

**CROSSROADS HOG**  
**Safety Thought**  
**January 08**

**Communicate!**

One of the key elements in successful group riding is communication - bike to bike and group to surrounding motorists. We all (should) know that it is always wise to use both our bike's signaling lights and hand signals every time we are making a change in our direction or speed. This remains valid in group riding where it is even more critical to safe operation as we are all riding in close proximity to one another.

Crossroads HOG has agreed upon a set of hand signals that we use exclusively. This is done to assure that we are all "speaking the same language" and, therefore, we all know what each signal means, where to look for it, and how to deliver it. Our chosen hand signals are shown later in this article.

There are a few general points to be made and remembered that will enhance your signaling expertise. They are:

1. **Always give your hand signal with obvious purpose.** Don't allow yourself to become a "lazy signaler" as it might lead to misinterpretation. As an example, look at the signal for turning right. Note that the upper portion of the arm is horizontal while the lower portion of the arm is vertical. Now look at the signal for single file formation. Then look at the signal for hazard on the right. With a little imagination, you can see how "sloppy" execution could lead to misinterpretation.
2. **Always signal with your left hand.** In Crossroads, we do not use the right foot to signal. Note the exception for your passenger pointing out a Hazard to the right. Assuming you and your passenger have agreed that they are giving the hand signals, there is no reason the passenger cannot point to a hazard with the right hand. You, on the other hand, we prefer keep your right hand on the throttle. Our only chosen right hand signal is for the lead rider to signify - start your engines / get ready to go.
3. **Always pass the signal back.** You do this by copying the signal of the rider in front of you. Even if you are the last bike in the group, do the signals. Remember, we must communicate with the motorists around us.

**Go to page 2 for depictions of Crossroads Hand Signals.**

Enjoy a safe ride,

Mike "the safety guy"

# BRIGHTON CROSSROADS H.O.G. HAND SIGNALS



## START ENGINES

With your right or left arm Extended, move your index Finger in a circular motion.



## LEFT TURN

Raise your left arm horizontally with your elbow fully extended.



## RIGHT TURN

Raise your left arm horizontally with your elbow bent 90 degrees vertically.



## HAZARD LEFT

Extend your left arm at a 45 degree angle and point towards the hazard.



## HAZARD RIGHT A

Extend your right arm at a 45 degree angle and point towards the hazard.



## HAZARD RIGHT B

Extend your left arm upward at a 45 degree angle with your elbow bent to 90 degrees and point towards the hazard over your helmet.



## SPEED UP

Raise your left arm up and down with your index finger extended upward. This indicates the leader wants to speed up.



## SINGLE FILE

Position your left hand over your helmet with your fingers extended upward. This indicates the leader wants the group in a single file formation. Usually this is done for safety reasons.



## STAGGERED FORMATION

Extend your left arm upward at a 45 degree angle with your index and pinkie finger extended. This indicates that it is safe to return to staggered formation.



## TIGHTEN UP

Raise your left arm and repeatedly move up and down in a pulling motion. This indicates the leader wants the group to close ranks.



## SLOW DOWN

Extend your left arm at a 45 degree angle and move your hand up and down.



## STOP

Extend your left arm at a 45 degree angle with the palm of your hand facing rearward.