

TECHNICAL TALK

By Chuck and Marlene Isom

We recently had one of the deadliest Sundays in the past 30 years here in Florida with 9 fatalities. Hillsborough county where Tampa is located had the bloody day. Florida had 3,533 deaths in 2006 that is well over 9 a day. The causes were bad driving by negligent drivers. I hope this sad news will cause each of you to take heed. Soon it will be spring and we will have some nice weather once again. When on your motorcycle or in the car Please drive like you might have a wreck. Be more alert. Be more observant. Slow down. Don't drink and drive. Don't use your cell phone while driving. More lives are lost in Florida per year than all that have BEEN LOST IN THE 4 YEAR WAR IN IRAQ. What a waste of lives in both instances. Here population growth, congested roads, and bad weather (can you imagine that?) all contribute to horrible driving conditions. But traffic doesn't cause crashes. Roads don't cause crashes. Drivers cause crashes. The key to better driving is adjusting to your surroundings. "If conditions are worse than what you're expecting, reduce your speed". "Be more considerate". It is hard for me to understand the decisions people are making driving their motorcycles and cars and trucks. Besides speed drinking, drag racing, eating, shaving, talking on the phone, the list goes on and on astounds me. This is what causes accidents. Drivers are too distracted. We all need to do a better job of driving. My tip is to "Please pay attention to every detail while driving."

Now lets talk about your vehicle, if it is not maintained can also contribute to accidents. Badly worn tires, or under inflated tires for example. Not taking care of your breaking system. Check the brake pads every time you change tires. Check the rotors, I know some of our members could not pass the legal limits of rotor thickness. Check for loose or broken and missing bolts. I know we are not riding Harley's but pieces and parts falling off can be a real danger while riding on two wheels. Make sure every thing that needs lubrication is well taken care of. A minor break down can cause a serious accident. My suggestion is to always use Honda parts, don't go cheap, Your motorcycle deserves the right correct parts. Using the wrong parts could cause your motorcycle not to be covered under warranty. Like the oil filter, or wrong antifreeze for examples. Having a trailer hitch could cause warranty problems also if your dealer really wants to bring it up. If you have a heel / toe shifter or automatic shifter of any kind can also present warranty problems. Some of the after market stuff, Like chrome most of us like plenty of that and convenience stuff we like that too. If not properly installed can present more headaches than they are worth. don't forget the battery. I know Sears die-hards may be good but I don't want one on my motorcycle.

Insurance tips. Did you know that a good credit history can have a direct impact on your insurance cost ? It does. Some companies offer discounts if you own more than one motorcycle in the family ask if yours does. You may want to raise the deductible on your collision and or comprehensive to save also. Seniors should consider taking a drivers refresher course, such as those offered by the AARP or AAA which may qualify them for a discount. The message here is Don't put your insurance on auto pilot. Shop around mention all the safety stuff on your motorcycle such as ABS brakes , air Bags, etc. A safe driving record say three or more years without an accident or moving violation may get you a discount. Try to get insurance with a reputable Company. Cheapest may not be the best way to go. Should you ever need to use it you want the best.

Some of the years (BEST) Headlines.

- (1) IF STRIKE ISN'T SETTLED QUICKLY IT MAY LAST AWHILE. (you think?)
- (2) COLD WAVE LINKED TO TEMPERATURES. (who would have thought?)
- (3) RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGES.(you mean there's something stronger than duct tape.?)
- (4) TYPHOON RIPS THROUGH CEMETERY: HUNDREDS DEAD (did I read that sign right?)
- (5) MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTING: FACES BATTERY CHARGE. (he probably is the battery charge)
- (6) WAR DIMS HOPE FOR PEACE. (I can see where it might have that effect)

A Teacher asks her 3rd grade class to name two types of Light. The room fell silent until one small wise young man in the back of the room raises his hand and said " Uhhh, Miller and Bud? "

That's it Friends, this months Fun, Safety and Knowledge Stuff. What a great concept. Glad to be a GWRRA Member. We miss everyone. Hope all are able to ride soon. It is Shorts and T-shirt weather here. OOOPS!.

Your Technical Coordinators, Chuck and Marlene