

King of the road?

By Nancy Whitaker

Driving etiquette should be a part of every Drivers Ed course. I, for one, hate it when someone pulls out in front of me, tailgates me, or passes me when there is another car coming. I tend to say “##*****@@@” and not very quietly either.

I can never quite understand how people can pull out in front of me and never even see me coming. A lot of times, I just wonder if they are in that big of a hurry or if they just aren't paying attention.

A couple of weeks ago, I was driving around a parking lot and someone with a truck decided to back up. They came within inches of hitting me and I thought for sure I would wind up with a dented car. I could not back up, because someone was behind me, so I did the next logical thing I knew to do, which was lay on my horn.

I must have scared the daylights out of the guy, because he rolled down his window and shouted some really obscene words at me. I didn't say a word, but went right on. In fact, I was thanking God that I had a horn to honk.

Another area in which drivers need to practice etiquette is learning to dim headlights at oncoming traffic. There is nothing that blinds you more at night than a car approaching you in the dark with their bright lights on.

When blinded by a car's bright headlights, I always thought the rule-of-thumb was to flash on your brights at them and then that driver would get the hint and dim their lights. This does not always work so I have come to the conclusion that maybe headlights in some cars may be

brighter.

When thinking about driving with manners, I was surprised to find that our neighbors to the south (rednecks) have their own code of driving etiquette. Would the redneck driving codes work for us? They are listed below. You decide:

Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if your gun is loaded and the deer is in sight. (But, I am not a hunter)

When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way. (Well, I am sure not letting my car argue with a semi about who has the right-of-way. He can just go first.)

Never tow another car using pantyhose and duct tape. (I can't imagine why. I will keep my stockings, thank you.)

When sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back alcohol. (Yes, not only impolite, but you just might get a DUI.)

Do not remove the seats from the car so that all your kids can fit in. (Remember, there are car seat rules for all your young'ns.)

Do not lay rubber while traveling in a funeral procession. (This is really tacky. Don't honk the horn either.)

Do not remove the cigarette from your mouth before telling the state trooper that you failed to see that stop sign. (I wonder why? You may not look too cool doing that.)

King of the road?

Wednesday, September 04, 2013 1:25 PM

We have all made mistakes when driving and I am the first to admit it. However, just because we all drive cars, doesn't make us "King or Queen of the Road."

Nancy Whitaker is a staff writer for the Paulding County Progress.

The opinions stated are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect that of the newspaper.