


Rider Education

Defensive Driving



Well, another month has come and gone, and another bike rider has died on our highways. He died on May 23 in the city of Bradenton. His name was Dr. James A. Harper. He was in his early 40's and was a good man. This I know because both my wife and I had dealings with him. How did he die? He was broadsided by a woman who turned left into him because she did not see him. This is a leading cause of motorcycle accidents, cars turning left into bikes and either broadsiding them or causing them to t-bone the car.

Cars not seeing bikers is the main reason I have a modulator on my headlights. I get cars telling me that my headlight is blinking, but that's OK. At least they see me. At night I have extra lights that I light up to be seen more easily from the rear as well as from the side.

I wear my protective gear and watch out for the "other guy" as best I can. What can you do to avoid becoming another statistic of the road?

Wear your protective gear every time.

Be ready at intersections for the driver coming up to fast from behind.

Be ready for the driver who jumps the light or is running the red one.

Keep an eye out for oncoming traffic that may turn in front of you. If there is traffic approaching and an entrance on your right, that car may just decide to go there and not even see you.

Use your extra lights if you have them. At one time only bikes and cars from Canada had headlights on in the daytime. Now most cars have some riding lights on at all times. This seems to make us invisible to cars, they just don't see us.

Sorry if I'm preaching, but this one is a tough one.

John Tenerowicz

Women are really more skillful drivers than men —

It's not easy to get a car into a garage sideways.

Groucho Marx