

Dressing in Layers
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I was trying to come up with an article this month and ran across this one. With the weather being as cool as it has been lately, we should all learn from this article.

Why are layers important? They help you maintain comfort and protection while riding. The comfort will allow you to keep your mind clear to think about your riding, looking for hazards, and enjoy the ride. If you are too cool or too hot then your thinking is on your discomfort and not your defensive riding. Protection from the cool and heat will require you to wear items of clothing that afford warmth or cooling. The motorcycle dealers have many items to help you keep warm or cool.

The clothing manufactures in the last few years have addressed the problems and have designed some great riding apparel. There are great jackets, helmets with vents, gloves with ventilation or liners, pants and chaps with removable liners, boots to keep you dry, warm and cool. When looking to purchase these items the size you always wear may feel good in the show room, but set down in a chair or even better find a bike to mount up. This will allow you to see if the pants are tight as you put you leg over the seat or too short in the riding position, or the jackets are not long enough to cover your lumbar area, and the sleeves are exposing you wrist or arms. I have seen many types of gloves that look good till I put them on. They tend to have pinch points and the fingers have seams on the palm side. This will cause your hands much discomfort and could cause them to cut off blood circulation. Do not worry about looks when buying your apparel. Comfort for 300 or 400 miles is so important to a safe and pleasant ride.