



Great Salt Lake Chapter [SRA] Ride Captain Pre-Ride Safety Checklist



Ride Captain (RC) & Sweep/Tail Gunner (S/TG):

1. Welcome riders and introduce Ride Captains (RCs)
2. Go over "**GSL Chapter Road Ride Description**" (i.e., route, gas & rest stops, food, photo ops, end ride point, estimated time/mileage, weather, expected road conditions & ride pace) of the day with all riders
3. All riders must fill out and sign the "**SRA-GSL Chapter Road Ride 'Release of Liability'**" & RC will carry on the ride
4. RC or S/TG will call 911 unless designated at this briefing
5. **Ride prepared** - At least one rider in each group should pack a cell phone, First-Aid kit, & full tool kit, for any problem encountered & ensure everyone on the rider knows who.
6. Rider special needs/requests
7. **Leave the Group During the Ride, If you:**
 - a. Plan to leave the group during the ride, let the RCs know during the RC's Pre-Ride Safety Briefing. When you do leave, use the appropriate hand signal to pull off the road, communicate w/a 'thumbs-up' to the S/TG. S/TG will reply w/ 'thumbs-up' & continue on with group
 - b. Leave group & decide to rejoin later, re-enter at the rear, in front of the S/TG.
8. RC will deal with the police and other unexpected surprises.
9. Review MSF T-CLOC - Pre-Ride Inspection Checklist; equipment condition and safety gear
10. Determine group riding size, skill level, & **cruising speed**; split if more than 12 riders
11. **Group Riding Formation** - 3 Wheel motorcycles will always be in a *single file staggered formation*
✚ **Following distance** - min 2 seconds btwn bikes, max 4-6 seconds (comfort zone?)[country vs. freeway]
12. Review "**GSL Common Group Ride Hand Signals - Pass 'em on'**" - riders need to keep an eye on the RC so they can "**pass 'em on'**" quickly to riders behind to know where to go. Anyone can do hand signals the group needs to be aware of.
13. **Novice & inexperienced riders** - should ride immediately behind the RC until they are comfortable riding in a group. Make sure these riders are familiar with hand signals. ??
14. Periodically check riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.
15. **Never** pass or motion another bike to pass in the same lane. Maintain your '**margin of safety**' at all times.
16. **Gas stops** every 100 miles (refuel when RC does), or a rest/comfort stop every hour.
✚ *At gas stops, the RC will set up in a **previously chosen** staging area so the line of bikes can assemble. After leaving, the RC will wait until the S/TG signals everyone is ready to go before accelerating to highway speed.*
17. **Intersections** - Give the '**Tighten Up**' hand signal to close ranks (move in closer together Approx (3')) in front & behind each motorcycle. If at Stop Sign, you must stop and then go.
18. **Freeway On/Off Ramps - Off Ramp** - maintain speed and safely exit ramp; **On-Ramp** - pick-up speed and enter as you would riding by yourself *doing plenty of head checks* to ensure safe merge into traffic and then reform up with group prior to planned exit.
19. **Bike Breaks/Medical Condition** (Needs to Pull Off Road) - Use the '**Pull Off**' road hand signal. **Only the Sweep/Tail Gunner (S/TG) will stop.** Everyone else continues with the RC unless a spouse is on the ride too. Communicate w/a 'thumbs-down' to S/TG & they will help you.

20. **Separated From Group** - If you're separated from the group, don't panic. A pre-planned procedure is in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.
21. **Maintain Group Integrity** - Reiterate safety problem with **crowders** (continuously encroaches on the space reserved for the rider in front) & **lagers** (i.e., *rubber band/accordion effect*) exceeds formation separation distances by several seconds - thus resulting in 4-wheeler cut-ins) in group riding. S/TG will become RC's eyes for ensuring group integrity
22. **Group Riding Advantages** - Has many to include visibility to other motorists and critters.
23. **Group Riding Disadvantages** - Includes accommodating riders with less experience and/or confidence, bikes with lesser fuel capacities, and riders less comfortable with highway speeds, etc. Long procession of bikes can be challenging. Balancing the advantages and disadvantages is a personal thing and up to you.
24. Encourage all riders to report noncompliance of any group-riding rule to an RC ...a life may depend on it.
25. **Share the Road** - respect bicyclists, move to left, give them their share of the road. Don't run them off the road. This could cause serious injury or possible death. If you can't move over, wait until you can, **keep safety #1 priority for everyone**. If other motorcyclists go speeding by, let them go, don't start a road rage. Be a good safe rider & be mindful of new riders to group ride protocol.
26. Lastly,

Have fun, Ride safely & Share the road