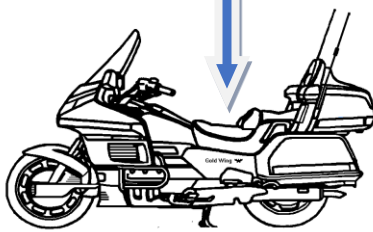


From the Director's Chair



October, 2020

The Bees Do It, and the Birds Do It (Flock Together That Is) So Why Do We Do It?

This is a reprint of a Minneapolis Star and Tribute story from on 9/7/20220

A motorcyclist crashed and died on a Brooklyn Center highway ramp in the middle of the night, and his body remained at the scene until his family found him nearly 7 hours later, according to authorities. The motorcycle was heading west on I-694 on Saturday morning when it when off the ramp to northbound Hwy 252, according to the State Patrol.

The patrol identified the motorcyclist as Jonathan Harley Jones, 37 of Blaine, Minnesota.

The Patrol got word of the crash shortly before 10 a.m. and was told that Jones was riding with “his friends, and they noticed he wasn’t behind them anymore, probably **AROUND 3 O’CLOCK** “ according to emergency radio dispatch audio.

Jones family knew where to find him “after they tracked his cell phone” dispatch audio disclosed.” Highway traffic cameras confirmed the timing of the crash as reported.

So, when we ride as a group, have you ever questioned why we have both a group leader **and** a tail person, or why everyone is instructed to keep in continuous communication with each other when stop lights or something else causes a momentary gap or interruption in the group of riders.

Communication among **all** riders is very important to the safety of every rider. When I read this story, I couldn’t believe something like this could ever happen. These novices took 5 hours to realize their friend was missing!

Bruce Carlson
Chapter Director, Minnesota Chapter N

District Educator Newsletter



Happy Halloween!! I know, it's a little early, but it's still that time of the year! As I sit here eating my Pumpkin Pie *Blizzard* Treat, I can't help but think that Fall is in the air. I noticed a couple of weeks ago that the leaves were already changing colors. That's scary and brings to mind two topics:

Temperatures

Remember to add an extra layer or two when you leave in the mornings. You can always take those layers off as the day progresses and the temperatures climb, but you can't add what you don't have. If you can, keep a couple of long sleeve shirts in the saddlebag. If you have electrics, a long sleeve shirt should be adequate. Too many layers and you may not feel the effect of the heating.

Pavement

The pavement is much cooler now and tires aren't as sticky as we've gotten used to. It's time to slow down and be smooth and steady with the throttle, clutch and brake. With the changing of the colors, watch for wet leaves on the roadways. They make for slippery surfaces. Also watch the paint stripes on the roads marking crosswalks, etc. They can be slippery with the morning dew.

Hopefully that white stuff will continue to hold off for a while yet. I'm not quite ready to give up riding this early in the year. I know they've had snow west of us and it's such a shock to the system.....I've heard that Rapid City had 100° one day and the next they had 2" of snow covering the ground. What the heck???

Till next time, ride safe and be healthy. I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Take care and be safe!

Joy Mattson
MN District Educator