

## New and High Tech

By Jim & Karen Roberson

We all know by now that the new Gold Wings have an air bag option. We are also pretty sure that even if we had one of them we would not want to be one of the first to find out how well it works. We also are pretty sure we don't want to test out the product I am going to cover in this article, but it does bear some research and from the information provided on the website ([www.impactjackets.com](http://www.impactjackets.com)) it looks like it also could be a real life saver.

I am talking about the Impact Jacket® manufactured by IMPACT JACKETS, LLC, 1450 Mercantile Lane, Ste. 121, Largo, MD 20774. The Impact Jacket® is a personal airbag for the upper body that is contained in a mesh riding jacket. From the pictures and description it looks very similar to products we are all familiar with; a mesh jacket with wind/rain liner, armor in the shoulders, elbows and back but it also has an airbag insert that inflates within .05 seconds when you are ejected from the motorcycle. The assumption is that you have followed all of the instructions for use.

The operation is similar to a dead man switch on small boats and jet skis. A lanyard is attached to the key for the engine and your personal flotation device. If you are thrown out of the boat, the engine stops. In this case the airbag jacket is attached to the motorcycle with a cable that on release inflates the airbag and provides extra protection for you.

We cannot overstate the importance of wearing good protective clothing when riding a motorcycle. This goes for your helmet, jacket, pants, gloves and boots. The more safely you ride the better protected you are. There are no guarantees that no injury will occur. Take the extra few minutes to dress right for the ride. Most of you got the email entitled *Think asphalt means a faulty butt?* Think he might want to consider a pair of riding pants with armor in them? There is no guarantee that he would not wind up with some injury but it might not be as bad. I would say the riding pants would be a much safer way to go.

The Impact Jacket is not inexpensive (\$395) but it might be worth a look! Ride Safe!!!