

Texas Motorcycle Safety Forum

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

Are You Ready
for a Road Trip?



Introduction

- Dr. David Jones, DD “Doc”
- Started riding 1973 summer before Senior year in HS
- Post HS graduation; traveled over 700K miles throughout Mexico & US
- Retired from any current profitable ventures
- Co-Founder of Safety On Two Wheels Public Non-Profit
- Biker / Motorcycle Adventurist



Are you ready for a road trip?

- Typical Planning Mistakes
- Preparing Yourself and Your Bike For Your Trip
- Planning The Actual Trip
- Packing For The Trip
- Contingency Plan



Typical Planning Mistakes

- Many MC road trips fail before they even start
 - **Pursue your dream** – (Don't wait for "Some Day")
- Where do you want to go?
 - Typically destination focused
- How far away is it?
 - Look at the map on your Smartphone for the distance and how long it takes to get there
 - Many don't realize it takes longer to travel somewhere on a MC



Typical Planning Mistakes

- Don't forget how big Texas really is
 - Depending on where you live and where you want to go, you can spend an entire day just getting out of Texas
 - Which means you will also spend an entire day just riding back through Texas on your way back home.
- Do not trust the GPS travel time to be the same as on a bike
- Shooting for longer distances than physically prepared.



Preparing Yourself & Bike

- What's your health?
 - How much do you ride on a weekly basis?
 - What has been your longest ride and how long ago was your last ride?
 - Plan on a stop per hour just to walk around, eat a snack, drink H2O.
 - If you are on medication make sure you have enough for the trip.
 - If you are on a new medication consult with your Dr. on side effects.
- TCLOCS – should be a daily consideration before you ride
 - But depending on the total mileage you may need to buy new tires before you go, or plan to buy during the ride and make sure you have a dealer ready for you.



Planning The Actual Trip

- If this is your first big* ride, remember on a bike, the vacation starts when you pull out of the driveway and not at the destination. *Big as in longer than a 3-day weekend
 - GPS travel times are almost always shorter than reality when riding a motorcycle. Factors (wind or weather/fatigue/butt wear/fuel/food)
- Depending on the type of travel, planning can be very different.
 - Traveling to a specific destination(s), takes more research and planning vs directional exploration



Planning The Actual Trip

- Destination travel - you must calculate the millage and time to get to each destination and divide each day accordingly.
- For longer distance travel over multiple days (1 + weeks) consider saddle time. If you try to ride longer distances each day in effort to get places quicker, fatigue can set in as early as the end of day 2. If you mess up and get Monkey Butt from too much time in the saddle at the beginning of the trip, the whole ride can turn miserable.
- Directional Exploration – Virtually no planning involved. Point-n-Go. I use a 3/8/6 rule for this travel. (300 mi/8 hr day/6pm arrive)



Packing For The Trip

- Do you really need that kitchen sink? Noobs typically over pack
- Must consider GVWR on your bike and do not overload it
 - Read your manual and make the necessary suspension adjustments including tire pressure.
 - Balance your load. Remember your triangle as you load your bike. If you load the rear end too heavy you risk developing a front-end-wobble (tank slapper). Especially if you have dual rear shocks.
- Think minimalistic. Plan on day 3 or 4 to stop for laundry day.
 - ATGATT – actually saves on clothing needs.
- Things to consider-Tools/tire kit, rain gear, paper map, First Aid kit



Contingency Plan

- At any given day or time, life can go sideways while riding.
- You need a good first aid kit and know how to use it. Even practice on yourself.
- Lone rider needs to consider a Spot Gen3. www.findmespot.com
- Group riders needs several people trained at least in first aid. From severe headaches, heat stroke, road rash, broken bones/fractures, abrasions or lacerations.
- Know how to find your actual GPS coordinates on your smartphone or GPS. Take a picture of it.



Contingency Plan

- Become a Certified Road Guardian
- Consider taking an ASM Basic and Advanced course
- If you live in the Houston area Wyly & Cook Attorneys at Law and SO2W are hosting a (2) day Basic & Advanced course May 21 & 22.
- <https://na.eventcloud.com/22-100-46-tomball-tx>
- <https://roadguardians.org/>
- Questions

