

## **Be Prepared**

Being prepared is particularly important to us as riders/co-riders. What do I mean by being prepared?

First, is your motorcycle prepared? Tires properly inflated and with sufficient tread? Brakes in good working order? How about the lights? Brake lights? Turn signals? All these are critical to the safe operation of the motorcycle.

Next, how about you? Are you well rested? Do you have the right frame of mind or is something weighing on you? Are you taking any medications that might make you drowsy? Haven't been drinking, have you? Riding requires your FULL attention so anything that diminishes your ability to pay attention to the task limits your ability to safely operate your bike/trike.

Then there's your emergency skills. When is the last time that you PRACTICED emergency maneuvers? You know, things like swerving to avoid an obstacle in your path of travel. Emergency stopping, practiced that lately? In about 13% of motorcycle crashes, the rider made NO attempt to avoid the crash; no swerving, no braking, just rode right into the collision. Unfortunately, most riders NEVER practice emergency maneuvers.

Do you consciously practice your other riding skills? You know, things like your scanning for hazards, looking through turns, covering your controls as you approach congested areas, positioning yourself so you are as visible as possible, etc. While all these things (and more) should be "second nature" focusing on them while you're riding reinforces the action.

An excellent way to prepare is to take the GWRRA Advanced Rider Course. Over the last two weekends eight chapter members took either the ARC or the Trike Rider Course. All of the feedback that I have heard has been positive and, being one of those that took the ARC, I can personally attest to the great experience. For best results, it should be repeated every three years. Remember – everyone needs to take the course, they just don't always admit it to themselves...

How prepared are you?



And remember: Drive on the right except to pass...