



This is the most important Kaution Korner you will ever read...

By: Gene "Lucky" Rigsby, President and Senior Road Captain of Top Cats, Illinois

I know this title is a bit presumptuous, but I believe this is a very important topic and I feel after reading on, you will feel the same.

Every month for many many years now, the Senior Road Captains (SRCs) and sometimes, Road Captains (RCs) have written a safety article (Kaution Korner) for our club's monthly newsletter, ROAR. You're reading it now...

Topics for these articles vary widely, from specific topics like packing your bike for long road trips. To more general topics like what type of gear to wear for different seasons/conditions, routine bike maintenance, personal maintenance (keep yourself in good riding order), etc... which are all good topics. All contributing to our safety and very important for us to review often, to keep fresh and keep them in mind. I even wrote an article about this some years back highlighting all the great information available through our club, built on a wealth of experience we can all learn from and build on.

Reflecting on this again recently, it occurred to me that the same is true for our G.R.A.S.S. class topics. Moreover, considering the club as a whole needs to keep refreshed and updated and realizing that we should all make time to attend any G.R.A.S.S. class that is available and we have time for. Not just attending to meet membership requirements as a minimum. This is the mental practice and review we must have to be able to ride together as a safe riding club. Speaking as someone who is, although well seasoned, needs to keep focused on keeping focused... this is a very good thing.

All topics covered in G.R.A.S.S. are important, though some are very critical. Hand signals, riding formation, cornering, turing, pointing out hazards and accident scene management to name a few. ALL critical to safe riding for our group. And just like any other "thing" we wish to be good at, we must practice. If not directly on the road, then in the classroom.

Our G.R.A.S.S. presentation has been developed through years of team effort and experience, presented nationally and internationally and as they understand the value, it is being adopted by local riding clubs. And the more people we can get riding like we do, the better off we will all be.

All that said, we need to practice what we preach. I have literally been at a pre-ride, where the RC reviews many of these topics, especially pointing out the KEY items of note for the ride we are about to take and moments later, many of the topics seem to be forgotten. Hand signals not being passed, spacing not maintained, hazards not identified, etc... Practice...

There are so many other things to worry about on the road, that the people you are riding with should be the least of them. We are human after all, but practice makes perfect. So let's practice as often as possible. Reviewing in G.R.A.S.S. class AND out on the road as much as possible will go a long way in helping to keep these topics and methods on top of mind and keep us all safe. - Looking forward to seeing you there...

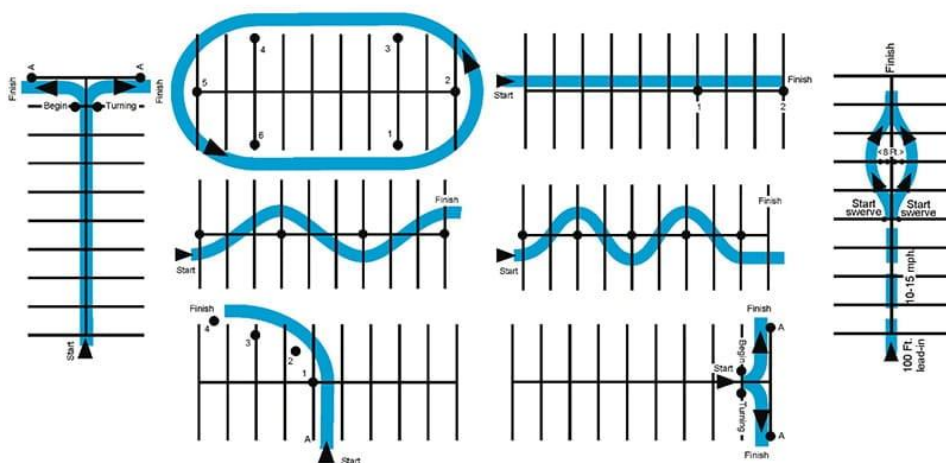


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