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Motorcycles and the Open Road



It's that time of year - longer days, warmer weather - time to get those motorcycles out and RIDE!

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Warmer weather brings riders who have been cooped up indoors outside. Every driver - motorcycles and all other vehicles - needs to be aware and take extra cautions.

Safety Tips for Motorcycles

Wear a helmet! It is a law in NC. Even if it wasn't, wearing a helmet is your best defense against serious head injuries in case of an accident.

Other riding gear. Make sure you have the proper safety gear when riding. Any accident can cause serious bodily injury.

Become comfortable with your motorcycle. If you have a new motorcycle or if you've just been unable to ride since last summer, become familiar with its handling before you get out on the road.

Pre-check before you ride. Tires, signals, brakes, fluids, all those normal things you check on any vehicle.

Ride defensively. Yes, your motorcycle has the same rights on the road as any other motor vehicle. Remember, though, your motorcycle is smaller and can easily be lost in driver's blind spot, especially if they are distracted.

Obey the rules of the road. You have to follow the same rules as other motor vehicles!

Know the weather. Not only can being caught in a rain storm be physically miserable for you, weather adds extra dangers to be aware of.

Don't Drink and Ride! That includes drugs.

Safety Tips for Other Drivers

Watch your blind spots. Motorcycles are out and they are smaller than other vehicles. Be extra aware of those blind spots when you change lanes or turn.

Don't tailgate. You don't like it, and you're in a full size vehicle. Motorcyclists are at a greater risk because they don't have that extra room between themselves and your vehicle. And you can easily lose sight of them as they blend into a larger vehicle ahead.

Slow down behind motorcycles. Motorcycles react differently to road conditions. They maneuver quicker, faster and without as much visual notice to a driver behind them.

Use your turn signals. As with any other driver, let them know where you intend to go.

Watch headlights. Motorcycles are at a different height than most vehicles, your high beams could be right in that rider's face.

May - Military Appreciation Month!

National Military Appreciate Month falls in May each year. As its title suggests, this observance is meant to raise awareness and encourage celebration and appreciation of those who serve – are who have served – in the armed forces for their country.

Every role in each military branch is honored this month, from the foot soldier to the navy chef, from the Air Force navigator to the Army general. This month is also meant to show appreciation for the families of servicewomen and servicemen, who tirelessly stand by and support their serving relative.

Read More: www.daysoftheyear.com/days/military-appreciation-month/

Photo: The USS Manchuria. The ship Larry's father served on.



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