



## “Ride Your Own Ride”

*Dale and Kathy Compton  
Chapter G2 Educators*



I am sure that at one time or another, we have all heard this. Normally when this is said, it is during a group ride, and at a time when the ride is about to become a little “challenging”. So have you ever given this much thought?

It is only human nature, and I think a little more so in the Male, that we feel the need to “keep up with the pack, and not show our shortcomings or inadequacies.”

But we need to face the fact that we are not all equal when it comes to our riding abilities. Some of us are more adept to slow riding in parking lots and such, some at higher speeds such as highways, and some of us out on the twisties. Whatever your strong point is (and we almost all have one) we need to remember that there are others that do not share these with us, and we need to make it a point to be a little more understanding and forgiving when we get them off into something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

It doesn't take much to

get someone to push themselves beyond their abilities. Sometimes all it takes is one small off the cuff comment and there they go, riding like the Devil, trying to stay with the Big Dogs. I will tell you from past experience that riding with the Big Dogs, with your knees shaking and on the verge of soiling yourself is not all that it is cracked up to be.

Though most of the time it all works out alright, we are always one slip away from some major problems. I know that I would hate for it to be me that said or did something that pushed someone to the point of no return and they were injured or worse because of it.

We all must know our limits and try to stay well on the right side of those limits. Also we need to be able to encourage others to realize their limits and help them to stay within their own limits.

I assure you that if you do ride your own ride and stay within your limits, nobody will run off and leave you, and no-

one will talk bad about you for doing it. I respect someone much more for doing this than I do those that put themselves and others in jeopardy just trying to fit in, and stay with the pack.

It is not an easy thing to do, peer pressure is one of the most powerful obstacles that we face, and the most difficult to overcome. But we must resist and we must do what we can to help our fellow riders to resist.

So the next time you hear someone say “Ride Your Own Ride”, take a good deep breath and settle your mind to do just that, ride your ride in your fashion and at your pace. We will all enjoy the ride much more if you do.

Till next time, ride safe, take care of yourself and each other.

**Dale  
Chapter  
Tx-G2  
Chapter  
Educator**

