



Since 2014

# Valley Riders

## December 2015



Volume 2

Number 12



## What's Happening



**Monthly Meeting:** There were 20 members at November's monthly meeting. Butch talked about the upcoming Christmas party at Cosmopolitan Tavern on Dec 5. He stated the menu includes an appetizer of shrimp with cocktail sauce and the main course includes tri-tip, salmon and chicken marsala with side dishes of salad, potato and vegetables. Beverage (tea, soda and coffee) and dessert will be provided for \$20 per person. There will also be our steal a gift. Maximum of \$20 per gift. (You must bring a gift if you want to play). This will be the last Christmas party at the current location on Fresno Street. Contact Butch or Caren by Nov 28 if

you plan to attend (You must pre-pay for your meal beforehand). Keep an eye open for any e-mails for possible spur rides in December. Possible rides are to Candy Cane Lane in Clovis. Also, mark your calendar on January 1 and 2 for our Annual Frozen Bun Run (weather permitting).



I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas. May you be blessed with love and peace as you spend the holiday season with family and friends.



## Celebrations



**Birthdays:** Dec 4: **Jerry Gragg**; Dec 7: **Chrissy Becker**; Dec 9: **Dale Wallace**; Dec 19: **Bill Dimmer** and **Jim Moody**; Dec 22: **Gary Williams**; Dec 23: **Wendy Patrick** and **Jamie Slater**; Dec 28: **Mary Erlewine**

**Anniversary:** Dec 30: **Jim and Caren Moody**



# Safety



## Highway Motorcycle Riding Tips

Usually bikers do not like riding the bigger highways or even freeways. We prefer the good old country roads, with their winding curves and often better scenery. But sometimes you just can't escape the bigger roads. To get from point A to point B in a hurry, you might not really have any choice; "it's the highway or no way".

But riding these kind of roads bring their own risks and challenges. Speeds are higher, there are more vehicles and you are only a very small spec on the road for many of the cars and trucks thundering along the way.

### Tip 1 – Wear Bright Clothes

So the first tip is to make sure you are visible. Often car and truck drivers will have been behind the steering wheel for many hours, and their attention span limited. A motorcycle will just not be seen for that split second they need to react. Wear some high-visibility clothing, or at the least some high-visibility markings on your helmet or jacket.

### Tip 2 – Be Visible In Your Movements

Again, speeds are higher on these kind of roads, and you are not as visible as an 18-wheeler truck. So when you are maneuvering, make sure you are seen. Changing lanes, check you mirror on both sides and put out those indicators. Then check the mirrors again. You will find that there is always that car driver that is coming up faster than the traffic and before you know it, you will be intimately acquainted with him or her.

When you need to slow down, and if you have the time, press your brakes intermittently, causing your brake lights to flash. This will warn the distracted car driver behind you that you are slowing down.

### Tip 3 – Do Not Let Them Tailgate You

It's always a bad thing when a car or truck is riding a few feet behind you, but it's even worse on a highway or freeway. Speeds are higher, and if you need to slam the brakes, vehicles behind you will crash into you. Remember that a motorcycle will stop in approximately 50% of the distance of a car. If some idiot is not giving you the space, flash your brake lights a few times or use your arms to tell the driver to back off. But whatever you do, do not do a brake check! If the idiot persists, change lanes and let the car pass.

**Note:** I've seen quite a lot of cases where bikers get road rage towards cars that tailgate. It's hopeless! You are the weaker one. There is nothing you can do to make sure you survive an encounter of the third kind with a car. Always remember that. You will always lose!

#### Tip 4 – Choose Your Lane Carefully

This is a difficult one. The right lanes are for slower traffic, but are often used by faster cars who are weaving in and out. It's also where you will find the most number of trucks. The left lanes are normally used for overtaking, so faster. There is no real theory which lane you should be in, you'll need to pay attention to all sides of the traffic anyway. But remember Tip #2, if you change lane, make sure you are visible. If there are three lanes, staying safe in the center lane may be a good bet, but some car drivers don't like seeing it, so they may cut you off.

#### Tip 5 – Which Part of the Lane

Always try to stick to the left or right of the lane itself. The center of the lane is where it is far more slippery. Not only is that where you will find oil, radiator or brake fluid deposits coming from cars and trucks (engines are in the middle of the vehicles), but it is also the part of the lane where no tires have ran over, so dirtier, wetter and therefore slippery. If there are any objects left on the road, they will be in the center part of the lane. Riding behind a car or truck, you're going to be running over them, not a nice thing to do.

If I had a choice, I'd stick to the right part of the lane, since most cars when overtaking will pass on the left, leaving some room for me to avoid wind turbulence.

#### Tip 6 – Passing Trucks

When passing trucks you always need to be aware of wind turbulence. If you are passing on the left, and there is wind blowing from that side, while you are passing, you are sheltered by the truck. But once you are clear of the truck, you will suddenly get a wind blast that could move you to the left – into a car's passage.

If you are going really slowly, and trucks pass you, not only do you have to worry about wind coming from the right, but also the turbulence the truck creates when he passes you. Just be ready for it.



## Rides



Saturday Dec 12: [Squaw Valley](#) leaving Perko's (Kings Canyon & Clovis) 10 am (weather permitting)



## Next Get Together



Friday Night Coffee and Conversation: **Starbuck's in Riverpark** (near the circle) 7 pm

Monthly Meeting: Saturday, Month Day: **Yosemite Falls Cafe** 4278 W Ashlan Ave Fresno (Ashlan Ave/Hwy 99) 8:30 am



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[www.thevalleyriders.com](http://www.thevalleyriders.com)

