

CROSSROADS HOG

April 2008 Safety Thought

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

When you show up to participate in a Group Ride, you have responsibilities. The list is pretty short but each one is very real and you are expected to exhibit the maturity and courtesy of compliance. Here's the list as we teach in at Brighton Crossroads.

- **You must have a valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License with a motorcycle endorsement.** The endorsement is noted on your license (in Michigan) by a CY under the endorsement heading. Yes, "Trikers" must have a CY endorsement. If their license is restricted to 3 wheeled vehicles it will not show on the license but will show such if an officer "calls it up" on his computer. Don't be surprised if the Road Captain asks to see your license and endorsement. It is his/her job to make sure you comply.
- **You must have a valid HOG membership and Crossroads HOG membership.** Bring your cards with you and have them out to show your Road Captain. If you have a guest with you who is not a member, introduce them to the Road Captain and advise that they need a waiver. Anyone who does not have a valid HOG membership and Crossroads HOG membership **MUST** sign a waiver to go on the ride.
- **You must be rested, fit, and clothed to ride.** Motorcycling is a physical and a mental exercise. If you are not sufficiently rested, alert, and comfortable, you cannot ride at your best. If you are not at your best you decrease your safety margin and that of those riding around you. Get a good night's rest; check the weather forecast and dress appropriately; if you are ill, seriously evaluate your condition relative to riding and make a responsible decision.
- **Be on time.** Every ride has a departure time and a riders' meeting time (usually 15 minutes before departure) published or announced. It is inconsiderate to cause a delay in departure. Rides leave on time.
- **Attend the riders' meeting.** The Road Captain will provide updates as appropriate, review the basic group riding techniques, answer questions, etc. at this meeting. There is a riders' meeting before every ride, every day. This is also your last chance to communicate to the Road Captains any special circumstance you may have that affects your participation in the ride. (you should talk to the Road Captains about these before the riders' meeting).
- **Know the route and the itinerary.** Longer rides have a published itinerary and route usually made available well-ahead of the ride. Shorter rides, make this available at the riders' meeting.
- **Your fuel tank should be full, and your bladder should be empty.** We typically ride 100 miles before our first stop. If you are marginal on fuel or your comfort is compromised because you did not comply with these responsibilities, it will be a very unpleasant ride.

That's the basic list. Adhere to it and you'll be off to a great ride.

Ride safely and have fun.

Mike "the safety guy"