

SAVE YOUR LIFE - KNOW HOW TO RIDE IN A GROUP:

1. **BE SAFE - “Ride your own ride”** - This means that **no matter what** the Ride Captain or the bikes ahead of you do, **ONLY** follow **when and if YOU have verified that it is safe for YOU** to do so - i.e. speed up, start a turn, enter an intersection, etc. - Don't just focus on the “tail light” of the bike ahead of you. Watch *at least* several bikes ahead to have time to react. Don't forget to keep an eye on your mirror to avoid any problem created by inattention **BEHIND** you. Scan as far ahead and behind as you can see. Ride with an “enjoy the ride” attitude. Leave all anger, hurry, aggression or negative emotion behind.
2. **Review the map and directions BEFORE heading out.** Keep the handouts with you on the ride. If you have questions about where the group is going, ask the questions. That way, if you get separated from the group ahead, you will know how to get to the next stop.
3. **Let the ride captain/tailgunner know** if you have **any concerns or questions** about your ability to travel the types of roads on the ride *at the speed limit* in normal conditions. (We will usually travel at the speed limit in good conditions or less based on rider capabilities on the ride.)
4. **Stay with the group in a safe position.** Your safety depends on leaving *enough* room between you and the bikes ahead; **HOWEVER**, it is **NOT** a good idea to leave an *extra large gap* either. (Can't see hand signals, harder to keep group together, others get anxious.) **Distance/Time Facts:** In 1 sec. (Say “1 motorcycle” out loud), a bike travels about 1.5 feet for each MPH . Here are the **Motor Safety Foundation spacing guidelines:**
 - **When single file** leave a “**2 second gap**” between bikes. (Check gap by starting to count “1 motorcycle, 2 motorcycle” when the front tire of the bike ahead touches/is beside a mark on the road ahead, and stop when your front tire crosses/is beside the same mark. In feet, at 40 mph, 2 sec. is about 120 ft or about 14 bike-lengths, at 60 mph 180ft/20b)
 - **When double file** (2 track staggered formation - stay in your 1/3 (left side or right side) of the lane, leaving the center 1/3 of the lane empty)
 - Leave a **2 second gap** between you and the bike ahead **in the same track**
 - AND**
 - Leave a **1 sec gap** between you and the bike ahead in the **other track**
 - (A diagram is on the bottom of the hand signal sheet.)
5. **Know and physically repeat all hand signals from the bikes ahead of you.** (If safe.)
6. **If for ANY reason, a bike pulls over AND the Road Captain does not stop AND you can safely continue, STAY WITH THE GROUP. Do NOT stop.** This is true even if there is an accident behind you. The Tailgunner has the specific task to stay with any bike that has problems and render or obtain assistance. The Tailgunner is also in radio contact with the Road Captain.
7. **If you have any problem and need to stop or leave the group**, waive to the bikes behind you to come around you (see hand signal sheet) and stop at the safest spot conditions allow. The Tailgunner will also stop with you to help and to let the Road Captain know.
8. **If you get separated from the group ahead, do not panic. Do NOT attempt “heroic” or risky maneuvers to catch up immediately.** If you can rejoin the group safely, do so when you know it is safe. If not, continue to the next stop where you can rejoin the group.
9. Arrive at the meetup **ON TIME** with a **FULL TANK** of gas and **CORRECT TIRE PRESSURE** with your bike in **SAFE MECHANICAL CONDITION.** (TCLOCKS)