

Are you covered?

Since I did a good job of changing the motorcycle half of the garage in the last month I have had a lot of conversation with my insurance agent. During the last month I have added one Gold Wing, changed the coverage on my first Gold Wing and deleted my two other motorcycles I was using for commuting on because I found new homes for them. Hopefully they will get more attention and be ridden more in their new homes. In my talks with my agent I noticed that my insurance needs were not what the agent was accustomed to seeing. After the first change notice came back from the insurance company and I noticed that instead of changing the coverage on my old Wing the bike was just totally deleted. I called the agent and was told that they would fix it. Then I thought about it and looked again to make sure that all of my special needs were still on the policy. They were.

I wonder how many of us call our agent and tell them we have a Gold Wing. Give them the year and VIN number and just pay the bill when it comes. If you are one of these people you may be one of the many who are woefully under insured. If you have a trailer you pull behind your wing, either a cargo trailer or camper it may not be covered. If you have added lots of lights or special paint, or safety chrome they may not be covered. On my 1985 GL1200 I had a \$7000 special equipment coverage that covered the extra accessories and the images of Garfield and the paw prints he painted on my Wing. This is also the coverage that covers my trailers, cargo and camper. Without this added coverage only the bike is covered. Now I have moved this coverage to my new to me 92 GL1500 and just have liability on the GL1200. My poor 20 year old, over used 1200 is just not worth the cost of comprehensive and collision coverage on it's own, especially since it will just be used around town and commuting and it's value is not very high anymore in the market place.

The other mistake many make is they figure that a motorcycle can't cause too much damage and they do not need lots of liability insurance. Most forget that the co-rider is covered by that liability insurance and that if you get hit by a uninsured motorist or are involved in a hit and run and the hitter is not found, your insurance company will only need to pay out up to your policies liability insurance. The minimum state requirement usually will not cover this kind of accident; it may not even cover your Wing alone. If there are any medical needs it may not even come close.

Review your policy with your agent and make sure he knows that your wing may have lots of special things on it you will want to be reimbursed for if the worst does occur. Make sure that the liability is as much as you are worth. If you have an accident where someone gets hurt and you are under insured you will need to make up any extra overages out of your pocket and could lose everything you have worked so hard for.