

Ups & Downs of a New Rider...

I am a new rider. When shopping for my first bike last week, Robert at Lone Star BMW/Triumph kindly advised me against buying a new bike, because, "dropping a new bike will break your heart and as a new rider, you WILL drop your bike." I heeded his advice and bought a 2003 BMWF650CS. In less than two weeks, I thanked Robert for his judicious advice, precisely three times.

None of the three times was my fault, of course.

The evening the bike was delivered, I took it out for a ride on the winding back street near my house. For an overly excited, total inexperienced, first-time rider, only the most merciless heart could blame him for having panicked during a turn and let go of the throttle while stepping on the brake. Before I knew it, my bike and I were both laying flat. I stared at the starry night and wished Robert a very pleasant evening.

A few days later, I decided to show off my "improved" riding skill to my wife: I would ride to the nearest HEB (less than a mile) and she would follow me in her car. Out I went. Although a bit nervous, I managed to complete the route uneventfully. Well, almost uneventfully until I pulled over at a parking spot. Who on earth can blame a proud husband at my state of mind for turning my head back (before putting down the stand) and giving my dearest a triumphant smile? Down I went, bringing my bike with me. Instead of the starry sky, I saw a nice young face, with an HEB shopping bag in one hand, offering me his other hand. I figured it might not be often to witness a guy in his wobbling helmet and shiny new leather jacket laying parallel with his shiny motorcycle in an HEB parking lot.

Then, it came last Saturday. Carla Cay, who I met at Lone Star the other day, was kind enough to help me practice by leading me through the Hill Country. Fifty miles later, Carla Cay and the exhausted I ended up at the parking lot of the Bluebonnet Café. My arms trembled a little from both the chilly weather and being too tense for the past hour or so. Carla Cay signaled me to pull beside her. Casually turning the wheel without giving any gas, I actually felt my bike falling. Too

feeble to rescue her, I just had to ask Carla Cay to pass my sincere thank you to Robert, for the third time. (After we parked our bikes, Carla Cay dutifully pointed to a couple of Harley's parked nearby and asked me to imagine how painful it would have been to drop one of those. And that, of course, made me feel immensely better.)



Haihao Wu and his trusty, new to him, F650CS

~ Haihao Wu, March 2005

Editor's Comments: It was a real pleasure to take that ride with Haihao and enjoy the experience, once again, of that first ride. Haihao has most graciously agreed to submit a monthly article of his Ups & Downs of Riding. Way to go, Haihao. By the way, Haihao's name is easy to remember - think "Hi How (are "You" - with you being his last name - Wu!) Piece of cake!
