

# Gym Rat Rantings

by Bob Ring



## Antidote for Road Rage

*They say it's all in the mind. Well, exercise your "silly" side and consider this:*

You have an imaginary cannon welded to the top of your road chariot (okay, automobile). You use imaginary chicken egg ammunition to defend yourself against all those (other) lousy drivers.

Think about it. You're on the highway in heavy traffic, in the passing lane. You are blocked by a car that is straining to reach a speed five mph below the speed limit. What do you do? In the past, you probably rode the blocker's rear fender, honking your horn or flashing your headlights. Now you simply load your cannon with eggs, make a quick estimate of distance and read the speedometer for your common speed. Then you get a firing solution from your dash-mounted computer and fire a half-dozen eggs at the blocker. Notice how quickly he (or she) moves over.

The opposite of the blocker is the pusher, the driver who races up behind you and rides your rear end like a bumper sticker. (In this case, you are not a blocker because you're already doing at least 10 mph over the speed limit.)

The solution to the pusher is saturation bombing. Obviously, you know the exact position and speed of the pusher. Your only concern is to load enough eggs in the cannon to completely cover the pusher's windshield. (If you fire one egg at a time, the pusher will have time to get his windshield wipers going.) The idea is to suddenly blind the pusher's forward vision. Guess what happens now. The pusher brakes and slows and instantly becomes a blocker to those following. If the followers are as prepared as you are, an egg sandwich ought to finish off the pusher.

Speed weavers are a more difficult problem. This driver startles you as he races past, bouncing from lane to lane at very high speeds. You only have a short time to respond! If you're lucky enough to find the speed weaver's side windows open, or convertible top down, you of course have the opportunity of lifetime. (Think about it!)

But typically the speed weaver is far ahead of you by the time you realize what happened. Your only hope now is the ultimate Road Rage weapon, the road-warrior chicken. For this you need a larger diameter cannon and a supply of drunken chickens that have been trained to attack speed weavers, kamikaze style, after being lofted overhead. This approach eliminates the need to carry a lot of eggs, since the on-call chickens, conveniently cooped in your car's back seat, can readily replenish the egg supply. Of course it does cost a little to keep the chickens drunk. (But have you every tried to stuff a sober chicken into a cannon?)

So, as your blood pressure rises the next time you meet up with a blocker, pusher, or speed weaver, remember the power of the mind and laugh them off the road.