



What Do You Know? A Few Facts that May Make a Difference...

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We all know how wonderful a sunny day with a cool breeze can feel as you ride back roads with gorgeous scenery. But we all have heard stories of those things going bad too, which is why Top Cats always includes a Kaution Korner article every month! We want to make safety a regular part of our thinking while on the rides.

We believe that too much Safety is connected to too much fun. A brief explanation of that statement: Being prepared or being 'too safe', is the foundation of making sure that those gorgeous back roads become long time memories of 'too much fun'!

So... to keep our thoughts clear and our focus on what counts...did you know that in 2019, per vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists were about 29 times more likely than passenger vehicle occupants to die in a motor vehicle crash and were 4 times more likely to be injured. [Motorcycle Safety | NHTSA](#)

How can we minimize those statistics? Maybe even help to improve the numbers? We KNOW what to do, because as Top Cats we have the privilege of our GRASS class and our Kaution Korners... but reviewing and passing on what we 'KNOW' is a great way to get others to KNOW too... and keep us all safe! Talk to friends who ride. Use our GRASS information to discuss the most safe options for curves, stops, riding with a passenger and communicating with other riders through hand signals. Pass on what YOU know and help to change those statistics! If you'd like to read more on the stats, go to [Facts + Statistics: Motorcycle crashes | III](#).

And.. did you know... Of the motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2019, 30% were riding without valid motorcycle licenses? [Motorcycle Safety | NHTSA](#)

In our club, having the correct license is a given, but there are many others who just want to ride... and jump on a bike without obtaining the experience, advice and paperwork that makes one a safe rider.

If you run across someone in this category, let them know how easy it is to ride 'legally' and how much better it is for them, their family and for others on the road. Tell them to contact their state motor vehicle administration to get details on what is needed, where classes can be found and then... get to it! Having your license is a good sign that you have really thought through all of the important pieces of riding!

Then... Did you know that helmets save lives? I know you did! Here are some statistics on this topic that you might find interesting, though...

- ◇ Helmets are estimated to be 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries to motorcycle riders and 41 percent for motorcycle passengers. In other words, for every 100 motorcycle riders killed in crashes while not wearing a helmet, 37 of them could have been saved had all 100 worn helmets.
- ◇ NHTSA (National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration) also found that nearly \$3.5 billion in economic costs and \$21 billion in comprehensive costs were saved in 2017 by the use of motorcycle helmets. Moreover, if all motorcyclists had worn helmets in 2017, an

additional \$1.5 billion in economic costs and \$8.9 billion in comprehensive costs could have been saved.

- ◇ Economic costs include lost productivity, medical costs, legal and court costs, emergency medical service (EMS) costs, insurance administration costs, congestion costs (including travel delay and other costs), property damage, and workplace losses. [Facts + Statistics: Motorcycle crashes](#)
[| III](#)

Finally, remember to use all the other safety gear while on the road, and mention this to those you many see in sneakers, shorts and other summer wear. Boots that support your ankles, gloves for hand protection, cotton jeans and shirts (polyester can cause burns and more severe road rash if you have them on while sliding) are all important aspects of staying safe in a tough situation.

With all of this safety knowledge, let's all keep our eyes out for opportunities to inform others too... As we talk to them about checking out our club and giving them our newly designed application, ask them if THEY KNOW... and pass on these tips! Ride Safe!