

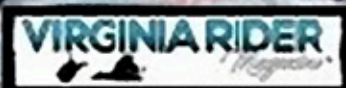
# VIRGINIA RIDER

*Serving the Riders of Virginia & West Virginia*

*Magazine*™

## 2020 A Year Like No Other

FREE



2020 WRAP UP

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## from the editor's desk

Happy New Year friends!

Things have been pretty crazy since the pandemic began last year & we're all still trying to find some normalcy in our days so we hope that this edition of Virginia Rider finds you in good health & staying safe. COVID-19 continues to affect our lives every day in one way or another. We've all been through so many changes since March 2020 & we long for the return of life without masks & not having to be socially distant from each other.

Our top priority is your health and safety. We encourage everyone to please do your part in helping to fight the spread of the coronavirus by wearing masks & following the guidance of the CDC, health officials & local government for events & your everyday lives. Even though the vaccines have hit the ground, we will still have to stay vigilant for months to come....wearing masks, washing your hands & social distancing. Masks DO work but only if you wear them.

We are here to support the needs of our communities in any way that we can so if there's anything that we can do to help you, please let us know. Many rider-friendly businesses are still being adversely affected by the pandemic. These businesses have been there for us as sponsors, contributors, stops & hosts for events & poker runs. Let's support them as much as possible to help them through this challenging time & beyond.

It's very unfortunate that most of the motorcycle events for 2020 had to be cancelled or postponed due to the virus. They are all hoping to be back on track for 2021. Many events have been rescheduled for this year as others are holding off for a bit to choose their dates due to COVID. We will do our best to keep you up to date on all of the latest info on upcoming events as we roll through the new year. Check our Facebook page for the latest event updates.

Please stay connected with us online through our website - [virginiarider.com](http://virginiarider.com) or on our Facebook and/or Instagram at [@virginiaridermagazine](https://www.instagram.com/virginiaridermagazine). Feel free to email us anytime at [virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com) or give us a call at (757) 822-4700 – we would love to hear from you!

We've got an amazing year ahead full of great places to ride & awesome destinations! We look forward to riding together with you again real soon, so hang on to your boot straps... 2021 has just begun!

Happy New Year Virginia riders!

Wishing you health and happiness in all your days through this crazy time,

*Kelly*

## IN THIS ISSUE



Are your mirrors, lights, brakes, tires and exhaust up to snuff for riding season? You'll find out soon enough when you plunk down your \$12 for the state inspection. Jennifer takes us through it in this month's **MAKING TRAX**.

### 2020 A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

We recap the year that was in **2020 - A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER**. Whether you've been around for decades or just a few years, it's likely that you've never experienced anything like this. We're taking a look at 2020 and putting it in the rearview mirror.



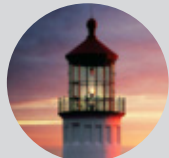
In **RUFF RIDERS**, Empty nester Kimberly Young introduces us to Ryder, an 11 month old Havanese who's been riding with her owners since she was nine weeks old. Start 'em young, we always say!



It seemed a fitting Thanksgiving for Marc and Rose to venture out to the Blue Ridge Tunnel, which looks like something hand-carved out of a mountain using Lord Of The Rings dwarf axes. No motorcycles in here, just hikers, but definitely a **GREAT PLACE TO RIDE**.



It's a brand new year for **SHOTZ**, in which we feature your pics of rides, bikes, friends and anything else relating to bikes that you'd like to share with us. We think it will be a year with lots of pictures.



The **LIGHTHOUSE** brings us the story of a man who learned not to bring his troubles home by "hanging" them on a trouble tree. It may be a symbolic gesture, but all of us need to find a way to separate the stress and bad things and leave them behind.

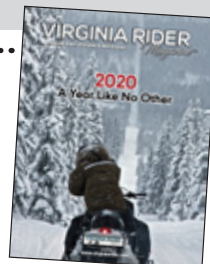


In this month's **BIKE SAVERS**, John Peterson discovers the upside of social distancing by catching up with a couple of projects. A self-described "privacy-oriented" guy, John finds that being in the garage rather than on the street is where he prefers to be.

Kelly Collins - Owner/Editor  
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ON OUR COVER:  
We made it to the top of the 2020 hill. Now it's time to roll downhill into 2021. Here's hoping it's a much better year!



# 2020 A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Here we are finally in 2021 celebrating the new year. As we take a look back at last year in review, it might suggest that the moments are behind us. What 2020 has shown is the events that defined the year will last a lifetime. Here is a snapshot.

### January

The year kicks off with some of the worst wildfires in Australia's history, destroying over 12 million acres of land. The World Health Organization announces the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, and the first COVID-19 case is confirmed in the U.S. COVID-19 will go on to kill over 1.6 million people worldwide by year's end. The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump begins. Basketball icon Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others die in a tragic helicopter accident. A Ukraine-bound plane crashes shortly after taking off from Tehran airport; Iran's government later admits it mistakenly shot the plane down. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announce their intention to step down from the royal family.

### February

The United Kingdom finally exits the European Union in what has been coined Brexit. The Kansas City Chiefs defeat the San Francisco 49ers in a stunning Super Bowl comeback. Parasite becomes the first non-English-language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars. The Senate votes to acquit President Trump at his impeachment trial. Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man, is fatally shot after being pursued by three white civilians in Glynn County, Ga., and solidarity events are held across the nation. Harvey Weinstein is convicted on multiple charges in a high-profile court case. Joe Biden wins the South Carolina primary, notching his first win in a run that will eventually gain him the Democratic presidential nomination.

### March

The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic and lockdown begins in countries around the world, triggering a global economic reaction that causes the worst single-day point drop for the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The highly anticipated Tokyo Summer Olympics are canceled. Racial injustice remains at the forefront of people's minds as Breonna Taylor is killed by police during a botched raid in Louisville, Ky. The first COVID-19 relief bill is passed in the U.S., helping millions of people and businesses. U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson tests positive for COVID-19. Tom Brady signs with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after a legendary run with the New England Patriots. Tiger King hits Netflix and becomes a quarantine smash. Yahoo celebrates 25 years.

### April

Nova Scotia suffers one of the deadliest mass shootings in Canada's history. Much of the U.S. is in lockdown mode, with New York hit the hardest by cases of COVID-19. The pandemic has a disproportionate effect on diverse communities, with Black people, Asians and Latinos affected the most. It continues to hit all economic sectors, with unemployment numbers at 14.7 percent in the U.S., the highest rate and the largest month-over-month increase since 1948, when data was first collected. Yahoo Life, a new vertical focused on all things mental health and wellness, launches. Verizon Media donates \$10 million in advertising inventory to help mental health organizations. The highly anticipated mobile streaming service Quibi launches, only to shut down six months later.

### May

George Floyd is killed after a police officer kneels on his neck for an extended period, setting off worldwide protests and a racial justice reckoning. Political protests calling for democratic leadership and economic reform begin in Belarus, and separate protests erupt in Hong Kong after China votes to impose strict national security legislation. Costa Rica is the first Central American country to legalize same-sex marriage. Cyclone Amphan hits India, causing significant damage and becoming one of the costliest cyclones recorded in the North Indian Ocean. "Murder hornets" become a new fascination as they reach North America for the first time.

### June

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declares the country "COVID-free." China's economy bounces back into growth following a record Q1 slump. Global protests in the wake of George Floyd's killing escalate as citizens call for police reform and justice. Verizon announces a \$10 million commitment to organizations focused on social and racial equality. The Supreme Court rules against the Trump administration's attempt to rescind the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program in a 5-4 decision. India wins a two-year seat on the United Nations Security Council.

### July

The Trump administration considers banning the social media app TikTok, setting off a debate on whether the app poses a security threat to the U.S. Allegations of a toxic workplace emerge at The Ellen DeGeneres Show. Glee actress Naya Rivera drowns in a California lake. Beloved TV host Regis Philbin dies. The NBA resumes its season in a "bubble" at Disney World, and Formula 1 announces it will resume racing, beginning with the Rolex Grosser

*continued next page*



Preis von Österreich. The first four weeks of the Indian Premier League experience a sizable surge in viewership, even surpassing the viewership of the English Premier League.

August

Joe Biden announces Sen. Kamala Harris of California as his VP running mate, making her the first woman of color on a major-party ticket. California wildfires rage, fueled by dry heat and extreme temperatures, showcasing the volatility of climate change. Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, is left partly paralyzed after police shoot him seven times in the back in front of his three children. A huge explosion of ammonium nitrate stored at a dock in Beirut kills over 200 people. The sudden death of Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman shocks Hollywood and fans alike.

September

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies at the age of 87 from complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer, setting off a major political battle over her replacement. Tributes to RBG, as she was fondly called, pour in from around the world to honor the feminist icon. President Trump nominates Amy Coney Barrett as RBG’s replacement. Biden and Trump have their first debate, which highlights bitter exchanges and name calling and sets off a meme titled “Will you shut up, man?” in reference to a remark from Biden. Naomi Osaka wins her second U.S. Open title.

October

The Senate confirms Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. President Trump and the first lady test positive for COVID-19, in addition to over a dozen others associated with the administration. Two legends in film and music pass away: Sean Connery and Eddie Van Halen. The NBA sets a successful example for a sports comeback as the season ends with zero positive COVID-19 results for players within the Orlando bubble. LeBron James and the L.A. Lakers go on to defeat the Miami Heat to win the NBA championship.. LeBron James and the LA Lakers go on to defeat the Miami Heat to win the NBA Championship.

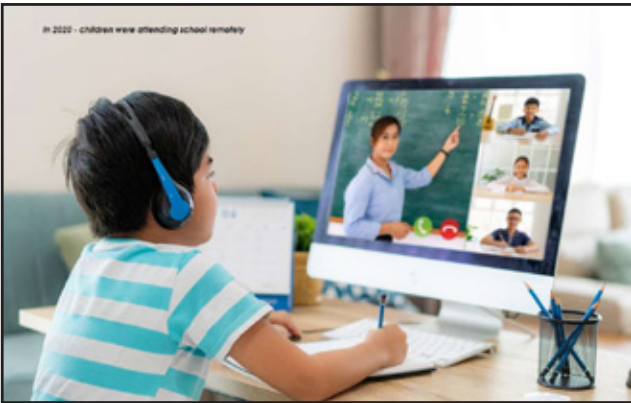
November

With much anticipation, Election Day arrives and more Americans vote — including by mail — than in any other election in U.S. history. Joe Biden is declared president-elect, winning both the electoral and popular vote. The U.S. formally exits the Paris Agreement. Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek dies after battling pancreatic cancer. India resumes international cricket in Australia for the first time since March.

December

The first COVID-19 vaccines are administered in the U.K., followed by the U.S. The rollout of the vaccine creates a sense of optimism across the globe as cases continue to surge across the U.S. The Electoral College casts its votes and officially affirms Joe Biden’s victory.

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year that has changed all of our lives in one way or another. Citizens and communities across the world exhibiting courage, humility and sacrifice has made many of is very optimistic. Resilience is what defined 2020, but more importantly, it will be what takes us forward.



# KNOW WHERE TO GO

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Virginia Rider’s RIDER FRIENDLY DIRECTORY is the best online resource for information on businesses & destinations for riders who enjoy life on 2, 3 or 4 wheels.

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- Great Places to Ride (Motorcycle Roads, Tourism)
- Racing & Events
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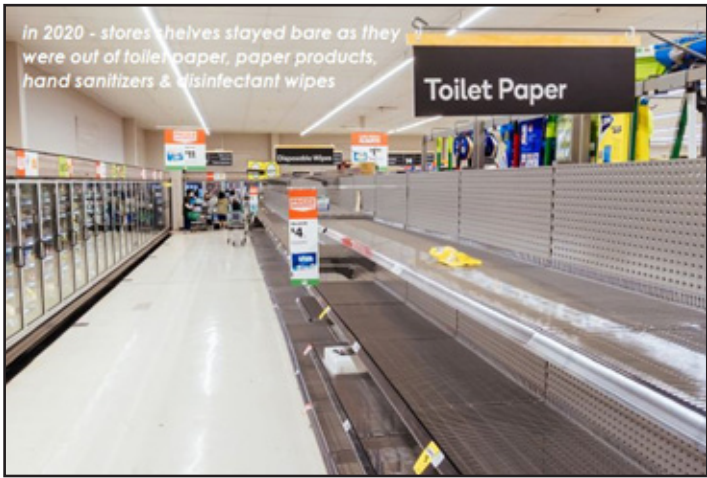
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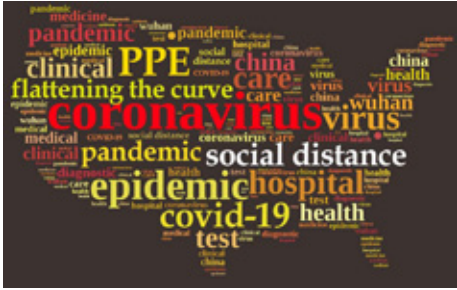
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# SPEAKING A different LANGUAGE



Merriam-Webster has named 'pandemic' as 'Word of the Year' for 2020. Pandemic is defined as: an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area (such as multiple countries or continents) and typically affects a significant proportion of the population. On March 11th, the World Health Organization officially declared "that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic," and this is the day that pandemic saw the single largest spike in dictionary traffic in 2020, showing an increase of 115,806% over lookups on that day in 2019 and has remained high staying near the top of their word list for the past ten months—even as searches for other related terms, such as coronavirus and COVID-19, have waned. In addition to the word 'pandemic', the global coronavirus quickly transformed our language this year to include many words and phrases that were not part of our daily vocabulary, such as "social distancing" and "quarantine." The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our daily lives in more ways than we could have ever thought. Take for instance, the words that have been added to our vocabulary that we now use every day. Terms that were once foreign to us or hardly used, are now part of an essential set that have helped guide us through this global crisis. Our new COVID-related glossaries have forced us to learn and get crash courses in any number of unanticipated fields—from biology and immunology to statistical rhetoric, government operations, and civics. Some of the widely used words that have become part of our daily language:

**Medical terms**  
At the beginning of March, as the world began to learn more about the virus, we quickly had to familiarize ourselves with a range of words, including the actual term "COVID-19." If you remember back to when this all started, we were all trying to wrap our heads around the actual name of this virus. Most people were calling it the coronavirus at first, and

then later had to learn the technical term and what it stood for. It was a lot of information at once. As the pandemic progressed, words and terms like "isolation," "community spread," "transmission," "incubation period," "fatality rate," "asymptomatic," "ventilator," and "quarantine" were used frequently when referring to the virus. Before the pandemic hit, a word like quarantine seemed like something out of a sci-fi or horror movie. That's a word you're prepared to hear in a film like Contagion, but certainly not in our real-life social world. As the pandemic progressed, however, it began to lose its connotations of fear as more people—our neighbors and family members among them—have had to go into quarantine. It's just become part of living life.

**Social and governmental terms**  
While we navigated through this new pandemic world, other social and policy terms were being thrown at us as well. For instance, as COVID-19 rapidly spread, the term "social distance" was introduced to society to help stop the spread. Before March, most people—outside of crisis-management or medical circles—had probably never heard that term spoken out loud or even seen it in print. Now, we hear and see it constantly in our daily lives. Other phrases like "shutdown order," "state of emergency," "contact tracing," "essential businesses," "flattening the curve," as well as acronyms like "PPE" or "personal protective equipment" also emerged into our list of vocabulary that helped us understand the complexity of the virus. We all know the definition of PPE now and we all own some of it as well. Before the pandemic, the average person wouldn't have known what an N95 mask was, versus a surgical mask, versus a cloth mask—but now we use these items everywhere we go and reference them in our most mundane daily conversations. As the United States went into shutdown in early March, residents also began to continually get lessons in civics while tuning into the White House Daily Coronavirus Taskforce press briefings. Many had to quickly learn about the CARES Act and how it will affect them personally. We also learned that the United States had a Strategic National Stockpile (critical medical supplies). Most Americans had no idea that our government kept such a stockpile.

**Buzz words**  
Although many of the words we are now using are not new, others have been created as a by-product of the pandemic. For instance, the need

to continue staying connected virtually has created terms such as "zooming" (using the videoconferencing platform) or "zoombombing" (unwanted, disruptive intrusion that is generally caused by internet trolls and hackers crashing a virtual meeting held on Zoom). The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has even made the extraordinary decision to include COVID-19-related abbreviations, such as WFH (work from home). People have also had fun with words to create other meanings. Examples include "quaranteam," which refers to a bubble of people who create their own tight-knit social circle, and "quarantini," which is any cocktail you mix at home while in lockdown or quarantining. Just to be able to survive in this new complex world, you always have to be updating your intellectual data bank. You always have to be willing to take on these new words. Because if you don't understand them, then you could be part of a larger problem. Truth and knowledge are largely matters of trafficking and transmitting through language. If knowledge is power, as the saying goes, then language is power. And being aware of important and current language shifts can empower you to create positive change. We encourage everyone to please keep wearing your masks and stay up to date with all of the latest developments on the pandemic by visiting the Center for Disease Control's website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Hang in there just a little bit longer friends... the sacrifices that we're making now will help ensure that our loved ones and friends can gather with us again for celebrations hopefully sometime later this year. Take care of yourselves and others too. We'll get through this together.

Resources:  
<https://news.miami.edu/stories/2020/09/pandemic-popularizes-a-plethora-of-words-phrases.html>  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/14/health/vaccine-what-not-to-do-covid-19/index.html>





# GREAT PLACES TO RIDE

with Marc Ritchie and Rose Grant

## Blue Ridge Tunnel

I hadn't even gotten both eyes quite open, walking into the kitchen that morning, when Rose asked me if I'd ever heard of the Blue Ridge Tunnel. It was as "eye opening" of a question as I'd ever heard. No longer drowsy, I was instantly awake. The wheels were turning. Not only did she eliminate the work of finding a great place to ride, so I wouldn't have to that morning, she found someplace new (to us), and we were both eager to get underway.

Departing this Thanksgiving Day, however, would be somewhat of a hiccup, as our cybernated devices struggled to find mutual silence between dings and replies. It would set the tone for the day, providing an exercise in patience, that would be required, with Tourons, like us, mingling about away from home. Even getting out of the gate, we soon caught an SUV trailering an ATV, in front of a P. U. T. (pickup truck), on our new GWV, heading up the mountain. The resulting, induced coma of leanless corners, prompted me to ask Rose, "We are on a bike right?"

The riding had come easy. Learning a new machine and shaking off the rust wasn't much of a curve for this old biker. It was the writing I was concerned about. With just a few paragraphs here and there on posts without anything really to write at length about, I wondered what words this Covid quarantined mind would tickle out on the keyboard after being idle for so long, in a world so full of heaviness and tragedy. Finally, in the forest, thoughts and ideas, as if tuned into a wireless brain network, began to download, like so many rides before. Maybe writing too could be just like riding a bike. We found the highway gear, and the first of many deep breaths, and leg squeezes, occurred. A field covered with rolls of hay bales, reminded me of when I used to fly Cessnas and Pipers, and I would often wonder if they were big enough to land on, if the engine failed. It's funny how I still imagine open spaces as potential air strips. Maybe it's the mountains, and riding in similar altitudes, or the result of my instructor constantly pulling the throttle unexpectedly, and asking me where I'd choose to land. Perhaps it's a little of both.

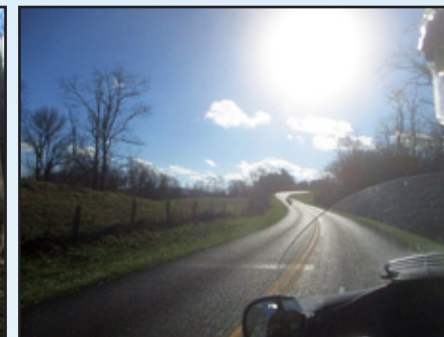
Everyone was behaving, even me. The cages were all nicely spaced, including the one behind us. In the interest of time, since there would be a hike involved, we chose the dreaded highway. It turned out to be great fun testing Windy for the first time on the forever apex'd clover leaf on-ramp to 81. A Bitsumishi sports car had passed us going into the hole shot, while a B'mer settled in behind. We were no match for Lewis Hamilton, but Team Honda and her new Bridgestones, pinned against the inner stripe, soon pulled away from our pursuant. Having followed many a minivan through this segment, it was refreshing, to say the least, triumphantly arriving at highway speed, even second on the podium.

We shouldn't have been surprised that the parking lot to the tunnel was full. We just didn't think it would be that full. Overflow cars were parked on the narrow side street creating a log jam for exiting motorists, and a no-go for anyone, including us, to get in. Once cleared, we found a suitable and strategic, future motorcycle only parking area (hint) near the



entrance to the trail. It was now 68 degrees and sunny. We'd have to stow the jackets, but wear our motorcycle pants, which Windy kindly obliged, along with our helmets.

It was about a mile walk to the tunnel. Once inside, it cooled off nicely. Unlike the Paw Paw Tunnel on the C&O Canal, this one seemed much taller, and not as claustrophobic. The path was also wider, allowing hikers plenty of room in both directions. We headed towards this white dot that didn't appear to get any bigger until the very end another mile later. Along the way, there were drops of water from the ceiling every so often, and areas where it had formed into a shower beside the walkway. The walls were laden with the imprints from boring holes drilled to plant the charges. I tried not to think about how much of Rockfish Gap was above us and how much it weighed. It was a good experience and the exercise didn't hurt either. All in all, it was about four miles and an hour and a half of hand holding, and I felt a little smarter at the end of the day, learning about a place I'd never been to. For more info, please visit [www.nelsoncounty.com/blue-ridge-tunnel](http://www.nelsoncounty.com/blue-ridge-tunnel). The only thing I would recommend, is take care of any plumbing needs before arriving. The one and only outdoor day head, was almost as bad as the one in Jackass 3D. Our adventure continued through Red, Wine and Brew ter-



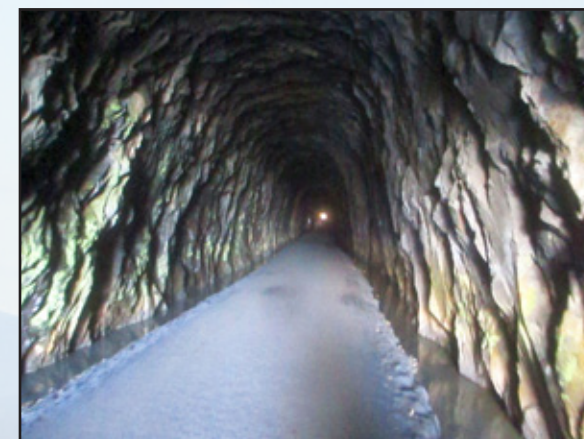
ritory where we turned at Devil's Backbone and hopped on the BRP. This was the first time we had taken Windy to Old Blue, which she took to like a fish to water. The visibility was great at the overlooks, but poor, heading into the low sun angle amidst the bare trees, making some turns, a test for vertigo. Rush's "The Main Monkey Business" was playing over the audio system as we approached the Skylark Nature Preserve and Lodge. My eyes began to well up, not just because of the song, and remembering one of my heroes passing earlier this year, but experiencing it with this iconic area of the parkway, that had been so unforeseeable for so long, becoming a reality, in vivid color, and fluid motion, once again.

We stopped at the Buena Vista Overlook for a break. A cyclist was setting up his bike next to his car parked at the end. We had just passed a couple of his buddies a few miles back. While he was getting ready, we got a few pics with the pod of tri, and stared out at the magnificent view watching a hawk survey its territory. He hopped on his bike and shouted over to us, "Happy Thanksgiving!" It was the icing on the delicious cake this ride would turn out to be. Phew! I almost said moist:)

Before this year, I'd put on my Bob Costas hat and try and write something profound, not just about the places we'd ridden to, but how riding itself enhances and gives meaning to our lives. After everything we've all been through this year, there's very little I could say regarding these things



Earlier, Rose and I had stopped at the overlook on Afton Mountain near Rockfish Gap, which wasn't that busy, and found a White's Wayside (where Rose works) sticker on the guardrail.



that would have any real meaning, let alone, inspire. At this point, all I can do, is try and make the world a little brighter, and less heavy, and offer some hope. Hope we can and will spend time together again, hand in hand with those we love, away from our digital leashes and collars, doing the things we enjoy in the real world. Hope we can and will find tears of joy amidst ones of sorrow. Hope we can once again muster and sustain the will to share life's road with all of her travelers, instead of fighting to have it all for ourselves. And lastly, hope that there will always be a light at the end of our tunnels. These were the experiences I was fortunate and thankful for this day. If only, everyday were Thanksgiving, and on a motorcycle.

Cheers! Stay safe and thanks for reading!

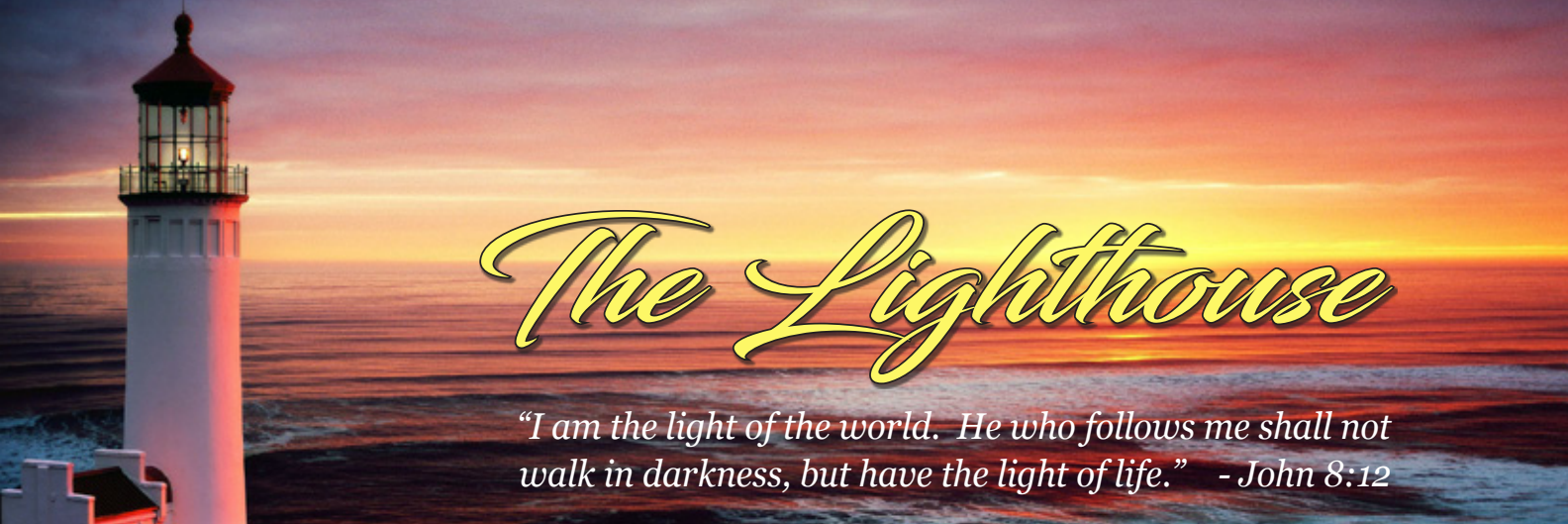




Email your "SHOTZ" to [virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com)







# The Lighthouse

"I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." - John 8:12

## THE TROUBLE TREE



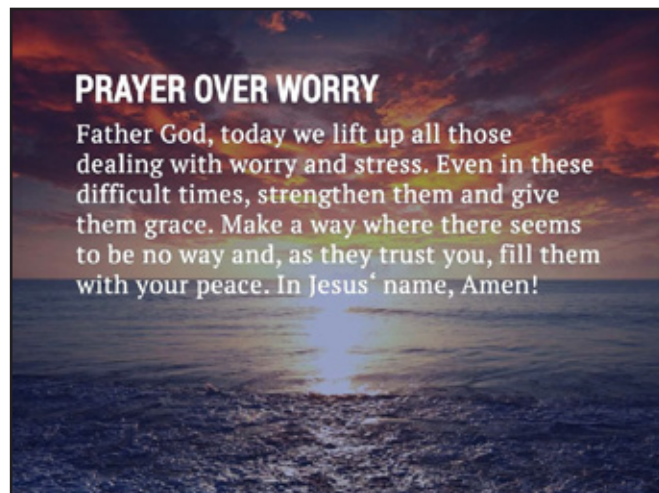
For many of us, at the end of a long, stressful day of duties, responsibilities and hard work it can be really hard to disconnect from your job so that we don't take it into our homes with us at night. The last thing that the people we share our lives with want to deal with is our stress from the day – they are

excited to spend time with us, having fun and enjoying one another...they deserve a happy "us". So how do we suddenly switch modes and not take it all home with us when work is over? The following is a great short story of how one man leaves it all behind.....

The carpenter who was hired to help a man restore an old farmhouse had just finished his first day on the job and everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong. First of all, on his way to work he had a flat tire that cost him an hour's worth of pay, then his electric saw broke, and after work his old pickup truck refused to start.

His new boss volunteered to give him a lift home and the whole way to his house the carpenter sat in stone silence as he stared out his window. Yet on arriving, he invited his boss in for a few minutes to meet his family. As they walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When he opened the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was one big smile as he hugged his two small children and kissed his wife.

Afterwards, the man walked his boss to his car to say thank you. Now on their way out of the house, the boss' curiosity got the best of him so he had to ask the man about the tree on the front porch. He said, I noticed when you came up on the porch before going into your house you stopped and touched the tree, why? "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't stop from having troubles out on the job, but one thing's



for sure – my troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, they aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

~~~~~

"Leave the worries to God. Casting all your cares on Him; for He cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:7



## Social Distancing and You - The Upside



Since I'm already a pretty privacy-oriented guy, all this Covid19 'stuff' (for lack of a better word) going on around the world and here at home has been, for me, a chance to stay off the streets and in the garage, which frankly is where I want to be anyway. I read somewhere that some wag said 'social distancing is nothing new, I've been practicing it for years,' and I would have to agree with that statement.

And despite being a guy who really likes working, mainly to keep up with my other hobbies of eating and living indoors, this worldwide pandemic is creating a perfect storm for me – I've always enjoyed my own space, so using an abundance of caution and staying away from crowds is fine with me. But old bikes need parts, and those parts need money; and with business shut-downs, riots, Covid-19 stalking the land, social distancing, wearing a mask when you're out and about and social restrictions limiting regular commerce a bit, I'm having to take the good with the bad.

As of this writing, the Virginias and the United States as a whole are coming to grips with the New Normal - people are wearing rubber gloves and facemasks, practicing social distancing and being advised to avoid groups of ten or more and encountering limited access to places where you used to go freely, such as parts stores and other places...this is the Bad.

But the Good in this situation, if you can call it that, and presuming you have your health, social distancing, enough toilet paper and, oh, I don't know...enough rum and cat food to make it through – is you may have enough time to turn some attention to whatever needs to be done to whatever project is languishing in your chosen workspace. I mean, really - If Not Now, WHEN?? Don't get me wrong, in these weirdly trying times I'm not saying spending money on something you Want versus something you Need is a good idea, but you can do a lot with what you have to help you take your mind off of the madness slowly oozing across the country while you practice your self-imposed isolation. Hit the garage, pick your favorite CD and get that job done that you've been promising to do – like this:



This is just one of the problems I found when I opened up my CA95 project...Yikes!!

This little number here I met with a mix of horror and anticipation, because at the time I thought there was No Way this was coming back; but with a big dose of perseverance, care, patience, and time, it did. Even the original rotor and stator cleaned up well –and worked! Check this out – this is what I found when I opened the engine.



Looks like you could put a lunar lander down on that one!

This operation ultimately took a cold chisel and a LOT of penetrant, heat, muscle and time to finally get to budge, and in the end I wound up replacing the head, although I DID manage to get the pistons out. Unfortunately I don't have any pics of the repair process, me sweating like a sinner in church under the shop lights in the Virginia summer heat, beating the bejeezus out of the head with a pipe, 5-lb steel sledge and the necessary proper application of colorful invective...but she runs great now! Interestingly enough, my aggressive efforts did not damage the cylinders at all. It was that thick rust-ring around the left piston there is what did me in. I couldn't hone it out, so I was left with no choice but to replace the head. Yes, this build took a while, but despite the seemingly unbeatable odds, here's an example of what you can accomplish if you have enough time, patience and a beverage or three:



Ain't She Sweet! Ready to roll, with the exception of a few small things – grips, side covers – nothing major.



Here's another example – I found this when I opened up the 1975 Honda Goldwing project I picked up:



See all that shiny black ichor? Looks wet, doesn't it... but that's actually decades-old dried-on gasoline! Nothing moved in any of these four carbs, they were all glued shut with old gasoline varnish like you see here.

Carburetor repair can be tricky and I had my worries about this one, especially with 45 year-old GL1000 parts being as pricy as they are. But again, with some perseverance, patience, care and safety things turned out great:



Yup, Same Carburetor. Some things are different, obviously – I did replace the jets and bowl gaskets, needle and seat, etc., but the floats are all the same ones, all the carb passages are clear and all things being equal they turned out pretty well.

And that's what I'm getting at with this month's column. I do not mean to make light of our situation at all. These are some strange times we are moving through, and things will be different when we come out the other side, but we will make it through. As Winston Churchill said, "If you're going through hell, keep going." Whether its old bikes and crappy carbs or whatever problem it is you're facing, no matter how seriously ugly the situation seems, a thing of beauty can come out of it. And even a bad day in the garage is better than a good day at work, right? Especially these days. Keep going, be patient, take care, and be safe.

We'll all be back on the road soon.  
-John



# RIDING YOUR MOTORCYCLE IN WINTER

Many riders view motorcycling as a three-season activity. Once the first sign of a snowy forecast comes around, they start prepping for winter bike storage and wonder about the sanity of riders who see winter riding as an invigorating experience.

There is reason to be cautious. Winter motorcycle riding has all the hazards of the other three seasons and introduces a few more. It requires more preparation and planning, plus a keen awareness of current road and weather conditions. That said, it truly can be an exhilarating experience, and once you’re skilled at riding your motorcycle in winter, you can kiss cabin fever goodbye. Here are eight tips to help you break the ice on winter riding—pun intended.

### Understand The Risks Of Winter Motorcycle Riding

Being a safe motorcycle rider depends on your training, knowledge, skills, equipment, and risk management. While many view motorcycle riding as a physically low-impact sport, it actually requires a reasonable level of fitness, strength, and good health. Winter motorcycle riding also requires you to carefully consider your risk vs. benefit assessment before deciding to ride instead of winterizing the bike. Let’s look at some of the riding risks you’ll need to manage:

*Speed:* Generally, you’ll need to drive

at lower speeds. Reduced speed gives you more time to respond to evolving traffic and road hazards in front of you. Another benefit of reduced speed is reducing stopping distance, especially when traction is a greater issue in winter.

*Following distance:* The normal rule for following distance is two seconds. This works well in the warm season for attentive riders. In winter consider increasing this distance. Remember to check your mirror frequently for tailgaters. Your reaction times could be slower in the cold. Plus, other road users could react more suddenly or erratically when experiencing loss of traction or traffic issues.

*Road conditions:* Surface hazards increase dramatically in winter. Black ice—which is practically impossible to see until you’re almost on it—must be expected anywhere the road surface may be at or below freezing. Morning frost, while more visible, is still very slick. Avoid ice, frost, and places likely to have black ice. Road salt, sand, or cinder can accumulate and be as slippery as ice, causing you to lose traction. Due to temperature changes, potholes develop—along with frost heaves—and snowplows can catch on the road, causing edge traps and debris.

*Visibility:* This breaks down into two functional aspects:

*Seeing:* Seeing as far ahead as possible

can help you manage the increase in surface hazards and higher potential of sudden changes in traffic and traction. Seeing hazards sooner gives you more time to avoid them or stop if needed. *Being seen:* If you sometimes feel invisible to other drivers in the middle of summer, expect this to increase in winter. One of the last things car and truck drivers expect to see in winter is someone riding a motorcycle. Wearing black or dark riding gear will make you blend into the bleak barren landscape. Contrary to the assumption that it will stand out against snow, it won’t. This season, wearing brightly colored and reflective gear can help the problem of being invisible to other road users.

Review the best motorcycles for winter There are different schools of thought about what a winter motorcycle should be, leading to conflicting and confusing information. Reviewing the possible models of motorcycles for winter riding opens questions, not of brands, but of riding philosophy. At one end of the spectrum is the approach that suggests acquiring a beater motorcycle for winter riding since it’s got low monetary value. The premise being, if you fall while winter riding, damage to your machine is a low value loss. Further, this line of thought accepts neglect of the machine to winter wear by elements like road salt.

The other approach is to ride a motorcycle best suited for handling winter conditions. A motorcycle with ABS and traction control can better handle the reduced traction found on winter roads. Having a robust electrical system will support better lighting for the increased darkness of shorter days, along with easier starting and power for electric riding gear to keep you warm. Low fairings or at least a windshield can help protect you from the cold wind. Simply put, it’s better to ride the best bike you can afford and take good care of it if you’re hoping to experience safer and more comfortable winter motorcycle rides.

### Use Winter Motorcycle Gear

Perhaps you’re planning to use the bike you’ve already got to ride during winter. Making some improvements to your motorcycle can help to keep you safer while riding through this season. Here are some winter updates to consider: *Winter motorcycle tires:* Cars can get rear-studded snow tires in winter and there are a wide variety of all-season radials or winter and snow-rated tires. For motorcycles, it’s a different story. While there are a few winter or snow tires made globally, they are rarely available in the United States and come in limited sizes. Studded tires for ice racing are available but are not street worthy. There’s good and bad news when it comes to winter motorcycle tires. The good news is that the thread compound is designed to be sticky below about 40° F. The bad—above 40° F they’re less effective than normal tires and can deteriorate rapidly. *Windshield:* Windshields can do wonders to keep the frigid wind off your body. If you own a touring motorcycle, you likely have one already. If not, there’s a wide range of aftermarket windshields available for almost every type of motorcycle.

*Handlebar-mounted thermometer:* Seeing ambient temperature while riding in the winter is a great way to maintain awareness of your hypothermia and frostbite risk. Remember to factor in wind chill. They can be helpful all year long too. Summer heat, which we miss during the cold, has its own risks.

**Avoid Riding A Motorcycle In The Snow** Winter motorcycle riding begs the question, “Can you ride a motorcycle in the snow?” While there are some exceptions, like trail riding on specially prepared adventure motorcycles, or living in Finland or Canada, the simple answer is no. Acceleration, leaning to turn, and braking all require traction that is provided by two small contact patches on a motorcycle. Snow, even in small accumulations, will quickly zero out your traction. Additionally, falling snow can rapidly cover your face shield and windshield if you have one, leaving your visibility compromised. If there is even a remote possibility of snowfall in the area you plan to ride in, stay home. After snow falls, allow ample time for the roads to be cleared and consider taking a four-wheeler for a reconnaissance drive before getting your motorcycle back out there.

### Check Temperatures Before Riding Your Bike In Winter

Even when the skies are clear and blue and there’s been no snow or other winter precipitation for many days, we still must contend with cold temperatures that make winter riding unique. So you ask, “How cold is too cold to ride my motorcycle?” Here are several important factors for cold weather motorcycle riding: *Wind chill:* Wind chill is the effect of rapidly moving air to reduce the felt temperature and its impact on you. So, what feels like a warm winter day while standing in your driveway properly dressed for a winter ride, will be much colder on the road. Here’s an example: An ambient air temperature of 40° F with a road speed of 65 mph translates to a wind chill factor of 24° F. Exposed skin at 24° F can develop frostbite. Here are some warning signs:

- Feeling very cold
  - Developing numbness
  - Experiencing tingling, itching, or burning sensations
  - Displaying unusual clumsiness
- Hypothermia:* While being exposed to subfreezing temperatures, you’re at risk of developing hypothermia. This life-threatening condition occurs

when your body’s core temperature falls below 95° F. It is a life-threatening condition. Here are some symptoms of the onset of hypothermia you should be aware of:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Feeling numb and weak
- Reduction of fine motor control
- Mental confusion
- Loss of consciousness

*Dangerous temperature ranges:* As a rule, temperatures below freezing (32° F) are high risk. Depending on where you plan to ride, a higher temperature can still present a high-risk ride. Consider that 50° F in a valley may be fine but riding up a mountain at greater elevation can result in dramatic drops in temperature. Considering the possible temperatures not only where you plan to ride but also the time of day you’ll be riding—temperatures can drop rapidly after sunset—will help you stay safe and ride comfortably.

### Wear Cold-Weather Motorcycle Clothing

Wearing all the gear all the time is best for your safety. This is doubly true in the winter. You should have two main goals in choosing and wearing your cold-weather motorcycle clothing. First is to maintain core temperature to avoid hypothermia. Second, is to keep extremities from exposure to cold air. *Winter motorcycle gloves:* Winter-rated gloves are an absolute necessity. They should both block the wind and have insulation to hold in warmth. It’s a balancing act to find warm gloves that’ll also provide good feel at the controls. Consider using electric gloves. Heated grips may help, but they don’t replace the need for winter motorcycle gloves. *Helmet with face shield:* Your face and eyes must be protected from the cold blast of winter wind at road speed. Vision is your most powerful tool in managing all the hazards we face during our rides. The skin on your face is delicate and can get frostbite quickly, especially the nose and ears. *Layering:* Layering cold-weather motorcycle clothing and paying attention to avoiding gaps where the layers overlap is vital. Use a base layer that wicks away sweat. We do sweat in winter and that can make you cold

*continued next page*





faster. Next up, include a street layer that you’re comfortable removing at rest stops. If you use electric riding gear, put that on over the street layer and under an insulating layer. Last is a layer that provides crash protection and stops the wind.

Start your motorcycle before riding in the winter  
While riding your motorcycle on a regular basis over the winter removes the need for storage preparation—your hidden bonus—let’s not forget that winter presents challenges for our beloved motorcycles.  
Cold weather can have a dramatic effect on the mechanics of your bike. Here’s what you should consider:  
*Starting:* In cold temperatures, battery performance declines and the viscosity of motor oils will increase. Cold motors need more energy to turn the starter and move internal engine parts sitting in thicker oil. If your battery is getting old, plan on replacing it with one that has enough Cold Cranking Amps (CCA). Your owner’s or service manual should provide a CCA rating.  
*Lubrication:* The standard specification for the viscosity of your motorcycle’s oil is typically based on three-season riding. Your owner’s or service manual will have specifications for changing the viscosity of the oil used for colder weather based on expected temperature ranges. Changing the motor oil to correspond with the normal range of winter temperatures can help your motor maintain its optimal performance.  
*Warm-up time and performance:* Prior to beginning your winter rides, warm up your bike’s motor. This heats the oil and circulates through the top of the motor, helping to protect the high-stress components. This is especially important for motors that are built with different metals for different components—they heat up at different rates. An example would be an air-cooled bike with iron cylinders and aluminum heads. While gasket separation is not that common, it does happen, and a warm-up period helps protect your motor’s service life and performance.  
*Idling without riding:* If you decide not to ride your bike for an extended period in the winter, you might wonder, “Does it benefit my bike to just run it without riding?” The answer is not really. In fact, it could do more harm than good. Internal combustion produces byproducts, one of which is H2O. While that’s not harmful for the environment, it’s not good in your motorcycle’s systems. We’ve all seen water dripping from car mufflers in morning winter traffic (a great source for black ice). That water collects in an idling motorcycle’s exhaust system and causes rust. Byproducts of combustion can also contaminate your motor oil, promoting corrosion. Idling just can’t be trusted to get your motorcycle up to normal operating temperature. Some riders won’t start their motorcycle unless it can be ridden a minimum of 30 miles or more.  
Practice winter motorcycle safety  
An underlying thread in our winter riding discussion is motorcycle safety. Safety starts with planning ahead and knowing your personal limits. That said, there are some good habits you can build into your rides to make them safer during winter:  
*Make frequent stops:* You’ll surely get cold and stiff after some time in the saddle, so plan some stops along your route. Look



for places that offer warm food and a comfortable place to take off your outer layers and warm up. This may be harder during the COVID-19 pandemic, so call ahead.  
*Fuel your body:* Eat food that provides sustained energy for your body, like protein and complex carbohydrates. Avoid alcohol, sugar, simple carbohydrates, and junk food that can cause you to crash in more ways than one.  
*Check on fellow riders:* If you’re riding with a passenger or other riders, think about their well-being. You might feel warm and ready for more miles but remember to check on them often to see if they feel the same.  
*Set riding goals:* Set a mileage and time goal for your rides to get home before the sunset.  
Whether or not you decide to ride in the winter is a matter of personal choice, but with some extra planning, the right gear, and some common sense, it’s possible to safely and comfortably ride your motorcycle during the winter. After all, more motorcycling is more joy. Share the good news! Till next time, ride safe.

Resources: <https://www.dairylandinsurance.com/motorcycle/on-the-road/safety/winter-riding-safety-tips>



# RR Ryder Riders



## RYDER

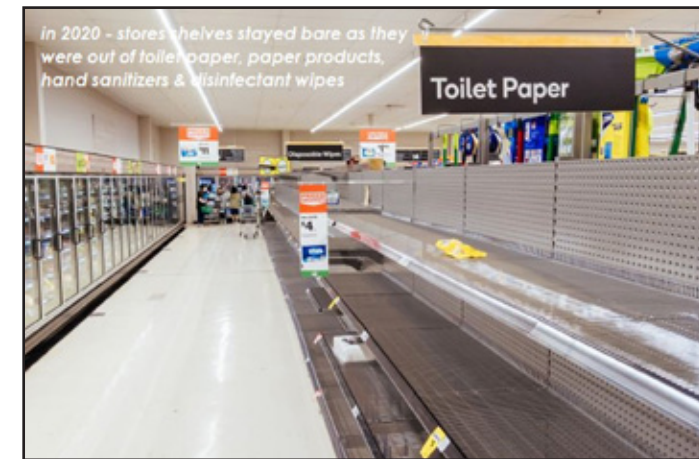
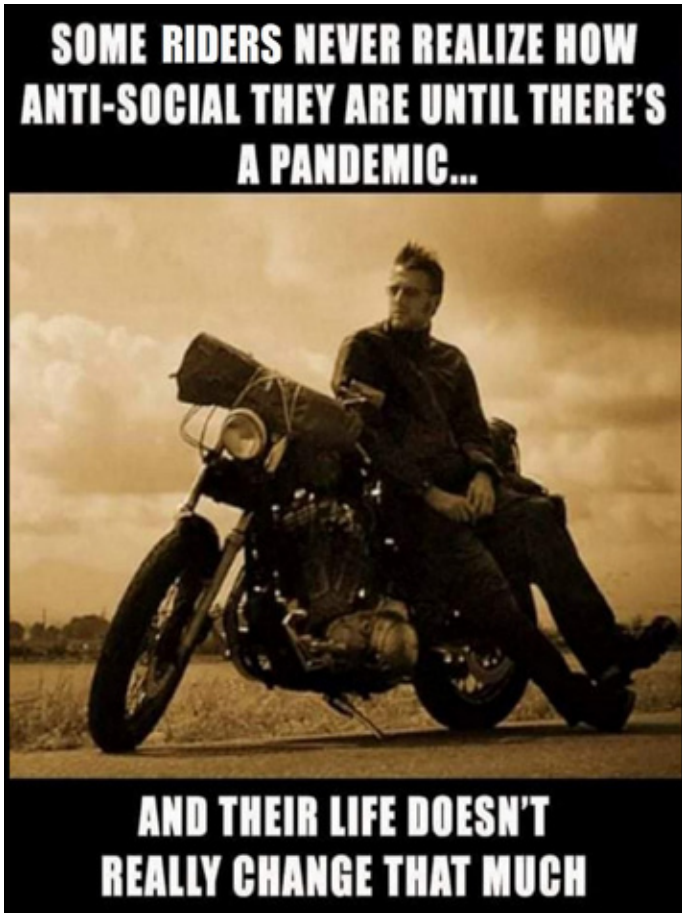


This is Ryder! She is an 11 month old Havanese we adopted at 8 weeks old. Ryder showed a love for riding on her very first excursion at the young age of 9 weeks. Since we are empty nesters we had the desire to add a 4 legged family member— however, we ride all the time. We knew we had to find a pup that would enjoy riding as much as we do! We started doing our homework and decided on her breed and size. She weighs 9 pounds now and is the perfect size for the Pet Palace. Ryder loves the wind in her face and has become the best little rider and family member we could ask for! She will be cruising the Back of the Dragon this summer with us along with many more journeys to come.

Ryder’s owner is Kimberly Young





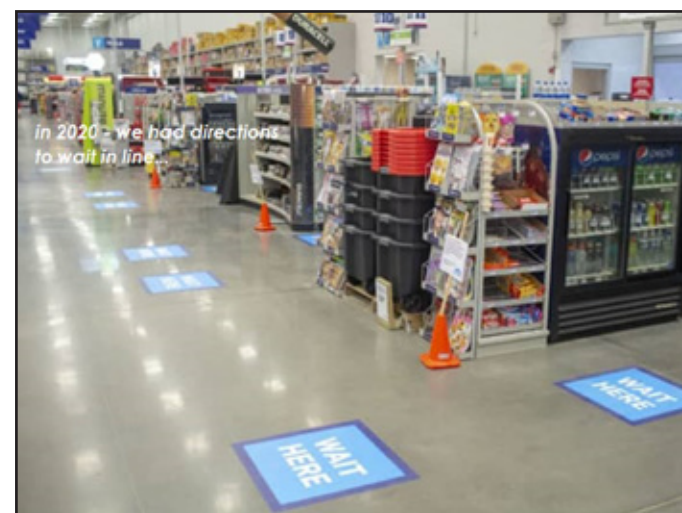


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# MAKING TRAX

With Jennifer Traxler

## Pass or Fail...

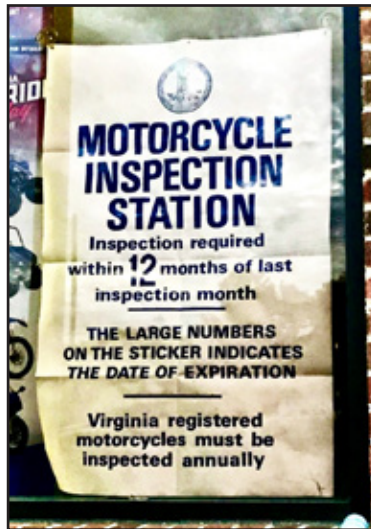
\$12 IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY to know I have enough brake pad left to stop me, enough tire tread left to grip the road, and all my lights are illuminated.

Ah, the dreaded and necessary state safety inspection! Every year we make our way to inspection stations so we can comply with state law, and know our bike or trike is safe to travel the open road. If you stay on top of your maintenance you should pass your safety inspection with ease. You may find upon inspection that you need one or more of the most common issues that can cause a failure to the state safety inspection. You can get your motorcycle inspected at a car inspection station but they may not know exactly what to look for. If you can, it's best to take your bike to a certified Motorcycle Inspection Station.

**TIRES** - Low tire pressure can cause a host of problems, not the least of which is excessive and uneven wear. Tires typically lose about two pounds of pressure every month, so it's good practice to fill your tires every time you fill your gas tank. Additionally, some roads, like the Blue Ridge Parkway are far more abrasive than city streets, and can cause tires to wear more rapidly. If you're planning a road trip, you may want to install new tires before you embark. The last thing you want in the middle of nowhere is a flat tire!

**BRAKES** - It is difficult to see inside your calipers or drums, but the state has their minimum of safe thickness. Be prepared to have your brakes examined thoroughly and possibly have some work done at the time of inspection. That is, of course, unless you are a stickler for maintenance!

**LIGHTS** - The most common burned out bulb, according to the state inspectors I know, is the tag light. It's not something we give much thought to! If blinkers are present they must be operating

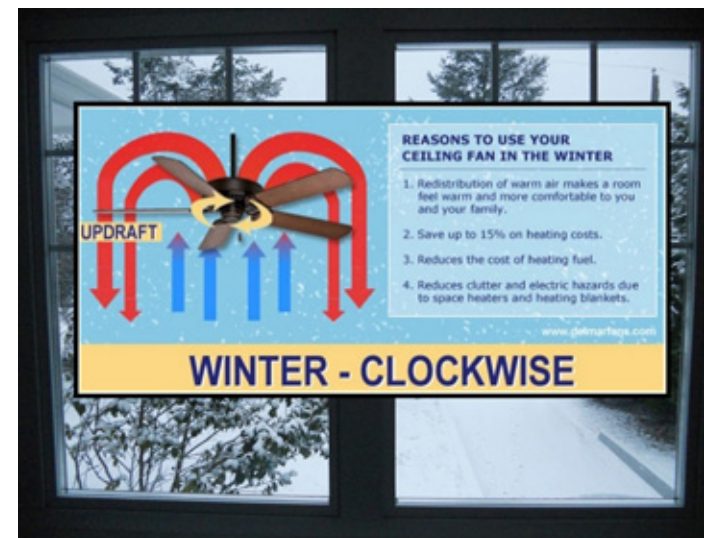


to pass inspection, but blinkers on a bike are not mandatory! You are more likely to pass inspection with no blinkers than with nonfunctional blinkers. You could always just use hand signals. Another thing to consider are integrated tail lights. Rear blinkers are required to be nine inches apart. State law says front blinkers must be 13" apart.

**MIRRORS and EXHAUST** - Technically, only the left side mirror is required to pass inspection, so if you like the minimalist look on your bike, you can leave off the right side mirror and still pass inspection. There is a misconception that a loud or modified exhaust would cause a failed inspection, but it really doesn't matter! Loud only matters out on the road with noise ordinances. What will cause a failure is a LEAK in your exhaust system.

In conclusion, there are really countless things that comprise a satisfactory safety inspection and I have only mentioned the most common reasons for failure. Just remember to get your inspection done annually, or feel free to get it more often if you have an older bike and want to be sure your bike is safe to ride. A used bike or trike will also look more attractive to a potential buyer. So, go get an inspection if you're planning on selling soon and ride safe, friends!

Jennifer is an avid Virginia rider and Sales Consultant at Wayne Cycle Shop in Waynesboro, VA



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## A FEW OF THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF RIDING

### *Assume Every Car or Truck on the Road Is an Accident Waiting to Happen*



Every motorist, regardless of their vehicle, is well served by driving defensively. Motorcyclists should take defensive driving up a notch and essentially ride as if they're invisible. Car, truck and SUV drivers regularly cut motorcyclists off, drift into their lane or even tailgate riders as if they have little to no regard for rider safety. Assuming you're invisible to drivers puts you in an avoidance-mode mindset. You can't rely on other drivers to keep you safe – you have to be the responsible one.



### *Bugs and Small Debris Are Projectiles*

If you're riding at 70 mph and a bee is flying towards you at 15 mph, you're essentially catching an 85-mph gooey projectile with your face. If you are wearing a visor

or have a windshield, chances are bugs won't be especially painful, but they can be startling. The same rule applies to pebbles or other debris that may be thrown up by the wheels of vehicles in front of you.

### *Don't Touch Other Riders' Bikes*



This rule generally doesn't need to be explained to existing bike owners, but you should always ask a bike's owner before touching it. You certainly shouldn't sit on someone else's motorcycle

without asking permission. Asking to ride someone else's bike is also considered uncouth in most riding circles. It is best to wait for an invitation.

### *When Parking Next to Other Bikes, Leave Enough Room*



If you are going to be parking next to other motorcycles, be cognizant of how much space other riders will need to safely mount up or get off.

### *Watch Out for Road Gators, Potholes and Debris*



Motorists of all types should ideally avoid hitting planks of wood, sheet metal or chunks of blown tire rubber (road gators). Road debris can damage any vehicle, but they can be catastrophic for riders. Always be cognizant of what's in front of you and point hazards out to fellow riders if you're in a group. You should also keep an eye out for those thick metal plates cities sometimes use to cover road construction. Hitting those heavy plates, or some manhole covers, can be really jarring and even dangerous for riders and their passengers.

### *Watch Out for Certain Surfaces*



Substances on the roadway such as gravel, dirt, sand, leaves and grass can significantly hamper your ability to control your bike, especially if the roads are wet. Always keep an eye out for



anything in the road that affects traction. "Tar snakes" or patched cracks in asphalt, can also be trouble for riders. These snakes tend to "grab" the front wheel when you go over them, which can compromise your steering ability.

### *Have You Been Involved in a Motorcycle Accident?*

If you've been injured in a motorcycle accident caused by another motorist on the road in Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina or Georgia, the Motorcycle Law Group is here for you. Our attorneys are riders, so we understand the unique struggles that face motorcyclists and know how to explain riding to judges and juries. Call 1-800-321-8968 to request a free consultation.





# WHILE WE WERE AT HOME...

*Since we've all spent a lot more time at home since March of last year we wanted to share some of the incredible things that we've discovered while staying at home.*

## COFFEE FILTERS



Who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Store for almost nothing even the large ones! Here's some amazing ways we discovered just how useful a simple coffee filter can be.

- Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
- Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome... Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
- Protect your plates by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
- Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
- Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
- Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
- Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
- Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.

- Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
  - Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
  - Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
  - Do you think we used expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.
  - Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc on them. It soaks out all the grease.
  - Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."
  - As a sewing backing. Use a filter as an easy-to-tear backing for embroidering or appliqueing soft fabrics.
  - Put baking soda into a coffee filter and insert into shoes or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.
  - Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs in to put in soups and stews.
  - Use a coffee filter to prevent spilling when you add fluids to your car.
  - Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills.
  - Can use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies.. Saves on having extra bowls to wash.
  - Use them to wrap Christmas ornaments for storage.
  - Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.
  - Use them to sprout seeds.. Simply dampen the coffee filter, place seeds inside, fold it and place it into a plastic baggie until they sprout.
  - Use coffee filters as blotting paper for pressed flowers. Place the flowers between two coffee filters and put the coffee filters in phone book..
  - Use as a disposable "snack bowl" for popcorn, chips, etc.
- What are some useful things that you may have discovered this year while you were at home?

Coffee anyone?



If you have kids or grandkids, this is the perfect DIY project that's so easy to make.

This activity board will help with eye/hand coordination & keep little ones busy for hours!

## BATTERY TENDERS



A battery tender for a motorcycle is a device that plugs into any standard AC wall outlet and transfers power via amperage to a motorcycle's 12-volt battery to keep it charged.

This power transfer helps to keep the battery 'tended' while still attached to the

motorcycle and keeps the battery at optimum levels during long periods between rides or if you're going to store the bike seasonally.

A good battery tender has smart technology built into it that knows when the battery has reached its full charge and shuts down automatically.

Of course, once the battery loses a bit of power from sitting, the battery tender will 'know' the power drop and start trickling power to maintain the power levels in your battery.

Battery tenders help to extend life of your battery year-round.



## WE WANT YOU TO JOIN



## ABATE OF VIRGINIA

Why should you join ABATE? For the preservation of your freedom to ride a motorcycle, on and off road, today and into the future. Meet other motorcycle enthusiasts in your community and join them to promote motorcycling through participation at State and Chapter meetings, meeting with Virginia legislators and local officials, chapter rides, rallies, benefit rides, bike shows and more.

- ♦ Join a group actively protecting and defending your rights
- ♦ Meet people who love freedom and having a good time
- ♦ Enjoy discounted memberships for additions in the same household
- ♦ Get your first year free if you are 18 to 29 years old

### Check out the local chapter nearest you at [abateva.org](https://abateva.org)

## BECOME INVOLVED AND JOIN TODAY!

Join us at the Motorcycle Lobby Day Planning Meeting in Richmond on January 19th and Motorcycle Lobby Day on January 20, 2020 to speak with our legislators directly about motorcycle issues.

Visit <https://vcomonline.org/vcom-events/lobby-day-2020/> for details





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