



BMMC Ride Captain Memo

To: All Ride Captains
From: Tom Clements - Ride Captain Coordinator
Date: May 12, 2008

The RC Training Event we had on May 3 produced lively discussion and good suggestions about how we may improve BMMC's Group Riding skills.

There was general consensus that we need to do a better job on the pre-ride briefings. Not only must the Ride Host be as prepared as possible and present a thorough briefing that covers all the points in the BMMC RC Guide, but also the individual group Lead/Sweep teams need to gather their riders together to brief anything further that may be of help to the group.

We are going to try a new plan to better accommodate these individual group briefings. Namely, after the general briefing by the host, the Lead/Sweep teams will remain in the briefing area, each claiming their own spot, separated a bit from the others. The riders will be asked to go to the group of their choosing. If more than eight riders choose to go with one Lead/Sweep team, some of the riders will be asked to join another group with fewer members. In this way, it is hoped that the groups can be better organized and assigned before the bikes start to move. As the Lead/Sweep team finishes the separate briefing to their group, they should designate the area in which their group will stage the motorcycles and proceed to gather in that location. Do *not* announce the riding order of the groups. Only after the groups form, would the Lead/Sweep team then tell them of their ETD. (A little pilot talk there, eh?)

The second point of consensus from the RCs in attendance - I wish there had been more of you! - was the desirability of Group Riding recurrent training for all BMMCs, both new and seasoned members. Henceforth, we will have a standard spot at all monthly breakfast meetings - about five minutes - to present/review/discuss the contents within the BMMC Riders Guide. We will just pick one item for each month, knowing that, over time, a lot of needed information will be presented. I will kick these talks off at the June meeting and will be asking some other RCs to give the talk at future meetings.

Now for a little preaching: 2008 definitely has found our club lacking in willing Ride Hosts. With the RC red hat comes recognition that the wearer has devoted significant time and effort in becoming an experienced motorcyclist and is a leader. The red hat also confers a commensurate level of responsibility. Any reasonable chance of keeping the individual group sizes to manageable levels - no more than ten machines, counting the Lead and Sweep - can only be accomplished if enough RCs participate. By accepting the red hat you also accepted the task of being an active RC on most if not all of the club rides you choose to attend. Please, both for the remainder of this year and especially as we plan the ride schedule for 2009, be as giving as you possibly can of your time and talent both as a Ride Captain and as a Ride Host. Thank you!