



## **ON THE SOFTER SIDE**

### **Do New Pots and Pans Make You A Better Cook?**

**By: Cam Blevins**

So, do new pots and pans really make you a better cook? OK, even I have to admit this is a pretty odd question and then when you add in it's a question being asked in a biker magazine it does seem totally out of place doesn't it? But let me ask the same question again, do new pots and pans make you a better cook? Hmmmm..... Let's ask a few more questions. Does buying a new car make you a better driver? Does buying a new bike make you a better rider? All of these questions are leading to the same answer; Yes, No or Maybe So. Stick with me on this one, it may take me a minute but I'll show you my answers.

Let's start with do new pots and pans make you a better cook. For

Christmas I bought myself the pots and pans of my dreams (talk about walking on the wild side, I'm such a rebel). I now own a set of pots and pans that I wouldn't be embarrassed if the best Chef in the world would walk into my kitchen and want to cook with me, hot oil optional. Here's the question, did new pots and pans make me a better cook? Well, NO! But they did give me a couple of things. They gave me a yearning to try new things, a desire to try harder, a re-ignited love for cooking and confidence. Confidence is like medicine, it should only come in small, supervised doses. With too little confidence you can't boil water but with too much you could burn the house down (thankfully it's been a couple of years since I've caught anything on fire).

And what about a new car? Does buying a new car make you a better driver? Have you ever known someone (or been someone) who has gone from a 4-cylinder (you know, the car that will eventually get where you are going or eventually up the big hill) car to a V-8 (you know, the get you're a\*\* out of my way) car or truck? In a 4-cylinder you don't have too many options you have to be somewhat safe but with a V-8 comes a whole lot more opportunities. If you decide traffic is going to slow in a V-8 you all you have to do is push the pedal to the floor and you can take risks that aren't an option in a 4-cylinder. This kind of power put in the wrong hands leads most of us to cussing someone out who isn't even listening to us. Although I'm not one of the people cussing someone out when I don't like their driving abilities, I do have an 11 year old "mocking bird" who likes to repeat everything I say so I get to hear what I would sound like to others. From what I've picked up on I do seem to tell people to pick a lane, I seem to want to know why some drivers can't find the gas pedal, apparently I tell people to get off the cell phone if they have a hard time doing two things at once ((FYI – they wouldn't make good lovers either)) and from what the voice in the backseat is saying, I can't stand people who drive in the left lane just because it's there! So does a bigger engine make you a better driver? Well, NO! Does having a new car with a bigger engine give you the right to make everyone else on the road miserable? Does it give you the right to take other peoples lives in your hands and allow you to seal their fate for them, of course not! But once again with a bigger engine sometimes comes too much confidence.

As usual I have to throw in my own experiences just because hindsight really is 20/20 and it's some much more fun telling a story than it was living through it. Not too long after getting out of college I got my very first new vehicle, a 4-cylinder Ford Ranger. I had a brand new truck with that brand new smell and I was the proudest little girl in town. Having been raised by a motor-head with a heavy foot it didn't take long for me to decide this truck wasn't built for me! I wanted to go fast! So within a couple of years I took my brand new truck and traded it in on a "slightly used" Toyota Celica GT (now we're talking). The car was in perfect condition, only a couple of years old, with very low mileage and it was FAST!!!! Although I've always been a very careful driver in town, when it comes to the open road that's a whole new story! Let's just put it this way with my new "used" car within a year I got two speeding tickets! I got sent to Driving School twice in a year and in two separate states! The ticket that will always stand out in my mind was when I accidentally passed an unmarked Kentucky State Trooper in a Mustang. To this day, I'm still not sure what got his panties in such a wad that day. OK, so I passed him with my bare foot sticking out of the window, my hair streaming out the sunroof, stereo blaring, wearing a bikini top and short-shorts and maybe, I not sure, but I might have been drinking a 64oz. whiskey and coke (he didn't realize what I was drinking or I'm sure I'd still be in jail today)! But that crazy man had to prove a point and pass me and then lock it up in the middle of the interstate in front of me (he could've just asked me to pull over and told me his car was faster than mine...). Me being the good citizen I really am, I pulled over and sat like a good little girl in my car and waited for him to ask me the classic question, "Do you know how fast you were going?" The only thing that went through my mind was I had been going over 130 mph but I had slowed down a little bit, so did you clock me before or after I slowed down. I've never been a "good" liar and generally just don't even bother trying so of course I looked up and shyly said "No". He really didn't seem too amused with me when he told me he clocked me at 116.9 mph! By now I realized I didn't have a shirt on so as I reached to the passengers seat to get it he proceeded in telling me it wasn't going to matter if I had a shirt on or not (this is one time a boob job might have paid off)! He told me he could revoke my license, impound my car and put me in jail for a very long time.

After the lecture I thought would never end, the State Trooper did write me a ticket but he was nice enough not to write it for my actual speed but still fast enough that I had to pay huge fines and go to driving school! Since that time I've always had V-8's but I've learned to control myself a little better (if you can say you've owned a Corvette, Mustang GT and a Courage XR7 and have never got a ticket either you learned to control yourself or you just never got caught! Shhhhh!). Being a truck lover at heart, I went back to see if Ford had something "built" for me and they did. So now I have the big Ford 4x4 with the Triton V-8 engine and the big tires (since I'm already close to rubbing the ceiling in the garage I have to wait on the lift-kit until I get a garage with a higher ceiling). I'm not sure if I have "penis envy" or not (my girlfriends say I do) but I always hate it when guys have bigger trucks than I do! I'm envious of monster trucks but if you have a truck you drive everyday like I do mine and it's bigger than mine I'm intimidated. My girlfriends make fun of me because some of my favorite toys are chainsaws, air wrenches and nail guns so why do I feel intimidated by trucks bigger than mine?? I still think it's because I'm short and the first time a guy called me a "shorty" I was getting in my truck and I thought he was making fun of my height! So what do I know about me and my truck, I know I love my truck and give me an open highway and I like to go fast! And I like knowing that if someone is making me feel unsafe I can either push the pedal to the floor and leave the idiot driver sitting safely behind me or if worse comes to worse, I could always use them as a speed bump! WooHoo, now you know what 4 wheel drive was really made for!

Now for the last question, does having a bigger, faster bike make you a better rider? Ok so you have to open your legs a little wider (you know to fit the tank between them) and maybe you're feeling some vibrations you've never felt before (if all you're looking for is "good vibrations" I can give you the location of a couple of stores that specialize in "good vibrations" and they even sell extra batteries) but are you a better rider? Of course NOT!! Yes, I've been on rides where people are trying to prove the size of what's between their legs (I ain't talkin' about what they were born with) and I can tell you first hand some of these people can't handle the power. I'm sure I'm not the only person who refuses to ride next to someone who is showing off their cc's and doesn't have the brains or the skills to have something that powerful between their legs. I have no problem riding fast but I would rather ride fast by myself than in a group and I have been known to do a little "hot doggin" with the big boys but never when I could make someone nervous or take chances that could kill me or endanger others around me. But like I've already said it's all in confidence. With too little confidence you could never get on a bike but with too much you can endanger yourself and everyone else around you.

So as spring approaches and we all get twitter-pated just thinking about firing up the bikes and hanging out with friends please remember there is someone out there that loves you. They really don't care how fast or crazy you can be they just want to see you again! And speaking from personal experience as a biker the worst thing you can ever see is someone crashing into something and their body flying through the air. I've been the person who was the first one to reach someone who has just crashed and I've had to sit and hold a rider while he was in convulsions for what seemed like a lifetime waiting for help to arrive. We can't control the world or even our surroundings but we can control ourselves. So as you fire up the bike and anticipate all the fun that comes with riding just remember for someone life wouldn't be the same without you!

I can't wait to be back on my "sleeping beauty" enjoying the long summer days and warm starlit nights! Hope to see you too!

Until then, be Safe, have Fun and Enjoy the Ride of Your Life,  
Cam

***EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!***

For anyone who forgot to read the Letter from the Editor last month I've got the latest, greatest news!! In February I became one of the new Sales Representatives for Thunder Roads (Woo Hoo for me)!! So if your business is located in the St. Louis area and you would like to become one of our esteemed advertisers please contact me at [sales@thunderroadsmo.com](mailto:sales@thunderroadsmo.com) .

Please don't hesitate to contact me as I can show and discuss with you the benefits of advertising in Thunder Roads! I look forward to hearing from you soon!

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