

MAINTAIN YOUR MOTORCYCLE

I have been training motorcycle riders and inspecting their motorcycles for the past 42 years and I am still surprised on how riders do not take care of their motorcycles. Recently I was going to train several riders and the first thing I do is walk around their bikes.

You can tell how well a rider takes care of the bike by its appearance. I then checked the tires for their condition and pressure. The tire should be replaced when the tread depth is 2/32 of an inch. One bike did not have any tread to measure. I replace my tires when the tread depth is 3/32 of an inch. My tire pressure gage does not register if the pressure is less than 10 pounds of pressure. My pressure gage did not even register for that tire. The owner of the bike had complained that he didn't get good mileage out of that brand of tire. Now we know why. He did not recall the last time he checked the tire pressure. Good tires are your best insurance for a safe ride. I check my tire pressure before each ride.

One bike the chain was very loose and another one the rear brake pads were worn out. After checking several more bikes, the training was re-scheduled to a later date. Much to my surprise, several riders stated that they learned something from this inspection.

When I am preparing to go on a ride I wipe down the bike not so that I am riding a clean bike, but to insure that everything that should be tight on the bike is tight. If I wiped it off, I know I checked it. When I am on a trip, I wipe down the bike and check the tires for cuts and nails. I then cover it before I have dinner. The next morning I check the tire pressure and oil level. I want to check the tire pressure when the tire is cold. This will also give the oil time to drain down to the oil pan and ***I will not be handling a hot dip stick.***

RIDE SAFE AND KEEP THE RUBBER SIDE DOWN

Dick Studdard