

Ride protocol
Changes are marked in bold Italics.

1. Before each ride, the Road Captain will provide instructions to all riders. This will include, if known, the name, address, and phone number of the destination. When you arrive at the destination point, the Road Captain needs to do a head count to make sure everyone is there and that everyone is ok so far.
2. The Road Captain will go over the hand signal's that will be used. Know the hand signals for left and right turns, obstacles in the roadway, etc. When possible both hand signals and bike turn signals should be used.



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

3. The Road Captain will let everyone know what speeds we will be going to be traveling (5-10 over) and ask if all are comfortable with those stated limits. There are times when we may be more aggressive and times when we will be less so depending upon how experienced and aggressive the group is or wants to be.
4. When riding, each bike should ride in staggered formation within an automobile lane; the leader rides in the left tire track; the next rider, the right tire track, etc.

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X
  X
X
  X
X
  X

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5. Generally speaking the 2-second rule will apply on all rides (ride 2 seconds behind the bike directly in front and 1 second behind the bike kitty-corner to you).
6. On curves, individual riders should pick their own track, then reform in staggered formation after the curve.
7. Twisties
 - a. On mountain type roadways and curvy roads, ride single file and each rider use the "line" that is most comfortable. Allow the bike in front of you a little more room (10 seconds), but remain as a group. **Resume the staggered formation, when the road straightens out. Do not try to out ride your riding skills.** If you are new at group riding, ask someone who has been riding behind you how you have been doing.
 - b. When not familiar with the road, **Slow Down.**

When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, all bikes pull up, two abreast, directly behind the bike they are following. ***When the group is half way through a light and it changes to red, you should stop at the light. The Road Captain will take the part of the group, that made the light, to the first safe spot, pull over the 1st half of the group, and wait for the 2nd half of the group to catch up.*** (Thanks EZMoney)

8. When riding, the formation should be tight in heavy traffic and a looser for long distance and narrow country rides.
9. If a rider plans to break out of the formation before a scheduled stop, the rider needs to inform the Road Captain and/or the Tail Gunner before starting that segment of the ride.
10. Before each ride, the Road Captain needs to go over group lane changing method that will be used for the group if a rider needs to pull out. For example, if the bike directly ahead of you has to pull out, you wait till the rider kitty-corner to your front, knows your intentions, then pull up and fill in that spot. NO switching back and forth if someone falls out.
11. The Road Captain should ask if there are new riders or riders whom have not ridden in a group before. Road Captains should take time to discuss ride protocol with new riders and should try to determine their confidence level.
12. In general new riders should be behind the Road Captain so the Road Captain can keep an eye on them; however, Road Captains should work with the new riders to determine their needs. ***When possible, the group can be broken in smaller sizes, allowing for a varied degree of riding styles and confidence levels.*** (Thanks LB)

13. Riders who care should state their preference for riding front, middle or near the end of group, and on which side of the lane they prefer. This allows riders to feel comfortable in their location of choice. Once you are in a position, please keep it for the remainder of the ride.
14. The Tail Gunner will ride at the rear unless otherwise directed by the Road Captain. The Tail Gunner will be responsible for holding a lane open while making a lane change. He/she will also assist any member who may break down or otherwise fall behind. The Road Captain and Tail Gunner will operate as a team and watch for problems within the group.
15. Ride order *should* be as follows: Road Captain, Commander, CVMA State Representative, members and guests followed by the Sgt-at-Arms. Bringing up the rear will be the Tail Gunner.
16. Try to keep group to no more than 10, if called for, divide into more than one group.
17. With those new to the group make a point to check at the first stop if they are comfortable with the ride up to that point and if not make adjustments.
18. Each member should ensure that he or she knows the destination and the route to be taken.
19. The Road Captain will take into consideration the size of the group and the distance necessary to get the group from one lane to another safely. Tail Gunners will help the group by getting out into the new lane following the forward Road Captain's signal. By doing this he will help ensure the maneuver is executed easily and safely.
20. Gas Stops: Ask that everyone arrive at the start of the ride with a full tank of gas. If possible everyone should top off his or her tanks at every gas stop, no matter how small the amount. This will avoid staggered gas stops and possibly save time.