

## Detailed explanation of the Table Dance

Welcome any new rider or someone you hardly ever see on a ride. Get the riders to say "Hi to the new person using their name, such as "SAY HI TO JIM EVERYONE".

Introduce the Road Captains working the ride by their name. The lead will appoint the middle Road captain if needed. All Road Captains assigned a position must be able to finish the ride or not accept the position.

Tell the riders where you are taking them. If it is a restaurant that takes cash only let them know now. If it's a place where there is a cost let them know what it is or if there is an entry fee such as a state park.

Let them know the Road Captains are wearing bright colors for visibility and so they can be located if needed on the ride by any rider.

A staggered formation allows all riders to have full use of their lane without running into someone trying to share a lane position. A collision with another bike could bring down four or more bikes. From a stop the bike on the left ALWAYS goes first especially on a right hand turn.

The one and two second distance between bikes gives each rider enough room to use their whole lane space. Over 50 the three second rule is a safer distance to keep from the bike directly in front as speeds over 50 require longer stopping distance to get on the brake and stop.

We normally use eight common hand signals which need to be passed back by EVERYONE. They are; left turn, right turn, slow down, speed up, stop, single file, staggered and hazard in road on left or right side. Passing the sign back should be emphasized.

On long trips there may be special signals such as "Let's take a break", "Need fuel" "Let's stop for lunch or dinner" or "Time to stop for the day". Explain these at the table dance.

By staying with the speed limits or traffic flow you will prevent tickets and the tendency to hit the brake when a cop is spotted on the side of the road. Same goes with any violation of the law. Only an officer of the law can signal a rider to go through a stop sign or red light.

Blocking traffic is not only illegal, but it the second leading cause of bike accidents. Only turning left in front of a bike causes more serious accidents.

The Move-Over Law is now in all 50 states. It includes; fire, ambulance, police, road ranger, tow trucks, utility vehicles and garbage trucks. As more time passes we may find more vehicles added to the list and remember not all state laws are the same. It is better to error on the side of caution than to try and explain your way out of trouble.

Ask if anyone plans on only doing part of the ride. If anyone does, tell them when they drop out they are to signal the sweep that they are "OK" and not to stop with them.

During the table Dance tell everyone how a gap is to be filled in. No one is to pass another rider in the same lane as it is unsafe and against the law. A gap will NOT hurt anything. But when a gap does happen it should only be corrected at stops or if the group is put in single file then back to staggered formation. Going single file then back to a staggered formation to fill the gap will require a good explanation on the procedure.

Inform the group that ALL riders will go Single file around corners, curves, turns and intersections. All Riders must stay in the same lane when going through an intersection. You may wish to establish that as a strict ride policy and you will not pass back signals for those actions. Some roads are narrow or rough and you may want to let them know in advance that the Road Captain will put the group in single file on that entire road.

If the group gets separated make sure the group knows that if the last rider in the front group cannot see the following bikes that they are required to stay at or near the corner so the approaching riders can see where to turn. Let them know that the lead will notice and if the separation becomes too great then the lead group will find a safe place on the right to pull over for a regroup. The group should be in single file for greater separation from traffic.

As the lead Road Captain you should keep in mind that any time you pull the group to the side of the road you put the riders behind you in danger of being rear ended or side swiped. Never stop on the left side of the road as it is the fastest lane and the side with the least amount of clearance and **NEVER STOP IN A CENTER TURN LANE TO REGROUP**. All stopped riders should be in single file if possible.

If the group gets split at a stop the second group shall restart to maintain the formation.

Remind the riders that when a car turns on their turn signal, they either may not see you or because of the deception of the mirrors figure you are further back. So let them in. Basically DON'T think that other drivers see you. They may also think they have enough space to cut in. We live in the tourist capital of the world and are subject to the other driver's habits and they will or may do sudden or foolish things right in front of you.

NEVER Challenge a car. You will NOT win. In a road rage situation the biker will be the loser.

Ask for special needs such as can you travel more than 100 miles before needing a fill up. Also ask "Can everyone travel for one and a half hours before a break". This is the time to establish length of travel time between stops.

On any trip make sure that everyone understands the HOG NO ALCOHOL policy. If alcohol is consumed by a rider before or during the ride, the ride is over for that person and they must leave the group and they may NOT fall in behind the sweep. They MUST depart per H.O.G. policy.