

Waikato HOG Chapter - Ride Courtesy

Hi fellow members. Covid has played havoc with our Ride Calendar again this year, with many cancellations. Unfortunately, there is nothing we could do about that. However, as we are now able to hit the road again, I thought it timely to send out a reminder about something we can control - Ride Courtesy.

Petrol: Please arrive with a full tank of gas.

Briefing: It starts with the briefing from the Road Captain of the day. Please listen in as they give vital information to keep you informed and safe.

Road conditions, staggered formation / single lane riding, 2 second or more rule, destination, possible hazards, petrol stops, corner marking etc.

2 second rule is counted as 1, 1,000 – 2, 1,000

The Ride: Please be ready to move off when Tail End Charlie gives the thumbs up to the Road Captain. Yes, TEC is waiting for you, however so is everyone else.

The Road Captain sets the pace for the ride. Usually this is around the legal limit, which means we should all be able to maintain a reasonable distance with the bike in front of us.

If you are losing visual contact with the bike in front, don't get concerned, as the bike in front 'should' remember their Corner Marking instructions, and be waiting for you at the next corner the ride takes when turning into a side road. Also, the Tail End Charlie should know the route, and be able to assist if you get lost.

If you find you are constantly dropping back, make sure other riders aren't getting frustrated behind you, by pulling over while maintaining your speed, and wave them on. Tail End Charlie will remain behind you to ensure you both make it to the destination.

We all ride motorcycles for a reason. Be it the speed, manoeuvrability, sound, the wind in your face, cornering etc.

The ride has to be enjoyable for everyone. If you find you are breaking in corners for example, and not maintaining a smooth pace, riders behind you may be getting frustrated. As above, pull to the left and wave them through. TEC will remain with you.

Passing: Passing is one of the main causes of accidents. However, if the rider in front of you is too slow, or you feel unsafe following a rider, or they are waving you through, pass at the next safe opportunity to do so.

Never pass on the left of the bike in front and never in a corner. Once you have safely passed the vehicle in front, keep the speed on to enable following bikes to pass safely, and have room to pull in from the opposite lane.

Corner Marking: If you can not see the bike behind you when the ride takes a turn off the current road we are travelling on, ie; taking a side road, please pull over in a **safe and visible position** to let the next rider know where they need to turn. Please stay in this position until you see the TEC approaching. They will allow you to re-join the ride in front of them. If we all do this, everyone will arrive at the destination hassle free.

Parking: Road Captains should always consider parking options when planning the ride, however often we pull up and back into the curb. On occasions this causes congestion on the road for cars and trucks following on behind us. When we get to our destination, ensure that you have stopped in a safe spot on the road while you wait for bikes to park and then you can park up as soon as possible.

Water: Hydrate well, particularly in the summer.

We all know the above, however I often see lapses in memory, which means that someone is not enjoying the ride like they were hoping to.

Christmas Greetings: On behalf of the Road Captains, Tail End Charlies and Executive Committee, I wish you a great and safe summer. I would also suggest Santa visits Road & Sport for your Christmas gifts too. The staff in there are extremely helpful and I'm sure they will find something Santa could please you with.

Lance Potaka
Head Road Captain