

SAFETY CORNER

By Guest Safety Writer Jim M

safetyofficer4755@gmail.com

Happy New Year HOG Fam. You may be seeing all this New Year – New Me BS on the interwebs right about now. Well, the cage drivers are still pulling the same stupid driver tricks as they were in 2024, 2023, 2022.....

So, this Safety article will be centered on a couple of tricks to being seen.

Clothes – Hey, we're Harley riders, we wear black, dark black, and midnight black. We'll continue wearing black until they come out with something darker. Well, you see, night is dark, and Black is dark. So, it tends to blend into the night and the "I didn't see them" becomes ever more reasonable for why we may have unacceptable interactions with cages. Now I'm not saying you need to wear fluorescent colors like the metric kids wear. There are options available to wear black and be seen. Look for reflective piping sewn into the garment. Some have reflective/fluorescent thread used in the decorations on the jacket. It's still black, still looks Cool/Harley, but lights up when hit with headlights and screams look at me. Also, the Mothership has a reflective vest to help you stand out in the dark. Food for thought.

Lane position – There's two parts to this one. 1) Our travel lane is split into 3 riding zones, numbered 1 through 3 starting from the left side of the lane. Most people ride in lane one, on the left side of the lane. Some chose lane Three, on the far-right side of the lane. Few choose lane two (you know why), riding in the middle third of the lane. Regardless of your lane choice, if you want a better chance of being noticed, change your lane positioning (move from 1 to 3 or vice versa) when traffic is

approaching. By doing this you are moving your bike/headlight in an unexpected way, and it will/should/may grab the driver's attention. If they're not looking down at their phone. 2) On a four-lane highway, at night, use the left lane to get more separation from the wildlife grazing on the roadside. The standard width of the lane is twelve feet. add in lanes 2 & 3 of your lane and you're up to 18 feet of additional separation from the aforementioned wildlife. On a two lane highway lane one still gets you eight feet or more, so.....

I'd like to thank Dave Esposito for volunteering to be our Safety Officer for 2024. He brought decades of riding, driving and law enforcement experience to share with us. Dave will remain a HOG member and TallyHOG Road Captain. **Thanks Dave.**

I'd like to welcome Craig Couturier to the Safety Officer post for 2025 & beyond. Craig will pick up the duties starting next week. We can look forward to his safety articles beginning with the February newsletter. **Thanks Craig.**

Be sure to thank Dave and welcome Craig when you see them.

Be Safe, Ride Safe, keep a sharp eye out for your safety, always.

Jim

