

Rain Riding Cont'd

The summer riding season is here and the temperature is soaring into the upper eighty's and low ninety's. So you not only have to dress to ride cool but you must remember to be prepared for those afternoon showers that usually come during the summer months.

Speaking of rain lets pick up where we left off with last month's article where we talked about traction and talk about visibility. If the rain you're riding in is overpowering the windshield wipers of oncoming cars and causing bow waves to form, stop as the only view that you will have is a very distorted one through a sheet of water. Get safely off the road and wait it out. The enjoyable rewarding experience I wrote about earlier does not apply here as the conditions are just too dangerous on a motorcycle.

The most common visibility problem is one of a fogged up face shield and/or glasses. The cause of this is simply the difference in the temperature between the outside air and the inside air of your helmet. Your body is a 98 degree heater. Riding in say 45 or 55 degree difference can mean instant fog. Usually this problem is worst when you first start out because the air is still, once you get moving the air flow will usually dissipate the fog. However that time between still and moving can be dangerous. You can combat this problem by using any of the various anti fog solutions on the market today, (be sure to treat your glasses also) If you will leave your face shield cracked slightly open until you get moving and waiting till the last moment to put on your helmet.

Once the rain has stopped it doesn't always mean that the problems have disappeared, tire spray from cars and trucks can make it seem like it's still raining as hard as ever, continue to keep your distance from other vehicles, and watch for those large puddles that offer up mini -tsunamis. You'll also want to make sure that your rain gear is bright colored and has some reflective tape on it so that you can be readily seen. Good quality rain gear will also have Velcro flaps over the zippers to keep the rain out and help keep you dry. We'll talk more on this next month.

So 'til next we meet.
Keep the Shiny Side Up and
The Rubber On the Road

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