

# Safety Thoughts While on the Road

---

- Equip yourself with flashing white front and red rear lights. Both should be on at all times both day and night. You may never know what they prevented because it didn't happen. Most lights are very directional, insure they are rigidly positioned horizontally, as well as pointed directly front and rear. I've seen many bag mounted rear lights drooping downward and therefore useless. Mount it on the frame! Test batteries frequently as you may have left them on after your last day ride. These lights are really important when sunlight disappears such as early evening "surprise" overcast and you're under trees. Or anytime you are caught in a rain storm. It happens!
- I believe a rear view mirror can be life saving. An eye glass mounted mirror is superior to any handle bar curved mirror. It's always in your sightline; the flat mirror lets you see traffic up close and personal. The mirror does not cause a blind spot because your right eye sees all. Really useful when you see a Car Up. You can instantly check for a Car Back yet still see where you are steering. You can scan behind by turning your head. Such as, where did that rider close behind me go? Oh! He's overlapping my right rear or YIKES, he's passing me on the right. Nice to know such things.
- Gloves: With sweaty hands on a hot day your gloves provide you a firm grip. Without gloves the handlebars get slippery and you'll have to grip hard, no fun.
- Hand asleep? Shift your grip frequently, top of bar, on the drops. Wake your hand up by making it "work" by pushing down on your thigh, on the downstroke of course!

*More to Come Next Month,  
John McKee*