

The Three W's of a No Drop Ride

The No Drop Ride has always been a part of the club's summer calendar. At the start of the 2019 riding season several of the No Drop Ride Leaders got together to exchange ideas to improve and continue this group ride. During that meeting (I loved the idea of holding a meeting while riding) we agreed it would be a good idea to define the "Who, What, and Why" for this group.

Who is a No Drop Rider?

It is easy to assume everyone riding in this group is either a super slow rider or super new to riding, or both. Wrong! Anyone new to the area wanting to find out what this club is all about will join this group. Because they are not mashing the pedals as hard as the hammerheads, they talk more. This gives new members a chance to learn a lot about the route, the club and the area. Some riders in this group may be young, just getting into riding. Others may be on the other end of the age rainbow who just wants to enjoy the ride. Either way, this group is more diverse than you may think.

What is a No Drop Ride?

The easiest way to explain this is to look at the Ride Leader. Technically speaking, a regular Ride Leader has no obligation other than getting everyone to sign in and ensure all riders are wearing a helmet. In fact, the leader of a No Drop Ride has many more responsibilities. They will always ride with their group. They will share their knowledge on riding skills, hand signs, and much more. When the group grows in size, it may become impossible to stay with everyone because faster riders will go on ahead. However, if the Ride Leader gets to a stop or intersection before the entire group gets there, he or she will stop and wait for the last member of the group to arrive before continuing on the route. Likewise, if the leader gets back to the start, they will wait in the lot until the last member of their group arrives safely. The No Drop Group is a ride with a little more love than the hammerheads group up front!

Why do we have a No Drop Group?

The No Drop Group is one of the reasons we have hundreds of members. This is an excellent group for new members and riders to get their start. It is an excellent learning opportunity for riders of all levels. Many riders start in this group but quickly migrate to the A and B group riders. Likewise, as those faster riders slow down with age, they often find themselves in this group because they don't want to ride hard all day long, they just want to ride at a reasonable pace. The reason we continue to put so much effort into this group is because we want to continue to grow as a club and we want to share the joy of riding with riders of all ages, speeds and skill levels.

We hope you will join us some Saturday this summer and see for yourself what the buzz is all about! If you are a seasoned rider and feel like you have something to contribute to this group, please consider leading this group. I am proud to present to you the 2019 No Drop Ride Leaders:

Charles Daniels

Charles (don't call him Charlie) is a great rider and even better person and I am certain you will have a great time on his rides.

Karen Bohn

Karen may be slowest of the No Drop Ride and she may even be on a hybrid. She has a Norwegian flare and is an expert at talking and pedaling at the same time.

Karen Schumm

Karen is a very strong rider, but one who enjoys going slow as much as she does going fast. She and her husband go on week long self-supported rides and when you get on her wheel you will see how it is supposed to happen.

Dan Butler

Dan is an interesting guy who plays the bag pipes when he is not on a bike. I have never heard him play the pipes but I have ridden with him many times. He can go as fast or as slow as you like.

Rosemary Pitts

Rosemary is a founding member of the club. She can fill you in on everyone in the club because she gets along with everyone in the club.

Bill Parmer

Bill is recovering from a medical procedure not related to his biking. He may never be on the starting line of a race, but he will always get you to the finish line.

Paul Cariker

Paul is always welcome to ride in my group and makes an excellent No Drop Ride Leader. I just finished dragging Paul around the panhandle of Florida for week recently. He is a very strong and safe rider; he is just never in a hurry.

Dennis and Karen Krepp

Karen is fun to ride with because she is always stronger than everyone in the group. Her husband Dennis is the club's Treasurer and has a positive spin on anything and everything.

Dave Burkett

You may find Dave riding a tandem with his wife, Diane. He rides at least three days a week and has been riding since the time tires were made of hard rubber.

Clay Howard

Clay is a rider and a gentleman. He also leads weekday evening rides and I constantly get compliments from guests who join him. He makes you feel welcome and at ease on two wheels. You will often find him with the Hammerheads but is just as capable of slowing it down to enjoy the ride.