

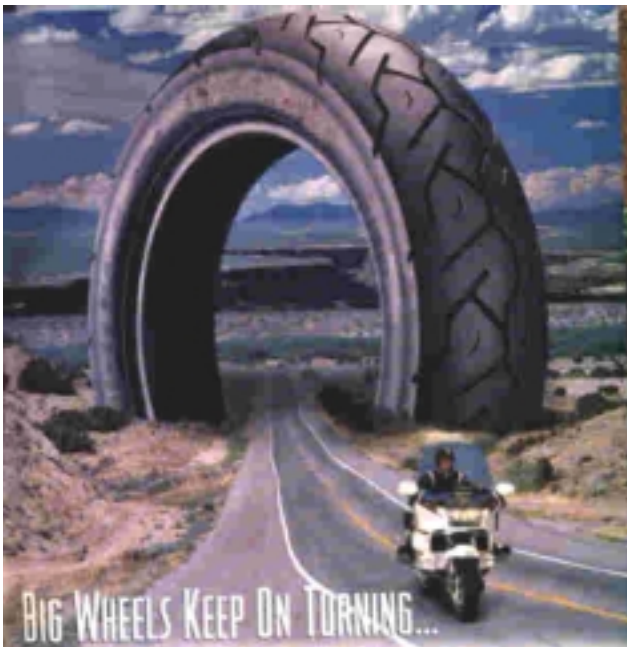
The Safety Corner

What's it Worth?

By Ed Brennan • GWRRR #78343, GWRRR National Director of Rider Education

I had a friend tell me after noticing the extreme wear on his tires, "Well, they should make it a few hundred more miles!" His comments provided good food for thought, and I want to share my musings with you, as I did with him.

A Gold Wing motorcycle tire cost about \$100, or perhaps a bit more depending where you get it. I just had my front tire changed using Dunlop's top-of-the-line tire, the Elite II, and spent \$130 for mounting and balancing. The tire itself cost \$105.00



Supposing you put 15,000 miles on a tire, then you are riding for about three-quarters of a cent per mile----- less than a penny! If you decide you're going to squeeze another 400 miles out of a tire once it shows it's ready to be changed, you're risking your life for just \$3!----less than the cost of a tank of gas! Isn't your life worth more than this?

If you decide to change your tire at 14,000 miles instead of 15,000 miles because it is getting worn and just can't channel rainwater anymore, it will cost you about \$7.50 to remain safe for those extra 1000 miles.

It's a misconception new tires pick up objects more readily than worn tires. I've talked to several bike shops and tire dealers, and all agree the greatest majority of tires with foreign object punctures, blowouts, and with other failures of tires nearing the end of their service life and maximum range of use! If you are planning a trip, and if it's worth a couple of bucks to be more sure of arriving in one piece, check your tires and replace them before you leave home.

Ride safe y'all
Ed Brennan