

Robin's Retreads

One of the questions asked frequently from newer members, is do we conduct a ride if it is raining. Since its coming upon our rainy season, I thought it would be a good idea to explain our policies in regard to this and explain certain situations.

So, if you've lived in Florida any amount of time, then I'm sure you've come to realize that if you haven't been rained on yet when riding, that there is a high probability that you will be rained on when riding in the future. For this reason, we don't let rain ruin an opportunity to ride. We treat it as nothing more than a minor inconvenience, or at times, a refreshing break from the heat. However, we do feel that some adjustments need to be made within the formation to keep everyone safe. Most importantly is the increase of spacing between bikes, and the avoidance of making any aggressive maneuvering. Some other things to keep in mind riding in the rain, is avoiding riding in the center of the Lane. This is where oil tends to collect and can be extremely slippery. Avoid driving through standing water, not only may it cause you to hydroplane, but it may also conceal a hazard such as a pothole. Another thing to avoid, is riding on painted lines and metal surfaces such as manhole covers. These surfaces become like ice when wet. Additionally, after a rain storm, you should use a little extra caution as you negotiate a curve or corner, as the rain may have washed sand and or rocks onto the roadway. We also understand that the comfort level with riding in the rain varies greatly. So, if you don't feel comfortable continuing, it's ok to leave the ride. Just give a thumbs up to the sweep road captain, so he/she knows you are ok, and just decided to leave the ride.

Lightning is another story, and something we take very seriously. When lightning is observed during a ride, the lead Road Captain may attempt to seek shelter. Prior to a ride, if lightning is observed, the ride most likely will be delayed, and possibly cancelled. Safety is our primary concern.

So, buy yourselves some good raingear, and carry it with you always. The day will come when you'll be glad you did.

Hope to see everyone out on the road!

Assistant Director, Robin Bacchus