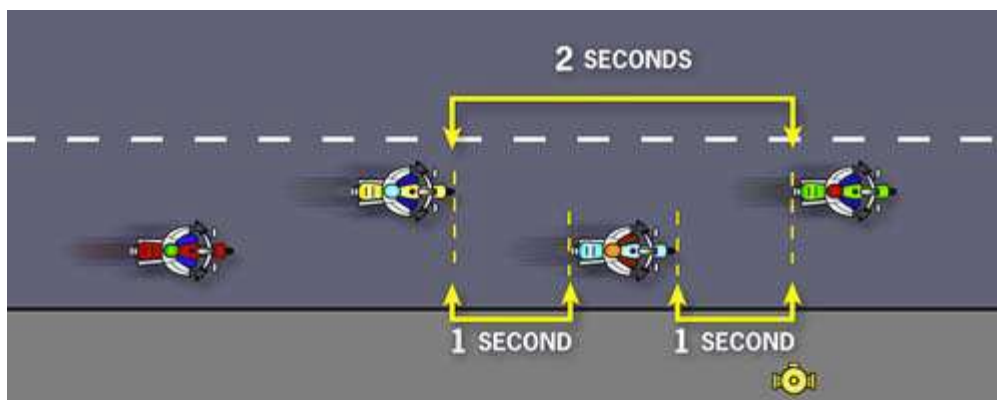


## OLD GLORY H.O.G. CHAPTER RIDE GUIDE

Thank you for joining the Old Glory H.O.G. Chapter! Our intent is to ride and have fun, and to accomplish that, we focus on providing safe, enjoyable rides for our members. All of our rides are led by an experienced Road Captain who can answer any of your questions or help you become familiar with our riding style. Please review the below guidelines on our group riding style, we look forward to seeing you on our rides.

1. A pre-ride briefing is given before the start of all rides. The pre-ride brief begins 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time and covers all details of the ride, the group riding style, and any special conditions that may come up on the ride. For the safety of all members in the group, in order to participate in any ride, **riders must be in attendance for the pre-ride talk.**
2. Arriving early provides time for the pre-ride, to sign in for Chapter points, completion of Liability Waivers for non-members, and go over any questions or concerns. All riders should have a full tank of gas when arriving for the ride.
3. A member may bring a non-Chapter member as a guest for up to 3 rides/events. If the guest wishes to participate in more rides, they may join the Chapter. Ask the Membership Officer how.
4. Alcohol is not permitted on Chapter rides. Our Chapter rides end at the destination, however if you wish to return with the group, please refrain from consuming any alcohol at the destination.
5. Medications that affect your ability to handle your motorcycle should be avoided prior to any Chapter rides as motorcycle riding requires your full concentration.
6. We ride in a staggered formation. The Lead motorcycle will ride in the left 1/3 of the lane, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> motorcycle following in the right 1/3 of the lane and so on.
  - a. Note, when entering a curve or merge lane you do not have to stay in a staggered formation – use the entire lane.
7. We maintain a safe riding distance of 2 (minimum) to 4 seconds behind the motorcycle directly in front of you, and 1 (minimum) to 2 seconds behind the bike to your left or right. This recommended following distance allows a safety zone for all riders in the event of encountering a hazard on the roadway or merging vehicles. Two seconds is the minimum recommended following distance.



8. If the staggered formation needs to be corrected (i.e., if a rider drops out):
  - a. Riders should wait until the next time the group stops, such as at a traffic light or stop sign, and move up to fill in the gap naturally.
  - b. When known long stretches of roads will be encountered (i.e., interstate), the rider may opt to re-stagger by moving to the left or right as necessary to fill in the gap, without passing a rider in their lane.
  - c. Remember, it is illegal to pass a bike in the lane, Be patient – it is okay to be out of stagger, and best to wait for a safe opportunity to re-organize.
9. If a rider drops out of the group, all riders should continue to follow the Lead bike. The Rear Road Captain will pull over with the bike if necessary and take appropriate action. Don't worry, we will not leave anyone behind.
10. We follow all traffic laws on Chapter rides. This includes stopping at all traffic lights and stop signs, we do not block lanes, ride up shoulders, or participate in aggressive riding.
11. We use our bike signals and hand signals to make lane changes. We also alert other riders of hazards in the road, such as pot holes or debris, by pointing to them with our hand or foot. Wait until you are upon the hazard to point it out.
12. We make lane changes from the rear to the front. The Lead Road Captain will signal for a lane change, using hand and bike signals. The group will pass this signal back through the group to the Rear Road Captain, who will secure the lane when safe to do so. The group will then move to the secured lane from the rear. Please check to make sure you are not moving in front of a vehicle, when you make the lane change. If there is a vehicle, wave them forward and move in behind it to stay with the group.
13. Always follow the Lead Road Captain. There are times when the Rear Road Captain may move between lanes. Please follow the signals from the front as the Rear may be securing lanes in advance.
14. Although the "official" Chapter ride may end at the stated destination, we always make provisions to get riders back to either the starting point or to a main road in the starting point area as a group. If you need other directions, please let one of the Road Captains know so we can make sure you find your way back safely.
15. If you ride out with the group, but do not plan on returning with them, please let the Lead Road Captain know. During the pre-ride or arrival at the destination, the Lead Road Captain will let the group know when they will be heading back, so that you can ensure you can ride back with the group if you wish.
16. We work on the Buddy System – if, during a ride, the group becomes separated due to a light, traffic, etc. the Lead group will continue straight, maintaining speed. The last bike in this first group will stop when the group makes a turn (in a safe place) to mark the turn for the rest of the group. When the rest of the group catches up, the bike will pull to the front of the group and will continue on to the rest of the group. The Lead group will stop in a safe place if one is available for the group to catch up, or continue to mark the turns with the last bike in the Lead group. Please do not slow down in traffic to wait for the group to catch up.

17. Remember, even though we might have the right of way, cars and trucks are bigger and harder than us, so yield to them. Please do not pass the vehicles in the group to reform the group. The vehicles will usually get out of our group as soon as they can, or when they reach their exit.
18. If you notice a rider acting in an unsafe manner, please bring it to the attention of a Road Captain at the first opportunity.
19. If you need to join the group at a location other than the departure point, please contact the Lead Road Captain to make arrangements to meet at a stop. Road Captain contact information is on the website and in the newsletter.
20. Please enjoy your ride and have fun. We want you to meet other members and enjoy your riding experience with our Chapter. If you have suggestions or comments on the ride, please let us know. We are always looking for ways to make our rides and events more enjoyable.