

# HARD HATS

Lee McClellan— Safety Officer



First, Ricky at Tallahassee Harley Davidson, is giving a \$30.00 discount when trading in any old helmet to purchase a new helmet the whole month of April.

Helmets: I've had fun checking out all the different helmets, like a woman checking out new shoes. So, I hope I can convince Judy that my helmet fetish is a necessity. One thing I found out is I need to get a new helmet every 3 years.

When you live in Florida or any other hot and humid state you sweat a lot, which breaks down the integrity of the lining. Then there's the high U/V from the sun that damages the outer shell. Our high heat temperature damages both. The rule of thumb seems to be 5 years from date of manufacturing.

There is some good news for you dirty, dirty bikers. You can clean up your act by washing your helmet. This is a lot easier than I thought.

Remove any cheek, ear and sizing pads that are removable. Now you need to wet all parts and use BABY shampoo, nothing stronger. Massage in baby shampoo to all parts, inside and out and rinse thoroughly. Now here is the part that requires a second helmet so you can still ride safely while the other one dries. This will take up to 48 hrs. but can be sped up by adding a fan but NO HEAT!!!

There are three main agencies that rate helmets. Snell is privately owned, and is the most stringent and higher level than DOT. It's still not recognized by our government for highway use [??] without the DOT certification. Snell certifies full and  $\frac{3}{4}$  helmets but not modular (?) not sure why.

They don't certify helmets with flip down inner shield because of the void inside the helmet. Could not find an info on half helmets, on Snell certified. I noticed that Keven Harvick's NASCAR helmet has two shields one full

shield and the second outer shield was only 2 in. and could be flipped up. Most racing helmets have a Snell certification.

DOT rating is what the government recognizes, which is designated by the manufacturer, then the government randomly picks the ones to check and see if they meet the standards. Here the part that makes the self-regulation work. There is a \$5,000 fine for each helmet that is sold that doesn't meet the standards.

Now for our world travelers, you will need the ECE (Economic Commission for Europe) rating which is recognized internationally, but is similar to DOT rating. ECE requires the helmets sent in to be certified.

A manufacturer can have all three certification or more if they wish, but the U.S. only recognizes the DOT rating for highways.

Choosing a good helmet is a balancing chore, price, weight, safety and the lack of wind noise. Safety has a lot to think about color, fit, nothing should stick out from helmet catching on and twist the helmet or your head.

We add lots of lights but wear black helmets when we could add a bright color or a light to our helmet for less money.

BMW is developing a helmet that has front and rear cameras with the rear camera with heads up display, speed and other info. Interactive with BMW bikes. Ok HARLEY keep up and send in the spies.

I have a new full helmet with a Sena Bluetooth that allows me to talk on the phone, listen to FM radio or two-way communication with other riders in the group.

Lee