



Freedom's Road Newsletter
Written by Freddy Freedom

Freedom's Road **Things That *Go BUMP* In The Night**



From out of nowhere the two red eyes are staring at you, head on! Grabbing the clutch and brake levers and slamming down the shifter lever as fast a possible, trying to gear down while pounding the foot brake and clamping down on the front brake as hard as you dare. The rear tire squealing and your bike begins to drift. Your road instinct kicks in, telling you to back off as the bike dives down hard in response to the front brake being hammered. Feathering off the front brake and working the clutch still down shifting with as much control as you can muster and hoping for the best, you throw the bike into a hard swerve in a last ditched attempt to miss the deer. Then, right in front of you, two more deer jump into the road. In that split second your whole life flashes in front of you. Your next thought is to lay the bike down and try to bail off, in an effort to minimize the damage but in an instant the two deer bound off the road and only by the grace of God coupled with your road experience, you manage to miss all three deer.

We've all seen the menu for the Road Kill Café on the side of the road. The vast majority of this cuisine were nocturnal creatures who wandered into the road at night. The multitude of things that cannot be seen at night until it's too late include truck tire recaps, black garbage bags, pot holes the size of the Snake River Canyon, to every other imaginable thing. At night, your scenic "off the beaten path" route may not be your best choice.



Besides being bombarded by every kamikaze bug in the atmosphere, night riding presents several unique problems. At night your reaction time to any situation is limited to the distance your headlight shines. Under the best normal conditions your lighted visibility is about 250 feet and maybe 60 feet wide, at the very end of the light beam. At 60 mph, you travel 88 feet per second. That gives you only 2.8 seconds to see, recognize, diagnose and react to a situation that occurs at the farther distance of you light beam. You can't even read that last sentence that fast!

Black top roads are not visible beyond your headlight. So you have no clue what is up ahead, even as close as 300 feet! Vehicles coming towards you, especially on a curve can blind ya and once they pass, it'll likely take your eyes a few more seconds to readjust. One point that is really unusual is the tricks your eyes and mind will play on you with the shadows at night. You're riding along and really trying to concentrate, really watching out for anything that may cross your path. There, slightly off to the side, you see something heading for the road as you approach. It's moving, an animal or maybe a person coming across the road and you slam on the brakes only to realize that it was a strange shadow changing as the road made a slight dip

or curve! One final thing that really sneaks up on yea is the same dew that covers the ground at night also covers the road and makes the road slippery without you even realizing it!

If you have to ride at night my advice is to travel the super slab. More traffic reduces the chances of hitting an animal, and the road surface is usually drier due to more traffic. On the e-way, there's fewer pot holes. Visibility is better because of the lights of the other traffic and sometimes even street lights. Believe it or not, there doesn't seem to be as many bugs! And if you get fatigued, there are always rest areas, most are well lit, many have nighttime security, and most even have vending machines.

Given the choice, I prefer not to ride at night, but I have traveled thousands of miles at night, on all types of roads. My experience is that the super slab is the only way to go at night! And hey, you ain't gonna see at night anyway.

Hope to see ya on the road. ***Upright that is!***

Hogs In Ministry

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13