

# Ride Level Definitions

Our membership is growing and our members experience is varied. Asking about ride experience at the pre-ride meeting could be embarrassing to many people and we have had people lie at these pre-rides, then fall down. Only you truly know how well you ride.

This is a guide not a rule. You may see yourself in one definition. We may see you in another. If you split a ride, weave around, race up and down the line, you will be approached by a ride officer and the problem brought to your attention. Dangerous riding will result in your immediate removal from the ride. To avoid this scenario, be honest, pick the ride suited to your comfort zone. SO! I'm not sure how well this will work but what the hell, we have to try something.

## **First Timers:**

**If you NEVER rode with us before, you MUST ride in an area at the rear of line at least until the lunch stop. I don't care if you invented motorcycles. Your riding will be monitored, most move up right away. We had people lie then scare the hell out of those nearby.**

## **Definitions of ride experience levels:**

### **Rookie**

Never rode in a group before, Just got your first bike, learned how to ride then joined us. You should go on Rides designated "ROOKIE" Weeknight or Saturday rides first. After you have completed your first year of riding, been on at least six Weeknight rides, the Road Captain will determine if you are ready for a new challenge.

### **Beginner**

You have been riding a while but not in a organized group of 20 or more, not counting charity rides. Maybe you were a casual rider who stopped riding for many years and came back to it. Or, you have made at least two big TCMC Club rides in addition to six Weeknight nights.

### **Intermediate**

You have been riding about three years consistently, more than 8,000 miles a year. Been on many group rides, both Saturday and weeknight TCMC club rides. You understand the importance of a tight staggered formation. Your not a speed demon and you know not to brake in the middle of turns.

### **Advanced**

You have been riding for at least five 10,000 mile years consistently. You have been on more group rides than you can count. You know the difference between safe riding and scaring everyone around you. You know your not in a race.

### **Keep up or go home**

This level of ride happens only a few times a year. This ride is for those who just want to haul ass all day on very squirrely roads. These rides are usually between 250 and 300 miles. we have had people try this and quit in the first two hours. There is no formal ride organization! If you try to "Fake" this kind of ride you may find yourself alone in the middle of nowhere.

### **Lying about about your abilities can get you or someone else killed.**

I know riders who have been riding for 20 plus years and still duck walk u turns, ride brakes down hills, brake in the middle of turns, weave in and out of line and tailgate or crowd others. If I described you in the above sentence, your not as good as you think you are. If you ride a thousand miles a year for ten years, your not an expert either.

**The ride officers and ride leaders of this club are trained to observe your riding.  
If they need to comment to you, they represent me and have my full support.  
The safety of our members is the primary concern here.  
If it hurts your feelings to be corrected, trust me, I don't care.**

***Don the Road Captain, Co-Founder of the TCMC***