



## The Straight and Narrow

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### Familiarity

The Pros and Cons

For years there has been that “Statistic” floating around that half of all vehicle accidents happen within 5 miles of your home. (or something like that) I can see where that is a possibility, and have seen several instances where it is true.

Of the factors that enter into the equation is the fact that most of our driving is done close to home. Also a factor is the false sense of security that we get from being familiar with the roads, and peoples driving habits in and around our homes.

This fact reared it’s ugly head recently when one of our Chapter members, while finishing a 900 mile ride, had an incident within 100 yards of his own driveway. I can not and will not, dissect this incident, but will only say that from all accounts the member did exactly what he was suppose to do to try and avoid it. But sometimes all our best efforts aren’t good enough. Luckily the personal and property damage was minimal and it will be only a short time before the member is back riding with us again.



We all have a favorite local road that we like to get out and take a short ride. Just to clear our heads, or to get the adrenalin pumping just a bit. There is little that is more relaxing or refreshing than a good road that we have ridden many times and know well where we can just sit back and enjoy the ride. But we must remember that regardless of how well we know the road, there is always the chance that something or someone has added a little something that can make a peaceful, leisurely afternoon ride “Exciting” in an instant.

Road conditions are constantly changing, people and Mother Nature are constantly adding things to the ride that we are not expecting, and sometimes we are not physically or mentally at our peak. Often times while I am out on one of my mind clearing jaunts, I find myself letting my mind wonder, and have several times found that it is not the wisest of things to do.

With all this said, I will add the one thing that I have said many times before. We must remain Ever Vigilant. We must keep our minds sharp, focused on the task at hand, and the road and its condition at the front of our thoughts.

All of us are good experienced riders and can handle almost anything that we encounter while we are on the bikes, so ability is not a concern for most of us. As long as we do not get into something unexpected, where it should not be, we will be fine. Just keep your eyes, and ears open, and your mind sharp.

Till next time, Ride Safe, Take care of each other, and Remember to ALWAYS Have Fun!

Dale