

# Riding Guidelines

These guidelines will constantly be modified and improved as we use them on the rides and learn.

## **Responsibility:**

To ride in the group, YOU are responsible for the following:

- Valid Motorcycle License
- Valid Insurance
- Valid Registration
- Safe vehicle

## **Safety tips:**

Inspect Vehicle Before Riding

- Check tires for defects or pressure
- Check Brakes and Fluid
- Check Signals and Lights
- Check Oil
- Check Cables and Chain
- Wear Proper Riding Gear: Eye Protection (required by state), DOT Approved Helmet (recommended/optional), Jacket, Long Pants, Boots, Gloves (all recommended/optional)

## **Group Riding Protocol:**

- Use the DAD System actively in groups (see below)
- Ride in staggered formation (see diagram next page)
- Do not pass others unless completely necessary
- Learn Hand-Signals and/or use communicators
- You are responsible for two people while in a group. You and the person behind you
- If the person behind you pulls over, you honk your horn and pull over with him
- Beginner Riders stay towards the front, to minimize potential collisions

## **Safe Riding (DAD System):**

**Defensive driving – Always assume anything in front of or behind you is a road hazard. Be prepared for anything.**

**Anticipate – Always look ahead of you to see if a hazard will or will not become a problem.**

**Decide – Be prepared to make the safe, correct decision on how to avoid the Hazard.**

## **Detailed Guidelines for Riding in a Group:**

**Ride in a staggered formation with the lead rider next to the center line. Allow at least two seconds following distance from bike in front. (see diagram below) This allows additional room to stop and allows riders to flex their riding tracks when road conditions dictate.**

**When the left hand with a fist is held up, this means we are pulling over to the side of the road to stop.**

**When the left hand with an upward pointing index finger is held up, this means to form a single line. Something, such as a bicyclist, is on the right side of the roadway, so we need to temporarily adjust to single file until the pass is complete.**

**When the left hand with five open fingers is held up, this means we need to break into groups of five for following cars to be able to pass us. Watch your rear-view mirrors because this signal usually comes from the back.**

**When breaking into groups of five riders, you should form a staggered group of your own with 4-5 car lengths between your group and the group in front of you. (See diagram on the next page) This activity will initiate from the front so everyone can see and count five riders to see where to make the gaps.**

**When breaking into groups of five riders, you should have the riders in positions 1, 3, and 5, riding next to the center line. This is so the passing drivers see you when they pass and don't force you off the road when they cut back in.**

**After all the trailing cars have passed, close all formations back up into one large staggered group. This means half will change their tracks/riding positions again. We may need another signal from the back to know when to close-up again, like continuous opening and closing of the hand, from open five fingers to closed fist back to open five fingers and so-on.**

### **Staggered Riding Formation (4-5 Car Length Gap)**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

#### **Rules**

- Abide by all the Motor Vehicle Rules and Regulations and CMA guidelines while participating in our group rides
- Use Safe Driving techniques

***Safety First!***



**Start your engines**



**Stop**



**Go ahead and pass me**



**Bikers ready**



**Hazards on the road**



**Don't pass me**



**Stop your engines**



**Turn off your turn signals**



**Single riding**



**Left turn**



**Slow down**



**Staggered riding**



**Right turn**



**Speed up**



**Time for a pit stop**

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