

To: Joel Arnoldi, Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Tom McLaughlin, American Motorcyclist Association, Field Representative

From: **Joseph Phillips**

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I spoke to you two gentlemen at Thunder Thursday in Post Falls, Idaho on June 30, 2005. You asked me to document our story, so here it is.

This incident happened on June 29, 2005. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and 75 degrees. My partner and I decided it was perfect riding weather and took off for a nice evening ride. It was around 4 pm and we were headed Eastbound on Trent Avenue, (a very broad four-lane arterial road in Spokane). The traffic light at Argonne Road turned green and approximately ten to twelve vehicles proceeded. Always apprehensive of intown traffic, we left a safe distance between our Road King and the car in front of us. We were in the inside (fast) lane, where the speed limit was 50 mph and we were putting at about 40 mph. It was a casual drive and we were looking forward to the wide open country roads that lay ahead of us!

A white Ford pickup truck changed lanes directly in front of us without signaling, essentially cutting us off, then goes back into the right lane, again without signaling his intentions. This action did not sit well with me, and as I pulled up next to his open driver's window, I expressed my displeasure with him by politely telling him he deserved to have his license taken away. He muttered something about having enough room to make the move, laughed and then swerved his truck towards us and into our lane and motorcycle, forcing me into evasive action. About two seconds later we passed a WSP patrol car on the shoulder of the road. I motioned frantically at the white pickup truck and the patrolman pulled out behind the pickup and told us to follow him. We pulled over behind the patrol car. Behind us a tractor trailer truck also pulled over (URM Food Distributors). The officer asked us what had happened and we explained our encounter to him. The freight driver who had witnessed the whole incident from behind us corroborated our account. The policeman who actually saw the pickup truck swerve back into his lane after the assault got the gist of the story and approached the pickup truck driver. The driver immediately admitted to the officer what he had done, and told the policeman he wanted to teach us a lesson and that he wasn't trying to hurt us "too badly", not trying to kill us.

The three of us separately gave our accounts of the incident on the appropriate incident forms. Afterwards, the policeman explained to us that the pickup truck driver showed "absolutely no remorse" and he felt that "this redneck deserved to be taken off the road". The officer told us he was charging the man with assault with a deadly weapon, reckless endangerment and reckless driving. He then asked us to leave the scene and we did, shaken and appalled at the thought that a driver would intentionally endanger two human beings just because they are riding on a motorcycle.

Thank you for listening to our story. We would like to thank very much the gentlemen freight truck driver for taking the time to officially witness the account and support us.

Joseph L. Phillips

Carol J. Dunn

Spokane, WA

* - It is our understanding that the preceding letter was forwarded to the AMA and the MRF by Tom and Joel. Any response relating to this letter including any from either the AMA or the MRF will be posted on this web site upon arrival. *-webmasters*