

Ulysses Club of New Zealand – Group Riding

Mission Statement:

Respect your fellow members, as you would like them to respect you -remember Ulysses is a social club of people with a common interest and a need to grow old disgracefully. Your charge is therefore plain to see -be disgraceful but not disrespectful. We are not on Earth for a long time; let's make it a good time.

We do not set rules for club rides, but we do ask you, please, to read this set of protocols that explain each individual rider's responsibilities. They have been evolved by experienced riders, all volunteers on the Runs Committee (past and present), and are distributed in the interests of keeping us all safe while we're out on the road as a group. This is probably the longest document the club will ever ask you to read, after this it's all fun!

The Three Critical Points.

(If we did have hard rules, these would be them)

1. Listen to the riders briefing and ask questions if you don't understand something.
2. The rider in front has total use of the marked lane for choosing his/her line when entering or riding through an intersection or corner **-do not overtake!**

On straight sections, if waved through, indicate to confirm your intention and overtake.

If **not** waved through, assume the rider in front has not seen you and overtake only if you can leave plenty of space between your bikes.

3. If you leave the group, inform the Rider in Charge (RIC) or Tail End Charlie (TEC), or ask another rider to inform them.

Etiquette

Prior to a group ride.

- Arrive at the meeting point ten minutes early with a full tank of gas and an empty bladder. (Lateness or incontinence is seriously frowned on.)
- Don't be shy or embarrassed to introduce yourself, and remember we all have Alzheimer's, so wear your name badge so we can remember your name-
- Identify the RIC and TEC, and their bikes/cars. Listen carefully to the run briefing- ask if you don't understand; there are no dumb questions, there may be insufficient answers, so keep asking-
- Ensure your bike is roadworthy, and your own and your passenger's clothing is adequate.
- Consider providing yourself with a first aid kit-
- Consider your personal skills versus the nature of the run -if you have doubts, discuss them with the RIC or another rider. Particularly if you are new to, or coming back to riding, it is very easy to over reach your stamina. Start cautious and workup.
- If you have a learner licence or would like a mentor on the ride, let the RIC know.
- Introduce any non-myssian (or other Branch) guests you invite on a run to RIC, and explain our protocols to your guests.

During a group ride:

- Be responsible for your passenger's (pillion, sidechair or trike) welfare.
- Ride in **your** comfort zone, between RIC and TEC. It is totally accepted (indeed, expected) that you drop off the pace if it is too fast for you, but please wave on riders behind you who may wish to keep a closer contact with the front riders-
- Be aware of the rider behind you - he/she is your friend, not a competitor on the racetrack.
Signal turns and stops clearly.
Unless instructed otherwise at the run briefing, **when the run changes direction, wait at the corner until you are sure the rider behind can see where to go. If the rider behind is out of sight, stop.** (This will allow the run to regroup)
- A group ride is not a test of skills or a race - just a group of riders with different bikes and different skill levels out for an excursion. Don't test the upper levels of your, or your bike's, abilities on a group ride-
- Ride staggered when riding in close formation, i.e., front rider rides in the right hand wheel track, next in the left, next in the right, etc. (**N.B. Staggered riding has nothing to do with intoxicating liquor or a position from the Karma Sutra.**)
- After overtaking a slower vehicle, move towards the left side of the lane to allow room for the rider following to pass safely too.
- Don't fixate on the bike in front; scan continuously. **Look where you want your bike to go.**
- In the event of an emergency, assist riders in distress, and carry out any instructions RIC or TEC may give.

General etiquette:

- Ride safe, ride courteous. Use your mirrors, your indicators and your commonsense. Consider training courses -old dogs can learn new tricks. (Advanced Riding, Ride Right, Ride Safe, First Aid etc.)
- Talk with other riders about different runs to get a feel for what would suit you. Consider going on a weekend away to get to know your clubmates *-in vino veritas!*

Special Signals:

Left or right arm held bent (stop sign) = caution, may be trouble ahead.

Left or right arm held straight above rider's head = Help! Bike or rider in trouble! (If you see this signal, stop and provide assistance.)

Here endeth the lesson. Phew! !

Enjoy your riding; we'll see you out there.

Thank you Auckland Ulysses for sharing this with all of us.