

# **Mason Dixon Safety Article**

**April 2016**

## **Tires for Motorcycles**

This safety article contains information that I have collected from research from manufacturers, other riders and my experience. The information that I write about is for you to decide what you want to do with it.

This article is about tires for your motorcycle and how important they are for your safety when riding. I have done extensive research on this subject. First, the most important thing you can do is make sure you have the manufacturers recommended air pressure in your tires at all times. Also remember if you are up north during the spring and go south like to Bike Week you need to recheck your air pressure when you get there and your tires have cooled down.

I have found out that manual air gauges can be off anywhere from zero to fifteen pounds. The only way to be safe and get a true reading is a digital gauge. I have found out from other riders and me trying different ones is the Sears Digital is the most accurate one unless you want to spend about \$300.00 for a dealership gauge.

On the subject of tire stems, make sure when you have tires replaced they put on new stems. Also, if you install ninety degree metal stems on your rims and they vibrate loose you have to have the tire broke down in order to tighten the stem.

The next subject is about nitrogen in your tires. There are a lot of different opinions about this. Some riders love it and others hate it. Some riders say it's like riding with a flat tire. Some riders say it improves their life of their tires and others say less. You will have to decide. There is one thing to remember that the tire manufacturers have spent a lot of money and research on designing tires.

They designed them to contain air. One other thing to think about, the nitrogen keeps your tires cool which in turn won't let them heat up to expand. If they don't heat up you don't have as much traction as a warm tire.

Next subject, when do you replace your tires? Please don't make the mistake I did last fall. I bought a 2014 Honda Valkyrie in July 2014. What I didn't know was when I needed to replace the tires last October they were back ordered and my bike had to sit for over two months. I missed out on two toy run rides that I make every year, Richmond and Delaware. It won't happen again. My suggestion to everybody is keep a close eye on the wear of your tires and when they start getting close order your tires ahead of time. The other is maybe you should replace your front tire before it needs it. If your rear tire is worn and the rear of your motorcycle slides a little bit you can correct it. If your front tire slides it's over.

This subject is the same as the nitrogen, balancing beads in your tires. Some love them and others don't. On research I found out two things. One is that they wear some of the inside of your tire away. Tire manufacturers don't recommend using them. The other if you are going in a slow turn and apply brakes the beads in the front tire will throw the bike off balance.

The last subject is the brand of tires that you have installed on your motorcycle. I'm not going to suggest which brand you use. I can tell you one brand that I have used will start making a noise within two thousand miles when turning because they start cupping. I can only suggest that you experiment with different brands. Whichever tires gives you good mileage and "TRACTION" use them on your bike.

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