



Stay Safe, Stay Ready and See You Soon!

By: Ric Case, Senior Road Captain and Your Safety Director

Let me wish all our TC members the Happiest of Holidays and most all let us stay safe. Wear masks when within six feet of any possible areas of contamination and/or other people ~ especially strangers. That way you will be ready to ride whenever the opportunity exists.

We all know about T- clocks. So...Let's use it. Yes, the weather has turned cold. But, we have had a pretty unconventional year, so who knows? When the sun is shining and the temps are worth enduring to be able to ride, having our minds ready with these general tips will give us the chance to make another 2-wheel memory.



When it is cold, here is one word of caution. The most important item from a safety perspective on your motorcycle is your tires! As the temperature drop below freezing (32 degree) your tires lose air pressure. Approximately one (1) pound of pressure for every ten (10) degrees below freezing. So, whenever you get on your motorcycle to ride ALWAYS check your pressure. An under inflated tire is very much a safety issue.

And now is the time to evaluate your tires. If your tire tread is less than 3/32nd it is also unsafe. Front and rear tires do NOT wear the same, so check them both. If you do not have a tire measurement gauge, you can use a penny. With the top of Lincoln's head push it into the thinnest part of the tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head your tires need to be replaced.

The next most important item in these colder temps is your battery. If you do not have a battery sensor/tender, then use a voltage meter. It should read about 14 volts. And if you find yourself in need of a new battery, remember that dealers will adjust their schedules according to the season. Check hours and call ahead for any pre/trip requirements.

Let's remember cold tires and cold roads make for a dangerous situation so take it easy when first starting out for the day and be safe. And if your bike has been sitting for a long period of time, add fresh gas to your tank.

With this in place, and as the riding season begins to open up in spring, and as COVID-19 hopefully begins to diminish, let's all be ready by taking time to refresh those raiding skills before we start out. Those skills include quick stops, cornering, swerving, and slow speed turns such as u-turns, Hopefully, refreshing our thoughts with these tips will make for a safer new riding season... Let's be ready to ride into the new season with our bikes, talents and minds ready to make up for the scarcity of riding this past year!

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AWAKENING THE RIDER

SLOW SPEED CONE WEAVE
SETUP: Place cones 12 feet apart in a straight line
GOAL: Weave between cones, keeping your balance and controlling your speed

FIGURE 8S
SETUP: Identify an area to make two 30-foot circles
GOAL: Hone your figure-8 riding skills

QUICK STOP STRAIGHT LINE
SETUP: Choose an open space in a parking lot, place a cone in the 1 and 2 positions, 20 feet apart. Begin braking at cone 1 and stop before cone 2
GOAL: Stop quickly and successfully before the cone at the end. Practice at 15 mph