



SAFETY



State of Motorcycling and Traffic Safety Address

From the office of the Wolf River HOG Chapter Safety Officer, here is his yearly address concerning the state of motorcycling and traffic safety in Wisconsin.

“Mr. Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Other Officers, Members, Associate Members, Honored Guests, and just plain guests. I am with you in spirit today (I am wearing shorts and bicycling in 60-degree weather in Arizona. Sorry!), to share with you the state of motorcycling as it concerns the Wolf River HOG Chapter and beyond.

All in all, and considering the weather, 2022 was a good year. By good, I mean an active one, yet a reasonably safe one. Our riding miles were higher than in 2021. Our major rides were basically incident free. There were no crash fatalities in our ranks, and best of all, statewide motorcycle fatalities are down significantly in 2022 compared to 2021. **(Applause!)**

In 2021, 121 motorcycle riders and passengers died in crashes. One of the highest totals in the last 5 years. But in 2022, we only lost 80 riders and passengers. That is nearly a 33% reduction in motorcycle related fatalities. Turn to your neighbor and give them a pat on the back. **(Applause again!)**

Statewide, overall, all traffic fatalities were reduced from 581 to 572. **(Applause again!)** But one category increased substantially. Pedestrian fatalities rose from 48 in 2021 to 65 in 2022. **(Oh no!)** Remember to be extra alert for pedestrians. Assume they don't see your vehicle. When possible, if you can do it smoothly, stop a good distance for anyone waiting to cross the street and let them cross. Remind everyone you know to walk against traffic when there is no sidewalk.

Until there is zero in Wisconsin, we cannot rest. We must continue to drive and ride free, but with concern for the safety of ourselves, and especially our passengers and those with whom we share the road. And yes, there are plenty of other motorists out there that drive stupid. So, ladies and gentlemen, I say to you, ask not what traffic safety can do for you, but what you can do for traffic safety. **(Extra Loud Applause!)**

We must be ever vigilant. We must employ every tool in our kit at all times to assure each ride is not our last. We must **SEE (Search Evaluate, and Execute)** and **Be SEEN (Bright colors, always using signals, avoid riding in others' blind spots)**.

We must also follow T-CLOCS to assure our bikes, and likewise our 4-wheel vehicles are as road ready as possible. We must use designated drivers whenever we party. Thank you and God Bless the Wolf River HOG Chapter.”

Ride and Drive Safe out there!” **(Cheers and Applause)**



I was invited on a ride with a bunch of “Bikers” this morning. I wish they would have been more specific.