



Introduction To Group Riding

This is an overview of group riding. For further details, see the *GWTA Group Riding Guide* available through your rider education director.

New chapter members are often reluctant to acknowledge the fact they've never ridden with a group. Rather than putting the new members in the uncomfortable position of figuring it out for themselves, we provide them with the information before their first ride. This makes the group riding experience much more enjoyable for them and those they are riding with.

Riding with our group is strictly voluntary.

We advocate the use of good quality helmets, boots, eye protection and protective clothing. The ultimate safety of the rider, passenger and motorcycle rests solely with the rider. Traffic and road conditions change quickly and what may have been okay for the group leader and those ahead of you may not be okay for your own safety. Your first responsibility is for your own safety, staying with the group is secondary. The safe operation of your bike is of utmost importance to those riding with you.

The first bike is generally the group leader who knows the route and destination. The last bike in your group is the back door. Group leaders lay out a route and do their best to avoid hazards. Back doors accompany the group and keep the group leader informed of progress through traffic congestion, intersections, etc. Back doors are present to assist and summon more assistance in the event of a breakdown or other mishap.

Where conditions permit, such as freeways or other wide lane roads, we use a staggered riding formation with a minimum of two seconds between you and the bike directly in front of you (same side of lane). This action automatically adjusts the distance between bikes for speed and gives enough time to take proper avoidance maneuvers in case the bike ahead encounters a problem.

Narrow roads require a greater distance between bikes and single file riding.

Know the final destination and the general route. Carry a map of the area to be traveled. If you should get separated (highly unlikely) you can rejoin your friends at their final destination.