

# **Blue Knights Mason Dixon Conference Newsletter**

**February - 2017**

## **Winter Time/Trikes/Tested Products**

Since it's been a few months since I've done a newsletter I'm going to try to catch up on several things I've been working on. As all the other newsletters this one is the same, suggestions. On the products I inform you on I have tested along with other riders and information from m/c mechanics.

On parking your bike for winter most of you know what you should do but I'm sure there are a few that might not be sure. I will cover just a few things in regards to this. When parking your bike for an extended time make sure you have a full tank of new gas with the correct amount of gas treatment in it. Make sure your tires are the right air pressure and your motorcycle's battery has a full charge. Cover your bike with a cover if you have one. The next thing really does work. Place a small zip lock bag with very small holes in it. Fill the bag with moth balls. Place it under your seat. This will keep mice from building a bed inside your bike somewhere. They also might chew through some of the wires. If you don't think this will happen, ask one of the members of West Virginia. Some riders change their oil just before they store their bike.

When you let your bike sit for a few months your oil in the engine will break down and get condensation in it. The first thing you should do in the spring before you ride is change your oil. While your bike is stored keep a trickle charger on your battery. For some reason if your motorcycle battery is dead don't start charging it with a trickle charger. The battery needs a hot shot to bring it back to life. Look what the hospital does to us if our heart stops. Your battery is the heart of your motorcycle. After your battery has been on a regular charger with high amps for about one and one half hours you can then put it on a trickle charger until it's charged.

One thing to think about is check your tires. You know that during the summer most folks have their bikes in the m/c shops for different things. This means your wait time increases while it's in the shop. During the summer months this is one thing you don't want if you live in areas of bad winters like I do. If your tires are getting close to be replaced or any other repairs this is the time to have it done so you don't lose ride time. And the time will be shorter. My suggestion would be to use an enclosed trailer to take it to the m/c shop even if you have to borrow one. Remember during the winter you have salt and other chemicals on the road. If you have a open trailer or in the back of the truck it will get overspray on it. The last thing to think about, this is the time you have to give your motorcycle some tender loving care.

During the stored time if you have a couple of good days uncover your bike, move it outside and start it up and let it run for awhile. Work all your controls and cables. Try and shift gears and moving the bike back and forth if you can. When you get the bike back in the garage check your air pressure in the tires. I try to do this at least once a month. This is the time of the year you can give your pride and joy a very good detailed cleaning and waxing. This could be the time to install any extras on your bike or upgrade things on it. In the spring make sure you do a complete check of everything on your bike before you start riding.

This is information I got a few days ago about trikes that should be put out there to everybody rides them. The word is several of them are having driveshaft problem. Some trike riders are taking long trips and getting stranded. The problem that I heard about is the driveshaft. The following is what I was informed by a dealership. Some have recalls on them. The other is poor maintenance of them. Before any long trip you should jack the trike up and grease the u-joints. Look for any rust or play in the u-joints. If it does, get it to a shop to be checked. Some brands have a rubber boot over the rear u-joint. If you see any deterioration on the boot do the same, get it to a shop. The last thing is contact the company that built your trike and see if there is a recall on it.

The products I'm about to write about are things that I and others have used. I have also researched everything I could about them.

The first item is a short antenna called a Stubby. This item is only about 4 inches tall. It's made of solid metal powder coated. At this time the company only makes them for Harley motorcycles and four wheel vehicles. The company has no comment about them for your cb, but Mac, the Road Captain of BK VA-5 has tested the Stubby Antennas on his Harley. Music stations are good and the ranges of the cb is between a quarter mile to a half mile between him and the person on the other bike. I get better reception for music stations than I did with stock antennas. One other advantage of them is that you don't have to bend the antennas over to put your cover over your bike. If you buy a Harley cover and your antennas are sticking up and if the folks that are looking to steal Harleys are around you just made it easy for them. The website for the company is [www.cravenspeed.com](http://www.cravenspeed.com). After ordering a few sets for our members I contacted the company and the person in charge about a discount. If you order one or several put our code in and the shipping will be free, the code when ordering is **BlueKnights**.

The next item is fuel treatment for your motorcycle when you store it for a few months. The treatment that I have found to be the best one is called **STAR TRON Enzyme Fuel Treatment**. Where I live I have to store gas for several months to run the generator when we lose electric, sometimes for several days. I have investigated this product for a long time before I would recommend it. One m/c shop has been using this brand for years. A contractor and crew that rebuild and repair ski lifts all over the east coast use it. They install that treatment in all his company's equipment that uses gas. The advantage of this brand is that it will last up to two years. Depending on how old the fuel this treatment can rejuvenate it. We all know how BAD ethanol is on all our gas engines. Anything that we can do to protect our pride and joy we will do. If you know of any other brand that is better contact me so I can put it out there for our members and friends.

The next item I have used but don't know a lot about it, it just works. The item is called **GRAB ON grip covers**. My hands go to sleep/numb when I ride several hundred miles from the vibration from the motorcycle and highway. I have to remove my hands from handlebars and shake them to get the feeling back. I rode a member of Blue Knight Delaware One's bike several months ago for several

hours and I never had ANY problems with my hands. He had these grips on his bike. I now have them on the Harley and will put them on the BEAST as soon as they get here. They are a foam sleeve that slides over the grips you have on your bike. All you do to install them is cut them to the proper length, spray hair spray inside them and slide them on your grips. Let them dry and your ready to use. They come in several sizes. The sizes I know about for bikes are 4.25" and 5" grip covers.

As all organizations we either grow or shrink. As your Blue Knight Mason Dixon Safety Officer I'm always trying to find ways to help our members out. I thought this might be a way to expand. If it works it could save our members a lot of research time looking for items they're interested in. If you know of any products that you would like for me to investigate for you please send the info to me. I'm sure that not everybody will agree with my information but as I said in the past you can't make everybody happy. I just try to. In the future I will have some products listed that I and some other riders aren't happy with. Please be advised the products that I inform you about the companies don't pay me to recommend their products. This is to help members and friends out with products that are good or bad.

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