

## Sport Riding Tip

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**GUN SAFETY** – What do guns have to do with motorcycles? Well, for starters, guns and motorcycles are both high powered, potentially lethal weapons, that, if placed into the wrong hands or used improperly, could kill the user or those in the general vicinity. Both require respect and training to use properly. Most importantly, they really should be used for their intended purpose. For a gun, that use mostly has to do with hitting a target; for a motorcycle, use has to do with transportation, getting from point “a” to point “b” with as little drama or trauma as possible. Problem is, many motorcycle operators like to create their own drama, as if the ride itself isn’t enough.

Like a gun, a motorcycle can maim or kill if used improperly – like, for stunting on public roads. Let’s add overly aggressive riding to that list. Just for good measure, throw in some gems such as a top-speed run to “clean out the pipes” or “see what it’ll do.” There are times and places for each of those activities, yet every day some riders opt to ignore the risks of such behavior and put themselves and possibly others in harm’s way because they just can’t resist the temptation. There are places and times for a gun owner to practice handling and firing their weapon, such as a firing range. Again, just like with guns, motorcyclists have venues for riding in a manner that is considered risky in public – drag strips, trackdays and stunt competitions, to name a few. Still, some gun owners end up plinking shots off cans and bottles in a remote canyon somewhere instead of at a firing range. This practice is still much better than doing the same activity near a populated area, because if something does go terribly wrong, the only people likely to get hurt are the shooters themselves. Motorcyclists that are not interested in seeking out “proper” venues for their type of specialized riding could take a tip from those who elect to shoot their guns out in the desert somewhere; *do your type of riding as far from other people as possible*. That way, the only person you’ll likely hurt is *you*. See? Motorcycles *are* like guns – you gotta know when and where to pull the trigger.

***Until next time – Don from Ride Smart***