

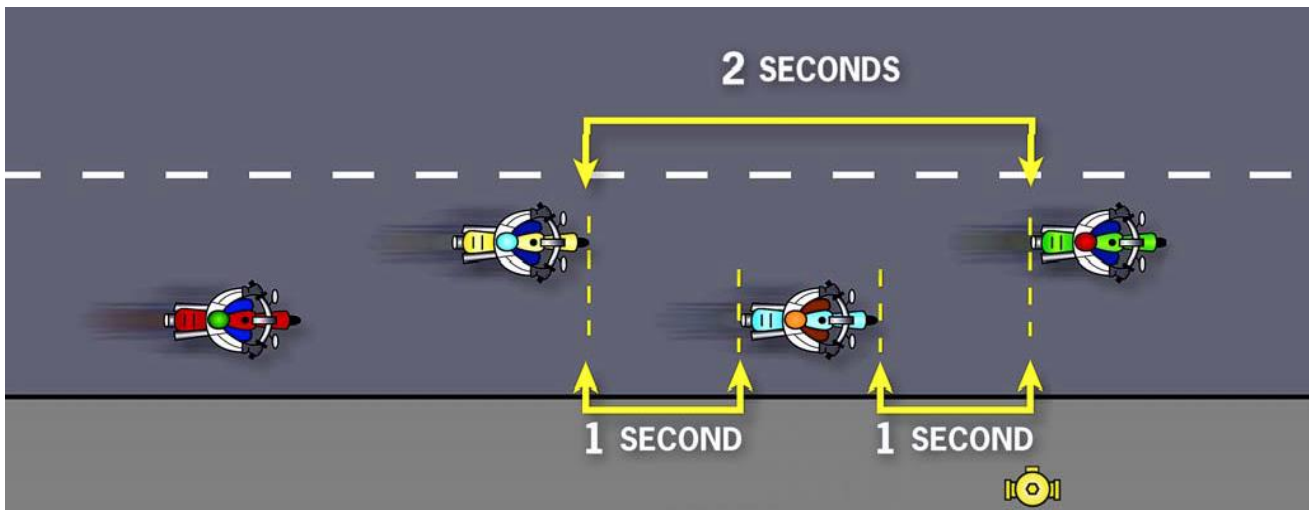
SMPHOG is known for its well organized and safe chapter group rides. This page will describe what we have for rules when participating in our rides.

- ◇ Rider's responsibility:
 - **Arrive prepared:** Arrive on time rested with a full gas tank and an empty bladder.
 - **Skill level:** Know your skill level and do not ride beyond it. If you are inexperienced to group riding, let the Lead Road Captain know.
- ◇ All our organized rides will have road captains who are responsible for planning and the safety of the ride participants.
 - Lead Road Captain responsibilities:
 - **Pre-ride meeting:**
 - Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals (see hand signals below). The lead and sweep (tail) rider will be pointed out at the meeting. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should be aware of each rider's skill level before the ride and monitor the riders during the ride.
 - **Keep the group to a manageable size**, ideally no more than ten riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, separated by a few minutes, each with a lead and sweep rider.
 - **Leading the ride**
 - If the group gets separated, the lead will decide when it is safe to pull over to regroup. When the Lead determines there is no safe place to regroup, the group will meet up at the next scheduled stop.
 - **Completing necessary paperwork**
 - When there is an incident that occurs on the ride.
 - Sweep Road Captain
 - **Visibility:**
 - The sweep will ride in a lane position so that he may be seen by the Lead when at all possible
 - **Rider leaving the group**
 - the Sweep will also stop to check what the problem is:
 - If a mechanical issue that cannot be repaired, then a call should be made for towing. Sweep will stay with rider until help arrives
 - If a medical problem, use the first aid kit and do what you feel comfortable doing. If beyond first aide call for rescue unit.
 - If for another reason, the rider and Sweep will determine what will happen next.
 - The Sweep will advise the LRC as soon as possible what has happened.
 - The group will return to staggered formation (see how below in Riding Style section under formation).
 - Other Road Captains.
 - Depending on the size of the group we may have other RCs interspersed in the group.
 - If the group gets separated and cannot safely stop to regroup, another RC will assume the Temporary LRC and SRC positions until we get together at the next stop
- ◇ Riding Style
 - **Avoid side-by-side formations**, as they reduce the space cushion.
 - If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled. Therefore,
 - **We ride staggered:** The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a

proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern.

○ **Single-file formation**

- A single-file formation with a minimum 2-second following distance is preferred:
 - on a curvy road,
 - under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces,
 - entering/leaving highways,
 - or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.
- The Lead will signal when to move to single-file formation by using the appropriate hand signal. (see hand signal chart below)
- The Lead will signal when to move back to staggered formation by using the appropriate hand signal. (see hand signal chart below)



- **If you're separated from the group**, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.
- **For mechanical or medical problems**, use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.
- **If a rider leaves** during the ride, the rest of the group should re-form the staggered formation.
 - **The other riders will close in the gap.**
 - By moving up while remaining on the same third of the lane. This should be done after the rider in the other third of the lane signals it's ok to move up.

MSF's Guide to Group Riding: Hand Signals

Stop - arm extended straight down, palm facing back



Slow Down - arm extended straight out, palm facing down



Speed Up - arm extended straight out, palm facing up



You Lead/Come - arm extended upward 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front



Follow Me - arm extended straight up from shoulder, palm forward



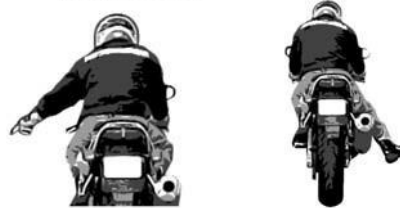
Single File - arm and index finger extended straight up



Double File - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up



Hazard in Roadway - on the right, point with right foot; on the left, point with left hand



Highbeam - tap on top of helmet with open palm down



Pull Off - arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder



Turn Signal On - open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended



Fuel - arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended



Refreshment Stop - fingers closed, thumb to mouth



Comfort Stop - forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion

