



The Straight and Narrow

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The Most Valuable of Cargo's



Is there any Rider in this group that will argue that the most valuable of cargo's is the one that occupies the rear portion of your saddle. I would like to think that all of us are smart enough not to argue with that statement. (Remember that you do have to go home, and go to sleep sometime!)

Even though we as the riders will bear the brunt of the responsibility for the safety, and comfort of the co-rider, there are some things that they can do to help ensure their safety and make the ride a lot more enjoyable.

There have been those that I have heard in the past that referred to the co-rider as "Ballast". Useful only for leveling out the load of the Wing. Shame on you, you know that I would never say anything like that. But honestly nothing could be farther from the truth.

So ladies this one is for you!

What could you do to make the ride more pleasurable and safer for both you and the rider?

Be Prepared: A short checklist can make any ride a lot more pleasant. Do you have rain gear, sunscreen, a map and sunglasses? These items are often not in plain sight but will be sorely missed if they are needed and not there. Of course, there is much more that can be put on your checklist for the trip. You do have a checklist, don't you? One is available on the Chapter G2 Web Page!

Not all preparation can be done just before the trip. Was the trip planned so the rider had a chance to get adequate sleep before starting? Working all day and riding all night is probably not the best plan for rider or co-rider.

A Sense of Direction: Wouldn't you like your rider to pay more attention to the road and less to the map? If you think it's hard to read a map while driving, it's even harder to read a map while riding a motorcycle. The rider is usually glad to have someone else navigate. As a co-rider you can concentrate on the navigation, allowing the rider to concentrate on driving.

The Look: No, The Look has nothing to do with the clothes that you are wearing, or that twinkle in your eye. It's even easier (and cheaper) than that. The Look is looking at the right place as the bike makes a turn. Why not take advantage of the same technique a trained rider uses to keep oriented in a turn? The place to look is over the rider's shoulder in the direction of the turn. As you look over the rider's right shoulder in a right turn, look all the way through the turn and keep your eyes level with the horizon. This means tilting your head away from the direction of the turn. If you're turning right, lean your body right but keep your head vertical. Using The Look keeps you leaning with the rider and keeps you oriented properly so you can enjoy the turns even more.

Results

Investing a little time on **preparation** beforehand and a little effort on **The Look** and **navigation** during the ride can make it more pleasant for both the rider and the co-rider.

Until next time, ride safe and have fun.

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