

Yo! Yeah, that's what I said. Yo! Long before "Yo! MTV", my brethren in New York, where I grew up, greeted each other with "Yo!" So, "Yo!" In other words, "Wassup?"

Christina asked if anyone could help fill the shoes that were left empty when Casey chose to allow someone else to write Biker Education articles. Well, when it comes to filling shoes, anyone who knows Casey knows that those shoes cannot be filled by anyone other than Casey.

True Few Casey is a man among men. His insight, his dedication, his compassion and his understanding, make him a one in a billion kinda guy. He is the reason that all of our Elder's dreams of a unified motorcycling community have come together in the Austin area. Anyone who rides a motorcycle in this area should take the time and get to know Casey. And thank him.

Yeah, others may have ridden as long, and yeah, others might have belonged to clubs as many years, and yeah, others may have a background in teaching... hey, wait a minute...maybe someone can...

A'right. Enough of this mushy bullshit. Yadda, yadda, yadda. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I may not be able to fill his shoes, and I may not be as pretty, but I am going to try and fill his column. Over the years what's his name has written about many different themes and lots of different topics. I may even duplicate a few topics, but they will be from my humble perspective. I hope you can get at least 1% as much from my articles as you did from whatever that guy who used to write for this column's name was.

So this month I'd like to start out slowly and just tell you why I like loud pipes.

Now remember, this is simply my opinion. I am neither giving advice nor instructing you about what to do. Furthermore, I make no claim to be an attorney or any other legal advisor.

I've been riding motorcycles for over 30 years. During that time I've taken rider education classes, advanced rider education courses, expert rider courses, ad nauseum. Therefore, I'd like to believe that I know of which I speak.

I enjoy the feeling of nature all around me, and her touch all through me. Riding is my therapy and my spiritual connection.

The people that complain about the sound of loud pipes have brought the problem upon themselves. These are the people that change lanes without looking and without signaling; they go from the left lane to the exit ramp without care or caution; they hit their brakes for no reason, with no one in front of them, and pay little attention, if any, to their surroundings while driving.

Cars can brake much faster than motorcycles. They can react to road hazards at far less risk. They can right themselves from a skid at a much higher rate.

Approximately 30 percent of all automobile accidents end in an injury to the driver or a passenger, while 100 % of motorcycle accidents end in an injury to either the driver or the passenger, or both.

These cagers turn on their windshield washers without care to who's behind them; soapy water in the eyes of a motorcyclist burns their eyes and makes it very hard to see the road. They throw their cigarette butts out the window, so they don't dirty their ashtrays, yet I doubt any of them have ever felt a burning cigarette hit them in the neck or chest at 65 miles an hour. They discard trash because they didn't bring a trash bag or are too privileged to have trash in the car with them while they drive, but I am sure have never themselves been pelted with ice cubes, wax paper cups, crumpled up burger wrappers or abc gum.

If these people paid more attention to the road and what's around them, and less attention to their cell phones, their lunches, their seat mates, their iPod and their hair; and maybe tried leaving a few minutes earlier instead of being in such a rush to get wherever it is that they're going, there would be no need for loud pipes.

But as it stands, they don't look for motorcycles and they never see motorcycles, so I'm glad the noise from loud pipes gets their attention, because now at least I know that they hear us. So, for me, the bottom line is, "loud pipes save lives".

But don't rap them on side streets and neighborhoods. But that's another issue.

Dragonslayer FireBam