



Upcoming Weather Change

*Dale and Kathy Compton
Chapter G2 Educators*



Well boys and girls, it is that time of year again, the days will start to cool off, and the chance of rain and bad weather will be creeping into a lot more weather forecasts.

So we have to do our parts to be ready both physically (and mentally), and mechanically.

This is a perfect time to check out the bike and the "accessories" that we carry aboard it to make sure that they are all in good condition and ready for the season. A good place to start is with the all important Rain Gear. Regardless of what you may have heard Real men do need rain gear. Off hand I can't remember the foolish guy that made that statement. But don't buy into it. A good set of rain gear at the right time can be worth its weight in Gold. By far the best that we have found are the Frogg Toggs. They may be a little pricey but well worth the money especially if you have to wear them for any length of time. They breathe well, are loose fitting and are not nearly as hot as the cheaper rubber suits. Though at one time they could only be had at the Rallies, I have been told that the Bass Pro Shops now carry them. Regardless of which brand you decide on, get a good set and keep them on the bike and in a bag to keep them clean and protected.

Along these lines another thing that a lot of folks never

think of is to carry a couple of extra Drying towels with you. They can come in handy when everything gets good and soaked. We old Bike Show guys have never had this problem since we almost always carry a good supply of towels and rags. You never know when a bike show will break out and you need to be prepared.

Of course tires and breaks, as always, are also very important. If you have been putting these off do it now, this will give you a chance to get those tires "scuffed" in good before you need them. You never want to get on a slick wet road with brand new tires. It can get hairy in a hurry. While they are at the tires make sure that they take a GOOD look at the brakes.

Of course there is the all important practice. Not saying to rush out on the first rainy day and get in some practice time, you can do this on dry surfaces too. Practice your entry lines on the corners, railroad tracks and other metal surfaces (which always present a challenge in the rain), slow even braking, and any of the other million hazards that we face in the rain. As always practice makes perfect.

One other thing to consider is that there are those in the group that are less experienced and prepared. So if you can spare the room throw in a couple of extra things for them. An extra rain suit (this

would be a good thing for your old rain suit after you buy the Frogg Toggs) some extra towels, gloves, scarves, etc. Many years ago I was one of "those" guys on our first road trip with a group when we went to Mena Ar. The morning of the ride home it was at or near freezing, drizzling rain and just all around miserable. If it had not been for the others in the group Kathy and I would have frozen. I think we got something from everyone in the group. That was the day that I realized that Jerry Crawford was my hero. He gave me one his rain suit to wear home, and I was nice and toasty all the way. That was also the day I realized how sneaky he and Carl D. were. When they slipped off in the wee hours of the morning, avoiding the long ride with the group and most of the bad weather.

I hope that something here will jog your memory and might help you to be more prepared for the coming months riding. Which will make it a little more enjoyable and a little safer for you all.

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

**Dale and
Kathy Compton
Chapter G2
Educators**

