

## Communication Part 2

By Jim Roberson

Last month I discussed communication. This month I will consider Rider/Co-rider communication. We'll start with the definition of communication again. The Oxford Dictionary defines it as a noun 1. the action of communicating. 2. a letter or message. Most often it is not what is said but what is not said.

Our rides together are supposed to be fun as well as safe. But some of the fun goes away when you notice the rider or co-rider ahead of you bounce out of the saddle and you don't tell your co-rider. Or even worse, you need to take a defensive action because of an imminent traffic danger and you keep mum on that too. Do **NOT**; I repeat, **Do NOT**, keep your co-rider in the dark. You need to communicate these and other things to make the ride safe and comfortable for them. They cannot see through you and you must make them aware of potential hazards.

Before you begin thinking this is a one way street, that the rider is the only person who needs to communicate, remember that you have another set of eyes on the back of your motorcycle. They can be of assistance to the rider by scanning ahead on the right and left and alert the rider to potential hazards such as animals on the side of the road and traffic from side roads.

I think this is enough for this session. Remember to maintain an open dialogue with your co-rider. Keep each other informed and your ride will not only be more pleasant but will also be safer. Next time we'll delve into how to go about telling someone their technique needs improvement.