



**Washington PA. HOG Chapter 1928
2007 Riding Policy**

- 1.) The Road Captain/Ride Leader is in charge of the ride. This person has planned the route and the stops. We follow according to their plan, including when stops and departures are planned. This is to maintain a schedule and not incur excessive delays.**
- 2.) You will be expected to arrive for a Group Ride well rested, alert, and sober. Your motorcycle should be fueled and in good working condition.**
- 3.) Before each Group Ride, as appropriate, The Road Captain and/or Safety Officer will review the Riding Policy with New Members and Guests. If after at least one warning per ride, pertaining especially to unsafe riding practices, you and or your guest continue to violate the Rules pertaining to the Harley Owners Group (HOG) or this Local Chapter of HOG, the offender will not be permitted to ride with this Chapter.**
- 4.) Prior to pull out, the Road Captain will issue a 10 to 15 minute notice to all participants. You must notify the Road Captain if a circumstance will prevent you from departing the scheduled time.**
- 5.) Once en-route, all traffic laws are to be obeyed. Group management through congested areas has been quite successful by utilizing the CB Radio equipped motorcycles on Rides. The Road Captain, a Middle Rider or two, and a Sweeper are in communication when necessary. The Ride can be split and reformed safely in this manner. In consideration of safety and the Law, *no HOG Chapter Ride blocks traffic in congested areas. It is a violation of the Law.* (HOG Chapter Handbook page I-9)**
- 6.) The Chapter typically rides in a staggered formation with the Lead motorcycle in the left third of the lane, and the next bike in the Right third of the lane, and at least one (1) second to the rear. The third motorcycle is two (2) seconds behind the leader and so on: Using the one and two second rules, as speed increases, so does the following distance. The space directly ahead of you is available for the staggered motorcycle ahead of you to use for obstacle avoidance. Please, Do Not Crowd this area! Except as required by road conditions, the Riders should stay in their Lane position. Un-safe motorcycle operations or passing another motorcycle without permission from the Rider ahead will not be**

tolerated. Remember, *“Ride your own Ride, but respect the Ride of others!”*

- 7.) On narrow, two lane roads, when signaled by the Road Captain, or as the Rider chooses, ride single file and increase separation distance. Signal your intent to do so by raising your Left Arm with an outstretched index Finger. The Chapter Rides typically take Riders on *“twisty”* roads. Do not decrease your enjoyment by riding too close, or too fast for level of experience or *“comfort zone.”* Enjoy the Ride! The Group will reform at the next stop sign.
- 8.) In the event of a breakdown, or Emergency, the Road Captain is to be notified as quickly as possible by Radio, Hand Signals, Audible Device, or Messenger as appropriate. The Group is to continue with the Road Captain until he/she can safely pull the Group off the road. The *“Sweeper”* will stay with the situation and take necessary action. If radio range is exceeded, the Road Captain will dispatch a rider to the situation. Do Not randomly pull off and stop along the road. This only adds to the confusion and creates additional hazards at the scene. When all is well, the Ride will resume.
- 9.) Gas Stops are generally planned at about 80 to 100 miles apart. This is dependent upon the type of roads traveled for the Ride. Food stops should be no more than 4 to 5 hours apart. A Rider should always take advantage of the planned stops so as not to cause an unplanned stop. *Fuel up and use of facilities should always be a major consideration of Riders and Passengers.* Please inform the Road Captain of any Special circumstances that you may require so that he/she can handle these in advance.
- 10.) *“Consumption and use of alcohol is a serious personal responsibility involving the safety and welfare of family, riding friends, and the individual HOG member. Alcohol consumption before or during motorcycling activity is not safe responsible behavior.”* (HOG Chapter Handbook Page I-19) Therefore, this Chapter is adopting a policy whereby Alcohol is not to be consumed during a Group Ride. If you have consumed alcohol and it is evident to at least two participating Officers, you will be asked to depart the Group Ride. Often, the final destination may provide the opportunity for *“libations.”* As with any Group Ride, the Final Destination is the point of termination of the Group Ride.
- 11.) These rules are for your Safety and the Safety of those around you. If we RESPECT these rules, our Group Riding Risk can be minimized, and our enjoyment greatly enhanced! *Trading Cell Phone numbers is encouraged!*