

CROSSROADS HOG

SAFETY MINUTE

APRIL 2009

Your Responsibilities include:

SO – you're going to participate in a Group Ride – one of the great advantages to belonging to HOG. You have looked at all the rides your HOG chapter has offered for the riding season and selected one, or several, that appeal to you and work with your schedule. You know that the *ride sponsor* has planned all the details of the ride including the route, the gas stops, the food stops, and the housing (if appropriate). You know that there will be road captains guiding each group of bikes assuring that your ride is safe and no one goes astray. So all you have to do is show up. Right? WRONG!

You have some responsibilities as a participant in that group ride. We, at Crossroads, expect each other to know those responsibilities and honor them – comply with them – to assure that we are accomplishing our mission - - To Ride and Have Fun.

Here's a rundown of your responsibilities and the reason for them:

- You must have a valid driver's license and a valid motorcycle endorsement. It's the law.
- You must be a member in good standing of HOG and of Crossroads Chapter. Bring your membership cards with you and be prepared to show them to your road captains if asked.
- If your membership is not current, you will have to sign a waiver – ask your road captains for the form to sign; fill it out; sign it; return it to the road captain.
- If you have brought a guest, that guest must sign a waiver – ask your road captains for the form; fill it out, have them sign it; return it to the road captain.
- You need to be rested and fit to ride and clothed appropriately for the expected weather. Check the weather forecast for the ride and pack appropriately. You cannot operate your motorcycle safely if you are uncomfortable for any reason. It is, at the very least, distracting and, at the worst, disabling.
- Be on time. Each ride has a published departure time. Fifteen minutes prior to that there is a drivers' meeting. Arriving late will mean that you miss important information about the ride and it is discourteous to your fellow riders. The ride will leave at the published time.
- Attend the drivers' meeting.
- Arrive with your fuel tank full. Depart (on the ride) with your bladder empty. We ride a minimum of 50 miles before the first stop – sometimes 100 miles – (you'll learn which at the drivers' meeting).
- Be familiar with the route and itinerary before you arrive (for longer rides).
- Take the group riding course. Be sure that you know how we ride together – our signals, our formations, and our procedures. If you've not taken the course, contact our safety officer to arrange to do so.

That's the list. It's not hard to comply; it'll make your ride much better.

Thanks – ride safely,

Mike – *the safety guy* – Hoffman (4/21/09)