

## **THE REAR VIEW**

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***Submitted by Tracey "Disco" Essary***

What a change of pace it is to be on the back seat of a bike.

I am always. Running around in my cage competing with those wanna be NASCAR drivers that need to beat me to the next red light. How delightful it is to be able to close your eyes and let the wind surround you. How relaxing it is to lean back and just listen to nothing – just let your thoughts go running through your head that is a view from the rear.

Another rear view is the intricate details that you can now focus on. The scenery that you have passed everyday for 2 years, but now it looks totally different. There are signs and trees and houses that you never noticed before. Hmmm – I'll have to check out that store next time I'm by.

Getting ready to go for a ride is a lot different than getting ready to go somewhere in a car. The hair doesn't have to be just right and the makeup can be a little lighter because when you get where you're going, it doesn't really matter. Everyone has the same hair issues – flat and messy AKA helmet hair. Getting the gloves, jackets, headgear, boots and miscellaneous gadgets together can sometimes take a while unless you're very organized. It seems like you have everything you could possibly need and then Mother Nature plays a trick on you like being windy or rainy when you're prepared for 100-degree weather or vice versa. ALWAYS BE PREPARED – we've all heard that a million times in our lives, but it is true.

Luckily, my rear view has been from a very comfy, padded seat on the back of a Gold Wing for the past 3 years or so. I know, it isn't the badass biker's bike, but let me tell you, my butt certainly appreciates it. You can have the vibrations and I'll take the comfort!! We can travel for twice the time most bikes can due to the larger gas tank, so we can cruise for quite a while comfortably until we need to stop and stretch.

Because we're on the Gold Wing, we've got lots of built in luggage, so of course shopping is allowed. Unfortunately, I have to share some of the space for his stuff. It also allows us to be prepared with the various "have to haves" and the items for the "just in case" situations.

I've been driving for over 30 years now and I know the freedom that getting a driver's license provides. I also know the concentration that it takes to drive a car and that the concentration needs to be increased when driving a motorcycle. I prefer to clear my mind, feel the sun and the wind on me and leave the driving to my husband and just enjoy the rear view.