

Safety Briefing

Group Rides For New Members

Introduction

The Biggs Chapter North San Diego County H.O.G. has a highly developed riding culture that stresses safety above all else. This combines with the H.O.G. basic objective to “ride and have fun” which maximizes the positive experience of riding with us.

The Chapter has a large numbers of rides each month of various types for the enjoyment of its members. You are encouraged to participate in these events as part of the H.O.G. family.

Our Group Ride Culture

A **Group Riding Manual** can be found on the Chapter's website (biggshog.com), on the Members page. This document details the system we have developed over many years for conducting group rides. It includes formations, hand signals, maneuvers, and practices for group rides. Knowing this information will make riding with us much easier and safer as well as help eliminate surprises. Please read this document. It will benefit you.

A **Get Acquainted Ride** (GAR) is held the Saturday morning after our Friday night general meeting for the new member and veteran members to meet and ride together. It is an easy ride to ensure the comfort of the new members. It will end at a place where we can have lunch and talk.

A **Formation 101** class is conducted before the GAR to introduce rider that have not ridden with us to how we ride. The class is for those that are new to riding and old hands that want to learn how we ride. The class is about an hour and will cover a large range of subjects. Passengers are welcome.

Road Guard Program

The Chapter has a group of riders who have volunteered to serve the Chapter as Road Guards. The Road Guards take responsibility for the safe conduct of each ride. Road Guards are experienced riders, trained by the chapter, who have served an OJT period and passed an evaluation. These are the people to go to during a ride if you have questions or concerns. They are there for you.

Road Captain

The **Road Captain** is in charge of and manages the Road Guard Program.

Ride Road Guards Positions

Each ride will have some or all of the following Road Guards positions assigned:

- A **RIDE LEADER** who is in charge of the ride and will guide the group
- A **MID PACK** for large groups, who monitors the group from the center
- A **SWEEP** who will ride at the rear and shepherd any rider with a problem and protect the group from the rear

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Medic

A **Medic** may be identified if there is a person on a ride with medical training.

Safety Officer

The **Safety Officer** is a Road Guard who is responsible promoting safety in the Chapter and supporting the Road Guards on safety issues. You as a member should feel free to contact the Safety Officer through the chapter website with any safety related issue.

Ride Group Size

Ride groups will be kept to a safe size. The size will depend on prevailing conditions and ride route. It is usual for a ride to consist of several groups.

Abandoned Riders

There will be no abandoned riders on our Chapter rides. The Sweep will not pass you if you have a problem. The Sweep will stay with you and give assistance as needed.

Motorcycle Training

The Chapter encourages recurrent and advanced training. Courses certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), including Harley-Davidson Riders Edge, are excellent courses. A Gift Certificate from H.O.G. is available for completion of a MSF course. See the Safety Officer for details.

The Chapter does not provide rider training. Riders participating in group rides are expected to know how to ride a motorcycle.

Riding Your Own Ride

When you are riding as part of a group, you are also an individual and the sole operator of your bike. You must take responsibility for your safe riding and ride your own ride. You will never be expected to ride above your personal comfort level.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol may not be consumed before or during a ride.

The Simple Stuff

- Show up on time for the Pre Ride Briefing
- Have a full tank and empty bladder
- Have what you will need: water, clothing for changing conditions, etc.
- Ensure your bike is in good condition: tires, oil, etc.
- Ensure you are in good condition: suitable for riding
- Have Fun