

TECHNICAL TALK

By Chuck and Marlene Isom

First thing I want to do is send the ending to last months article, I had a computer malfunction I think it was caused by the person operating it, me. Sorry about that. Remember Maintenance is a never ending project. You can not fix it and forget it. Just ask Jack Hopkins just a few months ago he had his trike down to fix a clutch or transmission problem. A Short time later went down again for the same problem. Things can and do go wrong. I had a electric problem 3 years ago and I had the same problem last year. If it is mechanical it can and often does break. Sometimes more than Once. Wisdom: (1) How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges? (2) Hard work pays off for the future but laziness pays off now. (3) When everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane. (4) Change is inevitable except from vending machines. (5) If you think nobody cares try missing a couple payments. (6) Light travels faster than sound, that is why some people seem bright until you hear them speak. That's all folks! Have a safe riding season. Your technical coordinators Chuck and Marlene

With all then electronic Gadgets we are draining the life out of our batteries. The systems require more power. Batteries have traditionally needed to be replaced every three to five years, but the interval seems to be shrinking to about two years. There have been an increase in failed batteries over the past two years because we have added on electronics like ipods navigation systems, Heated grips and seats, CD changers, Power windshields, just to name a few. The steady increase in the number of electrical accessories on the average motorcycle is shortening battery life. As vehicles are being designed to operate more systems, they still use the same basic type 12-volt battery that has been use for decades. More and more gadgets are coming on the market All these on board electronics means increased comfort, convenience, efficiency and safety, but the downside is could be helping drive up the death rate for bakeries. There are many devices on today's vehicles that draw power even after the ignition has been turned off. Batteries can last twice as long if they are cared for properly and are not exposed to extreme temperatures. For years batteries have been marketed as " Maintenance Free " and consumers took them for granted. But the extra strain they are under in modern vehicles has many owners giving them renewed attention.. Experts say it is a good idea to disconnect the battery when a vehicle is parked for weeks at a time, but it will slowly discharge. Trickle chargers, which cost \$30 to \$60, can extend battery life by keeping it fully charged when the vehicle is parked. Be sure to take good care of your battery. You won't be able to get there without it. A few Questions. Why is it import and to clean my fuel system? If your engine is stalling, idling rough, surging or hard to start, your fuel system may need cleaning. Cleaning will remove dirt and particle built-up, improve performance and reduce emissions. Your vehicle will hit the road cleansed and ready to perform at optimum levels. Can changing my engine oil help me save gas? Absolutely. Changing your engine oil on a regularly basis as recommended in the vehicle owners manual, will help lubricate the engine, minimize friction and carry away excessive heat, all of which will lead to greater fuel efficiency Check all fluid levels on a regular basis and as well as the battery water. Why should I perform a radiator service on my motorcycle? To help reduce the risk of the engine overheating and inhibit rust and corrosion. When coolant breaks down, it becomes less effective at maintaining the operating temperature of your engine. To prevent these problems, coolant fluid should be changed at recommended time of mileage intervals to the vehicle manufacture's recommendations. In the old days you simply put anti freeze in your radiator to keep it from freezing but today's radiator additives help to keep the engine cool as well. Again let me stress make maintenance a priority . Proper maintenance is key to keeping your vehicle running safely for years to come. Yet recently a survey found that for many drivers , maintenance takes a back seat to other priorities. That's it for now we will stat right there next month.

Your Technical Coordinators. Chuck and Marlene.