

## Being A Good Team Member Part 2

By Jim & Karen Roberson

Last time we began going over riding in a group. This article is a continuation of this theme.

Let's start off by describing again the characteristics of a good team member. In the GWRRA *Team Riding Manual* the following characteristics are very important.

1. Assumes a responsibility to ride with and work with the other team members.
2. Maintains steady speed and spacing.
3. Stays alert and announces to the other team members any obstacle, condition or potential hazard.
4. Riders should always be aware of the other team members and maintain the formation and spacing.

**REMEMBER:** *Pace yourself 1-second stagger, and 2-seconds following distance behind the bike directly in front of you. However, during darkness or inclement weather, a 2-second stagger and a 4-second following distance should be maintained to provide an extra margin of safety.*

Teams should separate themselves on the highway by no less than 15 seconds to allow for other vehicles to safely pass a team. If your teams are on a 2 lane road the separation may need to be greater based on the traffic.

Team members should ride in staggered formation within a lane. The lead is in the left track of the lane. Separation was covered in the last article.

When entering traffic the lead moves into the flow of traffic after waiting to find an opening large enough to accommodate the entire team. If this is not possible the lead may issue a directive to ride your own ride and form up later in a designated lane. Then the team members will enter the flow of traffic safely one at a time and rejoin the group when practicable and safe.

When it is necessary to pass traffic the lead will make the decision to pass and will notify the team by both C.B radio and hand signals. Passing will be initiated by the lead and after passing will accelerate far enough ahead of the team to allow each member to pass safely and rejoin the team in the normal staggered configuration. It is extremely important to remember that even though you are riding in a team each person is responsible for their own bike safety. When the pass is complete the drag will notify the lead via C.B. radio that the team has completed the pass and is back in formation.

As before we stressed that anyone not wishing to Team Ride should separate themselves to a safe distance from the teams and meet at the acknowledged destination or break point. That is not a problem! It is more important for you to arrive safely at the destination than ride where you feel uncomfortable.

The next article will continue this theme and cover lane changing, passing obstacles, etc. In the meantime, Ride Safe!