

# Fox Valley Wisconsin Chapter - Harley Owners Group

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## *Group Riding Protocol*

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Protocol adopted by majority vote on July 5, 2005

Revision 1.0

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### Ride Preparation

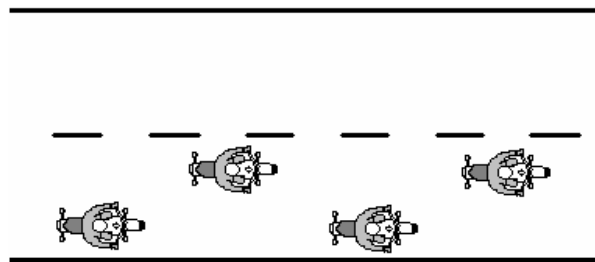
- The Road Captain should ensure that the Fox Valley H.O.G. Chapter First Aid Trauma kit is carried on every Chapter ride.
  - This kit should be carried by the Road Captain or a designated Chapter member.
  - The Road Captain is responsible for checking this kit out from Harley-Davidson of Appleton and returning the kit upon return.
  - If the ride departure and/or return times are outside of normal H-D of Appleton business hours, arrangements should be made in advance (i.e.: check the kit out on the day prior to departure, return the kit as soon as possible on the day following the return).
- Riders are to arrive at the designated assembly point 30 minutes prior to departure to receive detailed route information and a safety review. Be sure to arrive with a full tank of gas.
- Prior to departure, the Road Captains or designated leader will call a meeting of all riders to inform them of the route, destination, and specific procedures to be followed, such as the formation, hand signals, gas stops, or breaks.
- Prior to ride departure, the Road Captain(s) should ensure that there is at least one cell phone available within the group.
- The first and last positions in any group ride should be occupied by a Road Captain. If not available, the senior Chapter Officer present may designate experienced riders to fill these positions during the ride. Individuals may also volunteer to be a Road Captain for a particular ride which they are leading.
- Ride breaks should be predetermined prior to departure (approximately every 1 hour or 50-75 miles, depending on total length of ride and conditions). If unscheduled breaks are required (due to weather or fuel requirements), the Road Captain will inform the group of the duration and any schedule implications.
- If you will be leaving the ride prior to completion, let the Road Captains know prior to the start of the ride.
- If you have a personal preference for riding in either the centerline or shoulder position, notify the Road Captain prior to departure.

### Safety Information

- Harley-Davidson, H.O.G. and the Fox Valley Wisconsin H.O.G. Chapter strongly recommend the use of helmets and other personal safety gear and clothing when riding your motorcycle. Proper use of personal safety gear is necessary in managing the risk associated with operating a motorcycle. Some of this gear is required by law - some of it is worn at the rider's discretion. Please contact a Chapter Officer and/or Road Captain if you have any questions regarding personal safety gear.
- All Fox Valley Wisconsin H.O.G. Chapter rides are drug and alcohol free. Any amount of alcohol negatively affects a rider's ability to operate a motorcycle, therefore, Harley-Davidson of Appleton, H.O.G. and the Fox Valley Wisconsin H.O.G. Chapter strictly prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to or during breaks on scheduled rides.

## Group Riding

- A *staggered formation* has been adopted as the standard group riding formation. Be sure to allow space for safe following distances. See Figure 1. below for an example of the staggered formation.



**Figure 1** – Staggered Group Riding Formation

- The staggered formation will be maintained on all Chapter Rides with the following exceptions where single-file formation may be necessary (NOTE: watch for single-file hand signals from the Road Captain):
  1. when avoiding road hazards
  2. when cornering (sharp curves, bends, or winding roads)
  3. when in towns with parallel parking
  4. normally when passing at highway speeds or in town
  5. when the lead Road Captain determines conditions require single-file.
- It is not unusual for individual rider positions ahead of you to shift during the ride. Stay alert for such changes and adjust your position accordingly to maintain a staggered formation and safe following distances:
  1. a minimum of (1) second behind the rider in front and to the left or right.
  2. a minimum of (2) seconds behind the rider directly in front of you.
- When stopping for traffic signals, stop signs, or to turn, riders should stop side by side to shorten the length of road needed for the group when stopped.
- When merging onto an interstate system, the leading Road Captain will maintain a slightly slower speed until all riders are caught up and the group is back in a tight formation. On country roads, the group will wait at stop signs to insure all group members are present.
- Directional signals are initiated by the Road Captain and will be repeated by each rider back through the formation. Passengers should translate the turn signals into the proper hand signals.
- Road hazards should be identified immediately by the Road Captain by pointing and reducing speed. This signal should be passed back through the entire group formation.
- When resuming a ride after a scheduled ride break, it is not necessary to assume your exact position within the group with the exception of the Road Captains.

## Should Trouble Arise

- Should a rider within the group experience mechanical trouble or have an emergency, signal the lead Road Captain by flashing your bright lights. NOTE: Riders with mechanical difficulties will be assisted by the group. If the rider is not able to continue with the group, arrangements for retrieval of the bike will be made and group members will be asked to double-up and carry the disabled rider(s).
- Should you be uncomfortable at the speed of the group, please inform the Road Captain at the first safe opportunity.

## Have Fun

- While in route, it is common for individuals to wave at oncoming motorcyclists as they pass.
- While safety is critical, the second most important factor of every ride is that every rider **HAVE FUN!!** Remember **Be Safe...Be Smart...Enjoy the Ride!!**

# Fox Valley Wisconsin Chapter Harley Owners Group

## Group Riding Protocol – Hand Signals

During group rides, you will need to understand and use the proper hand signal. Hand signals are essential to communicate your intentions or to identify hazards. Below are common hand signals used by the Chapter.

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**STOP** – Extend your arm straight down with your palm facing back.

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Left Turn

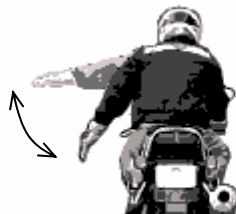


Right Turn

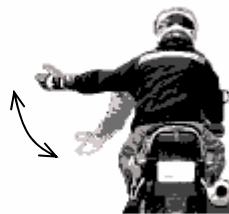
**INDICATING A TURN** – If equipped, always use your bike turn signals. It is common for passengers to also use hand signals to indicate turns.

For left hand turns, extend left arm with open hand and palm down. For right hand turns, extend left arm up with open hand and palm toward the right.

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Slow Down



Speed Up

**ADJUST YOUR SPEED** – To slow down, extend your arm straight out with palm down and wave up and down. To speed up, extend your arm straight out with palm up and wave up and down

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Single File



Staggered

**CHANGE FORMATION** – For single file formation, raise left arm and index finger straight up. For staggered formation, raise left arm and index and middle finger straight up.

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Hazard Left



Hazard Right

**ROAD HAZARD** – To identify a hazard on the left side, point with the left hand. For a hazard on the right side, point with the right foot.

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Fuel Break



Food/Drink Break

**NEED A BREAK** – To indicate that your bike needs fuel, point to your tank with your left hand. To indicate that you need to take a break for refreshment, hold your left hand to your face with a closed fist and extended thumb.

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