

Charge It!

Mark Welch — Safety Officer



Recently, a few of our members were left stranded as a result of battery failure so I was asked to do a little research and report back what I learned.

The first thing I learned about was a store that

gives away dead batteries free of charge! Like the article on tires published earlier this year, when it comes to replacing your battery, it is best to not go at it cheaply.

I recently had to replace my battery, I bought it from Harley and it was certainly not free of charge. I had intended to go to a local store that advertises selling batteries for everything that needs a battery.

After hearing from some of our HOG members, I am glad I went to Harley.

My cell phone battery died and I got angry. My counselor recommended that I find an outlet.

But back to your motorcycle. During the conversation, there was some discussion about using a trickle charger.

Some folks heard that you should not use a trickle charger as it would reduce the life of the battery. I contacted Harley on your behalf to get their input.

Harley's position is that you should always use a trickle charger whenever you are not riding your motorcycle to extend the life of your battery.

I have taken their advice and keep my motorcycle on a charger whenever I am not riding. Batteries are always

on duty. Even when a motorcycle is parked, the battery discharges continuously in small internal loads called self-discharge.

Self-discharge speeds up drastically as the temperature rises and accessories like alarm systems will further increase the rate of discharge. If a battery is discharged too deeply, for too long, it may be permanently damaged.

I should have been sad when my flashlight batteries died, but I was delighted.

Harley also recommends a periodic check of your battery cables. Apparently, a loose battery cable is a fairly common problem on motorcycles and can lead to battery failure.



For those of you who have not experienced it, when your battery fails, your motorcycle dies mid-ride. It is terminal, I am positive. (See what I did there?)

A well maintained battery should last about five years. So if you do not have a charger for your motorcycle, you may want to consider making that purchase.

And it would make a great Mother's Day or Father's Day gift!

Head and eyes!

Mark