



## Proper Riding Gear How much is enough or too much?

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I have been asked several times what is "Proper Riding Apparel"? So this month I will get into it a little.

According to the GWRRA, the official stand on this is, Long Pants, Long Sleeved shirt, Gloves (with fingers), High top shoes or boots, DOT approved Helmet, and eye protection.

You can take this even farther and go with the full body armor jackets and pants that have become so popular in the past few years. But I was taught by a past Texas District Educator years ago, that you should always "Dress for the Ride, Not the crash". I always took this to mean to dress properly, but not to go overboard to the point that you are not able to enjoy the ride because you are so burdened by your safety equipment.

I know that this may not be a popular stand with a lot of folks, but it is a fact of life that as with anything else, given the opportunity that there are some that will keep adding to their wardrobe to the point that there is no way that they can enjoy themselves while riding.

The majority of us will never be faced with the circumstances that would re-

quire us to be dressed in the full body armor. The majority of all the incidents that we will encounter will be a slower speeds, or will be involving another vehicle. The body armor is great for cutting down the "Road Rash" that you can get, but at the slower speeds the road rash will be minimal. Also the armor will do little to nothing to lessen the Impact of hitting an automobile or the hard road surface. You have to admit that after taking a header into the side of an automobile the last thing that you will be worried about would be how much road rash you are going to end up with. Besides the road rash should be all healed up by the time you come out of the coma! (sorry about that, a bad try at some humor)

What would make a lot more sense would be to dress to what the GWRRA has suggested above, and spend a lot more time, effort, and money in getting good quality riding clothes and helmet. If you can ever get used to one a full faced helmet would definitely be the way to go. They do take some getting used to, but are well worth it in the event that you ever have to depend on it to protect

your head. Personally I like the feel of a good full faced helmet, but have a problem of it getting in the way of my "Medication". Maybe someday when I have kicked the habit, I will start wearing one of the three full faced helmets that I now own. And remember the #1 Rule, IF IT'S TOO HOT TO RIDE WITH A HELMET, IT IS TO HOT TO RIDE! Period!

I presented this to you not in an attempt to change your opinion, I only hope that you have seen something here that will make you think a little and get the old brain juices flowing. Whether or not it changes your mind on anything is really irrelevant, since it is your decision to make as to what you wear. It doesn't matter what it is that you wear as long as you are protected by good quality apparel.

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

**Dale**

