

Motorcycle Riding Tip

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When to Hang It Up

The past 18 months have been hard on my body. The return of prostate cancer, treatment that caused extreme fatigue. Many other personal, life changing, events. I really did not want to ride during that time although I did ride a few hundred miles a couple of times. I felt great every where, mountains to freeway.

Where I was uncomfortable was a very low speed. I knew if the bike went over I could not pick it up. Well the day I sold the bike I did put the bike on the engine guards at a gas station. I went into the normal bike lift I had used a hundred times, but, this time the bike would not move without the help of two other guys. I have been riding for 55 years. Being an MSF instructor for the past 15 years I have advised many people that their ability to ride has diminished with age. Maybe the rider should consider a trike or end their riding. They could hurt themselves or others.

Well it came down to following my own instructions or having an expensive motorcycle become driveway jewelry, feeling bad every time I looked at the bike, it depressed me. I bite the bullet and put an ad in Cycle Trader. The first caller bought the bike. It is now on its way to Sweden.

Two days later I read an article in Wing World Magazine by Nick Hoppner, February 2007. He is the editor of that publication, a good friend, and an excellent rider. He had published a full page article on "When to Stop Riding". I am proud that I took my own advice and stopped riding for now. I am still considering the trike idea, a smaller bike or just hanging up on the sport I love. But Nicks article is in the front of my mind.

This is my last article on safety to you. It is printed in both AZ Biker magazines. If you can get the article Nick wrote I suggest you spend a little time and consider your current ability to ride safely.

Be safe out there take a rider course to improve your skills.
Remember Head Up, Eyes on the Horizon and Look Through the Turns.

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