

**You saved my butt today...**

Monday, August 13, 2007 10:38 AM

From: "mpd3587@bellsouth.net" <mpd3587@bellsouth.net>

To: "Steven Staples" <stevenestaples@yahoo.com>

I've been riding a lot lately. In fact, I just passed a thousand miles on my bike. Love it. This morning it got a little exciting for a minute. I'm leaving court, on my way back to the house and enjoying the relatively cool morning air. Traffic is pretty thick on Poplar, and as is my habit I've left a pretty big cushion in between me and the car in front of me to provide a little wiggle room to react to the other idiots on the road. Some braniac type decides that he just HAS to occupy that space RIGHT FRIGGIN NOW and swerves into it. To make it even more fun, he does it just as the traffic light changes to yellow and brakes hard.

No way to go around him, so I have to brake hard. Hard enough that my brakes lock. Thanks to your instruction, and a rather painful demonstration of what not to do in this situation, I did not panic. Instead I got off the front brake, got the wheel rolling again, and then used steady SMOOooooottthhhh preassure on the front brake to bring the bike to a quick controlled stop. The bike maintained a perfectly straight path of travel despite the skidding rear wheel, which I remembered might result in VERY BAD THINGS should I release the rear brake and it suddenly regain traction while out of line with the front wheel.

I shudder to think what might have happened had I not gone through your class. I can easily see myself taking an impromptu flying lesson in the middle of Poplar Avenue. that is an experience, that while very exciting, I would like to avoid. Thanks for helping me keep my skin on the outside and my bones unbroken.

Best Regards,
Adam Pickering

P.S. I may have become a bit obsessed. I'm currently feeling a real need to spend the next several years vacations on seeing the lower 48 states by motorcycle. I blame you for this...