

Take a Class, Save a Life

By Robert Biddison, Reader Submission

Imagine riding out in the boonies (bikers try to stay away from traffic) and your friend or spouse goes down; seriously injured. It could be quite a while before emergency services shows up to help them and we all know every second counts. Wouldn't it be nice if you could do something to help your friend or spouse? We all want to do everything we can to protect them anyway. Well, it is possible for you to help and perhaps save someone's life.

The Accident Scene Management, Inc. (ASMI) program is a great way to learn how to help your riders in case of a motorcycle accident. Denise Carey, the lead instructor in the Houston area, set up a special evening class so members of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association (TMRA2), North Houston Liberty Riders (NHLR, a chapter of the TMRA2), and the Texas Confederation of Clubs & Independents (TX COC&I) could learn some of these life-saving skills. I had the privilege of taking the class and I'm here to tell you, I agree completely with Denise in saying that everyone who rides should take this class. The things that are learned in this class can really save the life of someone you know, or even don't know.

In just two short, fun filled evenings, we learned all kinds of things I never knew about first aid. A lot of the things I had learned before or heard from others are actually falsities. Denise taught us that people can be moved to help prevent further injury. She taught us exactly how to move someone so we wouldn't cause anymore injury. We learned how to remove a full face helmet, without causing more injury, in the event that the person can't breathe and you have to assist in breathing. Yes, you can take someone's full face helmet off without causing more injury.

When it comes to assisting with breathing, a lot of us have been taught CPR. Well, you don't want to perform CPR on someone that could have possibly crushed their chest since it would

only cause more injury. CPR is designed to help someone that's had a heart attack. What Denise taught us was a method called jaw thrust breathing. Learning this technique was very easy and again, knowledge could be the difference between life and death for a person that has been seriously injured.

We learned many other things that are very helpful in taking charge of an accident scene. We learned how to protect ourselves and other riders,



help emergency services do their job better, and how to make a huge difference in preventing a fatality. This is something everyone should know and be prepared to use.

So, if you love to ride and you love the people you ride with, I recommend that you and everyone you know take this course. If my ol' lady or me



happen to go down, it would be much more comforting knowing that my brother or sister helped save my life when emergency services couldn't get there fast enough.

ASMI is a non-profit organization the began more than 10 years ago

in Wisconsin. It is now in more than 26 states, with over 120 instructors. The purpose of the instruction classes (Bystander Assistance Program) are to enhance the survival rate and reduce severity of injuries for the injured riders of all motorized vehicles. The program is directed toward the assessment and treatment of the injured as well as how to safely administer care. Additionally, for those concerned about possible legal ramifications when assisting at an accident scene, they provide instruction on accident scene management and the legal aspects of an accident.

If you're interested in taking this class, visit Accident Scene Management, Inc.'s website for a schedule or contact information for an instructor in your area to schedule a special class like ours.