



Ready For Spring?

Dale and Kathy Compton Chapter G2 Educators



So it is that time of year, Spring is right around the corner and the weather will be warming up soon. That will bring about a whole new set of challenges for the Chapter.

Here are just a few things to remember.

THE RAINGEAR! Yes it is that time of year when every ride will have a chance for rain in it. Check out your rain suit now and insure that it is ready for the season.

Along with the rain gear make sure that your tires are in good shape worn tires will not perform in wet weather as well as tires with good tread on them.

Hydration, even though the temperature will not be too hot for a while, it is now time to keep in mind the water.

Though we always recommend that you dress in "proper Riding attire" keep in mind that the temperatures will be rising, and dress in layers so that you will not be too uncomfortable.

One other thing that we need to remember is that with the warming Spring weather comes the increase in wildlife activity. You know that Springtime tends to make the wildlife a little "Frisky". We will be seeing more and more as the days start to warm up and the vegetation begins to green up. So let's keep this in mind.

In the event that you find yourself and an animal of some sorts trying to occupy the same

space on the road, there is no iron clad rule as to what to do. But I will give you some insight and some of my thoughts on the subject.

Normally when an animal is in the road, the most likely place that will be clear when you get there, is the space that they occupy when you first see them. After all their natural instinct is to flee danger, of course there are exceptions and you should never rely totally on them to flee. I have seen many times when squirrels will cross the road 4-5 times before they make up their mind which way they are going to go.

One thing that I will always do is weigh out the consequences of my evasion. Basically that comes down to which would do the most damage to me and the bike, a small animal such as a squirrel or cat, or a ditch, a culvert, or a tree! I know that none of us would intentionally run over any animal, and would go as far as we can to avoid it, but when the options are laid out in front of you, sometimes you have to make a tough decision.

This reminds me of something from back in the old days, when I was in my early teens, that I have never forgotten. After a long night of "fellowship" several of the guys were about to call it a night, when we came upon an automobile accident. This was very unusual since we were in the middle of town in a residential neighborhood. We found a car filled with young ladies sitting upside down in someone's front yard. There

were 4 teenage girls in the car, two of which ended up going to the hospital, and two were treated by EMT's and sent home. The sad thing that we found out was that the cause of the accident was that the driver was trying to avoid a cat in the street. They were traveling about 30-35 MPH swerved to miss the cat, went up an embankment of about 3 ft. over the sidewalk and then rolled the car in the yard.

It was right then that I made a conscience decision that I would weigh the consequences of my driving decisions any time I was faced with that dilemma. So far it has worked our pretty well for me. Not so well for the cats and squirrels, but that is another story J.

Still the most reliable things that we have going for us is the eyes of our fellow riders. So remember my two favorite things, stay sharp and be ever vigilant.

Hopefully you have seen something here you like, or at least don't hate too badly.

Till next time, Ride Safe, and remember to take care of yourself and each other.

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