

LOOK MOM.... NO BRAKES

Lee McClellan— Safety Officer



Steve McQueen was not only an actor but a racecar driver. The other day on social media there was a comment where the crew chief asked Steve “How were the brakes?” Steve replied “I don’t know I didn’t use

them!” Then I remembered that my Dad had told me the same story from when he was Steve’s bodyguard at speed week when I was a kid.

When I drive anything on the road I try to apply the same statement but maybe for a different reason. This is done by looking as far ahead and evaluating traffic, lights, turn, curves as well as the raise and fall of the road. This method of thinking will help keep you from tailgating. The down side is every jerk on the road will cut you off. If you have a manual transmission this is easier to master. When you are about to top a hill I try to slow down before I go over the top because you going to gain speed on down side.

Traffic lights are harder to anticipate unless they have the timer on the cross walk signal. There are few places around the USA that signal you that you not going to make the light several hundred yards before you get to the intersection. Which I think is great but there is always someone who has to race to the light.

With all that said it is good idea to tap the brakes a few times to notify the drivers behind you that you are stopping or turning. Signaling early also will give you chance to watch your mirrors to see if the drivers behind you are slowing down.

Obviously you can’t drive without using your brakes but by looking around and ahead of the traffic you as well as keeping a good following distance you can minimize your brake usage. This is my goal when I ride or drive and then I get in hurry and all bets are off.

These practices will also greatly improve your gas mileage.

YOUR SAFETY OFFICER

LEE

