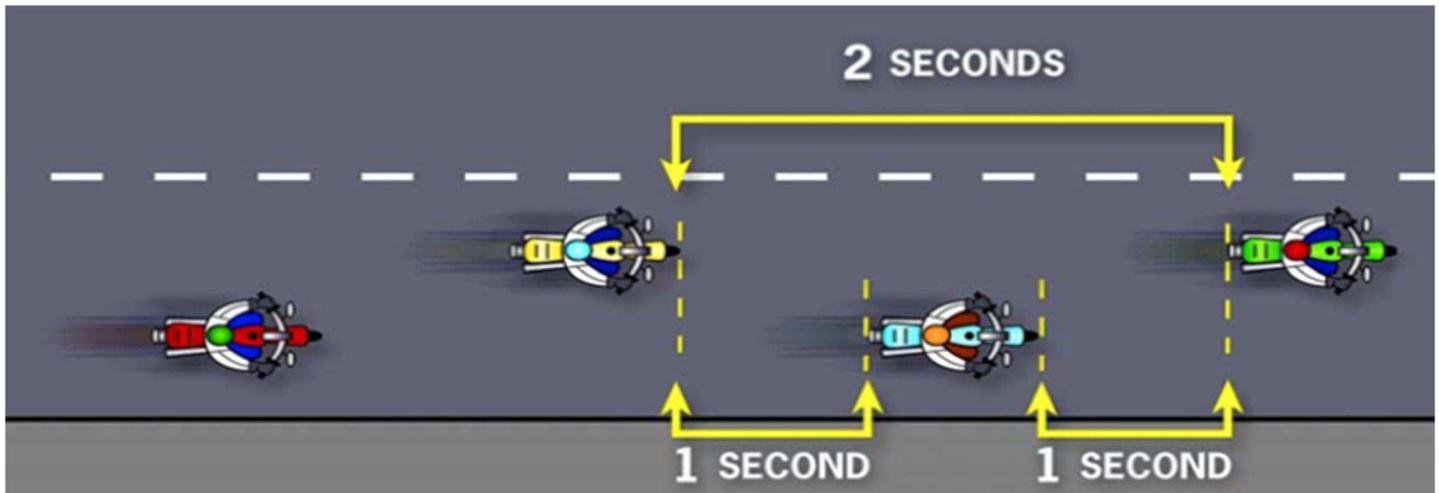




Refresher on Formation Riding

As we prepare for riding season, I have included a refresher on formation riding in this month's newsletter. It is a two-page (front/back) document which is worth reading (or re-reading!) Empire City MC rides in formation when we travel for safety and visibility, and although we try to instruct new riders to ride as we do in formation, sometimes we fall short and are too excited to get on the road and fail to communicate all the intricacies of formation riding.



The leader of the ride depends heavily upon all riders knowing their place, what to do and the ever-important "safety" or "sweep" at the tail of the ride, ensuring safety from cages (cars) encroaching into our lane of travel, as well as keeping an eye on everyone in the group for problems such as: breakdown, safety concern, loose baggage, etc.

Some groups use wireless comms to chat; however, at Empire City MC, we tend to be purists and use visual queues and hand signals for virtually all communications when we're moving. If you're ever confused by our hand movements, please ask! The official Empire City MC guide for formation riding is the LAST page of this newsletter and is removable/printable without damaging the rest of the newsletter.



A Few Updates

Sorry that this is yet another thin newsletter, we're busy planning the upcoming events and trips we're doing this and next year – but we're NOT alone in this! The Spartan MC have already published their 2023 riding calendar! We're working on ours, but at the same time, we're starting to plan our 60th Anniversary week-long journey in 2024.

On Saturday, 11th February, some ECMC members will be attending Ottawa Knights Barnight at T's Bar in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada – we're looking forward to the (much needed) trip. If you can com along, please do!

If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter (not many of you do), you might have noticed a significant drop in quality. This is because the Xerox 7555 printer is offline as we renovate my office. We will return to high-quality soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

Fri 10th – Sun 12th Feb: Winterlude in Ottawa! Come skate on the Rideau Canal – Come to the Ottawa Knights Barnight! So much to do this weekend in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada! Contact road-captain@empirecitymc.com for more information. Visit the official website of Ottawa's Winterlude at <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/winterlude.html>

Wed 15th Feb, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Fri 24th – 26th Feb: EVENT: The Pennsmen Run / 200th AMCC Meeting in Harrisburg. The news we would like to share is that we have been hard at work, putting together our own run. The Pennsmen 46th Anniversary & AMCC 200th Meeting will be held from 2/24/23-2/26/23 in Harrisburg, PA. Visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/pennsmen/pennsmen-run-info> for information.

Wed 1st Mar, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

Fri 3rd – Sun 5th Mar: EVENT: ECMC Invades Pittsburgh, PA!



Interested in any of these events or rides? Call Chaz, the Road Captain of Empire City MC to find out more, or RSVP.

In Empire City MC, the Vice President (Gary P) oversees coordinating all EVENTS (designated with the word "EVENT" in the calendar), and the Road Captain (Chaz A) is in charge of all rides/travel and accommodation (designated with the word "RIDE" in the calendar).

Chaz is happy to act as a conduit to arrange your involvement with any of our events/rides with a simple voice phone call to +1 212-212-CHAZ (2429) – hours for live assistance are 9am-10pm, 7-days a week. Voice only: No texts are allowed on this number at this time [we're working on that]. If you get voice mail, please leave a message.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

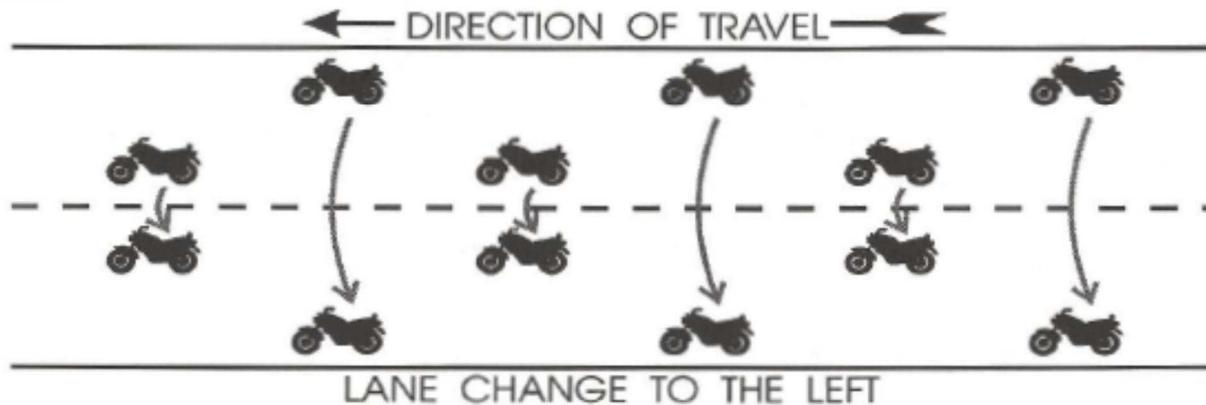
Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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Empire City Motorcycle Club

Rules for Formation Riding

1. The double file staggered formation is standard for group riding. Each bike is one length to the side and two bike lengths behind the one in front. This provides maximum maneuverability in an emergency. At speeds over 40mph, the distance between bikes increases proportionately. Maintain a safe distance, but try to avoid holes into which cars may slip, disrupting the formation.



2. When changing lanes in a 4+ lane highway, the Road Captain signals the change. This signal is passed back to the Assistant Road Captain at the end of the formation who, when it is safe, executes the change. After the Assistant Road Captain has safely taken the lane the Road Captain will signal the group to execute the lane change. Note that your relative position in the formation will probably change - instead of being on the left, you'll probably be on the right - this is because the Road Captain always hugs the highway dividing line.

3. When passing a vehicle on a 2 lane road, only one bike at a time will pass. When it's your turn, move into the left column of the formation, assess the safety of passing, and pass when it's safe. Once you've passed, assume a position in the right column to allow the bike passing behind you maximum space. After he's passed, assume your normal position.

4. If the Road Captain feels a single file is expedient (i.e. for a narrow road), he will signal.

5. If some of the group are separated at a red light, the Road Captain will halt the column and wait, or continue at a reduced speed. Under no circumstances will he make any turns until all are rejoined.

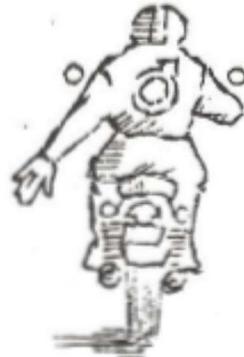
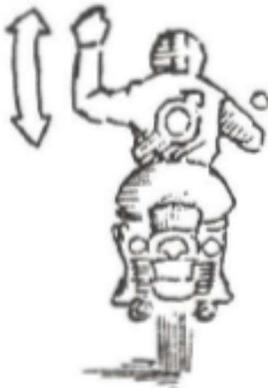
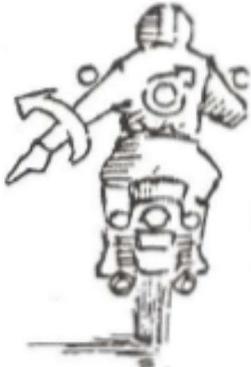
6. Each biker is responsible for the bike immediately behind him and is to signal ahead to the road Captain if this bike drops out. Check your rear-view mirrors regularly.

7. Each bike must have its headlight on while in formation. Not only is it the law, but it makes you more visible to everyone on the road.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR STANDARD FORMATION RIDING SIGNALS

Empire City Motorcycle Club

Formation Riding Signals

 <p>LEFT TURN or LANE CHANGE - use blinker or standard arm signal.</p>	 <p>RIGHT TURN or LANE CHANGE - use blinker or standard arm signal.</p>	 <p>STOP - left arm at 60°, palm facing back.</p>	 <p>SLOW DOWN - arm up and down, 60 - 90°, as in a "C".</p>
 <p>SPEED UP - arm up and down, elbow 90-120°, fist clenched.</p>	 <p>SINGLE FILE - one finger pointing up above helmet.</p>	 <p>STAGGERED DOUBLE FILE - two fingers pointing up above helmet</p>	 <p>ROAD HAZARD - moving a finger in a circular fashion while pointing to hazard on road</p>
 <p>GAS NEEDED - pat helmet with left hand.</p>	 <p>SIGNAL BLINKER ON - rapid opening and closing movement of thumb and fingers</p>	 <p>BIKE TROUBLE or LEAVING FORMATION - circle hand above head with finger pointing up: "STOP & REGROUP"</p>	<p>NOTE:</p> <p>In passing signals forward to the Road Captain, flashing lights bright-dim or honking horn may be needed to attract attention</p>