

Riding with Jane

Hello folks! Thanks for glancing my way. It seems there are always articles about tuning your bike, fixing your bike, and places to ride your bike but there doesn't seem to be anything out there for riding your bike. I would like to try and change that, not by telling you how to ride but telling you my trials and errors and what I learned from them, hoping that I can help one or two of you out there.



I have been on motorcycles all my life or as long as I can remember. My first time on a bike was on my brother's Honda 65 at the age of 7. I drove dirt bikes but I rode on the back of street bikes until about 14 years ago. I have such a passion for riding and want to be the best I can be so I practice a lot, I ride about 20k miles a year.

I started riding a Yamaha, knowing that if I were to drop and break something it wouldn't cost an arm and a leg. Well, I had a baby and took a break from riding when I started riding again it was a Harley. Thinking I had learned all my lessons on the Yamaha, it was beyond me why after only a couple of weeks I dropped my Sportster and broke off a lever. Ok, well let's replace it no big deal, until a couple of months later I was replacing a lever. Lesson learned? Ah... no. About two months later, I was being cool pulling across a parking lot after having dinner with some folks I had just met (they had been told I was a great rider). So there I go across the parking lot toward them, I thought I would get real close and turn. Once again, down I go. Another lever. What the ???? Ok, this is getting ridiculous. I'm either gonna start buying levers by the case or I gotta find out what I'm doing wrong. So after being the brunt of a lot of laughs and jokes, I asked an experienced rider. This is what I was told and ya know I haven't dropped it since!

If you have taken a riders course they teach you these things but if you haven't ridden for a while sometimes these are the things you forget. There are times to use your front and rear brakes and there are times to use only your rear (most may know this but this is for those who don't). When you are in dirt use only your rear brake when you are driving slow, using your front only makes the front tire slide out from under you. When you are making a slow and rather tight turn, such as lining your bike up to back into a parking space or needing to cut your bike tight, use your rear brake. Making a U-turn is much easier because you will have the feeling of more control and at the same time be able to give it gas to pull out of the turn. PicturePractice. You know the slow races they have at events? Have your own slow race and get the feel for it. You will notice you will be more comfortable and in better control. It's a good feeling.

Ride safe, have fun!