

THE SAFETY CORNER

Tom and Karen Brunelle



We were honored to be asked to be your Safety Officers this year.

We have seen a bunch of things – good and bad – and have ridden

several different motorcycles throughout the years. We're excited to share a little bit of what we have learned with everyone.

Safety is at the core of having a fun ride!

A little bit about us first. Tom has been riding 45 years. He started out with a Honda CB350 which he brought home in parts. He fixed it up and rode the heck out of it. He followed that up with a 650 Yamaha and 700 Shadow, the bike he wooed Karen with 😊. He then started in with his love of Harleys. He's owned almost every style out there – Wide Glide, Road King, Fat Boy, Ultra, Road Glide Ultra Screaming Eagle, Ultra Limited, and his current rides, a 2015 Ultra and a 2020 Road Glide Ultra Limited. (Karen's note: I'm so glad he only traded in his Harleys for an upgraded model! 😊)

Between this chapter and our previous one, he has been a Road Captain for 22 years and was a Head Road Captain for 2 years in our previous chapter.

Tom's career was in transportation – he was a truck driver for 17 years delivering freight and heavy equipment with never an accident.

Karen has been riding nearly 24 years. She started with a Softail Custom as her first bike, then moved on to an Ultra and her current love, a 2017 Ultra Limited Low. She also has been a Road Captain for 22 years.

Karen's career is also in transportation at the federal level – starting out in roadway safety, and then working

in every aspect of the highway program over the years. She is a Civil Engineer by training and was actually the first full time Safety Engineer in Tennessee, creating the position from scratch. Roadway safety is where her heart lies, after Tom and her Harley, of course.

So, we'll be bringing you some real world experience (who can forget "the deer incident"??!) and hopefully show you a new thing or two from a roadway safety perspective too. Each month we will be doing a Read Your Road Challenge Question. By knowing how to read your road, we'll all be a little bit safer – whether that's on the bike or in the car. In reality, this may just be a refresher, but we do hope you'll learn something new along the way.

Don't hesitate to reach out and send us your burning questions too!

For this month's Read Your Road Challenge Question... it's a 2 parter –with a bonus 2nd question:

1. What direction are you traveling if you are on I-54? East/West or North/South? on I-13? East/West or North/South?
2. How about if you are traveling on I-254?

(Answers are later in the newsletter!)

Remember highway safety depends on you! Whether you are a driver, passenger, or pedestrian, be observant and be adaptable to be safe!

Tom and Karen.