

Kansas HSTA

Riding in the New Year

Ride Smart, Ride Safe. Focusing on the details makes a difference



Question:

Robert Bashaw asked, "How am I supposed to look down the road, scan up and down, side to side or rotate? Sometimes the simple questions can be the hardest. Any input?"

Dang good question, Robert.

Properly scanning is very hard to do, especially in a curve. You need to keep an eye on the vanishing point of the curve to be sure nothing pops up, but you also need to keep half-an-eye on the pavement 1 second ahead to be sure you didn't miss some sand, diesel or road-snot.

What I do in a curve, and I'm a FNG to this whole riding thing (4 years, 40K miles) is to scan near

and far while keeping the pace down. If I **know** the pavement is good, I can be smoother and faster around the corner by focusing on the vanishing point. Head up, eyes level to the horizon, all that. That implies a great deal of trust in your tires, the road surface and your protective gear.

On a straight line, it's a matter of threat identification. Start out at zero seconds away - anything moving? Anything a potential threat? No? Move to 1-3 seconds out. Movement? Threats? No. Move to 3 to 9 seconds - much shorter look for movement or threats. Then a very brief check of 9 to 99 seconds, and back to zero seconds. If you identify a potential threat, keep checking back on it while you scan the future. Plan an action to mitigate

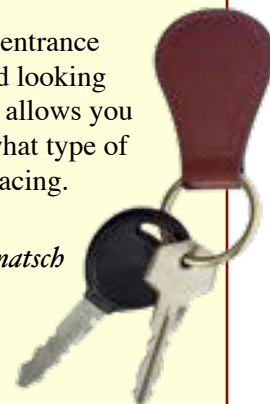
Surviving Corners

.... The number one survival skill, after mastering emergency braking, is setting your corner entrance speed early, or as Kenny Roberts says, "Slow in, fast out."

.... Street riders may get away with rushing into 99 out of 100 corners, but that last one will have gravel, mud or a trespassing car. Setting entrance speed early will allow you to adjust your speed and cornering line, giving you every opportunity to handle the surprise.

...Setting your entrance speed early and looking into the corner allows you to determine what type of corner you're facing.

--Nick Ienatsch



the risk of the threat - slow, speed, swerve, whichever is appropriate to reduce the risk.

Will England, Jan 2006

VENDOR REVIEW - TVNAV.COM

GPS systems are becoming more and more important on the long trips we take. And, as prices drop and features rise, they are quickly becoming standard equipment on the sport-touring motorcycle. TVNav.com has been selling GPS devices from their Salina, KS shop for years, and has built a reputation for service above and beyond the call. Chuck Hickey posted on the Long Distance Rider e-mail list:

“At the time I had never bought anything from Darryl [but] I had a problem with my Street Pilot software and in using some after market software. Darryl sent me a free hard copy of the software (instead of a download) and then followed up with a phone call a couple of days after delivery to talk me through the install. Remember - He sent me something for free that cost him money to burn and to mail - then used his phone to call me up and his time to walk me through the process. I had never bought from him and he really didn't know me from Adam.”

Another example, again from the Long Distance Rider e-mail list, where Tom Austin reports that TVNav offered to save him some money by delaying a sale:

“There [was] a \$100 rebate from Garmin for purchases made before the end of the year, so I bit the bullet last night and ordered one online from TVNAV.com. Today, I get a phone call from TVNAV.com telling me they will be glad to ship it today, but if I want to forgo the \$100 rebate and have them delay shipment until Tuesday, the price is going to drop by \$165 and I'll save \$65.”

Personalized service, before, during and after the sale. That is what makes the difference by buying from TVNav.com.

RIDING: SEVEN WONDERS OF KANSAS

If you know where to look, Kansas has some great roads and great destinations. Here's my top seven - send me your ideas for your favorite roads, routes and destinations and I'll compile them for a future newsletter.

- 1) Geographic Center of the US
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/center.htm>

- 2) The Tallgrass Prairie
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/tall.htm>
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/konza.htm>
- 3) Teeterville - Chase County Flint Hills
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/teter.htm>
- 4) Chase County Courthouse
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/chase.htm>
- 5) Hollow Park, Sedan, KS
<http://www.kansasphototour.com/sedan.htm>
- 6) K177 from Strong City to Cassoday (again, Chase County)
- 7) K57 Southwest from Junction city to K4 at Dwight, East to Topeka.

SWAG

The Food Network is offering the 'Feasting on Asphalt' TV show on DVD, as well as the T-Shirt from the show! Search for 'feasting on asphalt' at their web store: <http://store.foodnetwork.com/>



The sequel to Faster, 'The Doctor, The Tornado and the Kentucky Kid' is out on DVD - <http://dtkmovie.com/> as is 'The Worlds Fastest Indian'.

RALLIES

Coming up this Spring is the new Ride the Rio in Ft. Davis Texas - a month later! March 15 to 18, the weather should be good enough to ride down from Kansas! Check the website for more details:

- <http://www.ridetherio.com/>

The Byway Boogie in Arkansas is under new management - watch this space for announcements and details! Or, check out their website at:

- <http://www.bywayboogie.com/>

For the whole list of HSTA rallies, check the National site at <http://www.ridehsta.com/events.htm> and be sure to read your STAR Review magazine!

Till next month!

Will England