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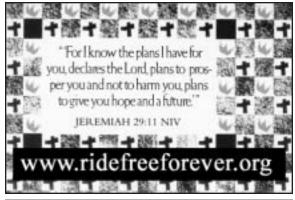
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May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

As a dedicated motorcyclists' rights advocate I could write volumes about the negative media attention that we have been receiving lately, I will defer those comments to a future column. As the snow melts and we roll our scoots out the press always finds a way to put a negative spin on motorcycling when they could do us all a favor by putting the word out about awareness. Even though Wisconsin had the third least fatalities per ten thousand riders in the U.S. last year,

we could significantly reduce that number by raising awareness in our state. Over 1/3 of our total motorcycle fatalities were caused by right of way violations.

ABATE of WI proudly supports Governor Jim Doyle's decision to designate May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. In his proclamation, the Governor states, "motorcyclists have the right by law to safe enjoyment of their vehicles, including the full and equal use of



the roadway without encroachment by other vehicles whether it be on city streets or rural and urban highways." National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics conclude that over two thirds of automobile/bike crashes are the fault of the automobile drivers' not yielding right of way to motorcyclists'. Every year the number of motorcycles on the road increases with over 250,000 registered motorcycles in Wisconsin. With proper education and awareness, right of way violations will be reduced, thus making Wisconsin roads safer for all.

ABATE of WI has compiled a list of tips for both motorists and motorcyclists to increase safety on Wisconsin roadwavs.

For motorcycle riders:

Ride so you are seen. You and your motorcycle are easily hidden in traffic, in motorists' blind spots or against a bright sky. Use lane positioning to be seen.

Signal your intentions. Signal before changing lanes. Avoid weaving between lanes. Flash your brake light when you are slowing down before stopping.

Sharpen your riding skills. Know your abilities and ride within your limits. Earn and maintain your motorcycle license. An Experienced Rider Course (ERC) can upgrade your skills and increase your riding enjoyment.

Be courteous and respectful. Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go along way in reducing crashes.

For motorists:

Learn to expect motorcycles in traffic. Watch out at intersections and when making left turns. Motorcycles are everywhere, look twice and save a life.

Respect the motorcyclist. Motorcycles are vehicles with the same privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel.

Allow plenty of space. Traffic, wind, weather, and road conditions affect the motorcyclist differently. Leave more following distance, allowing room for the motorcyclist to maneuver and enough time for you to react.





Be courteous and respectful. Being courteous, nonaggressive and cooperative can go a long way in reducing crashes.

Ride Safe, Ride Free...



