise 9	Range	BRAKING AND AVOIDANCE SKILLS  Swerving To Avoid Obstacles ( <i>RSS 19</i> ) Stopping Quickly On A Curve ( <i>RSS 20</i> ) Break	30 Minutes 15 Minutes  10 Minutes	2:30 - 3:25
Exercise 10 Level II Evaluation	Range	TURNING SKILLS  Selecting A Safe Turning Speed ( <i>RSS 21</i> ) LEVEL II EVALUATION	30 Minutes  45 Minutes	3:25 - 4:40
Module 15	Range	WRAP-UP Rules/Regulations - Omit K. Test	10 Minutes	4:40 - 4:50
TOTAL			7:55 Hours	

## STUDENT RESPONSE

Eighteen courses were held in the first year in six locations across Oregon. Eighteen (18) different instructors taught one or more courses. One hundred two (102) students were trained. The following survey instrument was distributed and fifty-one (51) students responded.

### Intermediate RiderCourse (IRC)

#### Student Questionnaire

Welcome to the IRC! In order for us to remain responsive to the needs of intermediate riders, please take a moment to complete the following questionnaire. Thank you!

1. Is your driver's license currently endorsed for motorcycle operation? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Permit\_\_\_
2. How long have you been riding? Years \_\_\_ Months \_\_\_
3. How many miles have you ridden in the past 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did you consider taking another TEAM OREGON class? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes, which one? MRC:RSS (Beginning) \_\_\_ ERC (Experienced) \_\_\_
5. Had the IRC been unavailable, would you have . . .  
Taken another form of training? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Which course? MRC:RSS \_\_\_ ERC \_\_\_  
Taken the test at DMV? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What other motorcycle training courses have you attended? RSS \_\_\_ ERC \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_  
When did you complete your training? \_\_\_\_\_  
If your training was within the past six months, what prompted you to enroll in this class? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Number of Years Riding

Less than 2 Years	37%
2 to 5 Years	25%
6 to 10 Years	14%
1 Years or More	24%

#### Miles Ridden in Past 12 Months

0-500	38%
500-2000	32%
2000-5000	23%
5000+	7%

#### Was Other Training Considered

Yes	53%
Considered RSS	17%

#### Reasons for Taking IRC

Qualify for licensing waiver	19%
To improve skills	81%

### **Reaction From Instructors**

Most demonstrated very average skills in Exercise 1  
Students were able to achieve exercise objectives  
Hitting the target market  
Little difficulty with curriculum  
Those who taught more than once were very comfortable the second time  
Sometimes instructors forget that students are beginners due to presence of personal bikes

### **Student Success**

Overall pass rate	90%
Average passing score	11
Average failing score	25

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This program is a winner. It meets the needs of the intermediate rider by providing a service that is timely, accurate, and relevant. We believe that it is the perfect tool for the audience, and expect numbers in this program to fuel growth in training for the next several years (see attached Training Forecast). From an organizational view, it's easy to provide, is cost effective, allows for significant increases in training, and doesn't interfere, in fact compliments, the RSS.

Our experience with this program has led us to note that this program is not the "next step" in the evolution of a rider's training. The survey results and observations show that IRC riders, while referred to as intermediate, are often beginning anew. What distinguishes these riders from their RSS counterparts is that they have some experience, although limited, and can presently operate a motorcycle. The IRC requires the rider to have control of the clutch and balance. The skills development process starts from there, and as such, there is little difference in the IRC student and the RSS Level II student.

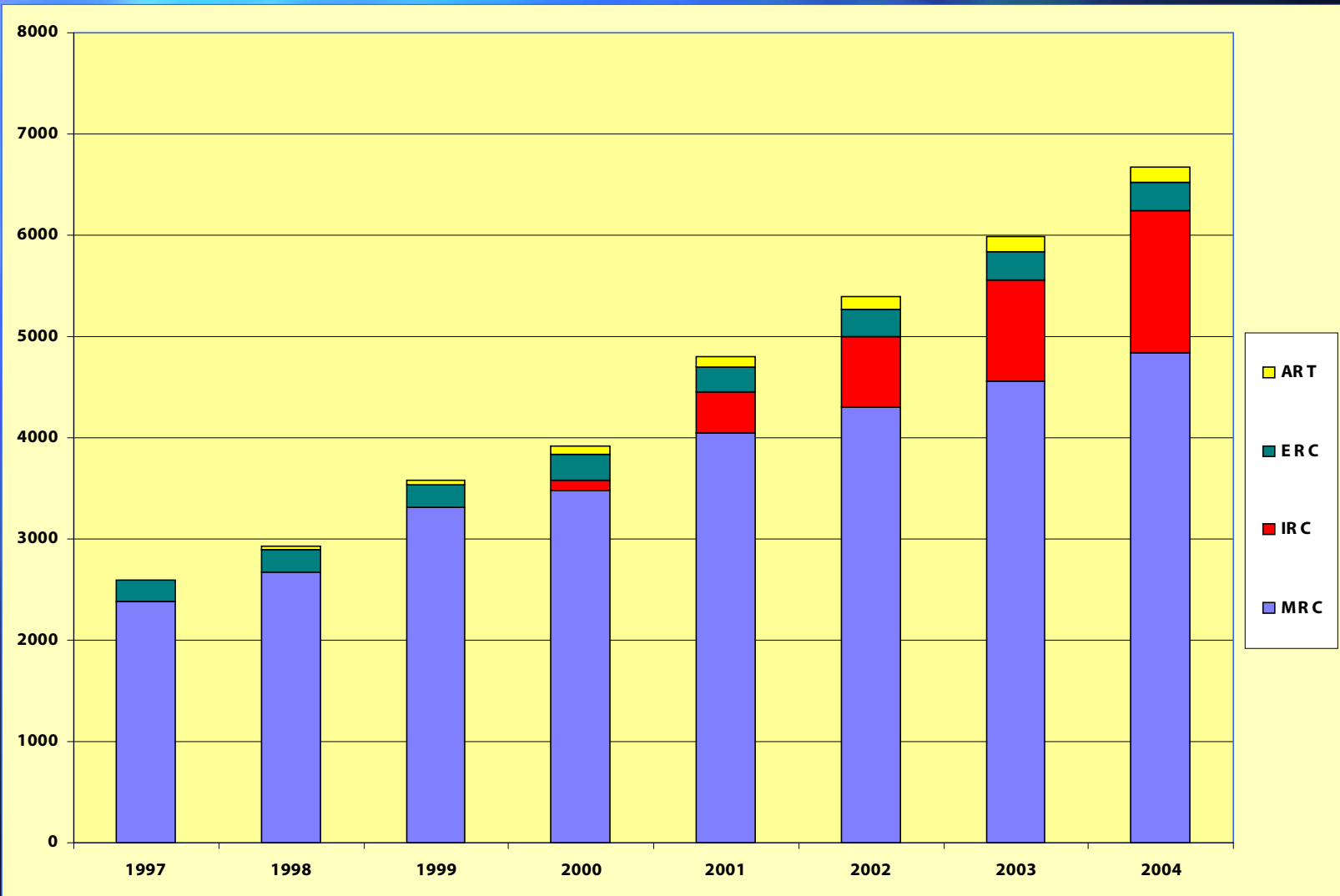
Therefore, the IRC presents a different entry point for a new rider to receive training. It is not a "next step" for RSS graduates. Billing it as such is: (1) a disservice to the RSS student, for the curriculum is so similar, and; (2) contrary to the organization's goal of facilitating training for a wider audience. Graduates of the RSS and IRC are encouraged to seek ERC training, or enroll in a TEAM OREGON sponsored ART class.

TEAM OREGON believes in this program and is committed to it's expansion. More research is necessary to further evaluate the program and will be pursued as this program evolves.

Attachments:

Training Forecast Graph  
IRC Poster

# TEAM OREGON TRAINING FORECAST



## Intermediate & Experienced Rider Training



### INTERMEDIATE RIDER COURSE (IRC)

Riders returning to motorcycling or who have some experience on their own motorcycles are encouraged to enroll in the eight hour IRC. This program builds on fundamental riding skills and emphasizes essential street riding skills and strategies.



### EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (ERC)

The eight hour ERC is for riders with at least one year or 3,000 miles of street riding experience. This course is the perfect place to sharpen skills used for cornering, braking and emergency maneuvers.



For more information call 800/545-9944 or visit our web site at <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/team-oregon>

