

## ***Ride Leader Guidelines***

Note that there is a Ride Leader Checklist on the calendar.

All members should volunteer to lead a ride a few times each year. For those that have not done this before, it is a rewarding experience that will give you confidence in riding, and certainly be appreciated by the other members. If you do not feel confident leading your first ride alone, ask a friend to do it with you, or ask one of the more experience riders to assist.

Prior to the day you should check out the route and document it. Perhaps ride or drive it a few days before-hand to note the exact route, the road conditions such as road-works in progress, and to determine where your regroup stops and coffee stop will be. It is a good idea to phone the coffee shop before the ride to let them know a group will be coming.

On the day arrive early and remember to bring a ride sheet, pen, mobile phone and your maps or notes. Assign a tail-end charlie (TC) and make sure she or he knows the route. You keep the signed ride sheet in case you need to contact a rider.

Ten minutes before your ride starts call your group together, away from other people. Introduce yourself and the TC, and then welcome new members. Give out your mobile number. Tell the riders about any difficult road conditions, where the coffee stop will be, and where the stops are. Make sure you clearly mention where your first regroup stop is, and off you go. Ensure you leave on time.

There is no need to lead from the front. Stay in the middle of the group if you are comfortable there, and enjoy the ride. At each stop you wait for the TC, and once the tail-end riders have caught their breath, tell everyone where the next stop is, and go.

It is the ride leader's decision if the group should be split up during the ride. This can happen because mechanical problems or bad weather are causing the tail end group to lag a long way behind.

Enjoy your ride.