



Since 2014

Valley Riders

July 2016



Volume 3

Number 7



What's Happening



There were 18 members and no visitors at June's meeting. There are no birthdays and 3 anniversaries in June. John Cunningham led the meeting. Sindi let us know about the upcoming social in July which will be at Sing Tao Restaurant in Clovis. This is one of our favorite restaurants, so come out and enjoy the great food and great company of friends. John let us know about the upcoming ride on July 9 to Santa Cruz. Jerry Gregg's safety report was on safety and the fundamentals of group riding. Wendy let us know she is streamlining the membership list and will have a new directory out soon. She also created a new Facebook page. "The Valley Riders". If there are any members from the old Facebook page that want to be members of the new Facebook page, contact her for instructions. Bob Felker did the 50/50 raffle. There was \$75 in the pot and Jim Bingham was the winner taking home \$37.50. Congratulations Jim and thank you to John Cunningham and Bob Felker for the great job they did while filling in for Jim and Caren.



Celebrations

Birthdays: Jul 1: [Linda Stark](#); Jul 13: [Sherbie Smith](#); Jul 14: [Marilyn Felker](#);

Anniversary: Jul 9: [Bill & Linda Dimmer](#); Jul 18: [Dale & Trinette Wallace](#); Jul 19: [Terry & Susanne Zane](#); Jul 24: [Scott & Becky Overley](#)



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Safety



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Group Riding: 17 Tips to Ensure Everybody Has a Great Day



The engine purrs beneath you as a string of motorcycles snakes through the hills in front of you. With a quick look in the mirror, you see your buddy following close behind with a smile on his face that matches yours. The camaraderie forms because, at just this moment, you're all on the same page. That's what a group ride is all about. It's an opportunity to share the open road and wonderful scenery with other like-minded people. But like most motorcycle experiences, this one is best enjoyed by following a few simple guidelines that keep everyone safe. Here are a few from our friends at the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

- 1.** The first thing you want to do is organize the ride. This can be as informal as standing around in a parking lot, or as formal as a special meeting to hand out maps and cell phone numbers.
- 2.** Remember that riding in a group does not mean you surrender any decision-making when it comes to your safety. Ride your own ride, and don't go any faster than you feel comfortable going.



3. When picking your route and the stops you'll make along it, consider the stamina of the group, the experience of all the riders, and the limits of the motorcycles in the group. Remember, these are your friends. If it's going to be a long ride, be sure to take a few breaks along the way.

4. You'll need to communicate while on the ride, so make sure everyone knows the signals you'll use.



5. When creating your formation, it's wise to have your experienced riders at the lead and running sweep. Consider positioning the less-experienced riders immediately behind the leader. This allows the front rider to adjust the pace if necessary.

6. Ideally, the sweep rider will have a cell phone to call for help if a motorcycle is disabled, or if there has been an accident.

7. If the goal of the ride is to keep the group together, the leader should only go at the pace of the least-experienced rider.

8. While riding, don't fixate on the motorcycle in front of you. Instead, remember your basic training. Look well through the turn to where you want to go.

9. If the group is riding faster than you are comfortable with, let the sweep rider know you're dropping out and ride at your own pace. So you may reach your destination a few seconds behind the others, but you will get there, and that's what's important. Keep in mind, it's all about fun.

10. All riders are also responsible for making sure their motorcycles are mechanically up to the task. Before you even meet up with the group, make sure you've got plenty of fuel in the tank, and that you've taken care of all those maintenance issues. Not sure what to check? Use T-CLOCS. You really don't want to be the reason for stopping the group for something mechanical you could have prevented.

11. If it's going to be a large group, consider establishing a buddy system among the riders, or divide the group into smaller five- or seven-rider packs. That way, if something goes wrong, you

don't have 25 motorcycles sitting on the side of a busy highway. Also, smaller groups can more easily navigate through city streets.

12. On the road, motorcyclists should have at least a 2-second cushion in front and behind them. If you want to keep the group tight, consider a staggered formation. Leave enough room per lane so each rider can maneuver side-to-side if need be. Avoid side-by-side formations as they shrink your space cushion.



13. Trikes and sidecars should stay in the center of the lane, and should be given the same amount of cushion as if they were a car.

14. As turns get sharper, or as visibility decreases, move back to a single file formation. You'll also want to use single file when entering or exiting a highway, at toll booths, or when roads have a rough or questionable surface.

15. At intersections where you've come to a stop, tighten the formation to side-by-side to take up less space. As the light turns green, or when traffic opens up, the bike on the left proceeds through the intersection first.

16. Remember we share the road with many other vehicles, and it's against the law to block an intersection.



17. When parking, try to get the group off the roadway as quickly as possible. If you can, arrange in advance to have pull-through parking at your destination, or at the very least, make sure there is ample parking for your size group.



Rides



Saturday Jul 9: **Ride to Santa Cruz** leaving Mc Donald's Marketplace Shopping Center (Herndon/Golden State) 8 am

Saturday Jul 30: **Ride to Tollhouse for Breakfast** leaving Starbucks Riverpark (near the circle) 8 am



Facebook Page



Member's Posts



Jon & Scott at Fat Jack's in Clovis! Jerry Gragg Jun 19, 2016

Comment: Caren Moody good looking group. Wish we could have been there.

Comment: Randy Hopkins FAY Jacks, MMMMMM

Like: Randy Hopkins, John Cunningham and Jon Moe



Gary Williams triked his bike. Looks great Gary Williams. Thanks Diane Craig Williams for sending the pics! Sindi McGuire May 31, 2016

Comment: Caren Moody Wonderful!

Like: Diane Craig Williams and John T. McGuire

The helmet behind the bike is a universal sign
Biker in Distress....

Seen this on a group page and couldn't believe
how many didn't know this. Thought I would
share



Wendy Fujinami Patrick May 28, 2016

Comment: Diane Craig Williams Thanks for sharing this, Wendy. I am one of those people who didn't know that.

Like: Randy Hopkins, Diane Craig Williams and John T. McGuire



Wendy Fujinami Patrick May 26, 2016

Comment: Caren Moody Love this picture. What a great trip!

Like: Diane Craig Williams



Next Get Together



Friday Night Coffee and Conversation: **Starbuck's in Riverpark** (near the circle) 7:00 pm

Monthly Dinner Social: Thursday, Jul 14: **Tsing Tao Restaurant** 711 W Shaw Ave Clovis
(Shaw/Willow) 6:30 pm

Monthly Meeting: Saturday, Jul 16: **Yosemite Falls Cafe** 4278 W Ashlan Ave Fresno
(Ashlan/Hwy 99) 8:30 am

