

Dear friends,

A few days late, but here it is: our newsletter. From now on we will send our updates in the beginning of the month (and no longer at the end).

The first days of September we finally spend some time with family and friends. I went to the coast to spend the weekend together with my girlfriend in a very nice hotel. To be honest: without a motorcycle..... (Is this bad or very bad?)

We are nearly at the end of this summer season, only a few weeks to go. We have had no major problems and we would like to keep it this way. Knowing our weather, we are sure we will have to prepare for some wet days. Driving in the rain. Is it a bad thing?



Driving in the rain.

We have had beautiful weather this season. Even a few weeks with too much sunshine. Riding a bike was great, but waiting for a traffic light killed us: so much heat! Remember: I always wear protective clothing. Always!

But we have had some pretty nasty days as well. A soft gentle shower is no problem. Although....

Remember: rain is just water. Just water and as you know water isn't slippery at all. Fact no 2: a modern motorbike is better than you are. Much better. Advise: never do something that doesn't feel good.

Most bikers are 'afraid' of rain. Roads are very slippery and many accidents happen. Maybe this is right. Or maybe it is just our believe.

Driving in the rain isn't more difficult or dangerous than driving along a dry road. But you have to keep some things in mind: first of all make sure you prepare well. Clean the sight glass of your helmet inside and outside. Put some anti-fog at the inside and some car wax at the outside. Make sure you buff it very intense. Second: make sure the tires of your motorcycle are in a good shape. Third: all driving skills learned long ago must be obeyed, but most important: look where you want to go! Never forget this one. Fourth: talk to yourself (all the great participants do it).



This way it is easier to focus and to concentrate. Fifth: if you can't manage to get a good feeling at the bike stop and have a cup of coffee. Never do things you don't want to do.

Driving in the rain isn't more dangerous, but the margin for mistakes is much smaller. Or in other words: after making a mistake, there will be no time to correct it.

Talk to yourself, it really helps!

Fact: less than 1% of all accidents are related to a technical failure of the motorbike. 33% is the result of a mistake of the motor driver. In 66% of all the accidents someone else just didn't see the motorcyclist at all!

Driving during hot weather.

The tires will stick to the tarmac. In case you make a little mistake and you react fast (enough) the bike will do everything you want it to do. But even beautiful weather has some dangerous downsides!



Always wear protective clothing.....

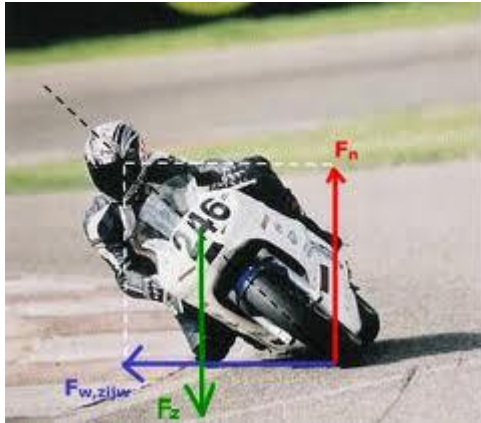
Wearing protective clothing is a very wise thing to do. But it will make you sweat a lot. During a long ride you will lose a lot of fluid, so pull over in time to drink. You have to make sure you don't get a heat stroke. Is it wish to open the sight glass of your helmet? Realize that you run the risk of a bug in your eye. Maybe wetting your head is a better option.

A cool suite is an option too. A special vest to soak in water. After wringing it, it doesn't feel wet. Even wearing it doesn't make your body wet, but for sure it cools you down. After wearing it I came to the conclusion that it is too cold for me. Shame. Another thing not to do: never put off your protecting clothing. For sure it will cool you down, but other hazards will become bigger. Not even your gloves. Your hands are the first ones, which will hurt badly in case something goes wrong!

Conclusion: don't change anything in case of hot weather, but stop one or two times extra to drink something (no alcohol!).

Not driving at all.

The first thought will be: this is the safest option of all. But taking a better look at it, maybe this thought isn't true. Many people -at least in our country- stop driving during the winter months and start using a motorcycle again in the spring. But it isn't like driving a bicycle, of which we think once you learned it you never forget. Maybe you won't forget how to operate your motorcycle, but for sure you will lose the feeling. You won't remember exactly how the bike responds and for sure you have to fresh up your memory of how fast your motorcycle is. So in the end maybe it is better to drive your motorcycle all year long, every few weeks. In our case: we have to notice the weather forecast the know whenever there will be a few nice sunny days during the fall and wintertime.



You don't do math during driving. The feeling has to be 'an automatic natural feeling'.

Website and social media

This winter we will spend more time and effort on our website. The website will be more informative about the Netherlands in general. Not only targeted on things related to motorbikes, but also wider orientated. More back ground info about our country. And of course the simple nice-to-know-things and items.

Till today we didn't spend much interest in the social media. We are on Twitter and Facebook, but not at a regular basis. It is not, that we didn't know social media exists or indeed are important, but it was a lack of time. But things change and we are sure we will find a way to do it. So keep an eye on it !



Funpart.

This time a lesson about the Netherlands. Experienced and written by an American girl who lived for some time in our country.

1. The Dutch love sprinkles on toast. I'm talking the sprinkles kids put on ice cream, but Dutch *adults* put it on bread. For breakfast. It's called "hagelslag", and [De Ruijter](#) makes the best kinds. Another variant, "muisjes" (little mice) are candied anise seeds; also delicious on buttered toast. You can get either pink (female) or blue (male) varieties. I'm not joking.

2. The Dutch will only eat one hot meal a day. If you arrive at a Dutch friend's house around dinnertime, they might ask, "Heb je al warm gegeten?" which means "Have you eaten something hot already?" If you had a hot lunch, your friend will prepare a (cold) sandwich for you for dinner. You can't eat 2 hot meals per day.

3. The Dutch love speaking English. Seriously, they all speak perfect, although heavily-accented, English. They will pronounce "idea" eye-DEE, and they will resist pronouncing it with 3 syllables in English, no matter how many times you correct them. On a related note, "I have no idea" is "geen idee", which sounds a little like "rainy day" when pronounced correctly.

4. The country is drenched with rain year round, but the Dutch never use umbrellas. They use raincoats and "rain-suits", but they never use umbrellas (too hard to ride your bicycle with one). The Dutch will happily put up with wet faces and heads. The "wet look" is permanently "in" there.



Another oddity is no matter how much it rains and floods temporarily, all the water's gone in about 20 minutes. I think it's because the ground is mostly sand; the water just drains away. The cement blocks used as a road surface are taken out every few years, the sandy ground is pounded flat with this sand-pounding-machine (seriously) and then they replace the cement blocks.

5. The Dutch have strange snacking habits. They eat fries (what they're famous for), but they're often drenched in mayonnaise or pindasaus (basically spicy peanut butter). They also love frikandel (all the scary remnant parts of animals they can't sell elsewhere, pressed into a vaguely hotdog shape, and then deep-fried until dark brown; yes, it looks like a piece of shit), kroketten (deep-fried lumps of dough wrapped around meat, that look like dried-up old turds), and cheese soufflés, which are greasy but I have to admit, pretty damn tasty. The most famous purveyor of this junk is a chain called Febo; you buy everything out of an automat. They're everywhere, especially inside train stations and open late when you're coming out of the clubs at 3am.

Feel free to come to our country to experience all strange habits yourself.

Yours faithfully,

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p.s. If you aren't interested please let us know. We'll stop the e-mails.