

# The Safety Corner

## That Thing We Do

By Tex Cull - Member Georgia Chapter B2

As a general rule, I have a fun job. I mean what a way to spend your day, talking about motorcycles and riding, telling folks about the fun we have and the fun things we do and see as we ride. Being a salesman at Freewheeling Honda in Douglasville Georgia, I also get to know many of the local riders in the area and usually hear about what's happening locally in the motorcycle world. Riding a motorcycle is an excellent way to "*put your cares behind you*" and enjoy the world around you. But as we all know, motorcycling is inherently a dangerous proposition at the very best. And from time to time this is made ever so clear by someone we know being involved in an accident.

Normally I do not mention these accidents. Most certainly never to a customer, and only on rare occasion to my dearest of friends. It is the events that have taken place during the past 7 days, however, that have prompted me to send this message.

Since last Saturday, there have been 7 local motorcycle accidents. And, needless to say, it's the motorcyclist who always suffers the most. The count is at present: 5 dead, 3 drivers and 2 co-riders. There are also 3 riders in very serious condition. Out of the 7 accidents, **6 of them involved automobiles.** And out of that 6, the driver of the bike was **NOT** at fault. Yet in all but 3 cases, the motorcyclist paid the supreme price.

Two of these deaths could have been prevented if only they'd been wearing a proper helmet. In one case, there was not a single, solitary scratch on the driver—not one. But he was wearing a beanie helmet and died of head injuries (the helmet was not DOT approved).

In 4 of the 7 accidents, a car pulled into the path of the motorcycle, leaving the rider with little or no time to react and no place to go. In 2 of the accidents, the automobile T-boned the bike out of nowhere, it seems. In 1 of the 7 accidents an automobile failed to see the bike, then made a lane change killing the co-rider on the Wing.

Most of you know me well enough to know I am not passing this along to you to scare you or upset you in any way, as upsetting as this may be. My reason is to simply remind each and every one of us that this is a dangerous business that we love so very much. And we **ALL**, including our wonderful co-riders, must always keep our wits about us and our eyes on the other guy. We must always expect the unexpected, and always have a way out just in case it happens. **ALWAYS!**

I am proud to say that Chapter B2 is blessed in the fact that we are very safety conscious. Most of us pay close attention to every detail on our bikes, and when riding together we are always alert to any and every hazard that can affect us and our Co-Riders. And most certainly, we never leave our experience and knowledge at home when we ride. We **MUST** remember that it is now winter time. There are fewer bikes on the road, tempers are shorter at this time of the year, it gets dark earlier. And four-wheelers are paying less attention than usual. As the weather turns warmer and the sun shines longer, there will be more motorcyclists on the road, and most auto drivers will then become somewhat more aware of our presence. But even so we must keep our guard up at all times. Let this past week be a reminder to all of us . . . it is a dangerous business that we love so much. Ride safely, my friends.....

*Tex*



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