

## Procrastinating Pedalers Ride Etiquette

It has been very exciting to see so many new club members joining in on rides this past year. With a new year beginning, we wanted to take a little time to review some of the basic etiquette of group rides with the Procrastinating Pedalers. That way we can all get the full, safe, enjoyable rides we joined for.

- ✓ Safety first! Always remember, your actions in a group don't just affect you, but it could put all those around you at risk also.

- ✓ Since we often ride close together, hand and/or voice signals are a necessity in helping keep everyone safe:

Use hand signals for left or right turns, slowing down, or identifying possible dangers in the road (pointing down towards the obstacles), or obstacles to move over for up ahead (swinging a right or left hand behind your back in the direction to move).

Voice signals for "car up, car back, car left, car right" are also helpful to the group.

We only pass on the left. Bikes are vehicles and the law states that vehicles must pass on the left side. When passing to the left, it is good practice to call "on your left" so as not to startle the person you are passing, and also so they know not to veer to the left and into your path.

One thing we never call is "CLEAR!" What may be clear for you may not be for the next riders. Or you may think it's clear but miss something that would put the rest of the group in danger. **PLEASE NEVER CALL "CLEAR."**

- ✓ A safe ride also entails following the rules of the road. **WE NEVER RUN RED LIGHTS.** The law allows cyclists to go through red lights legally after two cycles of the lights. By then, it is generally much better and safer to have just gone to the pedestrian button, pushed it, and waited for a green light.
- ✓ The law requires us to stop at all stop signs. Legally, that means one foot must touch the ground. Since our club believes in following the law, we should all do that.
- ✓ If you come to a stop with other vehicles coming from different directions, stop and make sure it is absolutely safe to proceed. If a driver waves you on, be very aware of the other traffic that they may not be seeing.

- ✓ These are group rides. Since you have made the choice to ride with a group of people, we all expect you to try and be an active member of the group. That means enjoying the ride for yourself, but also having the willingness to help others in need, be it a mechanical, or just sharing some of your expertise with newer riders. Together, we make our rides better.
- ✓ If you are ever unsure of something, please feel free to ask members of the group, particularly the ride host. Letting the host know of your concerns or questions before the ride can help them make it as good a ride for you as they can.

Finally, we attempt to be a friendly group of riders whose actions shine in a positive way to all other traffic out there. The only way we can continue to change minds that cyclists are a positive thing on our roadways is to be safe and be friendly to everyone around us.

**HAVE A GREAT RIDE!**