

MOI?!

As the loyal readers of this column know, the material and inspiration for this column are often supplied by fellow riders, often by example. I try to keep the rider's identity and gender nonspecific so as not to embarrass specific riders.

Well, this month is different. I'm actually going to name the offending rider because that rider is me! ("Moi" is French for "me" ) Yup, me, the safety crusader, the road safety marshal, the safety tattletale, the monthly Spotlight on Safety author.

After a recent ride, two experienced and longtime PWTC riders approached me and explained that I was riding to the left of where I should be and causing auto traffic to move over to avoid me. I was the subject of several "Car Back" admonitions during the ride that I was apparently unaware of. At first, I was shocked and disbelieving. I thought they may have been playing a joke on me, but after a bit of back and forth, I was convinced that they were genuine in their criticism of my riding behavior that day, and I thank them for bringing it to my attention.

So, with all due humility, I once again remind ALL riders to be aware of how they are riding and how their riding behavior can affect other riders. Since that ride I have paid even more attention to the safety aspect of how I'm riding and I encourage all of us to re-double or focus on our own safe riding, because it is apparently easy to become lax in our road manners and slip over to the dark side.

"Let's be safe out there."