

## SAA – SEEK – ANTICIPATE – ACT – for SAFE RIDING

By Bruce & Sandra McMahonill

(Excerpted from the GWRRA International Rider Education Newsletter)

SAA is a three-step, continuous process as we ride, in making appropriate judgments and applying them correctly in different traffic situations. It never ends and cycles over and over. As riders and co-riders, we should always assume that everything and everyone on the road intends to do you harm.



**SEEK:** --What kinds of information should we be looking for? You must seek or observe everything that is in or about to enter your path of travel -- other riders, drivers, curbs, road surfaces, signs, traffic lights, road markings, pedestrians, animals and so forth. Since 90% of all accidents occur in an arc of 120 degrees to the front of the bike, the majority of your attention should be directed to the front and sides of your motorcycle. Whether the other vehicle is coming towards you, going in the same direction as you, or entering your path of travel from the side you must watch all of them closely and run the “what if’s” through your mind. You should always shift your seeking or observing between other users and your riding environment in order to observe any changes in movement or potential dangers.

**ANTICIPATE:** --What kinds of information should you be processing? Closely watch what the other vehicles are doing or objects in your path of travel and anticipate a range of potential consequences “the what if’s” beginning with the worst case scenario while taking advantage of the best alternatives. The quickest way to spot movement of a motor vehicle is to observe the front wheels position in question.

- ✓ Are the wheels starting to revolve –parked or stopped car?
- ✓ Are they beginning to turn (as in a left turn)?
- ✓ Watch for the door to begin to open.
- ✓ Is there a child or a dog playing close to the street? Anticipate either of them darting out into traffic.
- ✓ Is that truck that’s next to you creeping into your lane? Be prepared to take immediate evasive action.
- ✓ Do you have eye contact with the driver who is stopped at a stop sign? If you do, they are less likely to pull out in front of you, but not always. Give them a short blast of your horns to get their attention and move to the opposite side of your lane

**ACT:** -- When it is time to “act,” what primary actions should we practice? Keep as many options or alternatives open for as long as possible. We should allow for sufficient time and space to make the optimum decision and to take the optimum action. This is where your GWRRA Rider Course Training Program comes into play. Your three main evasive actions as identified in the Hurt Study in 1981 are:

- ✓ Apply **braking** (possibly maximum), **swerving** out of danger, or **cornering** if you have the room.
- ✓ Always have an escape route -- always. Look for wide paved shoulder areas of the road.
- ✓ Maximum straight-line braking will often help. Motorcycles can stop in an amazingly short distance if you know how to do it. But in order to be able to act properly you must first take Rider Course training.
- ✓ Take a MSF Experienced Rider Course (ERC); GWRRA Advanced Rider Course (ARC), Trike Rider Course (TRC) or Sidecar Rider Course (SRC). Don’t just take it once and practice what you are taught. It just might save your Co-Riders and your life one day. There are literally thousands of possible situations you may encounter on the highway.

The most important thing is to continuously **seek** information, **anticipate** what that hazard could do to harm you and be ready to **act**.

As always, we welcome and encourage your questions and comments. Please don’t ever hesitate to contact us.

Ride safe, have fun and always take the long way home.  
Gene and Carolyn Tice  
ATGATT Master Tour Riders #5088 & #5089

