

Welcome to Pack Rider Training



7968





Ride and Have Fun

However:

- Safety of all stays a concern
- We all want to enjoy a trip
- We all care about our Harleys
- We all care about loved-ones who are with us

Therefore:

As with scuba diving, parachuting, and all other fun activities,
we need to adhere to basic rules and principles....



Presentation Content

This presentation will help attendees to:

- understand pack formations and responsibilities of officials in the pack
- understand the responsibilities of the riders
- understand the importance of motorcycle inspection before a trip
- understand and apply the use of hand signals for communication in a pack
- understand how to react to emergency situations in a pack formation



Motorcycle Inspection

Purpose:

- Inspection of your bike before a trip is crucial
- Help to ensure a safe ride
- Before long trips, it is recommended that your bike is properly serviced, or checked by the dealership.

Main components to check:

T – Tires

C – Cables, Clutch & Brakes

L - Lights

O - Oil and Fuel

C- Chassis and Belt

K - Kick Stand

T - Clock



Pack formations and purpose of each

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RIDE IN A PACK?

- A Pack is a group of riders, riding in an orderly manner following the instructions from the Road Captain.
- *“Riding in such a manner to prevent collisions in spite of incorrect action of others or in the presence of unforeseen obstacles”*



Riding in Pack Formations

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS

- ***SAFETY FIRST***
- **Keep your Station – Watch your *wingmen***
- ***Accelerate and Decelerate SMOOTHLY***
- **No SURGE Riding**
- ***No Crossing Lanes except when instructed to by a Marshal***
- ***Fill or create Gaps Forward or Backward only***
- ***Be Considerate towards Co-Riders; Ensure their safety by riding safely.***

Lane Division



Left Third

Middle Third

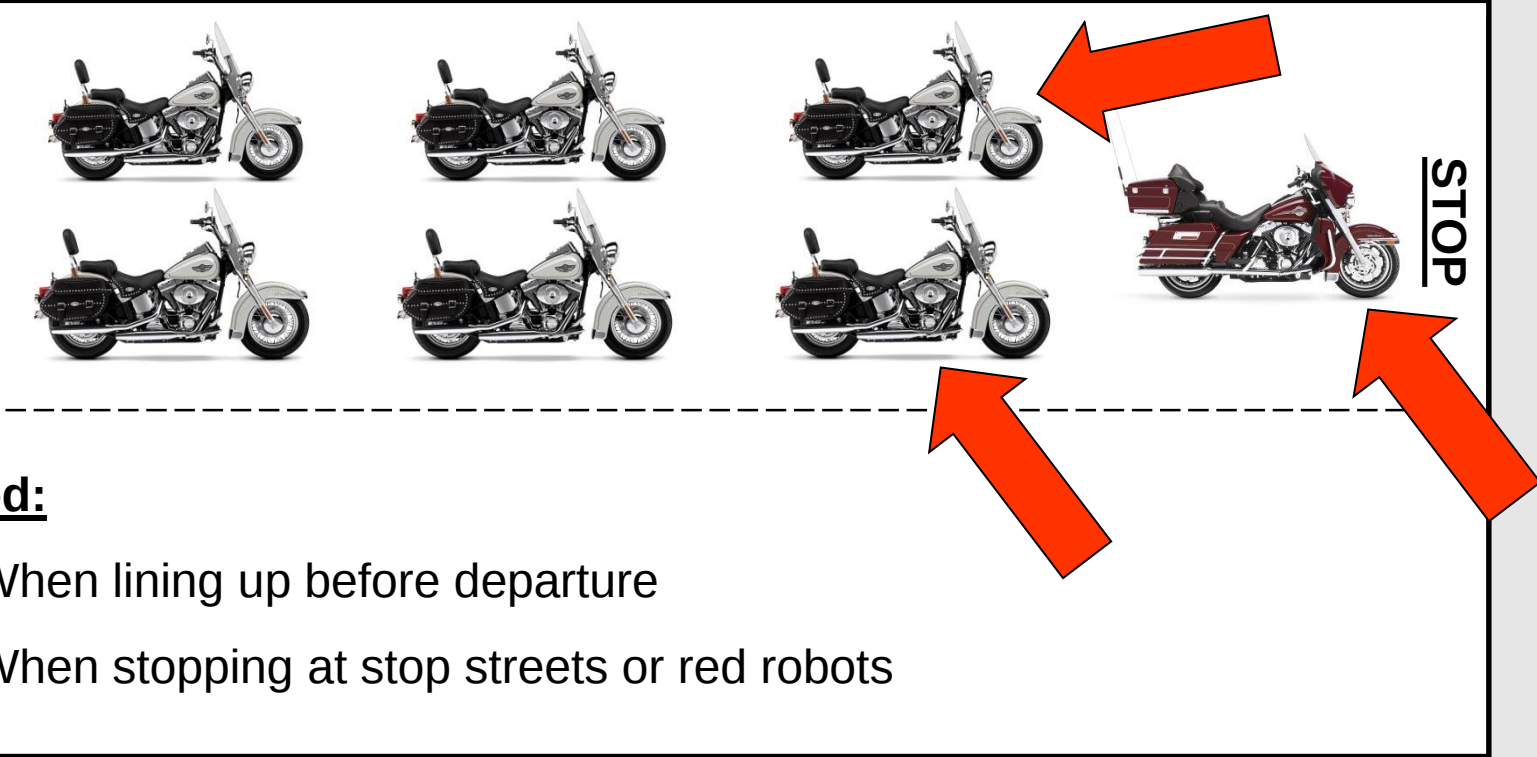
Traffic Direction

STOP

Right Third

Traffic Direction

Parade Formation



Used:

- When lining up before departure
- When stopping at stop streets or red robots

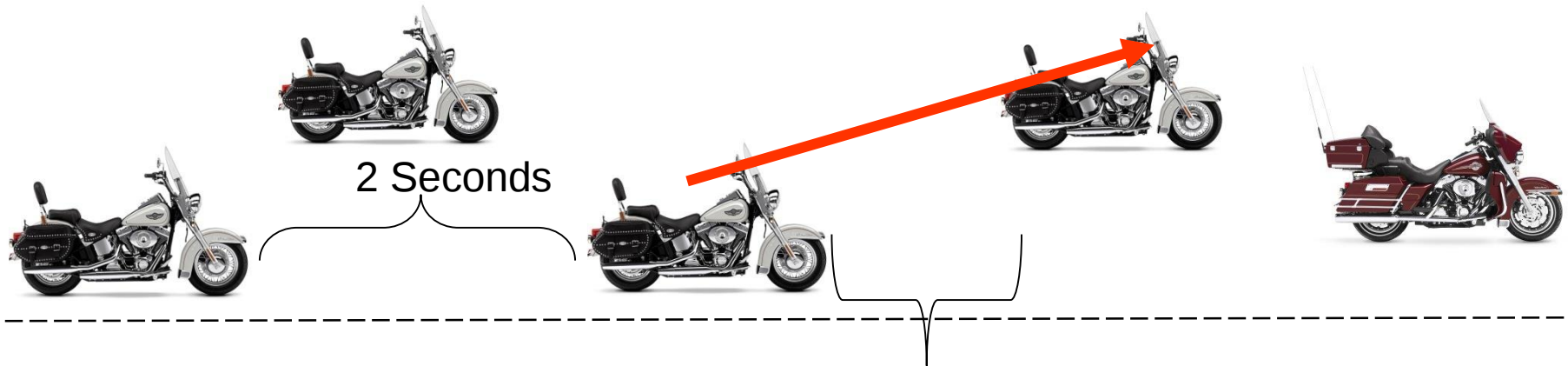
Reason for use:

- To shorten pack
- To get through intersection quicker

Departure:

- Pack Leader departs first
- Left third lane pack rider departs 2nd
- Right third lane pack rider departs 3rd
- Other pack riders follow in same order

Staggered Formation



Count 1000&1, 1000&2

1 Second

Count 1000&1

Used:

- preferred riding style for general riding

Reason for use:

- ensures overall safety for all participants in a group ride
- able to maintain visual contact of all other riders

Distance between riders:

- 2 Seconds between yourself and bike directly in front of you
- 1 Second between you and the bike diagonally in front of you
- Ensure that you see the face of the rider diagonally in front of you in his mirror

Single File Formation



2 Seconds

Used:

- In certain situations, it is safer for the group to ride in single file.

Reason for use:

More room to manoeuvre might be needed such as on:

- narrow and/or curvy roadways
- entering or exiting highways and circles
- roadways with poor visibility and/or bad surfaces
- to overtake & allow others to overtake

Distance between riders:

- Extend distance to 2 second gap between bikes
- All riders should follow the Pack Leader in the third of the lane he is using

Positions in Formation



Positions in Formation

- Sweep
- Biker Buddy
- Safety Officer
- New Pack Riders
- Less Experienced Riders
- Pack Leader
- Pack Riders
- Road Captain
- Road Marshals

Specific Positions and Responsibility in Pack

Road Captain



Specific position in Formation

- The Road Captain rides in front, in the middle third lane.

Responsibility in Pack

- The Road Captain leads the Marshals and the Pack
- He indicates to them what responsibilities to attend to
- He is responsible to insure that the route taken is safe
- He will hold pre-ride meetings with all officials and riders prior to ride departure
- He is responsible for the overall safety of the group
- He may allocate special positions behind the pack leader for dignitaries or officials from other chapters.

Road Marshals



Specific position in Formation

- The Road Marshals follow directly behind the Road Captain, and will position themselves in the left and right thirds of the lane.
- On command of the Road Captain will they leave this position to fulfill their responsibilities.

Responsibility in Pack

The Road Marshals, with guidance from the Road Captain, are responsible for the following:

- Getting the riders to their destination safely
- Roam the pack to insure the safety of all riders
- Indicate all possible hazards, which may be on or alongside the road
- Be responsible to assist with the safe parking of bikes at the destination of each ride

Pack Leader



Specific position in Formation

- The Pack Leader is the first rider in the pack behind the group of marshals.
- He rides in the middle third of the lane, and is normally the Club Director, Assistant Director or the Director's Invite.

Responsibility in Pack

- Keep the group together
- Give directions to the group
- Keep appropriate distance from the Marshal Group ahead (2 seconds)

Pack Riders



Specific position in Formation

- Ride in indicated formation behind the Pack Leader

Responsibility in Pack

- If anyone does not feel comfortable with riding in the group with the expectations mentioned in these guidelines, that person should:
 - fall out of the pack
 - follow at a safe distance behind the Sweep to the destination (usually 3 seconds or more to give Roving Marshals space to maneuver)
- Each rider is responsible for his/her own safety at all times
- New inexperienced pack riders must ride in the front just behind the Pack Leader

Pack Riders



Other Responsibilities

- The most important responsibility of every rider is to make sure the environment is safe for themselves as well as for other riders. In doing so, every ride will be as safe as can be.

Each rider is therefore responsible to ensure the following:

- Be able to ride safely in a Pack
- Be familiar with the local road regulations and in possession of a valid drivers license
- Be familiar with the HOG Hand signals
- **Passes the given hand signal on – NB! NB! NB!**
- Be wearing proper protective gear and clothing
- That his / her motorbike is in a good working condition
- Arrives at the starting point of each ride with a full tank
- No use of alcohol prior to or during a ride
- Maintains the correct, safe following distance within the Pack
- Should a rider be in distress he/she shall move over to the extreme left hand side of the Pack and stop or slow down. He/she will give the “Thumbs down” signal upon which the Biker Buddy and Safety Officer shall stop with the rider to lend assistance (The Sweep shall not stop)
- **ADHERE TO RIDERS’ BRIEFING**
- **REGISTER AND SIGN INDEMNITY FORM PRIOR TO A RIDE**

Biker Buddy



Specific position in Formation

- The Biker Buddy rides in the left third of the lane, at the back of the pack, just in front of the Safety Officer and Sweep.
- This is to ensure that he will be behind any riders that may experience problems with their bikes.

Responsibility in Pack

- The main responsibility of the Biker Buddy is to assist the Safety Officer with riders who may experience any mechanical or other problems.

Other Responsibilities

- Introduce new members to the chapter
- Act as Public Relation Officer to the Chapter to encourage Dealership and Chapter interaction.

Safety Officer



Specific position in Formation

- The Safety Officer rides in the right third of the lane, at the back of the pack, just in front of the Sweep.
- This is to ensure that the Safety Officer will be behind any emergency situations that may take place in the pack during the ride.

Responsibility in Pack

- From time to time, if it is safe to do so, the Safety Officer will roam next to the pack, to ensure that:
 - all riders are still following safe procedures
 - that luggage of all riders are still secured
 - in some cases, the Safety Officer will also fall in just behind the new riders for assessment purposes
- Take control at accident scenes – shall stop with Bikers having an Incident or Accident

Sweep



Specific position in Formation

- The Sweep is the last rider in the pack and will ride in the middle third of the lane to ensure visibility between him and the pack leader.
- Any rider behind the Sweep is not considered as part of the pack anymore.

Responsibility in Pack

- Serves as the eyes of the Road Captain and the Pack Leader
- Watches the formation, and informs the Road Captain and Pack Leader of any potential problems within the group
- Informs the Road Captain and/or Pack Leader of any hazardous conditions approaching from the rear
- Move into a merging lane (or stay in a merging lane just vacated by the group) in order to “close the door” on other vehicles that may cause a hazard to the pack
- Changes lanes before the formation, to secure the lane so the formation can move into it
- The Sweep shall stop with the Biker Buddy and Safety Officer at an incident/accident to access the situation. Thereafter he shall return to the pack and report to the Road Captain

Allow Marshals to pass



Reason:

- Marshals have to roam the pack
- Such Marshals need to go back to the front of the pack
- Passing of the pack causes a hazard to the Marshals

How?

- Always be aware what is going on behind you
- When a Marshal is approaching from behind, follow the following procedure:
 - Ensure that it is safe to move over to the left third lane
 - Indicate to rider in left third lane behind you that you want to move to the left
 - Move to the left until all marshals passed
 - Ensure that it is safe to move back to the right third lane
 - Indicate to rider in right third lane behind you that you want to move back to your original position
 - Move over to original position

Exit Formation



Reason:

- Personal reasons – no assistance needed – Indicate Thumbs Up
- Mechanical or Medical Problems – Indicate Thumbs Down

How?

- Ensure it is safe to pull over
- Indicate your intention, and when safe, pull over
- Allow pack to pass you
- When Biker Buddy, Safety Officer and Sweep approaches you from behind, indicate thumbs up or down
- If thumbs down, Biker Buddy and, if severe, Safety Officer will stop to assess the situation
- Sweep will communicate with Road Captain and Pack Leader
- Safety Officer or Biker Buddy will stay behind depending on the situation



Exit Formation



Reason:

- Personal reasons – no assistance needed – Indicate Thumbs Up
- Mechanical or Medical Problems – Indicate Thumbs Down

How?

- Ensure it is safe to pull over
- Indicate your intention, and when safe, pull over
- Allow pack to pass you
- When Biker Buddy, Safety Officer and Sweep approaches you from behind, indicate thumbs up or down
- If thumbs down, , Biker Buddy and, if severe, Safety Officer will stop to assess the situation
- Sweep will communicate with Pack Leader
- Safety Officer or Biker Buddy will stay behind depending on the situation



Fill up Position



Reason:

- To fill open positions after bikes left the formation
- To fill open positions caused by formation changes

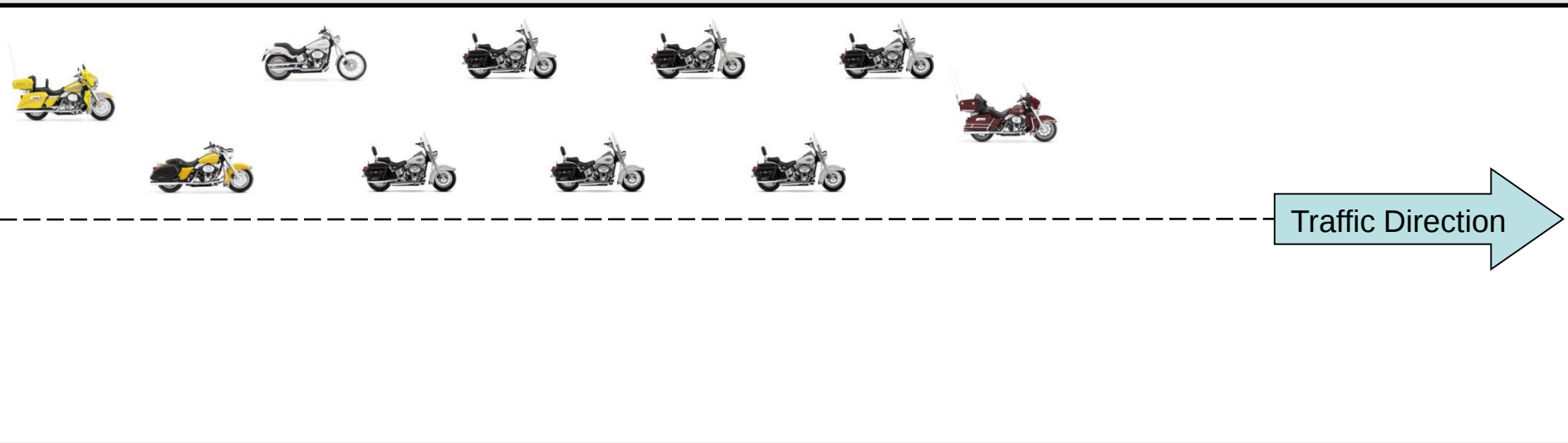
How?

- Rider in opposite lane identifies the open gap
- Assess the situation
- Indicate to rider diagonally behind to come through blind spot to fill the gap
- If the rider in the opposite lane does not indicate, be cautious before filling the gap as you will enter his blind spot

Never:

- Cross over to the opposite lane to fill a gap, unless ordered by a Marshal

Simple Lane Change



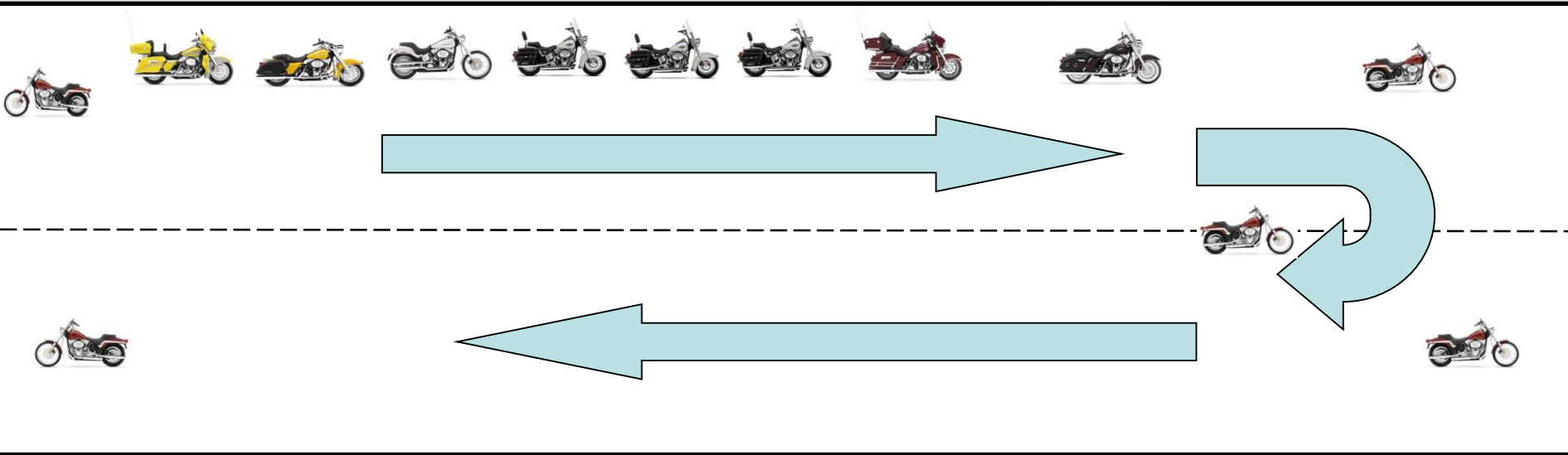
Reason:

- This is an ordinary lane change

How?

- Sweep secure new lane on request of Road Captain
- When secured, Road Captain signal with indicator
- All riders also turn their signals on
- When Road Captain initiates the change, Pack Leader to follow first and all riders to follow
- No one moves until rider in front of him/her has started moving

U-Turn



Reason:

- Unforeseen obstacles on route to the destination
- Wrong turn-off taken
- Parking Bikes at the end of a ride or at a scheduled stop

How?

- Road Captain will indicate single file and stop
- All bikes pull over on side of the road
- Road Marshals will secure both ends of pack for safety
- Road Captain and Pack Leader will initialize the u-turn by turning around an appointed Marshal
- All bikes will follow and make the turn at that same spot, to ensure pack formation

Touring Formation



Space for car to overtake

Reason:

- Long distance riding for ease of overtaking
- To allow traffic to overtake the pack

How?

- Marshals to divide pack into manageable groups
- Marshals to ensure that enough space is created for cars to overtake as required
- During this formation the marshal shall ride in the middle of the sub-pack to be visible to all fellow pack riders

Parking



At least two bikes per parking lot

Entrance

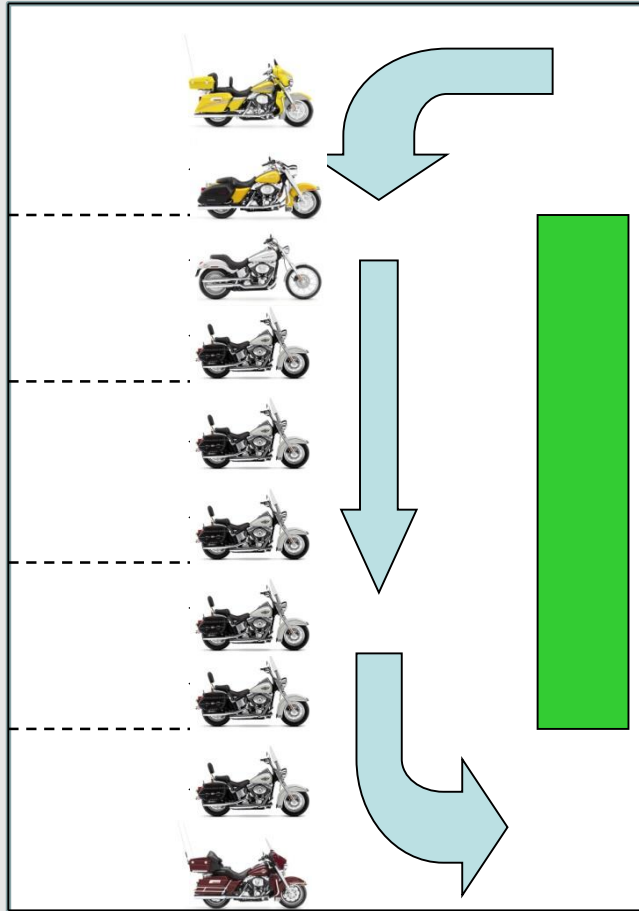
Entrance into a parking lot will normally be in the single file

Purpose

- Effective usage of space
- Looks neat
- Easier to depart again

Note: On grass, gravel or uneven areas

Ensure that if your bike should fall over, that it will not fall on the bike next to it.





Hand Signals

Purpose:

- Communication in the pack
- Ensures that all riders know what to expect
- Ensures safety in the pack

How?

- Be aware of signals given
- **Pass signals on. NB! NB! NB! NB!**
- Act according to the signal

First two basic Signals



Start Up



Cut Engines



Formation Changes



Staggered Formation



Single File



Hazards Left



Hazard next to Road



Hazard on Road Surface



Hazards Right



Hazard next to Road



Hazard on Road Surface



Slower and Stop



Slow Down



Stop



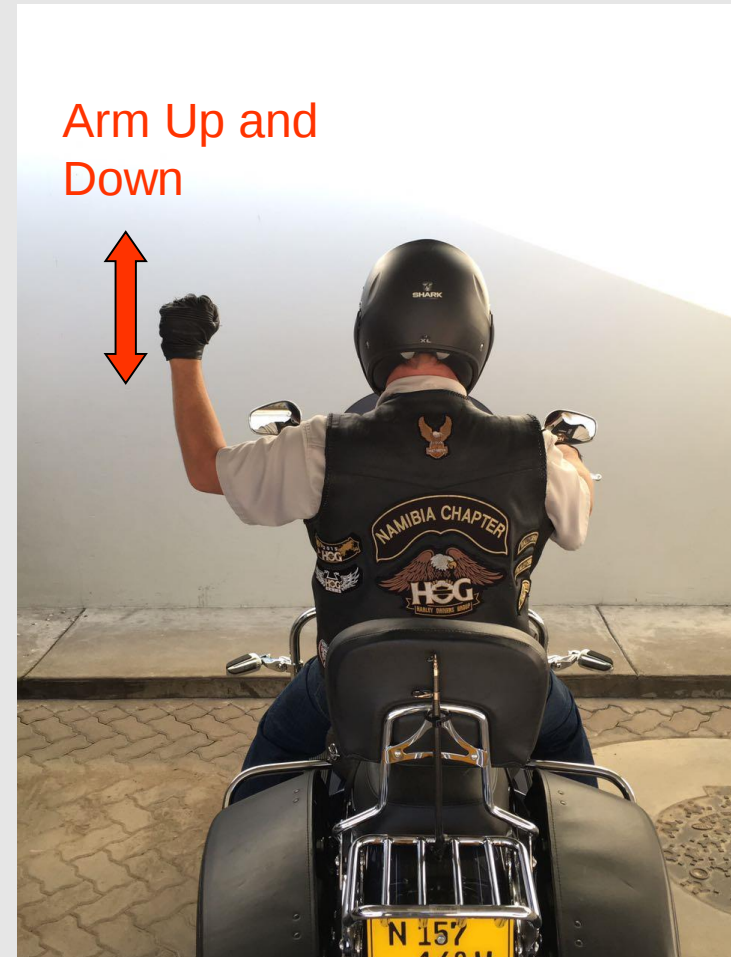
Move Pack Closer / Speed Up



Move Pack Closer Together



Speed Pack Up



Further two Signals



Hazard to the left on Road



Parade Formation

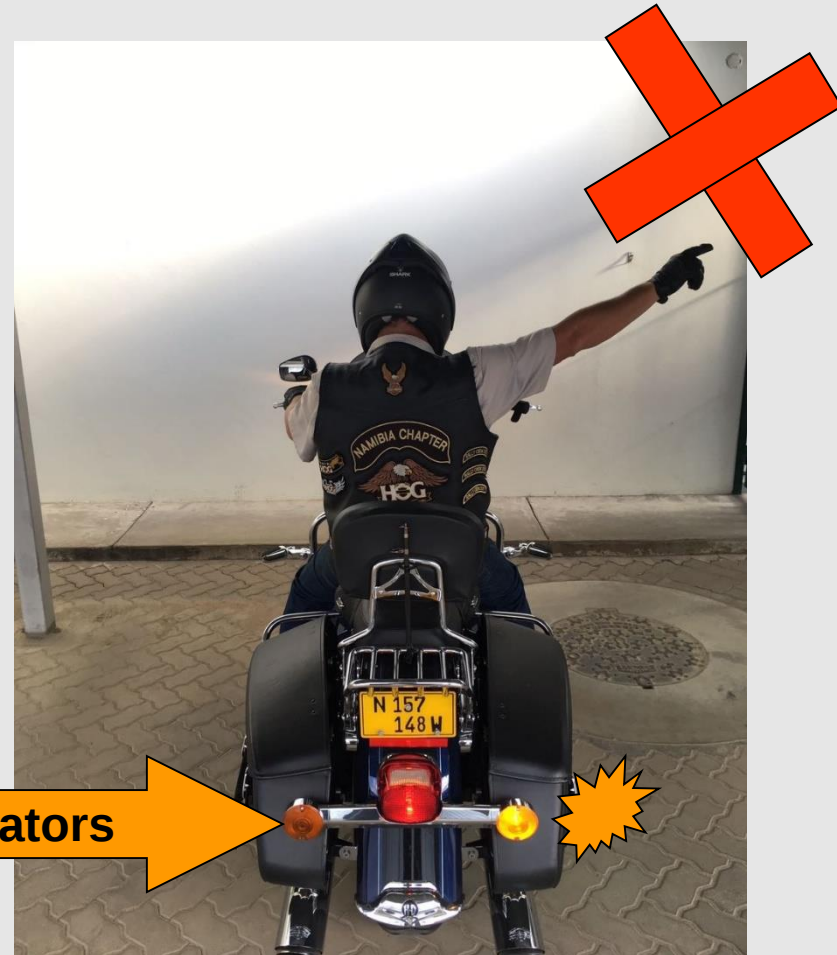


NB: No hand signals for Turning



Turn Left

Turn Right



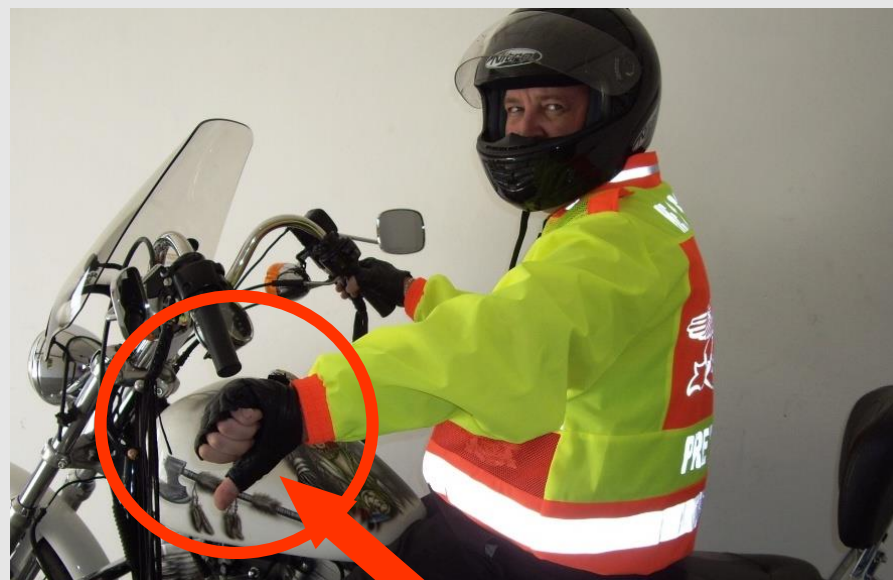
Use indicators

Basic Marshal Signals

Speed Up



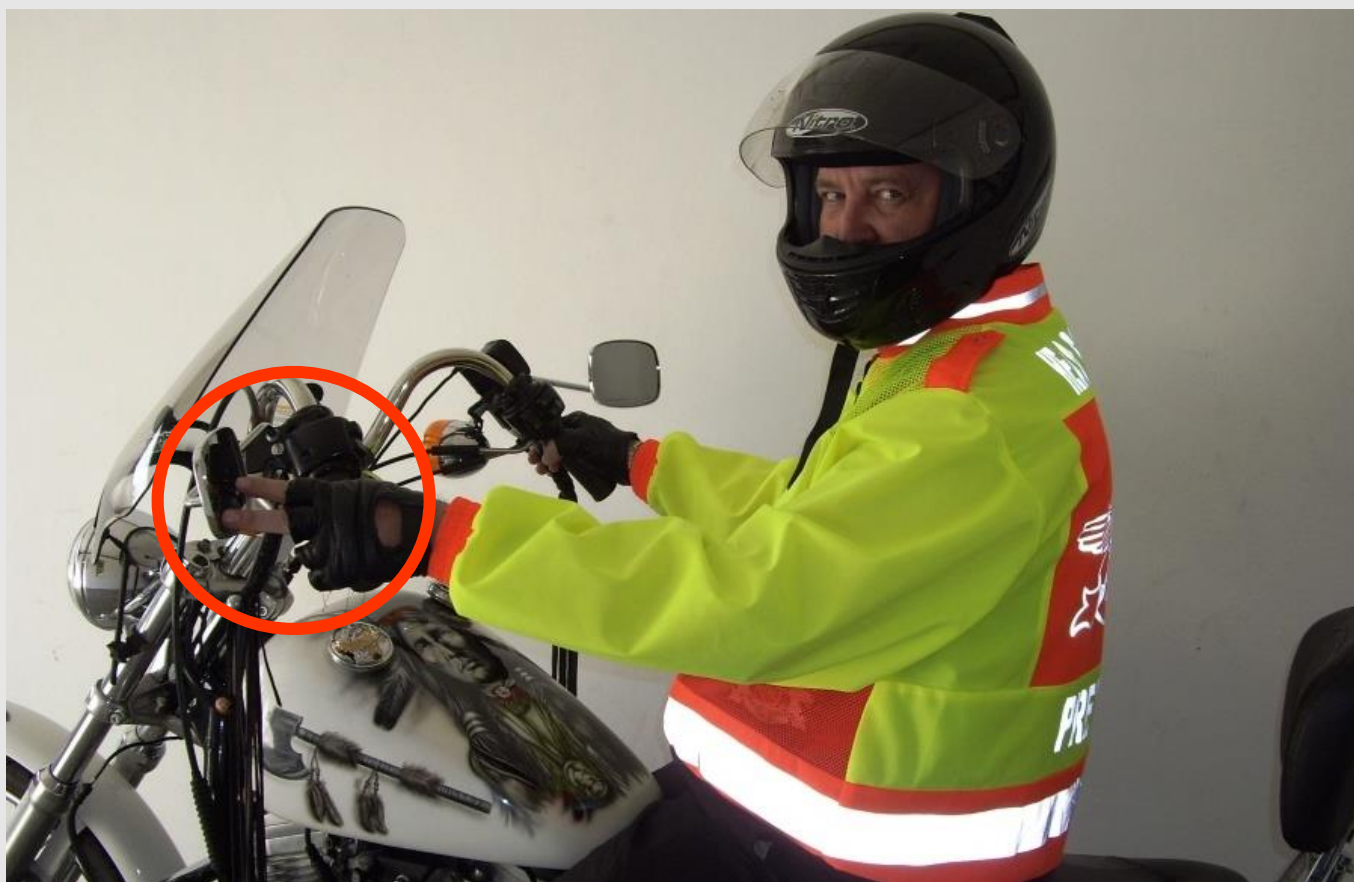
Problem with your Bike – Pull Over



Thumb Down

Basic Marshal Signals

Mirror Golden Rule – Apply Please





Defensive Riding

General points to remember:

- Ensure the minimum rider abilities before riding in the pack
- Must have at least a learners license
- If necessary, attend rider training
- Adhere to Code of Conduct for Pack Riders

Defensive Riding Principals:

- Remove yourself from situations you are not ready or able to handle
- Use correct safety equipment



Defensive Riding

Heed the following:

- Know the Rules of the Road
- Drive; overtake positively (“Hesitation KILLS...”)
- Develop biker skills to improve vehicle sympathy, exercise restraint (“Inhibit Road Rage!”)
- Give proper signals
- Follow the Procedure to allow backed-up Traffic to Pass

Important

- Use correct speed; the bike’s power; your riding skills wisely to keep out of trouble.



Conclusion

Group Riding can be a lot of fun if:

- all the members are comfortable within the group
- everybody knows what to expect in the pack
- everybody follows the basic rules in this guide
- everybody consider him/herself as part of the pack, and not as an individual with own intentions

If not:

- Leave the pack, and follow at a safe distance behind the Sweep



Disclaimer

The information in this presentation is provided as a guideline for safe riding. Each person participates in activities solely by choice and participation itself relinquishes any responsibility of this or any other organization for any and all liabilities resulting in participation in any club or private related event or activity. All activities and events must comply with any local laws and ordinances. Any personal injury or property damage resulting during a club or private activity, or at anytime, becomes the responsibility of the individual parties involved, and at no time shall Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Harley Owners Group, The H.O.G. NAMIBIA Chapter or the NAMIBIA Dealership, or any of its officials be held liable.



The End

