



STAR Touring & Riding Road Safety Guidelines

About 5 minutes before departing on the ride have a pre-ride meeting, discussing your route and safety guidelines. Being sure to go over ride formations and hand signals. Make sure everyone understands them. Let the group know where you will be stopping for rest and/or fuel breaks, also be sure to tell them how long of a ride it will be.

Once the ride has begun the **Road Captain** should initiate the ride formation you will be using. The Road Captain should always ride in the forward left position of the lane the group is traveling in. When riding in any group it is a good rule of thumb to follow the 2 second rule. This rule is followed as such, while in the staggered formation the bike in front of you will be staggered from your position so that they are not directly in front of you, leading you by approximately 1 second. The bike directly in line with your position will then be 2 seconds ahead. This formation will allow ample time for any quick maneuvers or any hard breaking that may be required.

The **Road Captain** should keep the interval between breaks to a reasonable length of time and distance, especially for the passenger or co-rider as they may tire more easily, due to a more restricted area.

Keep to the right at all times unless conditions warrant being in a different lane or unless you are passing. When doing any passing make certain that there is ample room and only one bike should pass at a time. After The Road Captain has passed they should keep their speed up to assure room for the rest of the group, only after the **Tail Gunner** has passed should the Road Captain reduce his speed to re-group and resume formation, and continue at cruising speed.

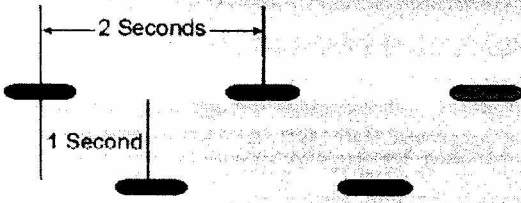
If you notice that the group is spreading out or one bike in particular has fallen back, indicate to the group to tighten up. The Tail Gunner has the best view of the group and is just as responsible for the group's safety as the Road Captain is.

When the group needs to pull off the road for whatever reason, find an area large enough for the entire group. Be sure to signal when pulling off and to indicate to the group that you are slowing down and turning. Pull into the area and swing your bike with the front end out. Back into the area and have the other bikes follow suit.

The following pages contain recommended hand signals, and an excerpt from an article by Mark Mauss. Mark's article also has some information concerning hand signals. We have made every attempt to assure they are the same although you may notice slight differences.

STAGGERED FORMATION

Direction of Travel →



- = Road Captain
- = Group Bike
- = Tail Gunner

The typical formation is a Staggered Formation. When riding in the staggered formation the **Road Captain** will be in the left most position and the second bike will be to his right and 1 second behind. This formation creates two rows each rider 2 seconds behind the rider directly ahead and 1 second behind the rider in the staggered position. This formation creates a 2 second "safety cushion" allowing for reaction time. The Tail Gunner will be the last bike.

There may come a time when you will need to "tighten up" as a group, due to traffic and/or road conditions. This is signaled by the **Road Captain**, he will extend his arm skyward and opens and closed his hand.

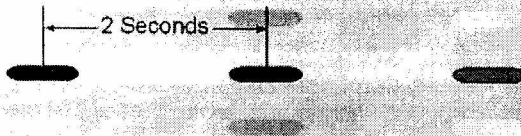
Tighten-Up FORMATION



- = Road Captain
- = Group Bike
- = Tail Gunner

SINGLE FORMATION

Direction of Travel →



- = Road Captain
 - = Group Bike
 - = Tail Gunner
- } Alternate Single File Lane Positions

When road conditions or obstacles warrant it is recommended to go to a single file formation. This is signaled by the **Road Captain** by raising his arm and pointing 1 (one) finger in the skyward. You must maintain a safe two second distance between all bikes. You can return to a staggered formation only after the **Road Captain** raises his arm skyward with his thumb and little finger skyward.

