

THE SAFETY CORNER

Tom and Karen Brunelle



Memorial Day! The kick off to summer and the American classic...Road Trip!!

As you plan out your trip, there are several apps out there that can help you figure out your way. There's one website that will help you navigate the traffic and road closures across the country...it's the National Traffic and Road Closure Information site, (duh, of course! J) www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm

This site is the one stop to link you to each state's work zones, incidents, and other road closure information.

You may be familiar with 911 – call it for emergencies! 811 – call before you dig! But, did you know, 511 is for traffic info! 511 is a phone number available nationwide that provides current information about travel conditions, allowing travelers to make better choices - choice of time, choice of mode of transportation, and choice of route. Florida's related website is: fl511.com Check it out before you get on the road and have your passenger check things out while you are out on the road.

No texting or reading and driving, please! (Unless you are reading your road, of course! :-)

As you pack up the Harley to set out for your travels, remember to pack **smart!** First, be sure you have enough room for shoes! (Kidding...not! Ask Karen how many she had with her on the 5-day Copperhead trip!!) Seriously though, we'd like to hear from you...what are your go to packing tips? Bring your ideas to the meeting!! Here are some of our **smart** ideas:

Saddlebags. Yes, use them! Load your heavy stuff lower on the bike in the saddlebags. The lower the weight the easier the bike will be for maneuvering.

Manage the load. A lot of riders like to use backpacks. However, wearing a backpack can cause fatigue and aching muscles and make it hard for you to move around on the bike. The bike should be wearing the weight, not you.

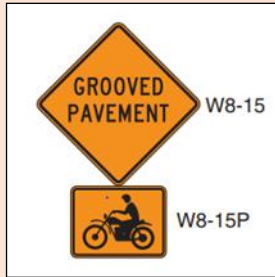
Adventure awaits on the open road. Whether you have your route planned out or you are going where the wind blows, having a map (ok, sometimes technology doesn't work) or map app can help you figure out where good stopping points may be. You don't want to miss the biggest ball of twine west of the Mississippi River!

Rest breaks! Make sure you take time to recharge, refuel you and your bike, and stay hydrated. These breaks don't slow you down on that long haul, but actually make you stay more focused and aware of what is around you. The more refreshed you are, the better you are able to adapt to what comes at you.

Tie down the load with bungees. Harley has bungee nuts that are chrome! J and designed to hook a bungee cord to it. Harley also has a pliable pad that you insert under seat that has D rings to hook into.

What else is common about summer...work zones! For Florida, it's summer all year. So, work zones are all year too! Work zones may look normal, but most of the time they are not. They are a work in progress. Laying pavement occurs in multiple layers. The intermediate and base courses are more open graded than the surface course (think bigger holes and stones). The surface layer is the one with the best skid resistance. In some situations, you may also run across a pavement section that has been totally removed...we called that milled.

That leftover milled surface will be rough and grooved. Hang on to those handlebars as there will be bumps and those of us with the skinnier front wheels will follow along the grooves. The other thing that you'll encounter is that one lane will be paved and the other one won't be to the same height since we try to have a continuous process – the less you start and stop the paver, the smoother the overall result. So, watch for edge drop offs. When changing lanes, do so carefully and quickly! Approach it so that the bike is approaching the drop off at an angle...you're aiming for 90 degrees (that's not the temperature!).



In your travels, you might see the warning sign with a symbol of a motorcycle. This motorcycle plaque is an optional sign and not all states use it. If it is used, the motorcycle plaque may be mounted below a LOOSE GRAVEL sign, a GROOVED PAVEMENT sign, a MET-

AL BRIDGE DECK sign, or a STEEL PLATE AHEAD sign. The sign is used if the warning is intended to be directed primarily to motorcyclists. So, if you see a grooved pavement or other sign without the motorcycle sign, the same condition might still be out there. Bottom line...pay attention regardless of the use of the motorcycle signage.

For this month's *Read Your Road Challenge Questions*...work your work zone knowledge:

True or False? Work zone signs are always orange and black.

If you come across an incident on the highway what colors are the signs?

- Black and White
- Orange and Black
- Fluorescent Pink and Black
- b and c

True or False? In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying their directions.

(Answers are later in the newsletter!)

Enjoy the open road, phone a friend if you need one, and make some awesome memories! 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

FRIENDS GRILLE & BAR

VALDOSTA, GA



Due to all the folks taking the Copperhead ride, just myself, Paul and Ron made the May Last Chance ride to the Friends Grille in Valdosta.

Paul mapped out a great route of about 80 or so miles.

Very busy place, which is always a good sign.

Paul and Ron had healthy salads topped with chicken. To counter-balance those healthy meals, I ordered a very large panini grilled cheese made with 3 Italian cheeses along with a tomato basil dipping sauce. Excellent.

A bit of a ride, but an excellent place. Great food, very good prices and helpful staff.

Larry

Read Your Road Challenge Question Answers:

1. True! Work zones are considered temporary traffic control. Even signs that are typically another color (like green exit signs) are going to be orange and black.
2. d. Incident sites like road closures due to a crash can warn you of the closure with orange and black signs or fluorescent pink and black ones. If you see the pink signs, they are only used for incident sites. Definitely stay extra vigilant for stray debris that may be in the travel lanes when you see pink. Watch for merging traffic too!
3. True! So, pay attention to them. The flagger is often there because it's only safe to travel one way at a time. So watch for vehicles entering your path of travel.

RIDE REPORT: THUNDER BEACH

Road Captain: Charlie Buck

Gunner: Jim Mincey

We had a early start to a beautiful day!!

KSU was at 8:00. We took HWY 20 (probably the most boring road in the area) to 231 south. We took a short break at the Valero. After stretching we went west on Hwy

388. At Hwy 79 we went south to Bay pkwy then a quick right on Pier Park Dr. which takes you in the back of the park. This is the only way ill go to this Rally. It cut off a bunch of time sitting in traffic. Thank you Tom and Karen for that in-

fo!!! When we got there it was busy and by the time we left it at 3 it was getting packed. There were hundreds if not thousands of Bikes trying to get in. Kidd Rock was playing

there that night. I can't even imagine how pack it was closer to show time. We left there and ate at Pineapple Willies. I would absolutely go there again. Good food excellent service. It was a great day!!!

Charlie

