

## HAPPY TRAILS MOTORCYCLE CLUB RIDING PROTOCOL

Welcome to Happy Trails Motorcycle Club. We endeavor to Ride Smart and Ride Safe and to that end we promote the following points for your participation and courteous riding. To existing and past members we encourage you to review the following points so as to continue safe riding practices.

- All riders should be prepared to ride in any type of weather. Rides during the season may encounter rain, snow and excessive heat all in the same day. For this reason we require all riders to wear helmets with face shields, gloves and boots as a minimum. Also it is recommended that you wear protective clothing and a rain suit as necessary.
- All riders are responsible for having a street legal motorcycle, liability insurance and an operator's license with motorcycle endorsement.
- All riders will assume single file in the left track when passing emergency vehicles on the roadside and when passing bicycles.
- We pass slower vehicles as groups of 2 with the lead rider determining when it is safe for both bikes to pass. The second rider will initiate the return to the right lane. All other groups will remain in the right lane until it is their turn to pass.
- Whether riding in a group or solo, your riding habits and techniques must be defensive. Group riding must be a team effort. To ride safely, all riders in the group must cooperate.
- All riders are responsible for their own safety at all times and will be required to ride in a safe manner or leave the ride.
- **ALL** speed and traffic laws should be obeyed by everyone at all times.
- Drinking and driving is never a good idea and will not be tolerated while participating on a group ride.

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- The normal riding formation is the staggered formation. The 3 and 1 second formation provides the best safety margin of reaction time and space as each rider uses only 1/3rd of the lane. Trikes should ride at the back behind Two wheelers and with the vision of those behind them in mind. Keeping the 1 second, 3 second formation helps prevent the "yo-yo" effect.
- All riders should insure that their motorcycles are in a safe operating condition, with a full tank of gas, properly inflated tires, properly operating mechanics and generally ready to go.
- All riders are responsible for knowing as much as possible about the route, times, stops, etc. Arrive at the departure point ten to fifteen minutes before start time for the pre-ride meeting
- All riders and passengers are responsible for knowing, using, and passing back all hand signals.
- Turning at an intersection each rider should maintain the respective lane position throughout the arc of the turn unless single file formation is required and indicated by the leader.
- When passing through a city, town and areas with multiple traffic lights, it is important that we keep the formation tight so as to minimize as few as possible bikes missing lights and splitting up the group.
- If a bike in the group has a mechanical or other problem, only the tail gunner stops to assist, and reports ahead to the leader who, if necessary, will find a safe area to pull over and wait.

**CONSIDERATION FOR ALL OTHER RIDERS IS THE KEY IN GROUP RIDING.**

**RIDE FRIENDLY- RIDE SMART-RIDE SAFE!**

Jim Henry  
Eric Senger