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# MOTORCYCLIST'S POST

FOR AND BY THE NORTHEAST MOTORCYCLE RIDERS



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## The EDITOR'S COLUMN



*Your Editors  
Rick, Tim & Butch Baer*

# Full Gear Or Fools Gear

They're on the road again, riders and passengers in shorts and a tank tops. I cringe every time I see it. Don't they know what the asphalt can do to you. Road burn is nasty and the nurses won't cut you any slack, thinking you got what you deserved for riding in Fools Gear.

Yeah, but we all should know better. We've been educated and instructed to dress appropriately and we all know someone that learned the hard way.

Years ago a customer came into our shop and bought a new Yamaha R1 and when he brought it in for the first service he was dressed in fools gear from head to toe. He had one of those salad bowl plastic helmets, a muscle shirt and shorts and sneakers with those little half socks. I mentioned to him that if he was going to dress like that, he should of bought a surf board instead of a motorcycle.

Sure enough, two weeks later, he was back in for a collision estimate with road rash down his left side. He said my voice flashed through his mind as he was sliding and since then he had bought a full set of leathers, gloves, boots and a real helmet. I still see him once in a while, and he's always in full gear now.

I'm a believer in helmets and I'll always wear one regardless of the law. Twice the

helmet has saved my life. Once, when I clipped a sign post, it deflected the steel post from my head to my shoulder, breaking my collar bone instead of smashing my skull. The second time was when I went over the bars and slid on top of my head for a moment. The helmet looked like I held it up to the worlds roughest belt sander. If it wasn't for that helmet, I wouldn't have all this hair or be alive to tell you about it.

As for those plastic salad bowl helmets that many riders wear, there is no protection. You'd be just as safe if you shaved your head and painted it black.

This seems to be a problem with inexperienced riders. Once you've survived a few seasons, you smarten up and change your ways. You've learned some valuable lessons out on the road through experiences and consequences and are a smarter rider for it. Only if we could truly understand it when we were taught, we could miss the pitfalls, rather then attending the school of Hard Knocks.

So this is just a reminder to dress smart out on the road. Hope you'll never need to put your gear through the test. But, if you do, it will serve you well.

*Ride safe  
Tim Baer*



**This poster is from the 1980's.  
As relevant today, as it always was.**

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**FOR AND BY THE NORTHEAST  
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS**

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## COVER PHOTO

### Coggers in the Garage

Members of the Concours Owners Group gather for their Spring Tech Day at Pat Mulloy's home. They spent the day swapping parts and stories. L-R: Pat Mulloy, Greg Habel, Bill Billig, Kevin Remsen, Brian Fleice and Sal Napolitano. All members of the North East Region of the Concours Owners Group.

*Photo by Tim Baer*

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# COGGERS IN THE GARAGE

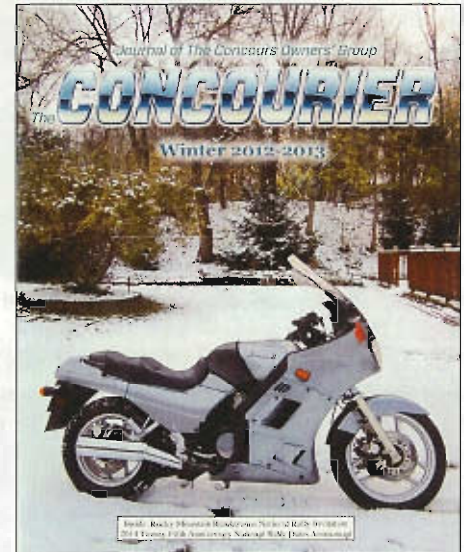
By Tim Baer

I had noticed the sign just down the road from my home last year. I knew what COG meant, but I was headed out of town for the day. This year, on the last Saturday in April while I was doing my Honey-Do list, I was running into town when I noticed the dayglow COG sign on the side of the road again. I turned around and headed back to the house to get my camera, business cards and a copy of the Motorcyclist's Post and then stopped in to meet the group.

There were about 30-40 Kawasaki's parked in the driveway and a big Kawasaki banner stretched across the shed. Behind the sign-up table was the club's banner hanging from the porch rail along with a swap area and the snack table. The three bays of the garage were wide open and there were 5 Kawasaki's being worked on by the Coggers, they were replacing tires, a rear shock, doing oil changes and replacing the tiny batteries in the tire pressure sensor system. It seemed the tiny battery powering the pressure sensing system dies in about three years and Kawasaki wants you to replace the entire assembly for \$198.86 retail, per wheel, plus labor whereas the club has found a method of replacing just the battery for a lot less money.

Back in 1986, Kawasaki took their Ninja 1000 motor and installed it in a sport touring set up with drive shaft and hard bags and created the Concoeurs, the ZG1000-A1, a "Gentlemen's Express" which surprised the hell out of BMW and gave them a good run for their money. It didn't take long for the Concoeurs to prove it's worth and create a following. The ZG1000 stayed in production for the next twenty years with minor improvements and a good reputation. In 2007 there was no Concoeurs on the show room floors, as Kawasaki planned their next move. In 2008, Kawasaki came out with the new Concoeurs, the ZG1400 with a host of modern improvements, reestablishing their presence in the sport touring world.

I got a chance to talk to Steve Smith, the Area Director. The club is quite active and has a lot of members. This year's regional schedule has nine events including the National Meet in Helene, Georgia in June. Nationally, the group is divided up into 5 regions with a few reaching into Canada and the club puts out a great magazine called the Concourier, the journal of the Concoeurs Owners Group full of stories and tech tips. The club is proud of their many long distance riders and offers 50k, 100k, 150k and 200k stickers for those that qualify. This group is one of the clubs you join for the bike and stay for the people. If you would like to get involved with the group, please visit their website at [www.cog-online.org](http://www.cog-online.org).



The National Group of the COG puts out the Concourier, a beautiful club magazine four times a year.

April 30-9:00am	NE Spring Tech Session + Gear/Part
	Manson, MA SWAP
May 7-	W/ Inhorse Gear Trip/Ride
May 13-22	NE Spring Flng - Williamsport PA
May 28-	Berkshires Ride
June 18-	New Hampshire Ride
June 20-24	National Rally - Helene GA
July 14-	MA Bay Lunch Meet+Grid - Cabin Resort in
July 22-	Vermont Ride
Sept 22-24	Down East Maine Fall Rally - Acadia

The COG North East Region Summer schedule.



The COG Tech Day, the garage was a busy place, changing tires, flushing fluids and swapping stories.