

## **Safety Tip: How to respond to aggressive motorists**

Most Club members that have logged significant miles on our central Texas roads have encountered motorists that display aggressive behavior toward cyclists. In some cases, drivers are misinformed about the rules of our roads; sometimes they simply do not want to share the road. Of course, cyclists may also be at fault when they do not obey traffic signs or inadvertently obstruct or impede traffic flow. Regardless of the situation, it is important that we all understand how to react when we encounter an angry or aggressive driver.

Perhaps the most important thing to do is to avoid escalating the situation. Remember that your 20-pound bike is no match for a 4,000-pound vehicle. Do not confront the driver. If the aggressor has endangered your safety, report it to the police by dialing 911. The traffic officers are trained to deal with such individuals. Take cell phone pictures of the vehicle's plate number if possible. If not, perhaps someone in your group has a video camera attached to their bike that captured the incident. The police have increasingly demonstrated a willingness to take these incidents seriously and follow up with the offending drivers.

Finally, remember that it is always safer to ride in a group as opposed to riding solo. Aggressive drivers are less likely to intimidate a group of cyclists than a solo rider. They do not like witnesses. Please report any unpleasant traffic incidents to the Safety Improvement Committee. Stay safe out there.

**Safety Improvement Committee**