



# Practice What You Preach!

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Being a Top Cat, you have access to a great source of motorcycling knowledge. Not only through the vast riding experience of our Top Cat family, but also from our G.R.A.S.S. (Group Riding And Safety Seminar) class course which had been developed over two decades and continues to evolve as our riding world does. As we remind folks, GRASS is not meant to teach you how to ride but teach you how we ride. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to keep updating, reviewing AND... to practice what we preach.

Following these guidelines helps to keep us all safe. Therefore, along with learning new details, it's important to attend GRASS as much as you can and make sure to PRACTICE what you have learned.

The GRASS presentation has been "in process" for more than 20 years and will never be complete. The amount of experience packed into it is staggering and it is not even all to know. This is where true life details are added into the discussion as a means to develop understanding through a relationship to the topic. Topics covered vary from the simple, like who should leave first from a stop sign or signal, to serious situations like accident scene management.

All road captains (RC) and Senior Road Captains (SRC) meet once a year to review the GRASS presentation and make changes as new details are needed or methods for handling riding conditions evolve. The exchange of information is happening throughout the year. For instance, we recently discussed and agreed to providing important mentor report detail to all RCs as this information was normally only exchanged with the RC, Mentor, safety director, committee chair and president. Sharing this experience in detail will help to make our RCs more aware, leading to better planning and more effective situational responses.

New details like the mentor reports will also be reflected in the GRASS presentation as appropriate, which is why it is important to attend GRASS as often as possible and pay attention to all the details even if you have attend often. It may be redundant, but this redundancy may prevent an accident for you, your Top Cat family and guests. That make it truly worth ALL the continued effort put in by the presenters as well as your attendance and participation.

***To build on this important topic, it is imperative that we all practice what we preach.***

When preparing for a ride, take time to reflect on pre-ride topics you have learned during class, like TCLOCS or center of gravity for packing.

During your ride, reflect on topics like staggered spacing and how to know you are the right distance apart, yellow means stop, importance of breadcrumbing (don't be "that guy" not doing it) and avoiding distractions.

In case of an emergency, reflect on topics like, listening to the directions from the road caption and assisting in whatever way you can to clear the scene.

After a ride, reflect on items that could have been handled better and how to keep these in mind for the next ride. And use this information to provide constructive feedback to the RC and mentor.

There is SO MUCH MORE, I cannot write about it all AND, you cannot possibly absorb it all in one class, which is why it is so important to attend GRASS as often as possible and practice what we preach!

***As stated in our GRASS presentation, "It doesn't hurt, to ride safe"***

*Looking forward to seeing you there...  
- Gene "Lucky" Rigsby*

**Practice  
what you  
Preach  
to instill  
what you  
Teach**