

Define Snow Squall!

Thursday, 1/28.2010

The car was in the shop after an 88 year old Q-tip ran into me, and then fled the scene. Since unusual is a standard in my life I will leave this topic for day. The body shop needed to order parts, fix it... so this week was a bike week, cool, I like bike weeks!

Thursday was the first team meeting in my new job and I wasn't about to miss it. The weather man said mid 30s with passing snow squalls. Squalls don't sound bad and the temp should keep it from sticking to the roads, so off I go. It was snowing most of the ride to Hartford but the roads were fine. OK, squalls aren't bad!



Through several hours of meetings I kept watching the window and seeing the snow fall harder and harder. It appears squalls aren't the short lived thing I thought they were. By noon I was getting concerned and decided to make a break for it. I figured the roads would still be warm enough that I would be OK but by evening things could have cooled off making it dangerous, so off I went. It turns out the roads were never an issue as the snow was not sticking to them yet.

Still there were three things of note discovered during the commute

1) My boots are waterproof much in the same way a sponge is. By this I mean that they keep water out for a while, 15 minutes in this case, while they absorb everything that hits them. After that every drop that hits them displaces an equivalent amount of water on the inside. At ~32f it turns out this is a very unpleasant experience. New waterproof touring boots have been added to the shopping list.

2) While snow was not yet sticking to the main roads, very lucky point that, it was building up on everything else. In the case of my winter riding suit kept me cozy and dry. The Joe Rocket Blizzard suit qualifies for NASA EVA work. In the case of the face shield this is an annoyance easily remedied with a periodic swipe of the glove and the freshly applied FogTech kept the face shield completely fog free. That is good stuff. On the windshield the snow build up is remedied every 5-10 minutes when enough snow builds up that the wind sets it in motion. The primary issue with this is that it all leaps up and smacks you in the face shield. You would think that after the 5th or 6th occurrence that this would have stopped scaring the hell out of me, but it did not.

3) finally comes the one I should really have seen coming. After pulling into the garage and tending to the chain, removing a snow covered suit and freeing my feet from their individual swimming pools I went upstairs to turn on the computer. That was when the sunbeam came in through the window informing me that the snow had suddenly ceased all together. Can't believe I didn't see that coming!

After riding into the garage at home I pushed the bike back out far enough to take a shot of the amount that had fallen during the "Squall", I need to have a talk with our weather man one of these days.

As of Friday the 29th my car has been returned from the body shop thus putting an end to the runaway Q-tip fiasco. All should finally return to normal now.

Well,,, normal for me!

