

From the Office of the Sheriff:           “Obscure Rules of the Road”

Every once in awhile something occurs and I ask myself if it is a violation of state statutes, and if it is, how many drivers are familiar with the law. Even at my age and in my profession it is hard for me to remember all the rules of the road. From driver’s education training to law enforcement recruit school it is just too much to remember. I do a lot of research, usually when one of those strange traffic events occur and I just so happen to have had a couple of examples this month.

So, there I was on the sixth tee box of the Beaver Dam Country Club, ball teed high so you can carry the dog-leg right. I draw my driver back remaining totally focused, preparing to drive the little white ball a mile and low and behold a car drives by on STH 33 and what seems more the exception than the rule the horn sounds, not once, not twice, but at least three long honks. Of course I use the inconsiderate disruption as an excuse for my poor drive and quickly look to the highway to ascertain what traffic issue was presented to the driver which required an audible warning from the driver’s vehicle horn.

Observing just one vehicle on the highway and no dogs, cats, opossum, deer, and children running across the roadway I can only make the assumption the driver felt it necessary to sound their horn in an attempt to be rude and get a quick laugh. I wonder if the driver knows their action is in direct violation of s.s. 347.38 (1) Unlawful horn use, which carries a fine of \$162.70 and two demerit points. I bet you won’t be laughing when you get that in the mail! The statute states no person may at any time, use a horn otherwise than as reasonable warning, or make any unnecessary or unreasonable loud or harsh sound by means of a horn. To those who feel it necessary to harass golfers, a license plate number is easy to get.

Let’s talk about s.s. 346.11, Passing/meeting a frightened animal. The law states whenever a person riding, driving or leading an animal which is frightened, gives a signal of distress to the operator of a motor vehicle by rising of the hand, the operator of the vehicle shall promptly stop until such animal is brought under control. With the Dodge County recreation trail we get many riders and they must cross several highways to get from one end to the other. Should you ever see someone trying to get an animal under control on the roadway or right-of-way, ensure you stop if signaled until the animal is brought under control. Should you choose to ignore the law, the fine is \$200.50 and three demerit points.

Lastly, as summer attempts to arrive, let’s make sure we give a few extra looks at our intersections for motorcycles and scooters. As much as a cyclist tries to drive defensively, there is little one can do should you find a car or truck in your lane of traffic at an intersection. Also, the CTH A from Oak Grove to STH 33 project has started. This is a summer long project and the detour is well marked. Please abide by the road closed signs. Failure to do so is in violation of s.s. 346.04 (2), \$175.30 and three demerit points. Thanks for listening [tnehl@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:tnehl@co.dodge.wi.us).