

# Riding Tip of the Month



## Blowin' in the Wind

As motorcyclists, we're always blowing in the wind, but when the wind begins to blow us around, things can get exciting and downright uncomfortable. In different parts of the country and at different times of the year, wind can create control issues that may cause some of us to keep our biked parked in the garage.

Wind speed approaching 30 to 40 mph shouldn't be much of a problem for most riders, even when it's coming at the rider at 90 degrees. A gentle and constant press on the handlebar towards the direction of the wind will lean your bike into the wind and keep you traveling in your intended direction. At higher wind speeds, more handlebar press is needed and the bike must lean even more to counteract the wind's force. Riding for hours in a steady wind can be a tiring task, so you may want to try shifting your weight into the wind by sliding over on the seat and even "tucking in" to reduce the wind's effect on the lever arm (your upper body above the seat). This should allow you to keep the bike straighter.

Things get a bit more serious when you are fighting gusts of wind. One moment you're riding straight down the road and the next moment you've been pushed across two lanes. This is when keeping your upper body relaxed is essential. Tense arms and shoulders will prevent you from reacting quickly, smoothly, and precisely to a wind gust. This is easy to say, but difficult to accomplish for the first time. Practice this technique when the gusts are gentle to gain your confidence and develop your precision handlebar input. Staying relaxed will allow you to execute precise steering input that will keep you in your lane of travel, arrive at your destination less tired, and make the trip a safer one.

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