

PennDOT - District 5 News

Event Highlights New PennDOT Motorcycle Training for 2018 Riding Season

Harrisburg, PA –On Friday at Blackmans Cycle Center in Emmaus, PennDOT will sponsor “A Day at The Range,” a demonstration showcasing the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program’s (PAMSP’s) new motorcycle training curriculum and emphasizing the importance of proper training in mitigating crashes.

The event runs from 10 AM to 3 PM, and will feature instructors with PAMSP demonstrating maneuvers unique to each of four revamped training clinics and one new clinic offered through the program. Personnel with PAMSP will also answer questions concerning the program’s free training for Pennsylvania residents with a motorcycle license or permit.

“Riders of all skill levels can learn valuable skills through Pennsylvania’s free motorcycle safety clinics,” said PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards. “These training clinics help riders sharpen reflexes and hone the split-second decision-making required to safely operate a motorcycle.”

The updated training program was developed by PennDOT’s new program administrator, Total Control Training, Incorporated. Each clinic is tailored to sharpen a rider’s ability to physically operate a motorcycle properly, as well as test a rider’s knowledge. All training clinics are conducted under the supervision of certified instructors at one of numerous riding ranges throughout the state.

For would-be riders who are still not sure if they want to ride, PAMSP offers a new, 4-hour Introduction to Riding Clinic (ITR). This non-licensing clinic teaches fundamental skills for operating a two-or-three wheeled motorcycle and progresses from classroom to street skills and strategies. Students are provided with a motorcycle and helmet.

The 16-hour Beginner Riding Clinic (BRC) provides valuable training for new riders and gives experienced riders the opportunity to polish their skills and correct any unsafe riding habits they may have developed. Basic riding skills, shifting, stopping, swerving, turning and mental skills for hazard avoidance highlight the training. Students are provided with a motorcycle and helmet.

The eight-hour Intermediate Riding Clinic (IRC) allows skilled riders to refresh their safety knowledge and hone their on-road skills. The IRC is based on motorcycle crash research and focuses on cornering, braking and swerving skills. Students must provide their own motorcycle and protective gear and provide proof of insurance, current registration and inspection for their motorcycle.

The eight-hour 3-Wheel Riding Clinic (3WRC) teaches riders skills and safety strategies like those taught in BRC, except on a 3-wheeled motorcycle. Riders must provide protective gear and proof of insurance, current registration and inspection if using their own motorcycle. Select locations can provide students with a motorcycle, however, riders should check with PAMSP for availability.

Motorcycle learner’s permit holders who successfully complete the BRC, IRC or the 3WRC will be issued a motorcycle license. Those who successfully pass their skills test on a three-wheeled motorcycle will be issued a motorcycle license with a “9” restriction, meaning they are prohibited from operating a two-wheeled motorcycle.

Rounding out the PAMSP offerings is the Advanced Riding Clinic (ARC), a one-day clinic for experienced riders who want to enhance their safety skills through attitude and awareness. The clinic is designed to enhance a rider's ability to avoid a crash through honing their decision-making abilities, riding strategies, risk management and rider behavior and choices.

In addition to the benefit of improving riding skills, motorcyclists taking PAMSP courses may receive an additional benefit in the form of insurance savings. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance, many insurers offer discounts for motorcyclists who have completed safety courses approved by PennDOT. Still others may offer discounts for riders who have memberships in certain associations, have a safe driving record or own a motorcycle with certain safety features, such as factory installed anti-lock braking systems, which help maintain control during sudden stops. Riders are encouraged to ask their insurer about discounts offered.

For more information or to enroll in a clinic, visit www.pamsp.com or call 1-800-845-9533. Potential riders who want a convenient way to study for their knowledge test can download the PA Motorcycle Practice Test app by visiting www.pa.gov and searching the mobile apps for the Pennsylvania Motorcycle License Practice Test by clicking on the Apps link at the bottom of the page.

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