



Group Riding Basics

DFW VRCC Meeting

11.08.12



Ride Captain Duties



-  Know the route
-  Establish the ride rules
 -  Hold a pre-ride meeting
 -  Clarify hand signals
-  Select a rider for the tail gunner position
-  Assign positions based on experience
-  Select sub-group leaders if a very large group
-  Establish safe speed
-  Monitor the group during the ride

Rider Duties

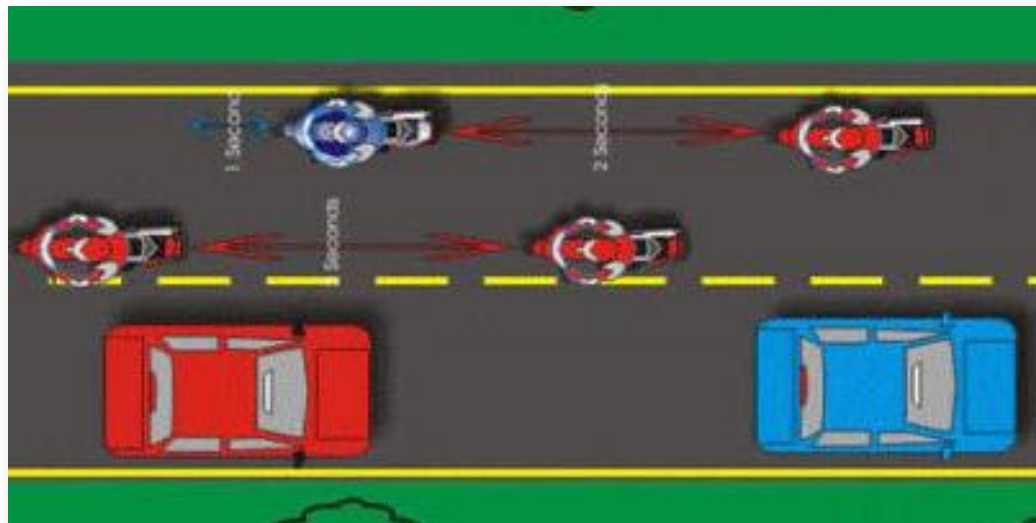


-  Check your ego
 -  Group riding means adjusting to others' skill level
-  Be honest about your own experience
-  Follow rules established by Ride Captain
-  Maintain position in formation
-  Pay attention
 -  Don't be lulled by a rocking-chair position

Formation



-  Staggered formation
 -  Captain will usually position in the left track of the lane
 -  Bikes alternate right and left lane positions after Captain
-  Keep two seconds from the bike immediately in front of you (your 12 o'clock); one second from the bike at your 11 or 1 o'clock position (depending on your lane position)



Formation



Stay tight



Gaps encourage cars to “mingle”



Gaps make it more difficult to get the group through intersections



Move to single file when signaled by Ride Captain



Increase bike-to-bike spacing on curvy roads

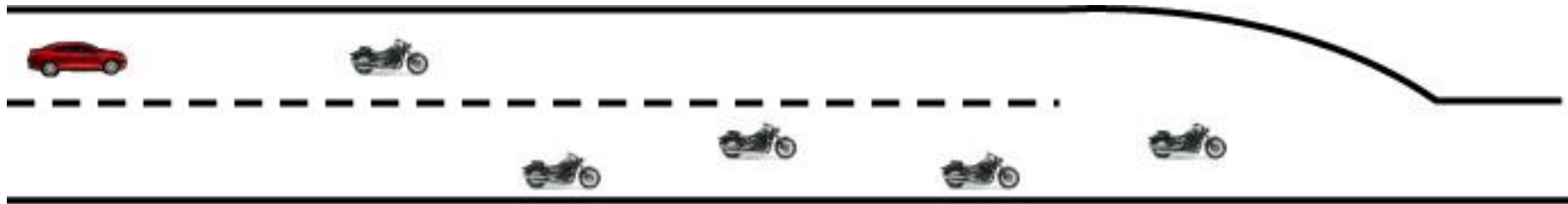


Use single file on curvy and narrow roads

Lane Changes and Passing



-  Ride Captain will signal
 -  Usually will request the Tail Gunner to “take the lane” or “close the door” securing space for the change



-  Change lanes according to pre-ride instructions
 -  Some leaders prefer front to back; some back to front
-  Move into to the new or passing lane only when safe for ***you***

Separation Anxiety



-  The bigger the group, the harder it is to stay together
-  Ride Captain may pre-establish smaller groups
-  On longer rides, gathering points will be designated along the route
-  For temporary separations, as at intersections, Ride Captain will slow or stop so group can reform
-  Safely catch up – don't take chances

Hand Signals



Follow
leader's hand
signals



Pass them on

Stop - arm extended straight down, palm facing back 	Single File - arm and index finger extended straight up 	Turn Signal On - open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended 
Slow Down - arm extended straight out, palm facing down 	Double File - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up 	Fuel - arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended 
Speed Up - arm extended straight out, palm facing up 	Hazard in Roadway - on the right, point with right foot; on the left, point with left hand 	Refreshment Stop - fingers closed, thumb to mouth 
You Lead/Come - arm extended upward 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front 	Highbeam - tap on top of helmet with open palm down 	Comfort Stop - forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion 
Follow Me - arm extended straight up from shoulder, palm forward 	Pull Off - arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder 	

Sources



-  *Proficient Motorcycling and More Proficient Motorcycling* by David Hough
-  <http://www.easymotorcycle.com/Driving-with-Motorcyclists-10-Tips-To-Keep-Safe.html>
-  <http://www.motorcyclebasics.com/group-riding.html>
-  <http://www.msgroup.org/Articles.aspx?Cat=11>



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