



RIDE HARD RENDEZVOUS

Motorcycle Hand Wave Etiquette

Wave Meaning: Expression of Solidarity
Embracing Tradition
Show of Respect
Saying Hello

Wave Types:	Left Hand Down Low	Commonly Used: Cruisers, Harley Riders, Universal Rider Wave The left hand extended nearly straight down towards the pavement with a straight arm and index and middle fingers extended together or forming a peace sign. Or all fingers extended for a low five. Eye contact is not necessary.
	Left Hand Straight Out	Commonly Used: Personally have never seen it used. The arm extended straight out towards the opposing lane. Generally, all 5 digits will be extended. The palm is facing towards the approaching rider like a "high five". NOT recommended, as this is also the Hand Signal for a Left Turn!!!! Eye contact is not necessary.
	Left Hand High	Commonly Used: Overly Enthusiastic Riders The left hand extended upwards with the palm facing towards the oncoming rider. Usually, all fingers will be extended and closely spaced. NOT recommended, as this could be mistaken as the Hand Signal for a Right Turn!!!! Eye contact is not necessary.
	Right Hand Freestyle	Commonly Used: Ultra Classic and Goldwing Riders Becoming popular with riders possessing Cruis Control. Raise your right hand, with elbow bent with slight forward angling of the forearms. Cruise control is not available on all motorcycles and a sort of hate/envy attitude may be encountered by users of this wave. Eye contact is not necessary.
	Two Finger Up	Commonly Used: Crotch Rockets, Rice Burners, Speed Freaks or Traffic Safety Situations Leave your left hand remaining on the grip, then raise up the index and middle fingers.
	Four Finger Wiggle	Commonly Used: All Riders in a Safety Situation Keep your left hand on the grip, while raising all four fingers up and give a minimal wiggle with raised fingers side to side.
	Mini Wave	Commonly Used: All Riders Who Have Commitment Problems, But Want to be Nice About It Raise your left hand up just a few inches of the grip and flash a wave before going back to the grip.
	Head Nod	Commonly Used: Universal Nod your head down once on a slight angle, chin slightly pointed to one side, almost like a head wink and express a chill, cool facial façade. Self explanatory. Suitable alternative when waving is not an option. Eye contact is not necessary.

When to Wave: When safe to do so, a wave is expected.
The Head Nod is a suitable alternative.

When NOT to Wave: At Night.
In Heavy Traffic.
On the Highway.
At higher Speeds.
In a Curve or Corner.
When Using Your Hand Controls.
When Concentration is Necessary.
Major Intersections & Road Crossings.
At Motorcycle Rallies, Meetups or Rides.
You're a New Rider and Not comfortable doing so.
In the Rain, Snow or Icy (speaking from experience) Conditions.

Wave NOT Received Don't get Butt Hurt!!
They may have given an unnoticed Head Nod.
They may have been manipulating their hand controls.
They may not have seen you (looking in their rear view mirror, instruments, etc).

Sources: <https://us.saint.cc/blogs/journal/motorcycle-wave>
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