

## Rules Of The Road

1. STAGGERED FORMATION shall be the basic riding formation under normal conditions. (Other formations may be called for by the Road Captain based on traffic and road condition).

Riding Positions (during formation) Club formation is as follows

Road Captain and President

Sgt. at Arms and Vice President

Secretary, and Treasurer

Full Members

Probationary

Friends of the Blue Knights

Assistant Road Captains fall behind the other riders.

President - The President shall ride no further back than the number two position.

2. All Riders are to execute hand signals indicating their intentions of movements.

3. The Road Captain shall have the unchallenged authority over all rides

4. The Road Captain shall have the authority to post other Asst. Road Captains or regular members to an assigned position, including "Lead". In the absence of the Road Captain, all ride authority is transferred to the Asst. Road Captain. Should both Road Captains be absent the authority transfers to the highest-ranking Club Officer or senior member.

5. No ride will be officially sanctioned by Blue Knights, Chapter New York X without approval of the President or Road Captain.

6. Types of official sanctioned rides:

a. "Club Rides" - Members of Blue Knights, Chapter XXXIV and family only.

b. "Closed Rides" - Members of Blue Knights only (any chapter).

c. "Open Rides" - Known guest of any Blue Knights Chapter member may participate

b. President - The President shall ride no further back than the number two position.  
c. Assistant Road Captain - The Asst. Road Captain will normally ride in the next to last position (directly in front of the Tail Gunner), unless otherwise directed by the Road Captain. The Asst. Road Captain will (along with the Tail Gunner) be responsible holding the open lane pending a signaled lane change. He will assist any member that falls behind or breaks down and may summons assistance from other members as deemed necessary.

d. Tail Gunner - This is not an "official" (or Officer) position with the club. Any member may be requested to serve as Tail Gunner. It is suggested that an experience group riding member "ride" in this position. This position is critical in keeping the rest of the group safe from traffic approaching from the rear and making safe lane changes.

e. Ride "Line up" Positions - The Road Captain, The President, full "color wearing" members, the Sergeant At Arms, Prospective members, non-members (when applicable) and bringing up the rear will be the Asst. Road Captain and Tail Gunner. Once the ride begins you are to remain in your designated ride position sections for the remainder of the ride.

10. Pre-Ride Briefing - The Road Captain (or his designee) will give instructions to all riders regarding the destination, the duration of the ride, and identify the Asst. Road Captain and Tail Gunner. The Asst. Road Captain will conduct a "head count" before each ride to obtain a total number of riders (including passengers) and again upon reaching the destination to ensure that all bikes are riders are accounted for.

11. Common Sense Is the RULE. Each rider is fully responsible for their own motorcycle. "Head checks" are a must behind initiating any movement within the group. "Err" on the side of caution.

12. All members are expected to learn safe, controlled riding techniques and procedures, as well as all applicable traffic laws.

13. ALERTNESS - Riders must remember that the Road Captain will be giving signals (both hand and mechanical) to execute specific maneuvers (i.e. slowing, stopping, turning, etc.). Each member's assistance in passing the signal back to the following members is paramount for completing safe maneuvers.

14. Leaving the Group - If any rider needs to stop (mechanical failure, etc) or "leave" the group, they are to inform Road Captain, the Asst. Road Captain or the nearest riding member. As soon as possible the Road Captain will be notified. If the stop is unplanned (mechanical problem) the Road Captain will bring the group to a stop at the earliest and safest location. Members designated by the Road Captain will return to assist the stopped rider. The Road Captain will make the decision to continue the ride, only after arrangements have been made for the stopped rider and his motorcycle.

If a rider "plans" on leaving the group early, they are to inform the Road Captain prior to the departure of the group.

15. Gas Stops - Every rider is expected to know the cruising capacity of their motorcycle's gas tank. All riders are to arrive at the ride's starting point with a full tank of gas.

16. Strict adherence to these rules, the rules of safe riding will help to provide for a successful riding adventure!

### **Hand Arm Signals**

1. STOP: Left hand, extended downward with palm facing backward.
2. RIGHT TURN: Left arm, extended upright with hand extended.
3. LEFT TURN: Left arm, extended straight out with hand extended.

4. **TURN AROUND:** Left arm, extended upright with hand, rotating in a circular motion. This is used for group riding as well as signaling an individual rider approaching.
5. **SINGLE FILE RIDING:** Left arm, extended upright with index finger pointed up. Used for narrow, winding roads, road obstruction and hazards.
6. **CLOSE UP FORMATION:** Left arm, extended upright and moved in an up/down motion (pumping) with fist closed. Used to tighten up or close riding formation, catch up and stay close. The R/C will use this to execute a group maneuver.
7. **ROAD HAZARD:** Pointing downward, with either hand, in the direction of the hazard. Used to warn fellow riders of potholes and debris in the road.
8. **STAGGERED RIDING:** Left arm, extended upright and four fingers, extended, waving side to side. Used on open roads and where there are a lot of turns. This style allows the rider some leeway for drifting and is our preferred style.
9. **DUAL RIDING:** Left arm, extended upright and two fingers, extended in a "V". Used for two abreast where permitted.
10. **FUEL:** Pointing to your gas tank means you have switched to your reserve tank. Blow your horn to alert the R/C.
11. **OTHER:** Left arm, extended straight out with hand waving back and forth means come up to me or pass me.