

## Slow Speed Motorcycle Skills

The majority of bike incidents are not crashes on the highway but slow speed drops.

**Slow Speed Skills-Where do you need them? Parking lots, gas stations, stop signs, traffic lights, driveways, in slow traffic**

**While going slow:**

- **Keep Head and Eyes** up not down-Look where you want to go- Bike follows where you are looking
- Keep light pressure on **rear brake**-helps stabilize bike
- Keep **clutch in friction zone**-keeps power and control to the rear wheel
- Keep **throttle up** around 1500 RPMs -keep power to the rear wheel at all times. Preload and keep it loaded!
- Use mainly rear brake at slow speeds. **Never use front brake if handlebars are turned at slow speed.** Never snatch or grab front brakes. Use brakes smoothly when coming to a stop.
- **Stay relaxed**-Getting tense and anxious will only throw off your coordination. Don't fight the bike.

**Our Ground Game**

- Stay out of gravel and sand if possible-put feet down and duck walk if necessary
- Make sure your kickstand is up if you are moving. Make sure your Jiffy stand is down and fully engaged when you park.
- Does your shoes have good traction or are they slick on the bottom?

**How can we improve our Slow speed riding skills?**

- Go to a training class. Harley dealerships provide slow speed training.
- Robert Simmons is a retired motorcycle policeman from New York City. He lives and has training classes in Pooler GA. He also has excellent You Tube videos.

- Check out Jerry Palladino's book and video "Ride Like a Pro". He also has classes in Tampa Florida and videos on You Tube.
- Find an empty parking lot and practice the Slow Race, U-turns, Figure 8s and Slow weave. Concentrate on using light pressure on your rear brake , keeping the clutch in the friction zone, keeping your RPMs up and looking where you want to go.