

Passengers Take Control !



By Mark Manley

Safety Officer

Should the Main Rider Become Incapacitated

If you're a passenger on a bike hopefully you'll never experience it, but ask yourself am I prepared and would I know what to do? If you think well, what can I do? Please read on!

Part of helping to stay calm in an emergency is knowing that you know how and what to do and this article is intended to do just that.

Let's say as an example you're riding two up down the road be it two or four lane, back roads, or city and the rider collapses from a heart attack and slumps over, the passenger can almost always still gain control of the motorcycle.

Here's what you need to know. First, the two controls you probably can't reach are the gear shift and the rear brake. But the four he/she CAN reach are the clutch lever, throttle, the front brake, and the kill switch. Thus, the passenger can steer the motorcycle as well as control the speed.

The second thing, the passenger can stand on his or her pegs or floor boards (floor boards on Harley's give an ex-

cellent stable platforms) and even with a rider backrest can lean over the rider to gain control of the motorcycle.

Third, the passenger should lay on the rider to keep the rider from going off the side.

It doesn't take a rider or for that matter anyone at all on the bike to balance a motorcycle moving at any reasonable speed. Because of trail (or tracking) there is an automatic attempt by all motorcycles to get vertical and steer in a straight line. With that said the bike will probably wobble or hunt (gyrate) as it tries to stabilize, KNOW THERE'S TIME available to the passenger to gain control of the bike and once you have the handle bars you may have to roll on a little power this puts torque to the back wheel and the bike will start to return to vertical.

Once you've established control it's time for these next very important steps. The first thing now is start to slow

the bike down. Next steer the bike to as safe a place as possible before it falls over which it's going to do. Just before it falls take your thumb and hit the kill switch.

Passengers should try to remember as the bike falls to step out away from the bike (in the direction of the fall), you might fall on your rear end but it beats possibly being trapped or banging your head on a hard surface.

For those who ride two up doesn't it make sense to practice (with engine off, jiffy stand down and at a dead stop) passenger gaining control ?

Mark



2015 Contest

Each time you attend a meeting or participate in an official Tallahassee HOG-sponsored ride, you will earn one point in our Tallahassee HOG "License To Ride" contest!

Points are earned by signing the roster at the meeting, getting a signed "License To Ride" card at each ride., or by volunteering at official Tallahassee HOG-sponsored events.

Earn 10 points, get a "License to Ride" pin - earn 20 points and get a patch. For each additional 20 points, get a special "20" pin.

For additional information, including all of the rules, please refer to the info and flyer posted on our website. [LINK](#)