



# Group Ride Guidelines





It doesn't matter what you ride,  
**JUST RIDE!**

We welcome all riders: 2 wheels, 3 wheels,  
traditional trikes, reverse trikes and home-builts.

We need to adhere to the same guidelines for  
everyone's safety and enjoyment.



**GROUP RIDING:**  
Safety is everyone's  
responsibility



## Group Riding Involves -

- Formation riding
- Heightened awareness of those around you
- Attention to safety
- Team effort – adjusting your ride
- Constant Communication



Therapy



Group Therapy



# General Ride Leader Info

## Plan Your Ride

- The fewer main roads and busy intersections the better
- **Don't pack too much into the day** – group things just take longer
- Note parking or sticky situations and safe “re-group” opportunities
- Try to plan gas/rest stops on the right side of the street to avoid crossing traffic
- Plan breaks every **1.5 to 2 hours max** (fuel range/bladder limits)
- Assemble your team of sweep(s) and back up ride leader(s)
  - **Don't forget the ice cream stop!**





# General Ride Leader Info

## Before Your Ride

- **Test drive your route.** Do not depend solely on the internet to develop your route.
- Take your lead team on a test run so they're familiar with your route. (At minimum, provide a map or turn by turn directions)
- Exchange phone numbers with your lead team
- 3 weeks before your ride, send details to Penny for the email i.e. Departure time, name/address of stops, venue fees and estimated total time and miles from departure to "split for home" destination.



# General Ride Leader Info

## The Day of Your Ride

- **Always have a pre-ride meeting with the group**
  - Introduce yourself and your lead team
  - Reiterate **SOAR Group Guidelines** to promote safe riding (upcoming)
  - Invite any new riders to stage toward the front of the group (slinky effect)
  - Discuss the route - gas stops, time frame, any parking or “sticky” situations to be aware of
  - Identify any medically trained professionals in the group
- Wear high-vis vest, jacket or shirt
- Keep riders informed at stops. Announce departure time as “at 11:15” **NOT** “in 20 minutes”.
- Drive the speed limit up front (slinky effect)



# General Ride Leader Info

## On Your Ride

- Be aware of what's going on behind you.
- Use hand signals as well as turn signals.
- Slow down ahead of turns to avoid heavy braking. (reverse slinky)
- When pulling out from an intersection, try to ensure the gap in traffic is large enough for everyone (or most everyone) to get through.
- At the final stop, where you'll split up to go home, get a general idea of who is heading where. Try to ensure newer riders can find their way home. ***Who remembers their 1<sup>st</sup> SOAR ride when you suddenly realized you're on your own to get home!*** (We want to avoid that)
- *Take a breath and enjoy the ride!*



# Staging

- New, inexperienced riders will be staged directly behind the leader.
- Advanced riders to rear.



# General Ride Leader Info

## Final thoughts on leading:

Remember...the riders are looking to you for leadership, so be loud and intentional. You will have lots of questions throughout the day, many of which you have already answered numerous times. Be patient and courteous!

**We ALL thank you for the time and effort you put into being a ride leader!!**



## Please RSVP for All Rides!

- Helps us in planning for meals and venues
- Helps us to properly staff the lead team for the number of people expected.

# Communicate with your Ride Leader

- Especially if you are nervous or apprehensive about your riding skills.
  - **If you are less comfortable with higher speeds, ride closer to the front.** Leaders observe posted speed limits, however, due to the laws of physics, bikes at the back of the group will likely need to go faster. Communicate with your leader at any time if you feel you can't keep up (the sooner the better).



# Ride Day!

- Listen to the pre-ride information
- Be prepared to ride 120 miles!
  - Gas – Clothes – Bladder
- Thumbs up when ready to go
- Follow your ride leader in formation

# Come Prepared

- Be well rested, hydrated & fed
- Take or bring any medications
- **Have a plan and contact info in case of a breakdown/emergency**
- Correct riding gear for weather conditions
- Arrive on time with full tank of gas
  - *Don't be "That guy"*



- TCLOCK (from the 2-wheeler world)
  - T=Tires and Wheels
  - C=Control Levers
  - L=Lights & Battery
  - O=Oil Levels
  - C=Chassis
  - K=Kickstand
- Honestly assess your experience level for bad weather riding
- No alcohol or drug use on group rides
- Advise ride leader of any medical condition they should be aware of
- Be Mentally Prepared (*Breathe!*)
- Signed Waiver/band



## Suggested Gear

- Rain Gear
- Extra Pair of Gloves
- Night Riding Glasses
- Sunscreen
- Temperature appropriate clothing
- First Aid Kit
- Tool Kit –  
Check out Drew's Tech Tips video in SOAR facebook group or the Blog section at [JOINSOAR.COM](http://JOINSOAR.COM)



# Inclement Weather



- SOAR usually does NOT cancel rides due to rain.
- We may change the destination. If we choose to ride, this does not mean that it is safe for everyone to ride. It is very important that each person uses their own judgment to ride or not to ride based on their skill and comfort level.
- If severe conditions exist at the time the ride is scheduled to depart, we may cancel. We will spread the word via social media/email. **(Another reason to RSVP! We can send a follow up email with cancellation info to RSVPers)**
- If you are signed up for a ride and decide you're not comfortable riding in the rain, it's ok. We fully expect less people to show up in inclement weather.
- **Remember. . .**

# Inclement Weather

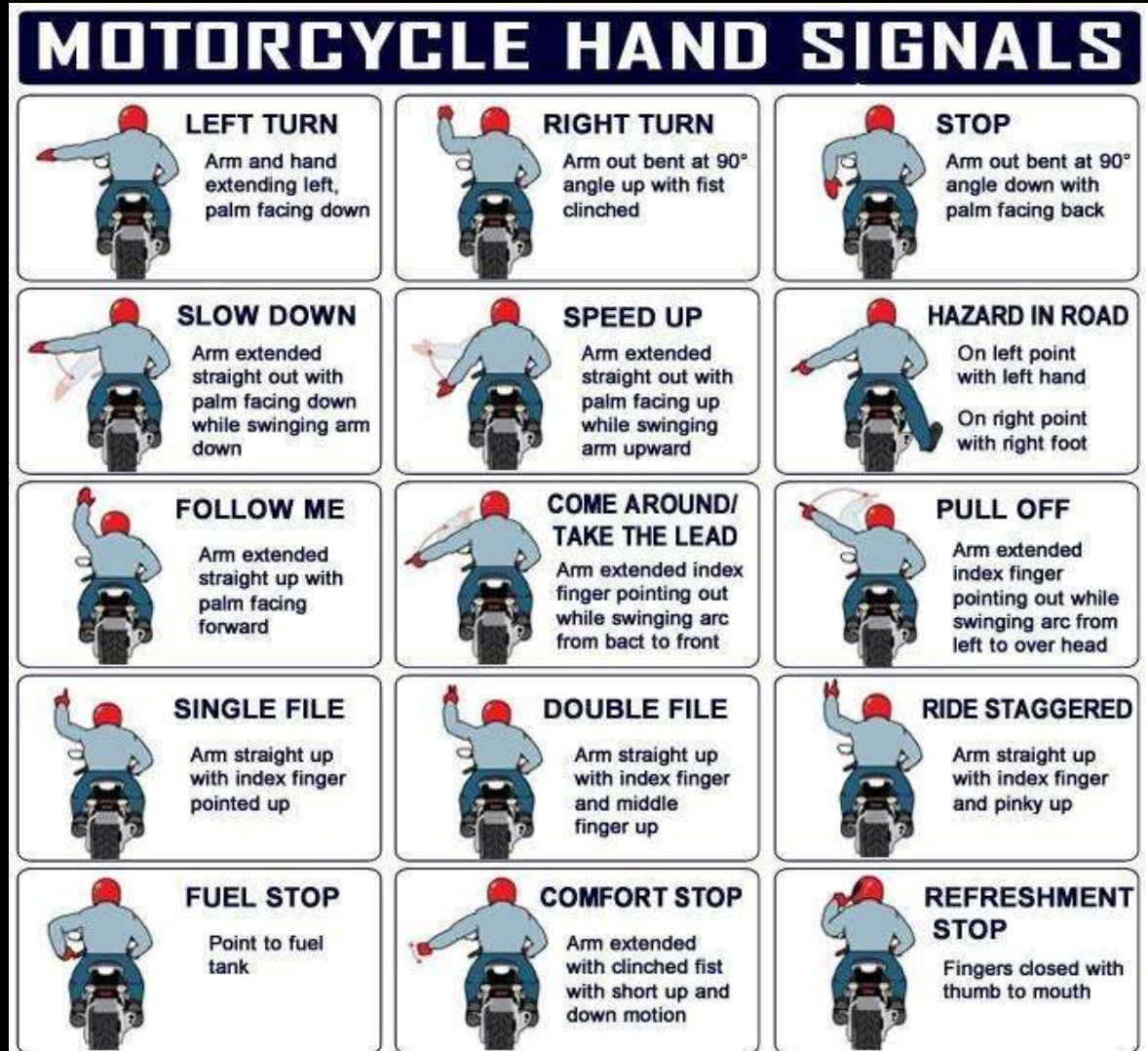
Sometimes "stuff" just happens!



# Hand Signals

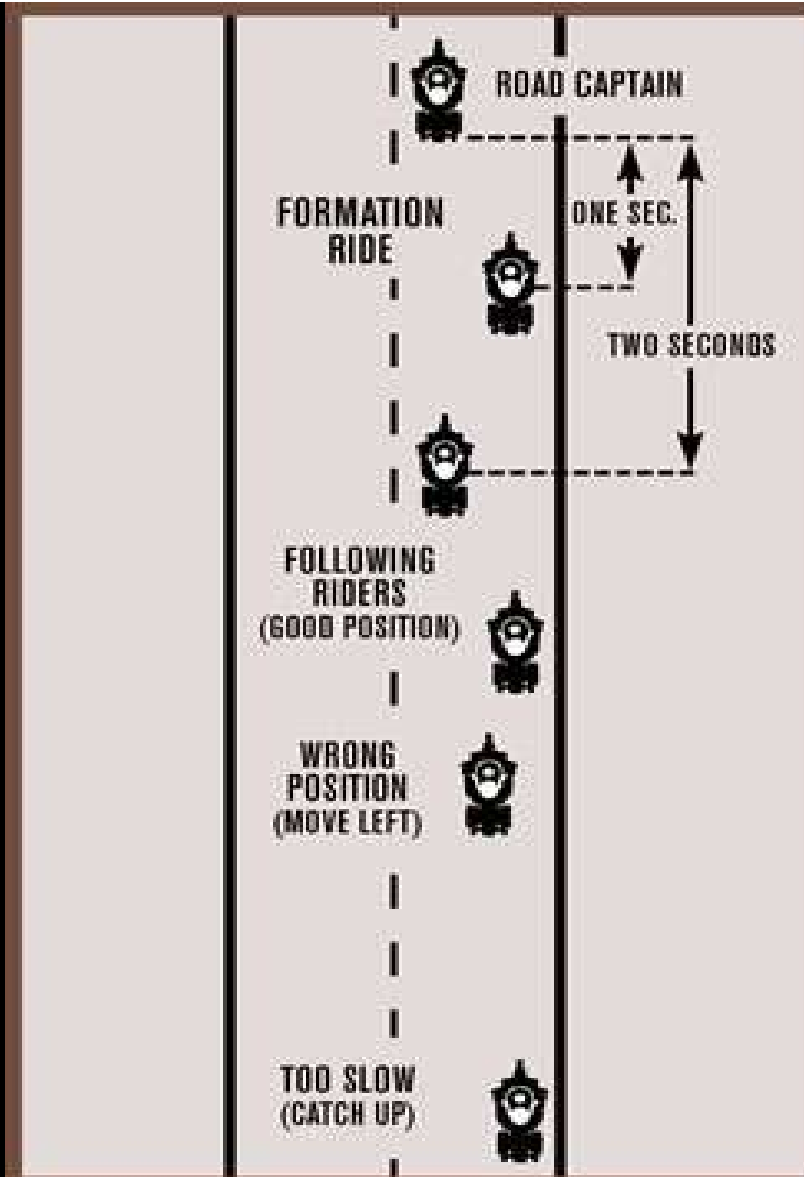
- Turn Signals
- Single File
- Staggered
- Road Hazard
- Slow Down
- Pull Off

Remember to pass hand signals back



# Ride Formation

- **Staggered formation**
- **Headlights on low-beam**  
The sweep will ride with their high-beams on = visibility for leader
- **2 second rule**
- **Mind the gap** – don't put out the welcome mat for other vehicles
- **No passing** – Stay in your position within the group.



# Keep a wide range of vision and Ride Your Own Ride!

- Remember to **LOOK BEYOND** the bike in front of you. Don't fixate on that tail light! Pay the same amount of attention to your surroundings as you do when riding alone.
- Assure intersections are clear for you before proceeding.
- Watch for animals, road debris, potholes emergency vehicles and other hazards. (Point them out for others when you can do so safely.)



# Intersections

- **SOAR does not block intersections.**
  - It is illegal
  - It is dangerous
  - You would be held legally liable in the event of an accident.
- When possible, double up at stops.
  - **Each bike must stop, then proceed**
  - **2 by 2, side by side**
- Obey Traffic Lights – Wisconsin (45 sec) Red Light Law
- Leaders try to anticipate the traffic signal changing
- Don't worry, you will not be left behind!





## You Will Not be Left Behind

- Ride leaders will adjust speed
- If necessary, they will pull the group over – **Stay on your bike.**
- If separated from the group, continue following the road you are on – **do not speed to catch up**
- Someone should be waiting at turns for the group (Brother's Keeper)

# Be Your Brother's Keeper!

- Always be aware of your surroundings and where you are in relation to the other group members.
- If the group ahead of you is making a turn, and the bike(s) behind you aren't visible, safely pull off at that turn where the missing bikes will be able to see you. Once they catch up, lead them continuing on the same road you saw the group turn onto.
- Keep an eye out for the bike that was ahead of you. They should be waiting for you at the next turn in the same manner.

# Side of road stops

- Reason behind stops:
  - **Regrouping**
  - **Adjust riding gear for current weather conditions**
  - **Leader needs to stop for unexpected reroute**
  - **Challenging conditions\***
- Stay on your bike, even if Leader dismounts
  - **Only dismount if Leader signals.**
- Keep eyes on Leader
- When re-entering roadway all bikes pull out together once Leader has. Do not pull forward and then enter the lane.

# Challenging Conditions

- Rain – Stopping to put on rain gear
  - Fog
  - Slippery leaves or grass clippings
  - Sun Blindness
- Slow down and allow more space between you and the bike in front of you.
- If you need to make an unscheduled stop for safety reasons, wait for a safe place, hand signal and pull over. All other riders should continue on. The sweep will stop with you.





# Curves



- Space out and go single file.
- Give yourself the room you need to take the curve safely. The suggested speed posted for the curve is trustworthy.
- If you take the curve too wide and go off the pavement, slow your bike to a speed to reenter the roadway safely.
- Do NOT cross the center line.

# Parking and Restaging

- When possible, maintain preset order in formation – follow leader
  - Be very alert, high activity = dangerous
  
- Use proper parking techniques
  - Don't back into parking space
  - 2 bikes will fit in a parking space
  
- Gas stops – Pull into gas station in same direction. Help others off the street.
  - -Get gas and move out of the way
  - Restage with group – *new riders up front*
  - If leaving the group, advise your leaders
  - Check with other riders around you if you want to change positions



# Breakdowns

- Signal that you are pulling off
- ONLY the sweep stops to help
- All others keep with your group
- Should the group pull over, *for your safety – stay on your bike*





# Accidents

- Same rules as with breakdowns
- Become hyper alert of surrounding traffic
- Stay with the group – leader will direct group to safety
- Medical assistance
  - Medically trained riders may assist
- If you stop to assist, park safely out of traffic and follow the directions of the sweep and/or emergency personnel



# At the Scene of an Accident – P.A.C.T

**P**revent further injury or another accident

**A**ssess the situation

**C**ontact the EMS/Call 911

**T**reat the injuries



# ASM – Accident Scene Management

A Crash Course  
for the  
Motorcyclist



Go to [www.roadguardians.org](http://www.roadguardians.org)

Recommended ASM course for everyone to learn what to do at the scene of any accident until medical help arrives.

Refresher Courses Are Available Online

This course may save a life!



***"Skills are perishable"*** – Jerry Paladino

- Take MSF Courses to Improve Your Motorcycle Riding Skills
- Set up your own course for practice
- Research tips on improving your skills
- Consider becoming part of our Ride Management Team
  - Leaders
  - Sweeps
  - Route/Ride Planners



# The Ride Home



- Advise leaders of when you will depart group
- If possible, those departing group first should stage in the back
- Advise those riding near you when you will break off – Out of courtesy, wave as you pull off or someone may follow you home
- Those remaining continue staggered formation

# Communicate with us Regarding Group Safety



**Safety is everyone's responsibility!**

If you have feedback, comments, suggestions or a *specific safety concern*:

- Talk to your Ride Leader,
- email [SpyderOwnersandRyders@gmail.com](mailto:SpyderOwnersandRyders@gmail.com)  
or
- speak with Kory at Rob's.



Questions?



# Thanks for Coming!

- We're always looking for ride suggestions
- Ride Safe! Ride Smart!