

## **Beat the Heat**

I know that it was only a couple of weeks ago that we were doing everything we could to keep warm on our rides, but it is that time of the year when we must start to prepare for the upcoming hot weather.

Here are a few facts and tips that may come in handy in the coming months.

First and foremost prepare yourself for the ride in advance. At the start we should be well hydrated, and dressed for the ride. Before leaving, you should drink at least one quart of water (or sports drink). Once you are into the ride you should drink one quart every one to one and one half hours.

This may sound like a lot, and you might think that it will cause for unnecessary pit stops, but in the heat the body will take care of it for you. Through evaporation (sweating) and absorption into the body there will be little or no waste.

Next think of the clothing that you will wear. At this time of the season shorts and tee shirts might sound good, but by covering up your skin you will actually be able to stay cooler. Of course you wouldn't want to choose a Wool jacket for this but a lightweight cotton long sleeved shirt and long, light weight cotton pants would be a much better choice.

By covering up the skin you will slow down the evaporation of your sweat which will help to cool you. Also by covering yourself you will be reducing or eliminating the chance of sunburn. Protecting yourself from the sun is very important, there is such a thing a "Sun Poisoning" (not Sunburn). I have had instances of a couple of light cases of it, and know that it isn't something that you want to go out of your way to get. Most cases are light but they can be very painful and nasty.

Some other items that we may want to consider:

Small Ice Chest, to keep your drinks and some medications cool.

Cool collars, vests etc., there are many varieties to choose from and is mostly just a personal preference.

Sun screen. One of those things you always "wish you had thought of".

For the bike:

Make sure that the coolant is fresh and at the proper level and type, this is the backbone of the cooling system. Have the system flushed at least every two years, annually is preferred.

As most of you should know the Gold Wing has an in tank electric fuel pump. There have been numerous accounts of these pumps failing in hot weather due to the intense heat that the fuel tank is subjected to. This is more true if you happen to own one of the Wings that tends to run on the warm side. The most irritating thing about the failures, is that they do not come all at once, and will appear periodically for months or years before it finally gives up the ghost for good. (ask me how I know!)

From what I have seen, the boiling point of gasoline is around 400 deg. give or take a hundred deg. or so. (Depending on additives in the "recipe" and who you talk to) Considering that the tank is located between the rails of the bike directly over the exhaust system and behind the engine I can see where they would be subjected to that much heat. If you doubt it, next time you run your bike for an hour or so reach down and grab those exhaust tubes at the bottom of the bike. I have done this inadvertently and I can tell you that it is a learning experience.

What keeps the pump from overheating is that it sits in the gasoline. So it makes sense that the more gasoline there is, the more cooling ability it would have.

The best thing to remember about this is, if you are doing a lot of slower in town driving, keep the tank at or above the half way mark, and never let it get below  $\frac{1}{4}$  tank. (This is also true with your automobile).

Considering that the fuel pump for the GL1500 is well over \$350, and a bear to change, this would be a small thing to do to protect it.

Hopefully you will see something in this months article that will help to make the riding this summer more comfortable and a little more enjoyable. As always if you have questions or comments feel free to contact me.

Till next time, Ride Safe and Have Fun.

Dale