

Group Riding Tips

One of the benefits of joining a HOG chapter is meeting people with similar riding styles and gawking at accessorized Harleys of interest. HOG chapters also offer the opportunity to join up for group rides and see how these accessorized Harleys cruise down the highway. I've bought the auxiliary brake light/running light/turn signal conversion kit (H-D part number 69461-06B) based on observations on a group ride.

We have all observed riding behaviors in a group; good and unsafe. When riding with others, you need to take into account the needs and abilities of the other riders. Here are some tips for successful group riding:

- Safety margin – MSF recommends 2 second following distance; keep in mind this is for ideal conditions. If you have never ridden with the riders immediately around you and you are not sure of their riding style, create some time and space until you feel comfortable.
- Negotiating a curve – the path of travel when approaching a curve is outside-inside-outside which gives a better line-of-sight plus straightens out the curve. Ride single file in curves and use correct technique when negotiating the curve.
- Check traffic – this is for both merging into and traffic merging to your lane. Best way to avoid a risky situation is pay attention; use the Search, Evaluate and Execute strategy (SEE) and use head checks for the blind spots.

Novice riders always want to ride toward the back of the pack. MSF recommends these riders ride up front, behind the lead rider so the lead rider can set the pace to the ability of the least experienced rider. Since new riders feel comfortable riding in the rear, consider splitting the group in two.

Ride to your ability, don't let peer pressure create an unsafe situation.

For a guide to group riding, visit the [MSF video group riding link](#) on our [chapter web site](#).

"When you're riding lead, don't spit." ~Author Unknown

Safety Officer

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