

The Safety Corner

WHERE YOU LOOK IS WHERE YOU GO !

By Paul A. Holko

Did you ever hit a pot hole or run off the edge of the pavement and wonder why, since you were looking straight at it?

That's the key. You were looking at a specific spot and you are somehow drawn to that spot. To hit a pot hole or rough edge is bad enough in any vehicle, but more so on a motorcycle. Many times, however, such hazards can be avoided if seen in time and once seen, you don't focus on the hazard.

Instead of continuing to look directly at the hazard, focus on another spot to the right or left above the hazard.

Try this exercise sometime when you're alone and have a nice empty parking lot. While sitting on your Gold Wing in an empty parking lot with **no traffic**, pick out a spot, a painted line or crushed paper cup, (not a lamp post), and stare at it for a few seconds. Now start riding **S-L-O-W-L-Y** toward the spot, without taking your eyes from it. Try turning away from the spot. You can't help yourself, you will find yourself steering directly towards the spot. Now, go around again and try it once more only this time as you approach the spot, break your concentration and **look up and away** from the spot; you will easily move away. If you're not brave enough to try this while riding, first do it while walking.

Ever wonder why your motorcycle "**wobbles**" when riding through a curve?

The technique below is taught in motorcycle safety courses; but not in the same words. As you approach a curve, look at the curve; adjust your entry speed; and keeping your eyes up, look through or out of the curve to your "**exit**" point. **Do not look down at the side of the road and don't stare at the curve!** By keeping your eyes up and looking through your "**exit**" point, your eyes "**pull**" you through the curve smoothly.
Think about it !

Ride safe y'all,

