

# LIGHTHOUSE CHAPTER

## Ride Guide

Revision 1

### Introduction

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The LH. Chapter conducts group rides for the benefit of its members. This Ride Guide contains information that each member is expected to know and observe so that everyone can participate in safe and enjoyable group rides with the Chapter. New members are encouraged to read this guide prior to participating in group rides and everyone is encouraged to review this guide on a regular basis.

As stated in the Chapter's Charter, the purpose of the Chapter is:

*To engage in and promote responsible motorcycling activities for Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) members by conducting chapter activities and encouraging participation in other H.O.G. events and other charitable activities. Chapter activities and operations shall be conducted in a manner consistent with a family oriented non-political philosophy.*

The Chapter rides are planned and scheduled to fulfill this purpose. Please remember that safety is everyone's primary responsibility. By observing the guidelines presented in this guide, group riding with LH. HOG will be safe and enjoyable for everyone, and always remember that our primary objective is to:

**"Ride Safe and Have Fun"**

### Chapter Rides

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#### **Ride Selection and Scheduling**

The Chapter rides are selected and scheduled by the Chapter Officers and the Road Captains. The rides are typically chosen and scheduled two months in advance.

Members are encouraged to make ride suggestions to any Officer or Road Captain. Suggestions may also be made through the web site at [www.lighthousehog.com](http://www.lighthousehog.com). Please don't hesitate; the Chapter is always looking for new ride ideas and places to go.

This guide is organized as follows:

- "Chapter Rides" contains information about the planning and scheduling of the rides.
- "Group Riding" explains the rules and procedures each member is expected to observe to increase the enjoyment and safety of the rides for all members.
- "Disclaimer and Release Forms" contains legal information and the forms requirements for participating in a Chapter ride.
- "Group Riding Checklist" is a one page checklist of the rules and procedures presented in the Group Riding section. This section is designed so that you can easily carry it for reference during a ride.

This document is published by LH. Chapter for the benefit of its members. LH. Chapter reserves the right to change the information in this publication at any time and without notice.

LIGHTHOUSE CHAPTER  
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All suggestions are reviewed for suitability and the destination must qualify with adequate motorcycle parking and the ability to handle a large group. If it is a restaurant, really good food helps. Not all suggestions may be selected and the Chapter is under no obligation to select a suggestion for any ride or make any selection within any time period.

#### **Ride Schedule**

The ride schedule is published in the Chapter Newsletter and on the Chapter web site at [www.lighthousehog.com](http://www.lighthousehog.com). Dial the Chapter ride "Hot-Line" at (631)427-0382 ext #7 for the latest

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information about upcoming rides and changes in the schedule.

Whenever practicable, schedule changes are made to the Hot Line and the web site as soon as possible. The Chapter reserves the right to change the ride schedule without notice and at any time. Rides may be canceled at any time, usually due to adverse weather conditions.

## Road Captains

The Road Captains are responsible for conducting the Chapter Rides. They select the route and check it prior to the ride for unsafe conditions. They also insure the destination is suitable and make any arrangements necessary for a large group.

Each ride has at least two Road Captains: a Lead Captain and a Sweep Captain. Other Road Captains may be present on a ride and will ride within the group. All ride participants shall follow the directions, instructions and decisions of the Road Captains. When a large group is divided into smaller groups, each group will have a Lead and a Sweep Road Captain.

## Ride Participation

All members are invited to participate in all rides. It is solely a member's choice to participate in a ride. The Chapter expects all riders to ride safely and ride within their experience and comfort level at all times.

Ladies of Harley (LOH) rides are open to all riders, male or female. LOH plans, organizes and conducts these rides.

## Harley Event Categories

Chapter events are conducted primarily for the benefit of HOG Chapter members. There are three categories of events defined by the national HOG:

1. **Closed events** are chapter events that are open to chapter members and one guest per member.
2. **Member events** are chapter events that are only open to HOG members.
3. **Open events** are chapter events that are open to chapter members, national HOG members and other guests as desired.

NOTE: All Lighthouse HOG rides are "Closed Events" unless otherwise specifically stated. This means that you can participate in the chapter rides only if you are a current member and that you can have one guest per ride.

## Group Riding

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This section explains the rules and procedures used when group riding with LH. HOG. Each rider is expected to observe and practice these rules and procedures when participating in a group ride with the Chapter. There are four components to a safe and enjoyable group ride:

- Personal Preparation
- Group Preparation
- The Ride
- Emergencies

### Personal Preparation

You are responsible for making sure you and your bike are ready for the ride.

- **Check the Hot Line (631) 427-0382 ext #7 or web site for schedule changes.**

Regardless of the amount of planning done for the rides, a schedule change will occasionally occur. Rides may be changed to a new time, a new place or both. Typically, rides are cancelled due to adverse weather conditions but may be cancelled for other reasons.

- **Check yourself.**

Make sure you are rested, alert, feeling well and dressed appropriately. You should be physically and mentally prepared to make the ride. If you are tired, not feeling well, or just "not up to par", it may be wise to stay home and ride another day. Any Chapter member operating a motorcycle in a Chapter ride, event or other activity must be properly licensed and insured to operate a motorcycle.

- **Perform a safety and mechanical check on your bike.**

Check your tire pressure, oil level, turn signals and lights. It is also advisable to check for any parts that may have loosened due to vibration. Any motorcycle used in a Chapter ride, event or other activity must be properly licensed, inspected and insured.

- **Fill your Gas Tank.**

All members are to begin the ride with a full gas tank. The start of a ride will not be delayed waiting for someone to "get a quick fill-up". All rides are planned with ample gas stops considering the smallest tank in the group and that everyone starts with a full tank.

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- **Make sure you arrive for the ride at the designated meeting time.**

Not only is it fun to socialize prior to the ride, the Road Captain will make any announcements and give the pre-ride briefing during this time. If you arrive at the last minute, you may miss important information about the ride.

## Group Preparation

Rides are scheduled to meet at a certain time and generally depart 30 minutes later. During this time you are encouraged to socialize with your fellow Chapter Members, sign the release form and listen to the pre-ride briefing.

- **Meet on time.**

All riders should meet at the scheduled meeting time. All rides leave at the scheduled departure time in order to arrive at the destination on time.

- **Sign the Event Release Forms.**

All riders and passengers, including guests must sign the Event Release Form before each ride. You must legibly print your name and sign your signature. Each member is allowed one guest who must also sign the Event Release Form. All minors must complete a Minor's Assumption of Risk Acknowledgment which must be signed by both the minor and a witness (parent or guardian).

- **Headlights to low beam, other "running" lights off.**

All riders except the Sweep Road Captain should set their Headlights to low beam and turn off any other "running" lights. This makes it much easier for the Lead Road Captain to see the Sweep Road Captain and determine if a problem has occurred requiring the Sweep Road Captain to stop.

- **The pre-ride briefing.**

The Road Captain will give a pre-ride briefing covering the route, the Chapter riding rules and any other information concerning the ride. Listen closely and feel free to ask questions.

## The Ride

Riding with a group can be fun and exciting, but only when everyone in the group observes the same rules. When riding with the Chapter, everyone is expected to observe the following rules so that the rides will be fun, safe and enjoyable.

The Road Captain will leave first from the starting point and is followed by all other bikes, which fall into the staggered formation as soon as possible. The Sweep Road Captain will follow the group.

When a large number of bikes are present, the Road Captain may divide them into two or more groups. Each group will have a lead and Sweep Road Captain.

- **Ride within your ability and comfort level.**

Riding within your ability and comfort level is very important for the safety of the group. If at any time you feel that the ride has exceeded your riding ability or comfort level, or you have safety concerns, you should consider pulling off to the side at a safe place. The Sweep Road Captain will stop with you. You can then decide whether to continue the ride or not.

- **Obey all laws (Speed limits, Stop signs, Stop lights, etc.).**

Obey all laws including traffic regulations and the helmet law. If you do not wear a helmet, you are responsible for doing so legally.

- **Ride in staggered formation with approximately 2-second spacing.**

The Chapter rides in the standard staggered formation recommended by the State Patrol. The bikes form two columns, with the leader at the head of the left column. The second bike will head up the right column and ride approximately one second behind the leader. The other riders follow the bike directly in front of them by two seconds, which puts them one second behind the diagonal bike in front of them. Using the 2second spacing, the distance of the gap will increase with speed.

- **Fill gaps by changing column.**

When a bike drops out of the ride and creates a gap, the following bikes fill the gap, in turn, by moving up and changing column into the gap.

- **Use hand signals.**

The Road Captain will use hand signals to indicate a change of course, hazards or other information to the group. Each rider uses the same signal to pass the information back through the group (Form the signal well and clearly visible to the riders in back of you). The common hand signals used by the Chapter are:



### **Left Turn**

Left arm and hand straight out.

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## Right turn

Left arm straight out with forearm and hand pointing up.



## Road Hazard

Left arm angled down with index finger pointing at the hazard.



## Slow Down

Left arm angled down waving back and forth with open palm.



## Single File Riding

Left arm straight up with index finger pointing up.



## Staggered Riding

Left arm straight up with two fingers forming a "V".

- **Keep the group together without heroics.**

Often the group will get separated by a stop light, traffic congestion, etc. It is not necessary or advisable to take heroic or exceptional steps to regroup. In the event the group is separated, the Lead Road Captain will adjust the ride (either by slowing down or stopping at a safe location) until the ride is regrouped. In some circumstances, this may take several miles... BE PATIENT. If you find yourself leading part of the group due to a break and you are not sure of the route, pull over to a safe place. Everyone behind you and the Sweep Road Captain will stop so that you can elect a leader until you are able to rejoin the group.

- **Pull side-by-side at stops, start together with the left bike accelerating faster.**

This helps move the group through stops quickly and get as many bikes through a stop light as possible. As the two columns come to a stop, the right column will move up even with the left column. On the start, the two bikes leave together with the left bike accelerating faster to reestablish the staggered formation.

- **Yield to cars (especially at entrance ramps and lane changes).**

This is very important. When a car needs to enter from an entrance ramp or is signaling to break into the group, yield and give them plenty of room. Remember the old expression: "All because you have the right-of-way, doesn't mean you are going to get it".

Most drivers (and even bikers when in cars) proceed up entrance ramps assuming that they will be able merge in between two cars. When confronted with a line of motorcycles and no clear space in which to merge, some drivers may become unsure, confused and even intimidated by the situation. You can lessen the possibility of an unsafe situation by simply giving them plenty of room. Once a car merges into in a line of motorcycles, it will generally get out as soon as possible. In almost all cases, you will not need to pass the car to regroup, it will move out of the way. Once the car is gone, close the gap while maintaining a safe speed.

Another case of needing to yield happens when an inattentive driver pulls alongside the group and then realizes that they have to take an upcoming exit. If they signal to break in, LET THEM IN. In a lot of ways, this is an even more dangerous situation than the entrance ramp. People will go completely crazy when they think they may miss their exit. Think about it... it's much easier to just let them in. They will be out of the way shortly and you can close the gap.

- **Signal all turns and lane changes with turn signal lights and hand signals; Make visual checks before you move.**

The Road Captain will signal for turns and lane changes. You, in turn, make the same signal to pass it back through the group and to signal any other vehicles near you.

Before making a turn or changing lanes and after you have signaled for an appropriate amount of time, look with your head (not in your mirror) to see if you have clear space. If so, then make the turn or lane change. **DO NOT MOVE WITHOUT LOOKING!**

It is not always possible for the Road Captains to make lane changes when the group has a clear lane, If there is a car in the way, simply break the group around the car. If you are near the car, do not try to "get ahead" if it will crowd the car. Simply slow down and change lanes in back of the car. The car will soon be out of the way and you can close the gap.

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- **The ride officially ends on arrival at the destination.**

You can return home at any time and by any route you choose. If you are not sure how to get home, ask a Road Captain for directions.

## Emergencies

In the event of an emergency requiring a stop, observe the following procedures so that the emergency may be resolved in the safest manner possible. Remember, we do not want a group of motorcycles on the side of the road in an unsafe manner under any circumstances.

- **Problem bike stops - All others continue.**

If a bike encounters a mechanical or rider problem that requires a stop, it should signal and stop in as safe a place as possible, preferably well off the road. All other bikes are to continue with the Lead Road Captain to avoid having a group of motorcycles on the side of the road.

- **Only the Sweep Road Captain stops to help.**

It is the sweep Road Captain's responsibility to stop and assist the problem bike.

- **Lead Road Captain leads the group to a safe location.**

If the Road Captain deems it necessary to check on the problem, the group will be stopped at a safe place and he will call the Sweep Road Captain to determine the action to be taken.

- **Some Road Captains have mobile phones and CB radios.**

The Road Captains use their mobile phones and radios to communicate when necessary.

- **Accidents**

In the event of an accident, the group should work together to insure everyone stops in a safe location, notifies the authorities by calling 911, renders aid (Do not move an injured person or remove their helmet – this should be done by trained emergency response personnel), maintains the accident scene, and gets the names and addresses of witnesses whenever possible.

## **Disclaimer and Ride Forms**

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### Chapter Ride Disclaimer

The Officers of the LH. HOG Chapter hereby advise that any and all rides, runs, events and activities sponsored by this Chapter are solely intended for the benefit and participation of our current members and guests (limit one guest per member). Members are responsible for insuring that their guest has a properly executed release form on file with the Chapter. Nothing published in the Chapter newsletter or in the Chapter web site should be construed to mean that non-current, former members and/or members of the general public are invited to participate in these activities and/or ride motorcycles with this Chapter unless it is specifically so stated. No Chapter member may operate a motorcycle at a Chapter event or activity unless that member is legally licensed to do so and that motorcycle is properly licensed, inspected and insured. Members participate in any and all published activities and meetings at their own risk. The LH. HOG Chapter, its

Officers and Sponsor assume no liability or responsibility for any persons, Chapter member or otherwise, at any ride or function.

### Chapter Event Release Form

Each member signs a Chapter Event Release form when joining the Chapter. Each member participating in a ride must also sign a Chapter Event Release form for each ride. A copy of the Event Release Form is available at Lighthouse Harley-Davidson or ask your Road Captain.

### Minor's Assumption of Risk Form

A completed Minor's Assumption of Risk form is required for each minor participating in a ride. A new form must be completed for each ride. A copy of the Minor's Assumption of Risk form is available at Lighthouse Harley-Davidson or ask your Road Captain.

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## Group Riding Checklist

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Each rider is expected to observe and practice the following items when preparing for and participating in group rides with the Chapter. This section is a one page checklist of the rules and procedures presented in the Group Riding section. This section is designed so that you can easily carry it for reference during a ride.

A ride consists of four components:

1. Personal Preparation
2. Group Preparation
3. The Ride
4. Emergencies

### Personal Preparation

- Check the Ride Hot Line or web site for schedule changes.
- Check yourself. Are you ready for this ride?
- Perform a Safety/Mechanical Check.
- Fill your Gas Tank.
- Meet on time.

### Group Preparation

- All riders meet at the designated time.
- Sign the Event Release form with legible print and signature.
- Headlights to Low beam, other "running" lights off.
- The pre-ride briefing

### The Ride

- Ride within your ability and comfort level.
- Obey all laws (Speed limits, Stop signs, Stop lights, etc.).
- Use hand signals.
- Staggered Formation (2 second spacing).
- Fill gaps by changing column.
- Keep group together without heroics.
- Pull to side-by-side at stops; left bike out accelerates faster.
- Yield to cars (especially at entrance ramps).
- Signal all turns and lane changes with turn signal lights and hand signals; Make visual checks before you move.
- Ride ends on arrival at the destination.

### Emergencies

- Problem bike stops; All others continue.
- Only the Sweep Road Captain stops to help.
- Lead Road Captain leads group to a safe location.
  
- Accidents: Group stops in a safe location - Call 911 – Render aid (Do not move an injured person or remove their helmet – this should be done by trained emergency response personnel) - Get the names and addresses of witnesses whenever possible.

### Hand Signals



#### Left Turn

Left arm and hand straight out.



#### Right Turn

Left arm straight out with forearm and hand pointing up.



#### Road Hazard

Left arm angled down with index finger pointing at the hazard.



#### Slow Down

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