

## GWRRRA-WAD General Meeting

### Summary of Rider Education Comments

Presented on November 9, 2014

Professional Racing such as the Moto GP represents the development of motorcycle technology. We can be grateful for that technology as it filters down to the production bikes we ride today.

As in racing, the equipment we ride and our own abilities allows us to corner at incredible speeds. Unlike the race track though, we do not have the ability on the open road to know if there is any problems at the end of the corner or curve, especially in a blind curve situation. Problems ahead can include stopped traffic, debris in the road, animals blocking our path, potholes, or any number of other issues. It is important to be traveling at a speed which allows enough time to recognize a problem, react to the problem, and take the appropriate action up to and including stopping the bike.

Studies indicate that under ideal conditions it takes at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second to react to a situation. Additionally, it takes another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second or more depending on speed to bring the bike to a stop. While modern bikes can be stopped in an amazingly short distance, as a minimum it will take a couple of seconds to recognize a serious road condition, react to it, and stop the bike.

To develop a sense for negotiating curves, especially blind curves, at a safe speed it is suggested a rider practice in his or her riding by picking a spot on the curve at the farthest point he or she can see and measure the time by counting mentally (one thousand one, one thousand two) to see how long it takes to reach that spot. For this example if a rider reaches the spot they have picked in less than two seconds, they may want to slow down. If a rider reaches the spot in the two seconds they think they will need to stop, they are probably traveling at about the right speed, and if it takes longer than the two seconds, they could consider picking up the pace if they are comfortable with that.

By engaging in this exercise over time the rider's cornering should become more consistent, their lines of travel much more clean, and their riding experience more enjoyable.

Ride Safe,



Craig