



BMMC Ride Captain Memo

To: All Ride Captains
From: Tom Clements - Ride Captain Coordinator
Date: March 16, 2008

I want to make an announcement and offer an observation about our recent group ride to Rio Rico.

First, I am proud to designate the following BMMC members as new Ride Captains for our club: Sharon Harris, Arie Louie, and Jim Whiting. Since last we met, Bob Handelman, Duane Hollis, and Pam Jackson have also joined our ranks. I appreciate very much the effort and dedication that your involvement as RCs provides to our Club. It couldn't be what it is without you!

Second, let me talk about a couple of problem areas that arose during the Rio Rico ride. These are not big worries but by bringing them out in the open perhaps we can strive together for improvement.

I am 100% guilty of the first offense, as were some others. Namely, as I was leading my Group 3 from Fountain Hills to Florence, there was no way that I could be 100% sure that all twelve of the bikes in my group were behind me. (I can't count that many headlights!) Although I thought that I had slowed enough after being separated at a stop light so that all had regrouped, that was not the case. Not until we stopped for gas in Florence was I aware that four or five bikes never were able to rejoin. John Logsdon, our group's Sweep, did a fine job of remaining behind and assuring that all group members got to the stop appropriately, It seems that unless the Lead and Sweeps have CB radios or such with which to communicate then it is nearly impossible to know when all are back together. Ideas here? How can we pass it up from back to front that all are in and it's OK for the Lead to

pick up the pace again? We got some feedback of "Why ride in a group and observe the rules when the group doesn't even stay together as an entity?!" What can we do to improve this? I welcome your input.

The second problem has to do with the gaps that often develop. Somehow, even though I think we all try to mention and encourage passing within a group when appropriate, there is a reluctance on many rider's part to pass a slower rider and "force" that rider to migrate to the back of the group when he/she is allowing much more than the one-second interval to exist between them and the rider staggered ahead. I imagine that the only hope here is to keep emphasizing that this passing is an expected and approved action and to forcefully disagree with those who view it as a discourteous move. Again, ideas? Are there better ways that this may be addressed?

As some of you know, Gene Adee and I are gone for most of April on the USA Four Corners Ride. (Eat your hearts out!) Thus, our next RC meeting/ride won't be until May. Please be thinking about the concerns I have enumerated here and email me your thoughts and/or bring them to the RC meeting in May. Thank you, everyone!