



Motorist Awareness

Please Read If You Do Not Ride A Motorcycle

by Ron Carroll, GWRRA Arizona District,
Motorist Awareness Coordinator

As we all know or should know, our roads are not safe for Motorcycles or anyone else for that matter. With all the distractions we have with Cell Phones, New Technologies, GPS, Etc. in our cars; let's face it, not all drivers out there are FOCUSED ON DRIVING.

The below listed article was taken from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's website for the purpose of helping non-motorcycling drivers to understand motorcycles and to help them think about the motorcyclist rider as a Person with a Family.

According to NHTSA, "Distracted driv-

ing killed 3,477 people on America's roads in 2015." Now, April has become National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The MSF has put together a list of 10 things cagers* need to know about driving around motorcycles. I hope you're not reading this on your iPhone from the driver's seat.

1. There are many more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road and some drivers don't "recognize" motorcyclists. They ignore them, usually unintentionally. Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.

2. A motorcyclist may look farther away than he or she is in actuality. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, estimate that a motorcycle is closer than it looks.

3. A motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots or masked by objects or backgrounds outside the car. Thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.

4. A motorcycle may seem to be moving faster than it really is. Again, don't immediately rely on your perceptions.

5. Motorcyclists sometimes slow down by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Don't tailgate motorcyclists. At intersections, anticipate that motorcyclists may slow down without any visual warning.

6. Turn signals on a motorcycle are often not automatically self-canceling. Some riders, (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off. Try to determine whether a motorcycle's turn signal is for real. And if you're driving a car, remember to use your turn signals too. They're a great communication tool for riders and drivers when used properly.

7. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily, to avoid road debris, and deal with passing vehicles and wind.

Understand that motorcyclists often adjust lane position for a purpose, and it's not an invitation for a car to share the lane with them.

8. Maneuverability can be one advantage for a motorcycle, but don't expect that motorcyclist can always steer or swerve out of harm's way. Please leave motorcyclists room on the road, wherever they are around you.

9. Stopping distance for motorcycles can be nearly the same or better than that of cars. But wet or slippery pavement can put motorcyclists at a disadvantage. Don't violate a motorcyclist's right of way, especially in bad conditions.

10. Don't think of it as a motorcycle, a machine. Think of the rider; the person on board, as someone's son, daughter, spouse or parent. Unlike other motorists, who

are protected by doors, roofs and airbags, motorcyclists have only their safety gear and are at greater risk from distracted drivers.

The Motorist Awareness Program of GWRRA

Through a "Share the Road" campaign we will pursue three aspects of motorist awareness. Each of these three are supportive of each other:

- *Awareness Education* - Providing motorists with First Class, professional education through our certified seminar presentations. Our presentations will be developed for a multitude of audiences, educating them to a better understanding of motorcyclists, the risks involved, a heightened awareness of motorcycle presence and what they as motorists can do in the prevention of crashes.
- *Awareness Advertisement* - Serves as a reminder to motorists that they share the road with motorcycles. Reinforced reminder to the education aspect.
- *Public Relations* - Interaction with the motoring public has the ability to reflect highly on GWRRA and to mold public opinion on how they view motorcyclists.

Our goal in this area is to build a rapport with motorists and leave them with a feeling that motorcyclists are real people who could be their friend, neighbor, or even a relative.

If you have any questions regarding Motorist Awareness Program please feel free to contact me by Email azma20017@gmail.com.

* Cagers is a term used by motorcyclists to describe some one driving a vehicle who is enclosed within a steel frame and is protected from crashes.

The skinny on "Skinny"...

According to Ron, "'Skinny' was out riding with the group. He was the last bike. A driver made a left turn in front of him then stopped. 'Skinny' had to take the ditch. Don't know how long he was there, but he knew his mc license was about to expire. He could not find his wallet to check. He went to the license office to get a new one, but could not. They told him he was dead and they could see right thru him so he did not get license. Now 'Skinny' rides with me to promote Motorist Awareness as GWRRA's Arizona District Mascot. He whistles while he works on the rides with me. That is my story and I am sticking with it."



GWRRA Motorist Awareness Program, at the Queen Creek Holiday Festival & Parade



GWRRA Motorist Awareness Program, set up at Sunset Point on I-17



GWRRA Motorist Awareness Program, at Sierra Vista Mall