

Racine HOG - Group Riding - March 2015

Preparing for a Group Ride

Responsibilities of a Group Rider

Make sure your bike is in proper condition for the ride:

- T Tires & Wheels
- C Cables & Controls
- L Lights & Switches
- O Oil & Fuel
- C Chain (belt) & Chassis
- S Sidestand / Jiffystand

Be on time for pre-ride meeting.

Arrive with a full fuel tank & empty bladder.

Are you mentally prepared for the ride?

(a group ride may not be the best way to clear your mind??)

Be prepared for Mother Nature! Dress appropriately for weather and ride duration.

On a Group Ride, your decisions, good or bad,
affect not just yourself but your fellow riders

S.E Wisconsin Racine HOG Alcohol Policy

All rides organized as Chapter Rides are to be alcohol free. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited prior to and during the ride. Once the ride has reached its final destination the "Chapter Ride" is over and the individual rider is free to choose whether or not to consume alcohol.

The Ride

Stage for the ride by forming two lines, side-by-side or as directed by the Group Leader. The Lead Rider will occupy the left ½ of the front row. Road Captains will form a third line to the left of the group and fill in at intervals based on the ratio of riders to Road Captains. Once you begin moving form a staggered formation or single file as directed by the Group Leader.

Know all Hand Signals the Group will be using (separate attachment)

Riding in Formation

Trikes and bikes with sidecars or trailers get the full use of the lane. The bike immediately following a trike, sidecar or trailer will resume a staggered formation from the left ½ of the lane.

Maintain a 2 SECOND interval between you and the rider directly in front of you. This interval should be increased at night, during bad weather or periods of poor visibility.

SEE (Search – Evaluate – Execute)

Don't just watch the bike ahead of you. Scan the area four to twelve seconds ahead of you at all times. You are responsible for your own ride. Know what is ahead of you and be prepared.

Single file formation will be maintained for entering intersections, entering and exiting highways, passing slower vehicles and as directed by the Group Leader. We generally form a single line for all bicyclists, pedestrians and vehicles pulled over to the shoulder of the road.

Under NO circumstances are you to pass another rider in the Group. Gaps in the formation will be corrected at the next stop-sign or stop-light.

Watch for debris in the road and communicate using appropriate hand or foot signals.

Upon arrival at a destination follow the directions of the Group Leader and Road Captains as to where to park. This is very important when it is time to resume the ride.

Roadside Emergencies: Bikes immediately behind the emergency should stop and assist in the case of an accident as directed by the nearest Road Captain. If you are not deemed to be needed by the Road Captain(s) you will be instructed to re-join the ride. In the case of mechanical breakdown a Road Captain will stop and assess the situation. All other bikes should proceed with the group.

Separated from the Group: Continue on to the next rendezvous point or point where the Group was able to safely pull over to wait. DO NOT exceed the speed limit in an attempt to catch up.

Road Captains: Road Captains are there to help maintain a safe and enjoyable ride. A Road Captain will lead the ride from the left ½ lane/first row. A Road Captain will ride "Sweep" as the last rider in the Group. Other Road Captains will be positioned at intervals throughout the Group. Road Captains are identified by hi-visibility safety vests or shirts.

Role of the Passenger – You’re More Than Just Extra Weight

Always make sure the rider is prepared for you to mount and dismount the bike. Never just “hop on”.

Know the hand signals the group will be using and be prepared to relay them as needed.

You are the riders second set of eyes. Be prepared to communicate things he/she needs to know.

Never grab the rider during emergency maneuvering. Use the grab handles/grab strap or as instructed.

NEVER STAND UP. This is very dangerous and can ruin the ride!

Communicate - Take breaks as needed - Stay hydrated (water/sports drinks) - Enjoy the Ride!

Good Things to Know:

Ride your own ride. Talk to the Group Leader before the ride as to where you will be most comfortable in the Group during the ride. Riders new to Group Riding are often positioned together at the end of the Group, immediately in front of the “Sweep” Rider.

Follow ALL traffic laws.

Have ICE (in case of emergency) information handy should the need arise.

Consider wearing hi-visibility colors rather than black. Black is cool (and beautiful) but is a hard color to see.

Safety Gear: Helmet - Gloves - Long Pants - Shirt w/long sleeves - Boots that cover the ankle.

Have FUN. Group Riding is a great way to share your passion for riding with some of the best people you will ever meet.

Ride Safe & Ride Often!