



ANNAPOLIS CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

RULES OF THE ROAD FOR GROUP RIDING

1. Make sure you have a **FULL** tank of gas and arrive 15 minutes prior to departure.
2. Before beginning/joining the group ride, all riders and passengers must have signed a Release of Liability form (each and every ride for non- members). Insure everyone has signed in.
3. Everyone must attend pre-ride briefing to participate in the ride. Latecomers will not be allowed to ride in the group. They may follow, but are on their own. If time allows at a planned stop, a short briefing may be done for those individuals at the option of the Lead Road Captain and they may again join the group.
4. Ride in a staggered column, (the lead motorcycle is in the left 1/3 lane, the second motorcycle is in the right 1/3 lane and so on.
5. Maintain proper spacing and speed with a two-second interval between your motorcycle and the motorcycle directly in front of you. Correct spacing allows eye contact with the rider ahead and behind you in the adjacent line. (Lead rider in his mirror, rear and rear rider in your mirror and don't allow gaps to develop, except to accommodate traffic as necessary.)
6. If a rider drops out of the group and a gap develops in the staggered formation, do not move to the opposite side of the lane to close the gap and do not signal the rider behind you to move up. If you are the rider behind the gap, wait until the next stop sign or stop light and then slowly move into place to take position in a normal staggered formation.
7. Use hand signals to signal changes in direction, lanes, etc. and to alert others to hazardous road conditions. Stay alert to the riders and the road ahead.
8. Lane changes on multi-lane divided highways are made from rear-to-front. The front road captain will signal for a lane change, this signal will move back through the group and the rear road captain will move into the desired lane when it is safe to do so. Once the pass is completed, riders may return to the original lane when they are safely past the slower traffic. Be sure you look for traffic behind you before changing lanes.
9. On expressways with 3 or 4 lanes traveling in the same direction, we usually ride in the lane adjacent to the right lane, as riding in the right lane forces vehicles entering and leaving the road to break through our column.
10. For round-trip-rides, if you ride out with the group and you intend to return with the group it will be your responsibility to be ready to leave with the group at the designated time and location. (Departure time and location will be announced at the start of the ride or when we arrive at our destination). Also, if you didn't ride out with the group and you arrive on your own, you will not necessarily be considered in the group plans unless you inform the Lead Road Captain that you wish to be included.
11. If you intend to join the group at other than the origination of the ride, please contact the Lead Road Captain and he will inform you of the location of a planned stop. You may **ONLY** join a

ride at a planned stop. If you intend to “drop-out” of the group while en route, inform the Lead Road Captain ahead of time so your actions won’t create unnecessary surprises for the other riders. If you intend to drop out, take a position near the rear of the group.

12. Every rider should stop at every stop sign or designated stop. Many incidents have occurred due to a rider “rolling through” a stop while the rider in front of him stops. It is each rider’s responsibility to stop at every stop sign.
13. If a motorcycle becomes disabled, the group does not stop. A rear road captain will stop to assist the disabled bike. If there is a second rear road captain, he or she informs the leader via radio or by moving up to the leader then returns to the rear of the group. The group will slow down, but continue on to the destination or a safe stopping location. If the disabled bike has a quick fix and can resume travel, the bikes will attempt to catch up. If towing or parts are required, the road captain that stopped will attempt to assist the disabled rider and if possible notify the leader of the status of the disabled rider. The cell phone directory can be used to contact the leader by cell phone at the destination for an update.

Note: Each rider has the responsibility to insure his or her motorcycle is road-worthy and in proper working order prior to the start of each run. Bikes deemed unsafe will not be allowed to ride in the group. The Road Captains or an officer will decide this. There will be no exemptions.

14. Remember, even though we might have the right of way, cars are bigger and harder. So yield and let them go.
15. Chapter runs are intended to be enjoyable for everyone. Sometimes, when a rider appears not to be exhibiting safe riding skills, a road captain or Chapter Officer may speak to him or her about their riding. If this should happen to you, please do not be offended. Our primary goal is for the Chapter to have a safe and pleasant ride. Please honor the road captain’s request and if you disagree with it, please contact the Senior Road Captain after the run is completed.
16. Remember, in group riding you are responsible for your actions and the results of your actions- not the Road Captains and not the Chapter. If you are inexperienced or simply uncomfortable riding with the group, please let a Road Captain know at your earliest opportunity. He or she may be able to offer suggestions to make the ride more enjoyable for you and for those riding with the group.