

## **Watch What You're Doing!**

**By Jim Roberson**

OK, it's a beautiful day and you are having a great ride and all of a sudden you stop paying attention to what you are doing, something you should never do as a motorcycle rider. What happens next? It all depends on what training you have had; the skill with which you operate your motorcycle and many other factors.

First of all, you should always be aware of where you are in the road, who or what is around you, hazards that may result in imminent danger to you and many others. Riding a motorcycle takes multi-tasking to a whole new level. Your skills are constantly being tested; your training is constantly being recalled, etc.

At the Moses Lake seminars, we heard that there are approximately 60% of motorcycle operators out there who do not have a motorcycle endorsement. One can assume from this fact that they have little or no training in operating a bike. They had the cash or available credit to buy the beast and now they are having the time of their lives. Or are they? They might be having a great time but they can sure put a kink in your day. They have, in some cases, a 800 to 900 pound bike with a huge motor and zilch for training. An accident waiting to happen.

Just because you have training does not mean that you are safe. You must be constantly practicing your skills. As a Chapter Educator I cannot tell you to do things that sound like instructions or coaching. I am not qualified to teach the GWRRA classes such as the ARC. Asking a friend to give you pointers on what they see you doing improperly could backfire on you. If I or someone else offered advice and an accident occurred later on while following the advice that was given might pose a big problem. Even though you were offering advice with totally good intentions, it could possibly lead to liability so to avoid this I would say that offering a copy of the Cornering Practice Guide -- Parking Lot Practice -- for them to use to work on their riding skills would be apropos. This guide is a tutor, or self teacher with proven suggestions.

Each of us can do this for each other. After all we are "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge." We want to have fun on the rides and we want to do all that we can to promote safety. Think about it! No close calls, no needing to swerve, no blowing of the horn; just having a good time because we practice and ride safely.