

## Suggested Group Ride Guide

1. Fuel up before a Planned Ride. This will allow the group to ride the plan without undue interruption.
2. Keep a staggered formation. Lead rider will start in the left track (note 1).
3. Keep a close formation (about 2 seconds)
4. Close the formation at a Red Light (do not coast up trying not to put your foot down). This allows the group to pass through one light change.
5. Point out hazards to others. Do this by extending your left hand or leg on the left side and your right leg on the right side.
6. The leader should start from a stop **slowly** and come to a riding speed over time. The leader should remember that there is a slight time delay between each rider starting so take it slow.
7. If the group gets divided for any reason the leader should find a safe spot to stop and **wait** for everyone to catch up.
8. The leader should plan frequent rest stops. These should be in the 60 to 90 mile range.
9. Speeds and separation should be adjusted for hazards and riding conditions.
10. Plan the ride to maximize safety. Limit U turns and crossing lanes against traffic. These are some of the items a ride planner should take into account.

The following are just some thoughts and ideas about group riding that may be helpful. As stated above this is a **suggested Guide**. Please change and adapt to your needs.

The above list is for ten items. This list was limited to what I consider the most important. They may not be the most important to you but limiting the list to ten will allow most people to understand and follow the guide. If it was increased some of the important items may get lost.

Ride within your ability. This means if you are having a problem let the ride leader know so they can adjust to your needs. We are all out there to enjoy the experience so ride safe.

Stop signs are a good place to stop and let the group catch up, so no rolling stops.

The leader needs to plan the ride then ride the plan. This means if they miss a turn just follow and let them correct it. We do not want everyone going their own way.

Remember spacing is important. It stops cars from cutting into the ride from side streets and helps keep us together in traffic and through lights.

It is nice if the Tail and Leader of a ride can communicate (CB or any other means).

If you have someone tailgating the ride find a safe place to pull over and let them pass.

The leader has the responsibility to think about the first through the last bike in a ride (it's like riding a very long bike). They also need to take into account the riding ability of all the riders in the group and ride accordingly. Leading a ride is a job and as such encouraging all members to share this by leading a ride can help the group, as a whole, ride better and safer.

*Note 1 A track is one half of a lane. A four wheel vehicle has two tracks a motorcycle has one track. Riding staggered means one motorcycle in alternate tracks in a lane.*

The Webmaster