

## Group Rides

The weather is starting its trend toward more comfortable riding. With that, it is time to remember how to ride in groups. Common courtesy rules the day! Hand Signals are posted in the Homestead and should be reviewed prior to rides. Road Captains should demonstrate these signals and any special instructions at the start of each ride.

Arrive for the Ride with a FULL TANK of gas and your bike in good working order.

Group Riding presents issues not found in Solo Riding. Listen to your Road Captains for special instructions, especially ones that pertain to you. Experience gained in group riding that is not learned anywhere else. It can also be the most dangerous riding. As you know, riding with friends with like abilities is like being in a flock of birds, all moving with the same flow and a relative speed of zero. Relaxed in the abilities of those around you. How do you get there?

When an object in the road is a hazard to those behind, POINT IT OUT, so that all bikes avoid the obstacle. As you travel from good "clean" roads to rough secondary roads, special precautions are needed. If you are riding side by side, you might switch to a staggered formation so that if you need the whole lane you have it. If you are dealing with a lot of turns or switchbacks increase the distance in your staggered formation to 3 or 4 seconds or more. Stay in your Comfort Zone. Enjoy the ride without being an obstacle yourself.

Seems simple, but if you are concerned about the person riding near you, mention your concerns, or move to where you are riding with someone who falls into your comfort zone. Bikers learn every time we are on our bike, so listen to those you respect, watch those in front of you and learn and discuss at gas stops or breaks why bikers do the things they do. We are all riding for different reasons, but in a group ride we are as one. So ride within your abilities, swaying from this, is where accidents find us.

Lets all have a safe and incident free summer and learn to treat all our Brothers and Sisters with respect even when we don't see eye to eye.