



## WELCOME TO RUMBLE PACK!!

It is our hope to make your transition from new member to fellow rider a safe and pleasant one. This binder was created to give you the information needed to make your group riding experience safer, more enjoyable and make you feel a part of this amazing group of ladies much quicker.

Included in this file are forms, guidelines, a few safety pieces and hopefully a helping hand.

Please fill out your *New Member Questionnaire* and return it to the current Membership Coordinator along with a picture of you and your motorcycle so that you can be added to the roster and to the Member's Bio section of the website. The application to join National Women on Wheels is also included. Since Membership in Rumble Pack requires that you are a National member in good standing, you are probably already a member ... so, make a couple copies and pass them on to other ladies who may be looking for friends to ride with. Be sure to put your WOW Member Number and name on the bottom so that you receive credit for recruiting. National will send you a "Recruiter" bar to add to your WOW Pin. The last form is a Medical Form. Please fill it out and carry with you when you ride. Laminating this might be a good idea since you never know when it will rain.

Again, welcome to Rumble Pack.

*Ride safe, ride often!*

The Officers & Members of Rumble Pack

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# **MEMBER INFO**

# **2010-2011 RUMBLE PACK OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS CONTACT INFO**

## **2010-11 Co-Directors**

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## **2010-11 Secretary**

**Joanne Schreiber**

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## **2010-11 Membership**

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## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

March 11, 2011

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## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

March 11, 2011

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March 11, 2011

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March 11, 2011

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## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

March 11, 2011

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

March 11, 2011

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### ANDREA WALTON

Club Email: @

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## SUMMER 2011 POD SCHEDULE

### POD A - East

<b>Ali Goldstein*</b>	<b>Solon</b>	<b>440-773-7380</b>
Sandy Howard	Twinsburg	216-214-2430
Melissa Ritts	Euclid	440-796-2900
Carolyn Robare	East Cleveland	216-773-8839
Lollie Smith	Concord	440-354-0038 (H)
Laura Delli	Garfield Hts	440-221-6922
Shirley Mirous	Garfield Hts	216-554-1086
Debbie Perrone	Streetsboro	330-626-2182 (H)
Holly Egner	Mentor	216-496-5990
Janet Krysiak	Independence	440-212-5368

### POD B - Near West

Cheryl Stewart	Brooklyn	216-262-7066
Linda Schafer	Lakewood	216-287-5901
Deb Sarver	Lakewood	216-409-9017
Renae Delvitto	Lakewood	216-221-4559 (H)
Dianne Biddlestone	Lakewood	
Renee Collins	Cleveland	216-631-0236 (H)
Sue Bates	Berea	
Pat Graven	Berea	216-389-3020
Gerry Evon	Parma Heights	
Denise Tomcufcik	Northfield	330-603-0937
Sharon Thomas	Broadview Hts	440-717-1584 (H?)
Diane Smith	Berea	440-241-5922
Dree Kinnee	Lakewood	

### POD C - West

<b>Terrie Leighliter*</b>	<b>North Ridgeville</b>	<b>216-346-9645</b>
Melissa Leahy	North Ridgeville	440-666-3703
Michele Nemeth	North Ridgeville	216-856-2997
Debbie Dempsey	Avon	440-537-7814
Sharon White	Avon Lake	440-670-6480
Susan Clarke	Avon Lake	440-376-6516
Rhonda McCrone	Olmsted Falls	440-263-7163 (H)
<b>Char Ehlke</b>	<b>Elyria</b>	<b>440-371-4927</b>
Tina Brletich	Elyria	440-897-6681
Karen Resar	Grafton	440-748-1407 (H)
Deb Canter	Wellington	440-647-4580
Patty Shular	Westlake	

### POD D - Far West

<b>Joanne Schreiber*</b>	<b>Oberlin</b>	<b>216-798-8766</b>
Janet Randolph	Berlin Heights	440-336-2871
Chris "Red" Burman	Amherst	440-522-8035
Mary Pentito	Amherst	440-988-9243 (H)
Christy Sellers	Amherst	440-320-6799
Anna Valadez	Amherst	440-985-2093 (H)
Rachel Donley	Vermilion	440-315-6489
DeLayne Hart	Lorain	440-396-7654 (H)

### POD E - South / Far South

<b>Maggie Rodriguez*</b>	<b>Mansfield</b>	<b>419-543-0880</b>
Dee Zachar*	Mansfield	330-421-2109
Chris Pate	North Royalton	216-571-2140
Carol Timmers	North Royalton	440-829-9099
Joyce Gilliland	Strongsville	440-915-2959
Valerie Powers	Strongsville	
Linda Kahl	Medina	216-310-1777
Deb Canter	Wellington	440-647-4580
Marilyn Bowers	Mansfield	419-989-0187
Karen Malloy	Seville	330-304-5021
Teri Moenich	Brunswick	

### POD F - Southeast

Pam Andrella	Akron	330-620-5914
Josee Boal	Mogadore	330-524-6100
Judy Spainhoward	Kent	
Carol Bryant	Newcomerstown	330-340-6857
Cher Hathaway	New Philadelphia	330-827-6550

### NEED ASSIGNED

Andrea Walton

\* = Ride Team / RED = Officers

Phone numbers are CELL for all members / (H) means home number and \_\_\_\_ means no number / NEED CELL #S

When scheduled to attend a ride and unforeseen circumstances occur, please **contact POD leaders or Ride Coordinator on their cell phones the morning of the ride** so they know not to wait and worry about you when PODs meet.

### MEETING PLACES TO BE DETERMINED BY DESTINATION

Several members may find a change of POD more suitable for some rides. Let someone know.

You may see your name in two PODs, we need to know which is better for you.

IF YOU AREN'T ASSIGNED TO A POD, it means that I need info from you or you haven't joined National yet.

# By-Laws for Rumble Pack

A Women On Wheels® Chapter

March, 2010

## ARTICLE I. GENERAL

### Section I NAME

1. The name of this Chapter shall be “Rumble Pack” which, in these bylaws, may be referred to as “the Chapter”.
2. The Charter is issued by the corporation “Women On Wheels®” which, in these bylaws, may be referred to as WOW or “National”.

### Section 2 PURPOSE

To uphold the Mission Statement as set forth by National and to welcome all ladies without prejudice with regards to experience or equipment.

To promote safe and sober riding, promote a positive image to the public and help to educate members for all members.

### Section 3 National By-Laws & Code of Ethics

The Chapter’s By-Laws and Code of Ethics shall in no way supersede the documents National has set in place but are meant only to enhance these documents at the local chapter level.

### Section 4 Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern Rumble Pack in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that RP may adopt.

It was voted on at the April 2009 membership meeting that the reading of the Minutes and Treasurer’s Report would be suspended for future meetings because they are published by email and a copy can be obtained by any member on the website. This amendment can be rescinded by a two-thirds vote of membership.

### Section 5 Reimbursement

Members of the Board of Trustees (as described in these By-Laws), Chapter members or those acting on the behalf of either the Chapter or the Board will be reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred in providing services for the benefit of the Chapter.

## ARTICLE II.

### MEMBERSHIP IN RUMBLE PACK

#### Section I FULL MEMBER

Any women who is a member of National in good standing may join the Chapter provided they do not possess any felony charges and are willing to submit to a background check.

#### Section 2 SUPPORT MEMBER

Any person who is a Support Member in National must meet the same requirements as a Full Member.

#### Section 3 Maintaining Membership

To remain a riding member of the Chapter, you must:

1. Remain a member of National in good standing.
2. Remain current with all monetary obligations to both individual members and the Chapter.
3. Maintain a current motorcycle insurance policy. Proof of insurance will be required at the March meeting or prior to rider attending first ride with group.
4. Maintain motorcycle in good repair.
5. Be licensed by the State to operate a motorcycle and maintain a current license status. If rider only holds a temporary permit Ride leaders must be notified prior to each ride.

Motorcycle ownership is not required to maintain a membership in the Chapter

## Section 4 Suspension and Termination

Because membership in this Chapter is open to all National members in good standing and there is no “probationary period”, the membership of this Chapter reserves the right to ask a member who is in serious violation of the Code of Conduct, Road Rules or By-Laws to leave the Chapter.

Suspension and/or removal will only come after the following steps:

1. a one-on-one discussion with the member by designated Board members,
2. a written warning delivered to member by email or traditional mail, and
3. final step is a letter of termination sent by certified mail.

## ARTICLE III. BOARD AND OFFICERS

### Section 1 Board Members

The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven members: two co-directors, a treasurer, a secretary, a Membership Coordinator and two past-directors. All members of the Board shall be full members of WOW.

### Section 2 Elected Officers

#### 1. Co-Directors:

Chapter will operate with two co-directors. The term is a two-year term with only one co-director being replaced during an election year.

Co-directors will share the running of the meetings, be valid signatories on club checks and work together to run the Chapter.

Receive and reply to website inquiries from the [info@rumblepack.org](mailto:info@rumblepack.org).

#### 2. Secretary:

- Will be responsible for taking the monthly minutes and provide those minutes to the Newsletter and Website coordinators to post.
- To preserve a permanent file of all past minutes, Chapter correspondence, past vote record and official documents of the Chapter.

#### 3. Treasurer:

- Has custody of the Chapter’s funds
- Operate the 50/50 Raffle and collect donations at each meeting
- Be responsible for all money collected and for depositing those monies into a Chapter account.
- Disperse money as approved by the Board and/or Chapter.
- To ensure that Chapter funds are used for the benefit of all Chapter members and not for the sole benefit of one Chapter member.
- Prepare a written monthly account of all Chapter monies and monetary transactions.
- Preserve, in a permanent file, all monthly accounting records and other financial documents.

#### 4. Membership Coordinator:

- Receive emails from the [info@rumblepack.org](mailto:info@rumblepack.org) and reply to with a welcome email and information for joining the Chapter and National Organization
- Maintain a roster that includes present members, support members, past members and potential members
- Help the Website Coordinator maintain current pictures and bios.

### Section 3 Elections

1. Elections will be held during the October meeting.
2. Nominations will be taken at the September meeting or made by email to the Board of Trustees prior to the September meeting.
3. Nominees must be full members in good standing with the Chapter, maintain a current membership with National and have been a Chapter member for a minimum of one year. Nominees need not be present when nominated but must agree to accept the office.
4. Any member in good standing is eligible to vote. If a member will not be present at the election meeting, she may vote in absentia by emailing her ballot to the [vote@rumblepack.org](mailto:vote@rumblepack.org) email address

## **Section 4 Committee Coordinators**

### **1. Newsletter Editor:**

Prepare and email a newsletter once a month and furnish the website coordinator a copy to post on the website

### **2. Ride Committee:**

A group that will plan and prepare a Ride Calendar for the upcoming year based on suggestions from members.

### **3. Historian:**

Maintain a library of photographs for Chapter use only.

### **4. Sunshine Committee:**

Will send cards for birthdays and special events. See Article VI, Number 4.

These committees may be added to or deleted as the growth of the Chapter dictates.

## **Article IV – Meeting and Other Procedures**

- 1) The quorum of the Chapter shall be not less than one third of the Chapter membership. A quorum is required to conduct a Chapter vote.
- 2) All voting, unless otherwise specified, shall be by the majority of those casting a ballot, whether in person or by online vote, and must be an active National member.
- 3) These By-Laws may be amended or added to by a proposed amendment being submitted in writing at a regular meeting. The proposed amendment must be published in one newsletter prior to be voted upon. It shall require a majority vote of members in good standing.

## **Article V Operating Rules:**

- 1) In lieu of dues, and in accordance with National's guidelines, Rumble Pack does not charge dues but rather offers attendees an opportunity to participate in a 50/50 raffle and/or donate at monthly meetings. Attendees are encouraged to participate in either or both.

- 2) For events and/or rides where deposits are required, the deposit will not be refunded. This financial obligation is the responsibility of the attendee and must be paid on or before the designated due date.
- 3) The officers and designated members are authorized to purchase supplies as needed for the Chapter. Receipts must be presented to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
- 4) Members and those associated with the Chapter shall work, but not participate in, Chapter sponsored fund raising events.
- 5) Currently, Ride For Kids, benefiting the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, is Rumble Pack's official Charity. Members, participating in other charity events, may use Rumble Pack emails to solicit donations from their fellow riders but not at Chapter meetings or events.
- 6) Club officers and committee chairs are authorized to spend up to \$25.00 for a gift for hospitalization or serious illness of a member. The death of an immediate relative of a Chapter member will also result in a similar gift/donation. Relatives are defined as spouse, significant others, children, parents, parents in-law or siblings.
- 7) A Chapter email will be assigned once a member attends two (2) meetings or two Chapter events or any combination thereof.
- 8) Members are asked to refrain from consuming alcohol or drugs when representing the Chapter.
- 9) Conflict Resolution: All conflicts will be resolved using the same method as disciplinary steps in Article II, Section III.
- 10) Members not compatible with the purpose of the organization shall have their membership revoked in accordance with National's guidelines and as described in these By-Laws in Article II, Section 3.
- 11) Chapter Operating Rules may be amended by a majority vote of members attending a regular meeting.

## **Article VI – Ride Rules:**

- 1) Ride calendar will contain open and member only rides. Open rides are open to everyone – members, support members, friends and family. Member only rides are open to only those ladies who are full members of WOW.
- 2) Riders are asked to arrive on time and ready to ride at designated meeting places. If a member is going to be late or a change in plan is necessary, they must contact their POD leader or designated ride leader.
- 3) A member who consumes alcohol or drugs during a ride will be asked to leave the ride.
- 4) While it is a member's choice, said member is responsible for following all state helmet laws.
- 5) PODs are the Chapter's way of grouping riders by area to alleviate the need for someone to ride alone. They will be used when necessary to get everyone to a central meeting place.
- 6) The designated Ride Leader has the authority to make all necessary safety decisions. Group size will determine the number of assistant Ride leaders necessary. The planner of an event will not necessarily be the ride leader. In order to lead a ride, the Rumble Pack Ride Committee will establish and train a Ride Leader Training.
- 7) During a trip, if motorcycle breaks down, the riders in attendance will make sure that rider and bike are in a safe location, contact with help has been made and the ride will proceed.
- 8) Members are asked not to participate in overnight events when they are ill. If a participant becomes ill during an event, there are Chapter first aid kits available with minimal over the counter medications. Serious illnesses will be handled in the same manner as motorcycle breakdowns (see Article VI, Section 2).
- 9) Members are responsible for their own expenses. Borrowing from other members is discouraged as it leads to problems within the Chapter. Financial responsibilities left unpaid will result in suspension of membership privileges – attending rides and events – until financial obligations are met.
- 10) When travelling, if a member or members choose to leave the group and travel on their own, they must notify the ride leader/planner and take on all financial responsibilities for expenses incurred.
- 11) It is the goal of this Chapter to encourage safe and responsible riding among its members. These By-Laws are only a guide and are to be treated as such.
- 12) Chapter Ride Rules may be amended by a majority vote of members attending a regular meeting.

# Code of Conduct

1. All members are responsible for maintaining the public image and perception of the organization while representing WOW, or at WOW rides and events. In no situation should any member conduct themselves so as to bring discredit to the good reputations of the Organization.
2. A member should not publicly make any statements, in any form of communication, or commit any act, that portrays the organization or its members in a negative or unfavorable manner.
3. All Treasurers are to keep sound financial records within the organization.
4. Members are to promote cooperative co-existence with other motorcycle clubs and organizations. Members are to respect the rights of all members of the general community.
5. Members are expected to promote motorcycle safety, ride responsibility and encourage new membership.
6. Members are expected to treat fellow members and guests with courtesy and respect.
7. Members must adhere to the "chain of command" shall be as follows. Member > Chapter Director> State Ambassador > Chapter Director State Ambassador coordinator > Board of Trustees > Executive committee of the Board of Trustees.
8. Any grievance between members shall be directed to the Chapter Director following the "chain of command." Should one of the links in this chain be unavailable, not in effect, or the subject of the grievance, the next higher chain shall be contacted.
9. The Board of Trustees has the right to take any appropriate disciplinary action, including revocation and or suspension of membership, and written and or oral reprimand of any members in violation of this code, in accordance with WOW bylaws.
10. Violations of Code of Conduct rules may result in membership suspension or revocation. This will be decided by a two-thirds vote of Board of Trustees.
11. Any member having had disciplinary action taken against them may not be nominated for, elected, or appointed to a chapter officer position or the Board of Trustees.
12. Making malicious or intentionally false reports of a violation of the Code of Conduct to itself a violation. All such reports should be handled using the procedures to the Application and Enforcement of the Code of Conduct.

## **BOARD POSITIONS:**

- CO-DIRECTORS** Two individuals that share the responsibility of running the Chapter by facilitating the meetings (both Chapter and Board), developing the agenda for said meetings and representing the Chapter when in attendance at the National Ride-In at the CD/SA meeting. Receive emails from the website when perspective members request information about the organization and reply to those people with welcome emails.
- SECRETARY** Record the minutes from each meeting (both Chapter and Board), submit those minutes to the Newsletter Editor for publication in the newsletter and handle Chapter correspondence when necessary.
- TREASURER** Maintain the financial accounts and records for the Chapter, give monthly financial report at Chapter meeting and run the 50/50 at each meeting/event.
- MEMBERSHIP  
COORDINATOR** Receive the emails from the website when perspective members request information about the organization and reply to those people with a welcome email that includes a Membership Application and National Membership application. Maintain and publish a roster, an emergency roster and help to gather and maintain the New Member Binder information.
- PREVIOUS  
YEAR'S  
CO-DIRECTORS** Once a member has served as Co-Director they are part of the governing board of this Chapter as long as they are in good standing with National and the Chapter.

## **COMMITTEES/NON-BOARD POSITIONS:**

<b>WEBSITE COORDINATOR</b>	The person in charge of the content, maintenance and email setup for the Chapter's website.
<b>RIDE CMMTEE. COORDINATOR</b>	The spokeswoman, elected by the Ride Committee, who will attend Board Meetings and give the report of the Ride Committee at meetings.
<b>MEETING COORDINATOR</b>	Responsible for the yearly meeting calendar and it's disbursement to members. Members will contact the Meeting Coordinator to request meetings in their homes and extra social events. Will work in conjunction with the Ride Committee to create a master schedule of events.
<b>SUNSHINE COORDINATOR</b>	Be contacted by membership when any of the following occur: surgery, hospital stay, birth in family, death in family, graduation, promotion, etc. A card will be sent for most occasions with the exception of surgery/hospital stay of a member or death of an immediate family member. A \$20-25 gift will be sent for surgery/hospital stay and a \$25 donation to the family's Charity of choice will be given for death of an immediate family member.
<b>NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR</b>	Facilitator for the New Member Committee that will set up and facilitate meet & greets for new perspective members prior to meetings. Contact the POD Leaders after new members join to arrange for a meeting to educate and assist them with group riding, hand signals and obtaining the experience to improve their skills.
<b>RIDE COMMITTEE (4-5 members)</b>	A group of ladies who will do the planning of the Chapter's Ride Schedule. They meet often during the winter prior to riding season so that a tentative calendar is ready by the International Motorcycle Show in January to help promote our Chapter to potential members. Committee will elect a spokeswoman who will attend the Board Meetings.
<b>POD LEADER</b>	The contact person for the PODs (Point of Departure groups) for Chapter rides. POD Leaders should be experienced riders and may or may not be on the Ride Committee. They should make contact with all POD members prior to the ride to verify attendance to set the meeting place and time for the POD and contacted by those whose plans change so not left waiting for someone who isn't coming. They will assist in leading the POD to the Chapter meeting place. Will be represented at Board meetings by the Ride Committee Chair.
<b>NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE</b>	Will assist the New Member Coordinator with the meet and greets for new perspective members prior to meetings. Meet with perspective members one on one if a meet and greet can't be scheduled in time. This can be a floating committee with people being placed on a list of "mentors" that are cc'd on the Welcome emails sent by the Membership Coordinator so that new members have someone to turn to with questions and someone to arrive at their first meeting with accompanied by a member. Will be represented at Board meetings by the New Member Coordinator.

<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Responsible for the content of the monthly Newsletter. Will receive minutes from Secretary to publish.
<b>PUBLICITY COMMITTEE</b>	Responsible for trying to get stories in local papers about the Chapter, creating stories for National's magazine and maintaining a Scrapbook of articles and pictures.
<b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b>	A group of individuals that will research and present information on safety, motorcycle maintenance, new products on the market, valuable websites, etc. and presented in a short presentation at meetings. This information can be offered in print for inclusion in Member's Binder and publication on the website.
<b>FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE</b>	A group of individuals that will work to increase our potential for fundraising. They would facilitate setting up garage sales and car washes, facilitating getting the group into local festivals, help with raffles of larger items, etc.
<b>BY-LAWS &amp; CODE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>	A group of individuals that will work to put into writing our Chapter By-Laws. and develop a Code of Ethics for the group. They can use other Club's existing By-Laws to help draft ours.
<b>ROAD CAPTAIN</b>	The person who leads a ride. Ultimately in charge of a ride: route decisions if Ride Committee has left planning to this person, rest and gas stops and either in the lead or tail of the group. A second Road Captain can be assigned if the group is large enough to warrant someone in the middle in case of a group split.













# **EDUCATION**

# UNIVERSAL HAND SIGNALS



**Start your engines**



**Stop**



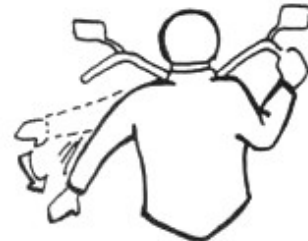
**Go ahead and pass me**



**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**

## **GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES:**

1. **FELLOW RIDERS:** You are responsible for the person behind you and the person in front of you. Frequently look at your rear view mirror to make sure they are OK. If directional is still on -signal them. If they are falling behind, slow down. Use turn signals and hand signals. Read the person in front of you. Do they brake and slow down a lot or a little for turns? Try to anticipate what they may do (Semi approaching, light changing color, turns, curves, etc).
2. **SIDE BY SIDE RIDING:** There should be no side by side riding except to convey messages that are pertinent to the group. Do not pass other riders. Passing is only used for emergencies and conveying information to the group leader. You should flash your brake lights before and during stops or when slowing, to communicate your intentions.
3. **HAND SIGNALS:** See Hand Signals page in this handbook.
4. **CHANGING LANES:** When changing lanes, the lead person puts on her turn signal and gives the hand signal, each following person turns on their turn signal and gives the hand signal, tail person put on her turn signal, looks to make sure the lane is clear. When the position opens up, the tail person changes lane. Each person, moving back up the line, moves over with lead person moving in last. Be sure to wait for any cars that may be in the lane you want to move to. Sometimes the tail rider has to let a car pass before moving over and each person needs to let the car pass before moving into the preferred lane. The reason the tail moves over first is to hold traffic back so the rest of the group can move in without being cut off.
5. **CURVES:** No breaking in curves. It's dangerous for you and those riding with you. Before reaching a curve back off from the person in front of you. Slow down to a safe turning speed. As you enter the turn press on the side of the bike that you are turning (press on left grip if turning left right grip if turning right) to and roll gently on throttle. Rolling on the throttle only needs to be a slight 2-3 MPH increase but you must increase your speed. Depending on the curve you may need to increase speed a little more aggressively. It is helpful to the person behind you, when you are down shifting to slow down for the curve, if you tap your brakes so they know you are slowing down. On back roads, use the entire lane space (be sure to give yourself space when approaching a turn), take the curve at a slower pace, and accelerate when going through and out of curve. Enjoy the ride it should not be stressful.
6. **STOP SIGN STOPS:** Stop until every one in the group catches up and has pulled up to stop. Wave other cars on while you wait for everyone. M/C's go through stop signs in couples (two bikes at a time). Once through the stop sign continue to move forward, so the next two bikes have space to get through. When they are through slightly speed up to be continuously moving making room for bikes to follow, but slow enough that all bikes (ideally) will get through before resuming the legal speed limit.
7. **STOP LIGHTS:** If you have stopped for a stoplight and everyone has not caught up, wait at light until all are present before going through light. If a car is turning left, wave them through. If you go through a green light and the light changes

- before all others have gotten through, continue slowly everyone is through the light. If cars pull in behind you, continue with flow of traffic. The others will catch up to you in time. **DO NOT** pull off to the shoulder of the road and wait. If there is **EASY** access to a parking lot, you may pull in there and wait for others to catch up and regroup. **DO NOT** put yourself or others in danger.
8. **LARGE GROUP RIDING:** If the group is large, it will be divide into 5-6 bikes each group. Try to maintain this group together if large group gets split up. Ideally everyone on ride will have directions at beginning of ride (this may not always be possible if ride plans get changed after ride is planned or started-please be flexible, but feel free to voice your concerns and desires when changes are being made).
  9. **FREEWAY:** Keep up with the group. You are a danger to yourself and to others when you leave large gaps and it leaves the group susceptible to being cut off by a car. You should be able to see the person behind you in your rear view mirror easily. And the person you are behind should also see you easily. Two to three bike lengths from the person directly staggered in front of you is a good rule of thumb depending on the driving conditions (dark, rain, etc.) In other words, there should be a minimum of two seconds traveling time between your bike and the bike immediately to your left or right and a minimum of four seconds traveling time between your bike and the bike directly in front of you. If you are more than two or three bike lengths behind, the riders responsible for you will think there is a problem with your bike or with you and will become concerned and keep an eye on you more than on their riding and that creates an unsafe situation. If you are unable to ride the speed limit or have other special conditions, let the road captain know before the ride starts. A slower group will be formed to ride behind the main group.
  10. **SEMI-TRUCKS:** When a Semi passes you, it can be dangerous. Use the space between bikes (which is another reason for not riding to closely) to slightly move over away from Semi into M/C line away from Semi so as not to be pulled by their wind vortex. When Semi passed, move back to your position.
  11. **CD, MP3, iPod's etc.:** Do Not make adjustments while riding. This is incredibly dangerous to you and others. You are not focused on what is happening around you (traffic, other riders, speed, M/C lane etc) this is a severely dangerous situation.

# Women Riders Now.com

Riding in a Group

**10 tips to keep you safe**

**Susan Rzepka Orion, MSF RiderCoach**

**8/14/2008**

Something wonderful happens when you share something you love with others, and riding motorcycles is no exception. Group riding increases the fun factor in motorcycling, but beware, it adds to the risk factor, too. So if you're going to ride in groups, try these 10 tips to make your group ride a safe and happy one:

## **1) Be Prepared**

Make sure everything -- you, your gear and your bike -- are all ready to roll before heading out to the ride. Are you rested? Are you fed? Are you drug and alcohol-free? Did you pack rain gear? Layered clothing for temperature changes? Retro-reflective gear for night riding? Have you given your bike a solid pre-ride inspection in the following areas?

T – Tires and Wheels

C – Controls

L – Lights and Electric

O – Oil, Gas and other Fluids

C – Chassis

S – Side Stand

Use the **MSF T-CLOCS checklist** before each and every ride.

## **2) Have a Pre-Ride Meeting**

Even if you're only riding with one or two other riders, put your heads together before the ride to discuss stops, signals, skill levels and speed. Large groups should be divided into smaller ones (five to seven riders at most). Employ the buddy system. Exchange cell phone numbers and agree on designated meeting places in case anyone gets separated from the pack.



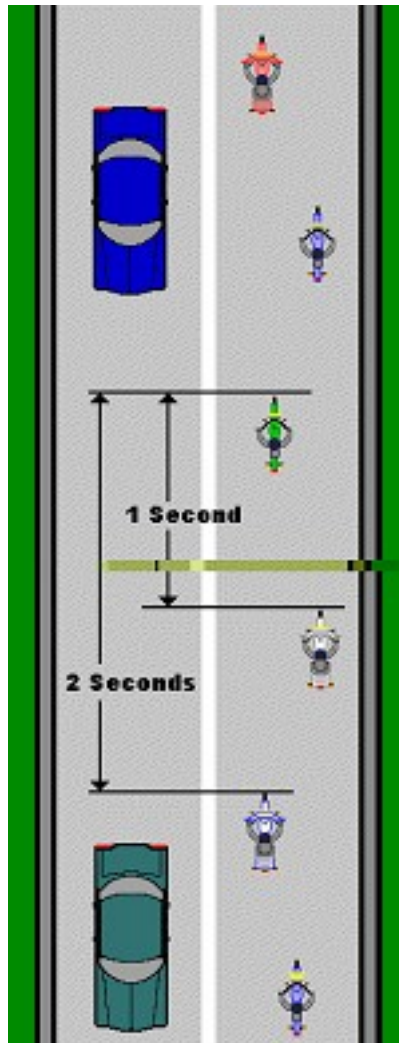
*Keeping group size at or below seven will increase rider safety.*

### 3) Learn Sign Language!

Hand signals will surely be used by riders in your group. For a complete guide to the most commonly used signals, use the [MSF Guide to Group Riding](#)

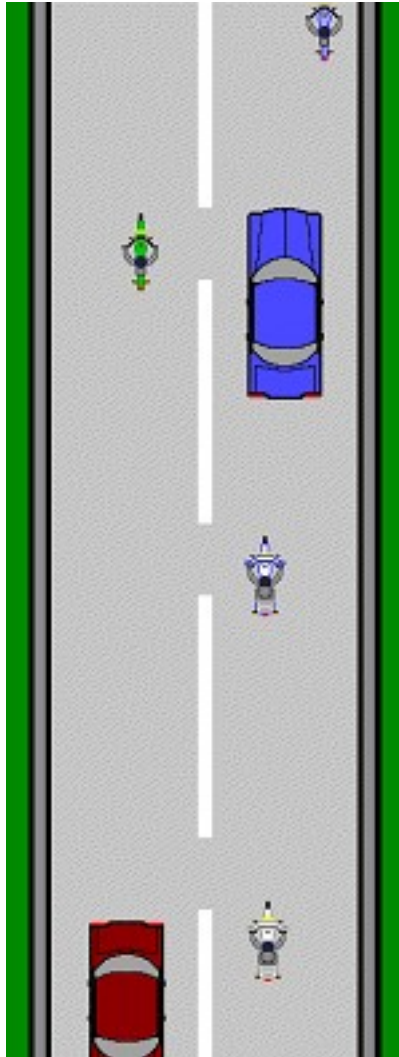
### 4) Stay in Formation

Staggered riding is preferred when riding with others to provide maximum space cushion for each rider in the group without hogging the road. The lead rider always takes the left third of the lane, with the second rider one-second behind in the right third of the lane. The third rider rides two seconds behind the lead rider, and so on.

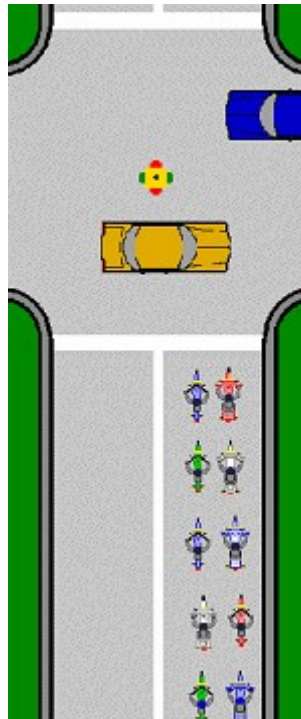


*Staggering within the lane increases the space cushion for riders.*

Single file is best whenever more space cushioning is needed, particularly on curves, highway ramps, poor roads and under bad weather conditions. Riders stop side by side at intersections, but should always move out one at a time, in tight formation, not side-by-side. Side-by-side riding reduces your space cushion limits your ability to respond to unexpected hazards.



*Riding single file when the road or conditions require extra attention is important. Group passing is a perfect example.*



*It is appropriate to pull up to a stop side by side. Group riding formation can be resumed as each rider starts individually.*

### **5) Placement in the Pack**

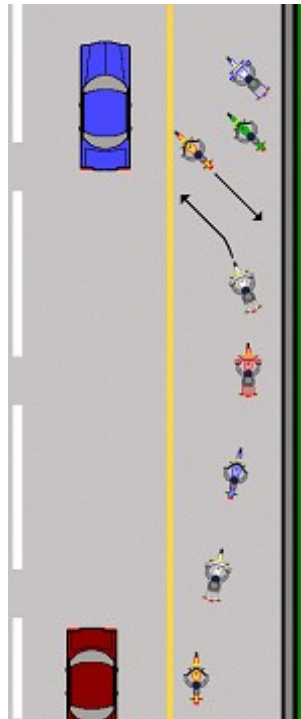
The two strongest riders should be placed at the front and rear of the group. The lead rider sets the pace and the tail (sweep) rider brings up the rear. Inexperienced riders should be up front, right behind the leader, allowing the leader to keep tabs and set the pace accordingly.

### **6) Pull Out the Stops**

Take planned stops on the route, and allow everyone to rest. Even if the first riders to the rest stop have been waiting fifteen minutes for the last riders to arrive, the last riders still need significant break time. Don't cut anyone short!

## 7) Parking

Park tightly, one at a time, in an orderly fashion. Consider pulling through parking spaces in parking lots to make it easier for the group to pull out. For rather large groups, pre-planned parking may be necessary.



*Orderly parking, one at a time.*

## 8) Must Have Items

At least one rider in the group must carry a cell phone, a first aid kit and a tool kit. Ideally, every rider should have basic emergency equipment just in case. Don't forget your license, current vehicle registration and proof of insurance, too. And if you ride helmet-less in your home state with no helmet law, you should bring a helmet to wear when crossing state lanes.

## 9) What Will you Do When?

What if you get too far behind or separated from the group? No need to push yourself to catch up. That's what cell phones and pre-determined meeting places are for!

What if alcohol becomes involved? It's best to discuss rules regarding drinking and riding before you take off. Remember, when one group member rides under the influence, he or she compromises the safety of the entire ride.

## 10) Ride Your Own Ride

Group riding can be a real treat, but it can also be a real threat. If you feel pressured beyond your personal ability, skill or comfort level for too long, your ride will suffer. Be choosy about your riding buddies. It's important to have fun, but only you can ride your own ride.

For more on group riding, check out the [MSF Guide to group Riding](#)

Susan Rzepka Orion, MSF RiderCoach

*Susan Rzepka Orion is a certified MSF RiderCoach and Rider's Edge Instructor who loves to ride, write, and help others who want to do the same. You can find her on the road on her BMW F 650 GS or on the Web at [WritingWays.com](#).*



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