

## Group Riding – April 2, 2011

### **1. Define Staggered Formation.**

Staggered is alternating – not arranged in a straight line. For motorcycle riders, it is either the left or right hand part of the roadway of a single lane of traffic. It is the primary riding formation for two or more riders. According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, the proper following distance is a minimum of 2 seconds behind the rider in front of you and 1 second behind the rider staggered to your left or right.

### **When do we ride in Staggered Formation?**

- Whenever we are not riding Single File

### **2. When do we ride in Single File?**

- Generally, whenever deemed necessary
- More specifically, passing other vehicles
- Passing pedestrians or bicyclists
- Passing construction zones
- Entering parking lots
- Exiting ramps off interstate highways
- Negotiating curves in the road

**From “The Hurt Report”: Rider error was the cause of about two-thirds of all single-vehicle accidents. The typical error was a “slideout” or a fall due to over braking or running wide on a curve due to excess speed or under cornering.**

### **How do we ride curves?**

First, slow down or brake before the curve and power thru it; and secondly, ride curves in Single File - the safest and most enjoyable way to negotiate a curve. You do not have to ride in the same lane on curves, use the entire lane to straighten out the curve as much as possible and then revert to Staggered Formation. By riding all curves (sharp and moderate) in this manner, it will soon become natural.

### **3. How do Trikes fit in with the group and where are they expected to ride?**

Trike Riders are welcome to ride anywhere they choose in a group: front, middle or back. They should ride in Staggered Formation with one rear wheel in the appropriate left or right track.