

THE SAFETY CORNER

Tom and Karen Brunelle



Although we're about to spring forward here this month, there may still be times when we are out riding after dark (bike night anyone?). A lot of the things we see in the daytime, we can't really see at night, such as trash in the roadway, animals, potholes, manhole covers, etc. There are several factors with this. One is that we don't see as well at night, especially as we age. (Yes, every day, we get a day older!) What can you do to be safe? Simple...See and BE Seen!!

Over the last 5 years (2016-2020 data), the date/time for the most motorcycle crashes is Saturday between 4-6p, Fri-Sun. The majority of the fatalities, though, happen between 4p and midnight, Thurs-Sun. (Source: FDOT CARS via CUTR at USF)

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
0	116	78	120	121	177	276	276
1	75	60	68	98	138	245	221
2	62	47	55	64	92	178	200
3	40	47	25	52	75	110	135
4	36	40	37	35	40	70	74
5	73	64	71	64	80	66	60
6	194	199	189	217	212	71	58
7	228	256	221	282	217	114	82
8	213	251	283	239	223	190	147
9	206	235	203	241	252	277	243
10	220	246	242	242	278	429	368
11	293	288	309	286	388	544	445
12	365	339	356	380	458	578	534
13	385	373	370	350	415	603	567
14	402	422	411	399	538	635	564
15	441	485	498	505	610	687	534
16	496	552	496	543	655	687	612
17	546	638	590	601	607	636	602
18	470	556	516	621	598	661	577
19	368	402	401	464	552	583	513
20	329	339	353	384	467	504	434
21	229	289	312	318	442	506	300
22	213	215	260	304	394	377	234
23	136	153	159	229	312	334	177

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
0	10	8	12	13	24	26	20
1	7	5	7	9	17	25	25
2	7	3	12	11	4	19	26
3	4	5	2	1	5	14	9
4	3	5	2	0	4	7	8
5	7	4	7	4	3	8	3
6	13	13	9	15	14	10	12
7	13	8	6	14	11	6	5
8	5	6	6	5	3	11	10
9	5	10	5	14	12	14	14
10	11	6	7	13	9	13	19
11	13	11	5	6	20	22	29
12	11	8	14	12	13	18	25
13	13	18	12	10	11	32	27
14	8	15	17	21	21	25	17
15	13	13	20	17	22	24	22
16	10	20	20	22	28	44	45
17	29	16	12	24	32	36	35
18	10	31	23	31	33	38	33
19	24	25	26	35	33	36	30
20	21	23	28	30	37	26	47
21	18	25	19	37	37	45	26
22	14	21	19	18	36	33	24
23	15	13	12	16	28	33	20

What can you do to see better?

- Ride within your headlight! Low beam headlights will allow you to spot an object on the road about 160 feet ahead of you and high-beam headlights about 350 to 400 feet ahead. Most drivers need about 1.5 seconds to react to something in the road (Do I see a deer??). At 55 mph, you are traveling at 80 ft per second. So, that low beam is going to just barely give you enough time to react. At 35 mph, you are traveling at 51 fps which is a bit more time to react, but not much. So, when the opportunity arises, use the high-beams and give yourself extra room to the vehicle ahead of you.
- Clean your windshield, visor and glasses! After a day of riding around the Panhandle, the bugs like to hang on for the trip. Take a few moments to wipe things off so that you can clearly see. Yellow or clear lenses are also much better for seeing things than the dark lenses (but you already knew that, we hope! J) Carrying an extra set of clear glasses is also a good back up plan.

- It was a dark foggy night...while it's a great way to start a story, but not when it involves riding. In this case, do not use your high beams they actually reflect back in your face and make it harder to see. You are better off sticking to low beams in fog – day or night. Also, watch your speed. When it's is foggy out, you lose those visual cues to gauge how fast you are riding. Check that speedometer. You are going faster than you think!
- Avoid headlight blindness. When cars are oncoming, whether their high beams or low beams are on, they can sometimes make it hard for us to see since we sit up a bit higher on a bike than in a car. Look to the right white line – but not down – look out as far as your lights will allow. Keeping your eyes on the line until the car passes will help you know where to be in your lane. But don't stare too long – you know, your bike goes where you look! Keep it between the white lines for a successful journey.

What can you do to be better seen?

- Adding reflective tape or decals to your motorcycle, helmet and clothing.
- Lights!! Whether that's signal, brake, auxiliary lights, or fog lights, any lighting that you add is adding to your visibility at night.
- Adding LED lights (one of Tom's favorites!) to your bike greatly enhances the space you take up in the landscape of everything else in the field of vision.
- A headlight modulator can also make you more visible to oncoming traffic and a flashing brake light can make you more visible to those behind you.
- Instead of only downshifting, use the brakes as well to help slow you down and tell others that you are slowing down.
- Stay out of other drivers' blind spots. They can't see you during the day in their blind spot; it's definitely a lot harder at night.

Animals – they are going to be out there at night! It's the best time to hang out with your friends, isn't it? As you are scanning the road and roadside, look for those glowing eyes...that will be a clue that there's something attached! Slow down and be prepared as animals are unpredictable.

For this month's *Read Your Road Challenge Question*...we look at visibility of the signs and pavement markings:

1. True or False? There are glass beads in pavement markings.
2. True or False? There are glass beads in the traffic signs.
3. True or False? Sign materials have prisms in them.

(Answers are later in the newsletter!)

Don't forget to check your lights as part of that pre-ride safety check. Take your time and don't rush when riding at night. Being visible is what it is all about, but assume that other drivers can't see you. 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.

CHAPTER HISTORY

Our website contains newsletters from the very beginning of the chapter and throughout the more than 31 years since. A copy of the May 1991 newsletter was distributed along with the current edition. It makes for very interesting reading.

You'll notice that the newsletter name is NEWSLETTER. Not very creative, but the name does change to HOGPEN later in the year.

To get the latest updates on planned rides, the chapter uti-

lized voicemail.

Not sure what software was used to produce those first newsletters, but the layout was very well done. One of our members worked at a local graphics shop.

The dealership at the time was on Pensacola St near Capital Circle. It was primarily a Japanese motorcycle brands dealership that also sold Harley's.

Our website links; [NEWSLETTERS](#), [OLD PHOTOS](#). Check it out.

HOG GOBLIN CONTEST



- A picture of the HOG-GOBLIN will be posted in the monthly newsletter of an unknown location.
- HOG member to guess where the HOG-GOBLIN location is by submitting this information by email to Jim Mincey at :tallyhog@gmail.com
- LIST subject line as HOGGOBLIN guess.
- Identify location of HOGGOBLIN.
- Provide your name, and remember the email is time stamped.
- First person that responds is the winner of the month.
- Winner is announced at the HOG chapter meeting
- Winner receives a free lunch (up to \$20.00) on the after meeting HOG chapter ride.
- Winner must be at that months chapter meeting and participate in the ride to be treated to lunch.
- Board Members are ineligible for this event.
- HOG member can only win 1 x/year.

SAFETY CORNER ANSWERS:

They are all true!

In order for you to see pavement markings and signing at night, they are designed with tiny beads in the materials. Pavement markings – both paint and thermoplastic have the beads to reflect the light back at you. Great for visibility, not so great for traction! They are unfortunately quite slick. Raised pavement markers also have materials to reflect the headlights to better see the markings.

Sign sheeting also has tiny glass beads and some have microprisms to reflect the light directly back to you. That's why some signs look brighter than others. The early signs were made of reflective sheeting also called 'engineering grade'. New signs are made of retroreflective materials. (No that's not a throwback thing. LOL) Come to the meeting to see the differences side by side!