

## Rider Education Report

Here we are at the end of another year. This is when I like to look back on the last eleven months and review my achievements. This year Kim and I have finished our long running project to replace the various flooring materials on the first floor of our home with real oak flooring. Although it took a lot of planning and hard work, the results are very satisfying. It was a project that required the use of many skills I learned in high school shop class. And thinking more about that, I realize that many of the lessons I learned in shop class can translate to other aspects of life, like problem-solving, attention to detail, caring for your tools, the value of following instructions and understanding the importance of safety and responsibility when working with tools, the ability to adapt and improvise, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

### **Practical problem-solving:**

In the shop, one learns how to troubleshoot issues to find solutions that arise during projects, like a piece of wood not fitting correctly. Out on the road, this same skillset will help you find solutions to a GPS “recalculation” or a mechanical issue with your ride.

### **Attention to detail:**

In the shop, precise measurements and careful execution are crucial for a successful project. Out on the road, this means identifying any hazards like nails or potholes and maneuvering your bike to avoid them.

### **Caring for your tools:**

In the shop, keeping tools sharpened and properly adjusted allows for safe working and consistent results, without having to force the tool through the material. On the road, a properly maintained vehicle allows for safe and consistent handling without having to worry about how the machine will perform in an emergency.

### **Following instructions and safety guidelines:**

In the shop, adhering to safety guidelines and proper tool usage reinforces the importance of following directions and respecting rules. Out on the road, understanding the importance of prioritizing safety in the equipment you wear, the actions you take, and observing the traffic rules, will help to keep you alive.

### **Adaptability and improvisation:**

In the shop, sometimes project designs require adjustments or creative solutions when things do not go exactly as planned. Out on the road, you may need to change your route or alter the timing of your rest stops due to any number of unforeseen or unanticipated events like traffic delays and severe weather.

### **Satisfaction of a job well done:**

In the shop, making something tangible from scratch, like a piece of furniture or a small structure, cultivates a sense of accomplishment and pride in one's work. Out on the road, navigating a challenging set of twisties or completing a many-hundred-mile, multi-turn day can yield those same feelings.

I hope this month you can make some time to look back on your year and admire the things you have accomplished.

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