

The Bluegrass Riders Manifesto

Rather than a "motorcycle club," we are a group of mostly older riders, men and women that just enjoy riding. We have **no** desire for any more **rules or regulations** in our lives. There is **no membership committee**, there is no electoral body, there is no special funding, no requirement to attend any meetings (because **we don't have meetings**), and **no mandatory rides**. What we do have is a desire to ride and eat. Nothing is expected of you except to NOT break any laws while riding with the Old Coots.

Because I am an old, Old Coot! I sometimes have to be reminded just what our group is all about, so I thought I should start with the paragraph above.

We are a motorcycle riding group first and always. We are not sanctioned as a social club, although socializing is a great added benefit. We are Old Coots who are mostly set in our ways -- if we want to do something, we do it. If we don't like something, we say so. If you're offended then I'm sorry, but that's an Old Coot. Also, we do not have an electoral body with officers. That means politicking is not necessary. In fact it's frowned upon within The Old Coots. If you want to be an officer and you are into politicking then join a club.

I have recently been reminded that not having rules can lead to chaos and confusion and quite frankly Old Coots are confused enough without adding to it. So with the help of several Old Coots chapters from around the country I have tried to put together a list of chapter guidelines. (**Webster defines the word guideline as an indication or outline of policy or conduct.**)

The key here is that this is just a guide of what should be our policies or conduct within the group - they are not rules nor were they meant to be rules.

Ride Guidelines:

The first and foremost factor involving any ride should be safety. We should be aware that everyone's skill level varies.

#1. The person who plans and organizes a ride is the ride leader or chooses a ride leader. That person should strive to keep everyone's safety in mind when planning the ride.

As the ride leader you should realize that you will never be able to please everyone, some will want to go faster and some slower, and some will want to stop frequently and some do not want to stop at all. That's human nature, you won't be able to resolve everyone's issues, don't take it personal.

#2. On the other hand if you are not the ride leader you have to make a choice whether or not, based on the ride agenda, to follow or not, only you know your abilities and it is ultimately your decision. If you have questions or concerns about the ride you should take it up with the person in charge of the ride.

#3. To ride or not to ride. In the past we have had an unwritten policy that in case of inclement weather it was each individual's choice to ride or not.

Starting now it will be the decision of the ride organizer whether or not to cancel a ride. And it will be up to that individual to communicate that to everyone else the best they can.

But remember it is up to you to make the finale decision to ride or not to ride.

