

The Ride Stuff

By Alan Tecchio



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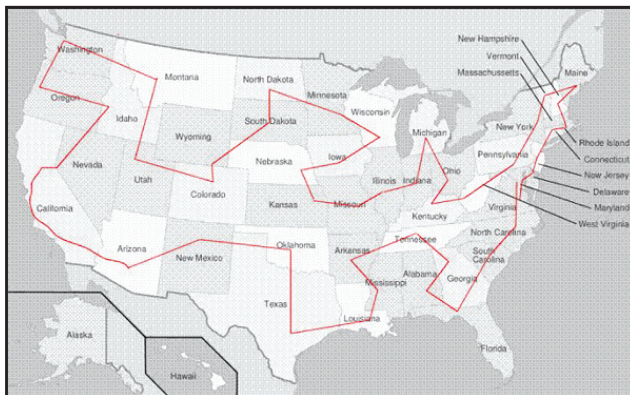
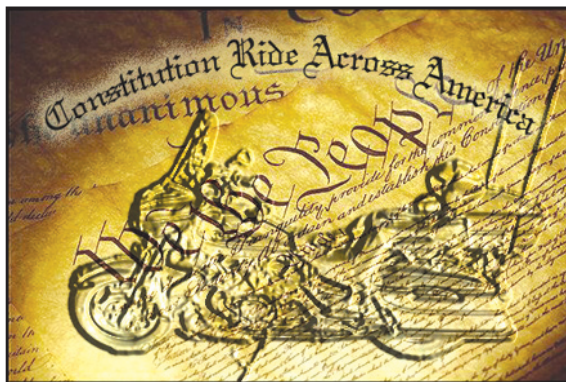
In this world, there are, for certain, more followers than leaders. However, in the traffic mix, we are all followers, at some point, of whoever happens to be in front of us. It is with this thought in mind that I want to stress the importance of keeping a safe following distance when riding.

A friend of mine was recently traveling down a single lane road with two cars in front of him. The lead car decided to make a left turn and the second car began to go around the turning vehicle on the right. Midway through the pass, the driver locked up the brakes thinking he could not fit past the turning car. Long story short, the unexpected stop threw an unhittable curve at my friend and he ended up with nowhere to go except into the curb. He was then thrown off the bike and over the car sustaining a bruised knee and some road rash, but overall he was OK. Was he following too closely? Most likely, yes. Was the stop an unpredictable one? For sure. But when riding, we need to expect the unexpected every single second. Fortunately, my buddy is OK, but you should use his example, as I am sure he will, to keep a minimum of two seconds (and preferably more like four seconds) between you and the vehicle in front of you. Always be mindful of having a potential escape route if trouble arises and constantly search for dangerous scenarios.

I normally never discuss politics in this column, but this next bit of info is pretty cool, in my mind. I think it is safe to say that the state of politics in America is at an all time low. Personally, I do not trust any politi-

cians regardless of party affiliation because they are all beholden to the special interest groups that helped them get into office. The F'd up situation we find ourselves in basically forces candidates to lie to all of us to try and get votes. Truly, it is a mess. The rub though is that most of us are so busy working to pay our bills that we cannot get involved on any level to make a difference, which

brings me to the point. Small businessman **Daren Gardner** is doing what many of us only wish we could do, and he needs the support of like-minded Americans. If you believe that America has strayed from the original principles of the Constitution and needs to get back on track before we are totally bankrupt as a nation, surf to Daren's website and show him some love. He is riding his motorcycle across the country from Aug. 15 to Oct. 30, stopping in state capitals for rallies focused on spreading the word that the Constitution still matters and that you can do something about it. In his own words, Daren says, "Because I love America, and the Freedom it stands for, and I will not sit back and watch our country be mandated and force onto the citizens changes that are in direct conflict with



the Constitution, The Bill of Rights and The Declaration of Independence that our forefathers founded this country on. So, I ask you, America, to support this Constitution Ride Across America, and come out and "Rally Up" when I ride into your state capitol." He sounds like many folks I know but he is actually doing something about it. I think he deserves some support, and if you agree, check his site out at www.craa2010.com. Daren will be in Trenton, N.J. on Aug. 16 for a 6 p.m. rally. 🇺🇸