

Rider Training Courses Offered in Alabama

- Victoria Rumble

In some states, rider training courses are given at no charge to the rider, one example is Pennsylvania, where riders who successfully complete the course can then forego taking a motorcycle skills test to get their license. Doing so is added incentive for riders to take safety courses.

In Alabama, I can't find any course that isn't charged to the rider at an average cost of around \$250. Alabama is one of the few states that do not require a skills test for a motorcycle license, if they did more people might take the classes and accidents and fatalities would probably decline. Riders will need to check with their insurance company to see if they offer reduced insurance rates as an incentive for taking safety courses.

The incentive for taking rider training classes in Alabama is primarily increased rider's knowledge and safety skills including evasive maneuvers, reduced number of injuries and fatalities on our highways, and enhanced rider's confidence and enjoyment of riding.

If you live near a state line, you might check to see what neighboring states offer and if anything is closer for you than the courses offered in Alabama which include the following:

- 1.** GWRRA (Gold Wing Road Riders Association), State Representative for them is Roy Fosnight, phone 256-721-9151. At this time the GWRRA has the only rider training course for trikes offered in Alabama. As baby boomers age, there is a growing number of people who for a number of reasons choose three wheels instead of two so hopefully more classes for trikes will be offered soon. If you ride a trike, I encourage you to investigate the GWRRA trike training courses so you'll get the full benefit of training on the cycle you intend to ride. <http://www.gwrro.org/regional/ridered/index.html> or <http://www.alabama-gwrro.org/> in AL.
- 2.** R.I.D.E. (Riders Institute for Defensive Education) offers rider training courses in Birmingham and Pelham. <http://www.ridemotorschool.com/Bios.php>, or phone 205-585-RIDE. Joe Langenbacker is the owner of the group and one of the instructors.

Per their website, R.I.D.E. staff instructors have over 100 years of combined Police Motorcycle riding and have trained over 1,000 police officers nationwide. They offer classes for both beginner and intermediate training. You can register online or there are email addresses on the site. They do not offer classes for trikes.

- 3.** The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) headquartered at Montevallo, AL offers classes at various locations throughout the state for beginner to advanced skill levels. The MSF has a course for trikes, but it is not offered in Alabama. Classes are given in Montevallo, Montgomery, Jacksonville, Dothan, Madison County (Meridianville), Tuscumbia, and Mobile. Classes are available at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery for those with base privileges. Phone: (205) 665-6740 <http://www.montevallo.edu/atsc/motorcycle/>