

Blurb for the June Spokin Word,

Being too casual can cause you big problems. On a ride always carry your car key with you.

Recently while leading a group ride, we had a rider experiencing chest pains, he was riding too hard he said. As the rescue squad readied him for transport to the hospital, I asked him if I could take his car keys and deliver them to the bike shop at the ride's start. At the bike shop, the rider's friends could later take care of his car. He said he came to the ride alone and did not know any of the other riders. His final decision was to leave the car unlocked where it was parked with the keys hidden in it. I got his name, a description of car and where it was parked. To me he seemed of pretty clear head and not confused and thought he made his decision based on what he could later do. At that point the rescue squad vehicle departed for the local hospital; however, I did not know which one. After the ride, I found the keys in the unlocked car where indicated. The keys were a large jumble and too many to carry comfortably on the ride. I passed on to the shop owner the rider's name, car info and location and advised him to leave car where it was.

The big questions became was the rider soon discharged from hospital or admitted? If he was admitted did he have family or friends to get the car or have the presence of mind to call the shop check up on it? Things would have been much simpler if he would have used a spare key to lock and carry with him while riding.

Do this for 'Just in Case'. Make a duplicate car key if it is attached to a jumble of keys, and put it in a pint size heavy duty ZIPLOC bag. Additional items to carry in the bag would include zerox copies of your drivers' license, military ID, medical card. Also a typed card with family members contact information, Dr's telephone numbers, known allergies, and blood type along with a description of my auto [parked at the ride's start point] are helpful to others should the need arise. And, of course, a little cash or VISA card is never a bad thing to have with you on a ride. The reason for ZIPLOC: Sweat, rain or falling into a deep ditch full of water can ruin your info. Oh, and do the same for your cell phone as well.