

This month's safety article is excerpted from the Cycle Babble column by Buck Lovell
American Cycle Vol. 1, Issue 4, May 2007

SAFETY FIRST: DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

If you've been riding a motorcycle more than 5 minutes, you already know that motorcycle riders DO NOT have the right-of-way! Sure...you may have the right of way legally, but in a purely practical sense, you do not. Somehow, somehow motorcycles and their riders have become invisible. Now, if that were really possible, an official from our armed forces would be beating, and I mean BEATING a path to our doors. You see, it isn't really true in the "I can see right through you" sense, but it is incredibly accurate in the practical sense. Many car, truck and other four wheeled vehicle drivers simply CANNOT see motorcycles going down the street, even if they are bright orange, even if they have blue and red lights flashing. I would venture a guess that these blind motorists would not be able to see a motorcycle even if it was ON FIRE! You are not only invisible, you are silent. They can't hear you any better than they can see you. Believe it. It may save your life or at least some damage to your motorcycle if you ride as if you can't be seen.

Spanky