

# PANHANDLE RIDERS



## ***RIDE LEADER SAFETY STEPS***

### ***USE FOR INFORMATIONAL MEETING WITH RIDERS BEFORE RIDE STARTS***

**All Ride Leaders should go over the following information prior to each ride with their group.**

#### **1. RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM:**

- a. Every ride must have each participating rider and/or passenger sign the *Release of Liability* form used for that ride and signed by the Ride Leader.
- b. Make sure all your tags (license plate/stickers) are up to date. We often ride on roads.

#### **2. YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF THE PERSON “BEHIND” YOU**

- a. If there is any confusion or options to turn or detour, you are in charge of notifying the person behind you. From time to time, check to see that they’re still there and if not, STOP and if needed, backtrack to make sure they’re OK.

#### **3. HEADLIGHTS:**

- a. Advise riders: turn their headlights on for safety. It’s much easier to see the person in back of you without turning around especially in dusty conditions.
- b. To get the attention of the rider in front of you, turn off your headlights.
- c. From time to time, check the headlights of the rider behind you to see that they’re on.

#### **4. HOW TO RIDE:**

- a. Stay on the road or trail; no cross-country trail blazing is allowed so as to avoid injury.

#### **5. RIDING SPEED:**

- a. Advise riders on the speed you will be going: approximately 10 to 25mph on road and 10 to 15 mph on trails. It all depends on the conditions.
- b. If anyone has any concerns, the rider(s) should let the Ride Leader know of them.
- c. If some riders wish to go slower than the rest of the group, ask them to ride at the rear of the group but always in front of the Tail Gunner so as not to hold others up.

#### **6. CONE USE:**

- a. If using cones, the Ride Leader must place the cones at the start of the intersection in the direction the ride is headed.
- b. Make sure the cones can be seen before the rider gets to them, so that the riders can slow down for the turns. It's okay to use more than one cone if necessary.
- c. If not using cones, the rule is:
  - i. Forward riders **MUST** wait for the rider behind them (rear rider) and acknowledgement from the rear rider that they have been seen making the turn.
  - ii. The rear rider gives acknowledgement by raising one arm and waving; only then should the forward rider take off again.

- iii. If a rider is not sure about a turn, they should stop and wait for someone to come back for them. Also, if the “confused rider” has a radio....USE IT!

**7. REST BREAKS:**

- a. Advise riders how often you will be stopping for rest breaks. After any rest break give a five-minute warning before starting the ride again.

**8. RADIOS**

- a. We recommend you bring an FRS radio on all rides, so that you can communicate over long distances.
- b. CHANNEL: \_\_\_\_\_/SUBCHANNEL: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. DO NOT PULL OUT OF THE RIDE WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE RIDE LEADER**

- a. If you disappear during a ride, we will do everything we can to find you including calling 911. If you decide to leave the ride before it is over, you **MUST** notify the ride leader or you can expect to get a visit from the police.

**10. TAIL GUNNER:**

- a. Always have a Tail Gunner (rider) at the end of the group to pick up the cones and to ensure that there are no stragglers.

**11. RIDER ASSURANCE:**

- a. Tell riders that if anyone is not comfortable doing anything on the ride, then “*don't do it!!*” There will always be someone to help them around or through a tough area.

**12. RADIO CONTACT:**

- a. Everyone should try and use radios on all rides, but at the very least the Ride Leader and Tail Gunner should each have a radio in order to stay in contact.
  - i. Advise the channel you will be using.

**13. MATERIAL STORAGE:**

- a. All material (i.e. GPS, safety cones, club banner, etc.) owned by the club are to be kept with the current President whomever that may be. Ride Leaders may hand off between each other between rides, but if this is not possible the GPS and safety cones are to be returned to the club president for safekeeping.