

CAPITAL CITY ROADRUNNERS

GROUP RIDING

Group riding is largely based on common sense and procedures that have evolved over time, as a result of experience and practice. The following is an overview of group riding, how CCR conducts its rides and what is expected of all members participating in the group ride.

Riding with a group is a choice, it is never mandatory. You should NEVER do what you are not comfortable doing. To travel safely in a group each rider must assume responsibility for themselves. You should also always be aware of the other riders in the group.

The Lead Ride Captain (RC) is the “boss” of the ride. The Lead RC plans the route and controls the actual ride to ensure a safe and pleasurable ride for all. The Lead RC stays at the front of the group and controls the pace of the ride. It is CCR policy that we ride to the capabilities of the “less experienced” rider. The RC will plan rest and gas stops but you are expected to arrive for the start of the ride with a full gas tank and an empty bladder. Each rider is responsible for their own personal comfort and are expected to have their vehicle in good repair.

The last rider in the group is generally a Ride Captain as well. This position is referred to as the Tail Gunner. The Tail Gunner's main responsibility is to ensure that no one is left behind. If a rider has a problem the other riders are expected to carry on and the Tail Gunner will stop and assist the rider. CCR uses radios to communicate and the lead RC will be informed that someone has stopped and will take the appropriate action.

Lane positioning is crucial to safe riding in a group. We will ride in a two-wide but staggered formation. You should position yourself 2 seconds behind the rider directly in front of you and 1 second behind the rider to your side. This allows riders to use the whole lane should circumstances dictate. You will be spaced properly if you can see the face of the forward rider in their mirror (1 second spacing). If you can see them, they can see you. You should try your best to maintain this spacing and avoid the yo-yo effect. Finally, stay in position, never pass the motorcycle in front of you.

Merging into traffic requires all riders to be extra vigilant. If a car is obviously going to break into the group, yield and give them plenty of room. Although you may have the right of way it doesn't mean you are going to get it. The Lead and the Tail Gunner will be aware of situations where the group get stretched out or broken and will make allowances for the group to gradually form back together safely. There is no need to significantly speed up to close the group.

Please familiarize yourself with the signals CCR uses in group riding. They are found in our files section. It is important that riders are aware of changes so please pass the signal back.

Important Points to Remember

- 🔒 It is you who is responsible for your own safety – Ride Your Own Ride.
- 🔒 Stay in position, do not pass the motorcycle in front of you.
- 🔒 Do not carry out a lane change until the motorcycle in front of you has done so.

Staggered Riding

