

The Road Captain column is dedicated to a smarter, safer journey.

First Year Riders Read This

No more snow, no more ice, and no more cold! We are into prime riding-season weather. Or as I like to call it "optimal road therapy conditions." Of course this means now we have to hear everyone complain about the rain. You just can't win sometimes, just tell them to shut up and ride.

Most of us already know this danger, it's something learned as children but somewhere in between bicycles and cars we forget about this "in plain sight" danger. That is until we return to the street on two wheels. This particular article is one of the most basic lessons that are pointed at the rider that just recently returned to the streets on two wheels.



Black top, like anything with age starts to crack and the cheapest way for most municipalities to repair the crack is to fill the crack with hot tar. When the temperature rises over 70 degrees or so the tar gets slippery. In fact, if you in a hard turn and run in the tar groove you might find yourself quickly meeting the asphalt before you even know what happened. The hotter it gets the slippery the tar strip gets. So simple rule, stay out of the tar strip. Let us not forget coming to a stop and the placement of your feet. Sure enough just when you need to have a solid plant foot, you hit the tar strip and it's as slippery on your boot as it is on your tire. Learning to ride a motorcycle is just like anything else in life. The more you know the better you get. What it really comes down to is just another level of hyper perception. We all have instinctive reflexes; this is just another exercise in mind-hand-eye.

Thank you riders for taking the time to read this. Most of you already knew this danger, but maybe someone just read this and didn't know... Otherwise "drive like a dumb ass, die like a dumb ass."

By DuWayne Porto

Any thoughts for DuWayne give him a shout at 68swagon@gmail.com

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You love that old bike. It was a part of your life for years. The saddle time is etched in lines on your face and the patina on your bike, as well as the great memories of runs and rides never to be forgotten. But you're not done yet, the road still beckons and soon it will be time to light it up for another season. Now is the time to do those repairs and be ready when the weathers good.

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