

THE REAR SEAT:

There are lots of jokes out there regarding the co-riders. As everyone knows no matter what happens on the bike it is **always the co-riders fault**. This article is going to give a different point of view. Yes we are behind our driver but we are not just sitting there watching the countryside go by. We as co-riders are the second and sometime the first pair of eyes and ears to our drivers, and many times we can see things to alert our drivers of dangers they might not see since they are always focused on the road and keeping us safe in traffic and trying to anticipate what the car traffic is going to do. We can keep our eyes trained on potential hazards longer then our fellows. For instance, we can utilize the rear view mirrors to keep an eye of the traffic that is gaining on our back doors, especially when coming to a stop. We are always scanning the traffic ahead to alert when we see brake lights. Any of us that have been riding for any length of time know that we are always scanning the roadside for the ever present deer or any other wildlife that may decide to run in front of us. A few weeks ago I was on 75 just north of the Franklin exit. I had some of my co workers in the car with me and right off the road in a clump of bushes was a deer. I mentioned it to my passengers and they could not believe that I had spotted the deer. I explained it was my experience being a motorcycle passenger and always being on the lookout for those types of danger. We can also be of help by being ready to dismount the bike when stopping for gas and for being a help to the guys by perhaps paying for the gas so they don't have to go inside or maybe refilling their drink cups and then by being ready to take off again when the time is called for. I know many of the fellows won't admit it to their co-riders but we are very important to them not only as company and their friends but as their help mates so that our riding together is more enjoyable and not to mention making our rides more safe for everyone. I know you guys appreciate us but it is nice to hear it from you now and then so next time give your co-rider a **thank you and an "I couldn't do it without you. It always makes us feel good**. Thanks for your time and keep it safe out there.

Sandy Yaple

Phil's wonderful co-rider (Assistant Rider Educator)