

BERGEN COUNTY HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

RULES FOR GROUP RIDING

1. You **MUST** have a **valid Motorcycle Drivers License with 1,000 riding miles to your bike.**
2. You must be able to **safely operate your motorcycle** and be capable of **keeping up with the flow of traffic** in order to participate in chapter sanctioned group rides.
3. If you are not a current member of the Bergen County Harley Owner's Group, please see the Road Captain, prior to any ride, to sign a **Release Form** for yourself or a participating minor.

4. Riding Formation:

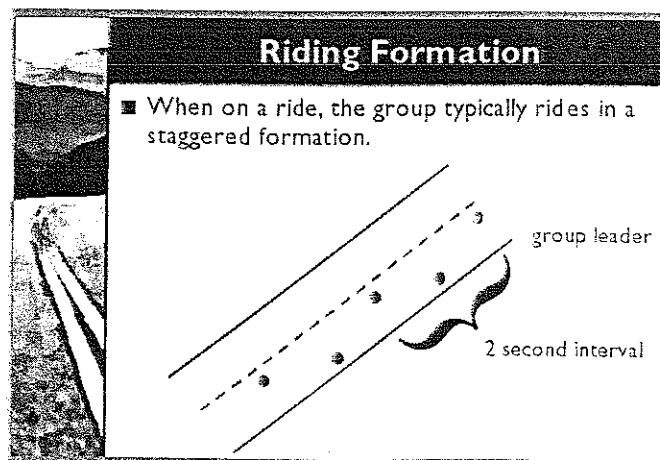
Staggered Formation:

- ✦ 2 seconds behind the bike directly in front of you in the same lane
- ✦ 1 second behind the bike in the alternate lane
- ✦ Allow more time between bikes in bad weather

Single-File Formation:

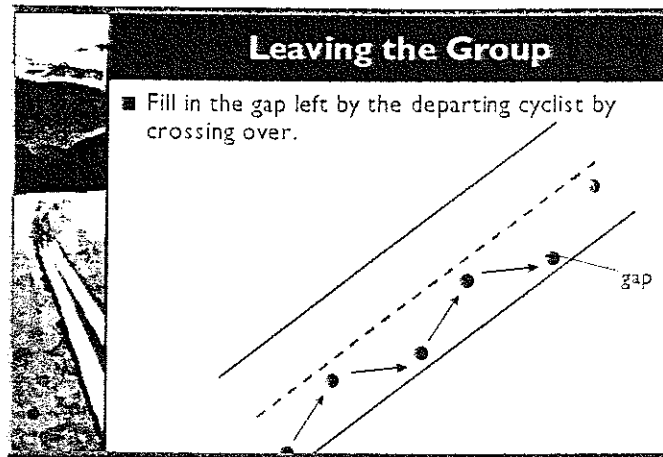
- ✦ Narrow roads, sharp curves or poor road conditions, using the 2-second rule
- ✦ Never pass a bike in the same lane, unless waved ahead by that rider.

Exploring the World of Group Riding



5. **When a space is empty in front of you:** Maintain original position in group and fill the gap left by a departing member by crisscrossing over...

Exploring the World of Group Riding



6. Lane Changes:

- ◆ The Road Captain will initiate lane changes
- ◆ Basics for lane changing:
 - * Use Directional
 - * Use hand signals
 - * Check your mirrors
 - * Give a head check

7. Maintain a constant speed to minimize the "rubber band effect."

8. **Always keep the group tight without crowding each other.** Stay close through intersections and traffic lights, so the group doesn't get divided.

9. You are never safe from lightening on a motorcycle!

10. Always let cars through:

- ◆ Regain staggered formation when it is safely possible

11. In the event of a problem with you or your bike:

- ◆ Pull out of formation to the side of the road. The Rear Road Captain will stop with you. All other riders are to follow the Lead Road Captain to a safe area to stop.

12. In the event of an accident:

- ◆ Evaluate the situation and maintain your own safety
- ◆ Stay in formation and stay with the Lead Road Captain to pull over into a safe area

- ◆ If necessary, the Road Captain and Safety Officer will attempt to coordinate:
 - attending the injured
 - blocking and controlling traffic
 - going for and seeking help

13. Departing from the group early:

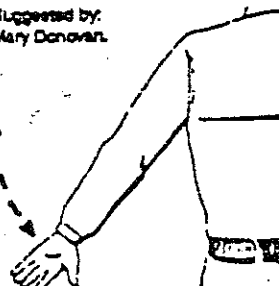
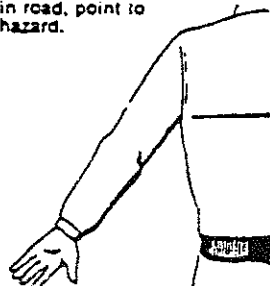
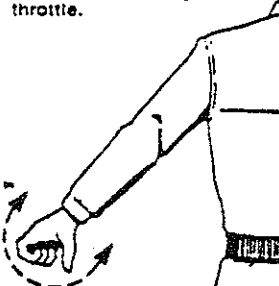
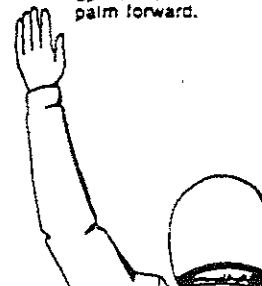
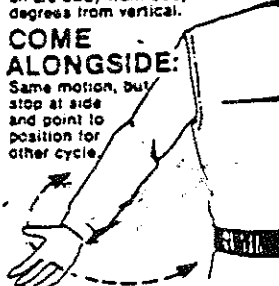
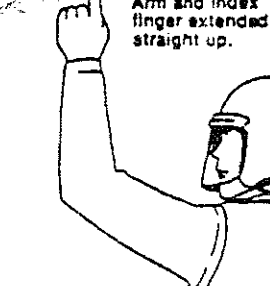
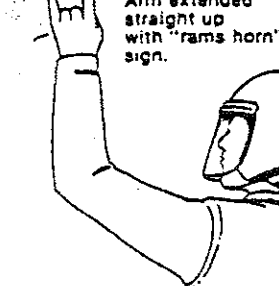
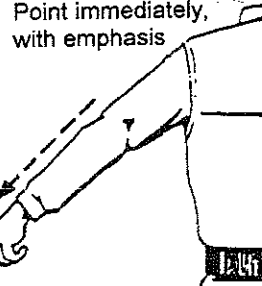
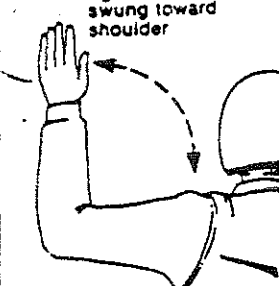
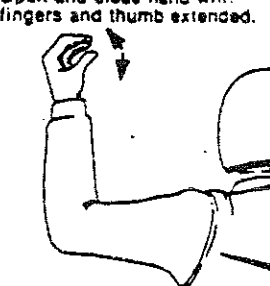
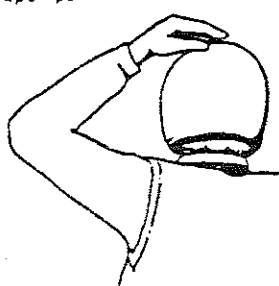
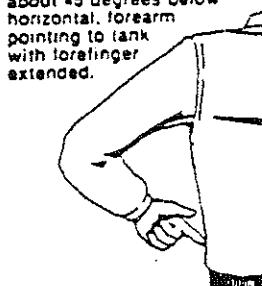
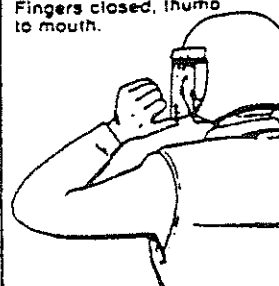
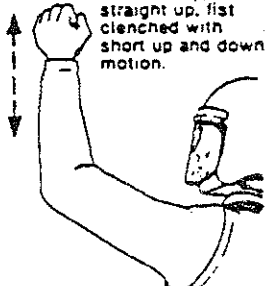
- ◆ Notify your lead Road Captain, preferably at the beginning of the ride or at one of the rest/gas stops
- ◆ Your riding position should be at the rear of the group. This will avoid confusion when you do depart.

14. Never ride in someone's blind spot.

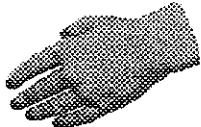
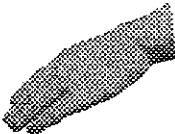








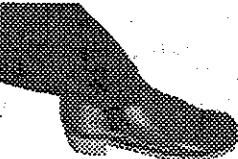

15. Remember, each rider is responsible for his or her own safety.

**And finally, always remember,
drugs and alcohol will ruin both you and your bike!**

HAND SIGNALS FOR COMMUNICATING WHILE RIDING

	<p>EMERGENCY - (slow down) Arm extended, palm back, waving up and down. Suggested by: Mary Donovan.</p> 	<p>STOP (slow down): Arm extended straight down, palm back. Animal or physical hazard in road, point to hazard.</p> 	<p>SPEED UP: Arm down to side, fist clenched with twisting motion as if turning throttle.</p> 
<p>FOLLOW ME: Arm extended straight up from shoulder palm forward.</p> 	<p>YOU LEAD: Arm extended (palm forward) down. Begin behind hip and swing forward in an arc away from body about 45 degrees from vertical. COME ALONGSIDE: Same motion, but stop at side and point to position for other cycle.</p> 	<p>SINGLE FILE: Arm and index finger extended straight up.</p> 	<p>DOUBLE FILE: Arm extended straight up with "rams horn" sign.</p> 
<p>HAZARD IN ROAD: (on left side) Point immediately, with emphasis</p> 	<p>PULL OFF: Arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder</p> 	<p>TURN SIGNALS (accidentally left on): Open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended.</p> 	<p>HEADLIGHT: Tap on top of head open palm down.</p> 
<p>FUEL: Arm out to side, upper arm about 45 degrees below horizontal, forearm pointing to tank with forefinger extended.</p> 	<p>FOOD, COFFEE STOP: Fingers closed, thumb to mouth.</p> 	<p>COMFORT STOP: Upper arm extended horizontally, forearm straight up, fist clenched with short up and down motion.</p> 	<p>HAZARD IN ROAD: (on right side) Use your foot to point out hazards that might pose a safety risk</p>

HAND SIGNALS

<p>Stop</p> 	<p>Slow down move hand up and down</p> 	<p>Speed up move hand up and down</p> 
<p>Turn signal on open/close thumb + finger</p> 	<p>You lead point directly in front</p> 	<p>Start engines move finger in a circular motion</p> 
<p>Single file</p> 	<p>Staggered formation twist wrist back and forth</p> 	<p>Double file</p> 
<p>Pull off road</p> 	<p>Hazard on road right side</p> 	<p>Hazard on road left side</p> 

All hand signals should be given with the left hand.

Pre-Ride Meeting Checklist

- Identify ride leaders. Make sure they will be easy to identify on the ride.
- Discuss the ride destination. Include any information riders should have about the destination.
- Discuss the route. Mention any hazards or special conditions riders may encounter.
- Review staggered formation riding with the group. Not everyone may be familiar with it.
- Identify sweep riders.
- Be sure everyone understands that although it is a group ride, safety is a personal responsibility and riders must obey the laws of the road on an individual level, regardless of what the group does.
- If it isn't safe to pass, go through an intersection or make a turn – THEN DON'T.
- Keep the meeting short and to the point.
- Review the T-CLOCS safety check with all riders.
 - T — Tires and Wheels
 - C — Controls
 - L — Lights
 - O — Oil
 - C — Chassis
 - S — Sidestand
- Leave on time.

The SEE Technique

S - Scan **E** - Evaluate **E** - Execute

Train Your Peripheral Vision

Pick a point and look at it.

Notice how far you can see from side to side without moving your eyes/head.

Try to increase your awareness of what is happening at the edges of your vision.

Head Turns

Look through the turn to your final destination.

