

Riding the Twisties

Here are some thoughts that should be revisited from time to time. Our prime riding season is upon us so, now is one of those times!

Some of the best advice concerning curves that I've read comes from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Their basic procedure is to Slow, Look, Press, and Roll.

To paraphrase: When approaching a curve, SLOW down enough to where you can safely apply power in the curve. Your motorcycle will be much more stable when applying power verses slowing down or braking. LOOK through the curve. Pick your exit point and keep an eye on that, while scanning the road surface for obstructions, potholes, etc. Enter the curve on the outside, steer to the inside and exit on the outside. You'll be able to take advantage of as much pavement as you can while staying in your lane. PRESS on the handle bar in the direction you want to lean and be prepared to press harder or less if the curve radius or slope changes. Trust your motorcycle and your (motorcycle) tires! ROLL on the throttle slightly increasing power to stabilize your ride. By doing this you'll have better control and you won't surprise the rider behind you who is expecting to accelerate in the curve. An exception would be to hold the throttle steady if the turn radius decreases. (Sharper)

If you must do a quick stop while in a curve, straighten or bring your bike to vertical as much as you can, while staying in your lane, before hard braking.

The MSF recommends to always employ the S.E.E. procedure, especially in curves. (Search, Evaluate, & Execute)

SEARCH for information about the curve. Look at its radius, slope, surface condition and other traffic. Is the entire curve visible? What happens beyond the curve?

With this information, EVALUATE the situation and plan your path and speed. Be ready for any problems. EXECUTE using a well timed Slow, Look, Press, & Roll technique.

Have fun and ride safe!

Big Tim

Reference: MSF Basic Rider Course, Rider Handbook ver. 7.1

Link to view or print:

http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/mo_basic_rider_handbook.pdf