

Riding with Jane

by Jane Deschaine



I'll have to admit even though I put a lot of miles on my bike; approximately 20k a year, most of those miles are put on either alone or with my boyfriend. When we do have a group of friends riding we are usually deemed Road Captains and we ride up front. It's very interesting for me to change it up a little every once in a while and ride in the back of the pack. I like to do this especially when I am not familiar with the people I am riding with. Most of the time it is very entertaining to see what goes on back there.

I'm a people watcher, yes I know, when you are on the bike you are to watch the road, but in between watching the road I get to have a glimpse of the bikers I ride behind. It's actually very educational because they remind me of how I should and shouldn't ride when in a group. Take the guy that rides with about ten others, the first five riders are a quarter of a mile ahead and he's concerned with how he looks riding down the road. Ya know, checking out the cars to see who's looking and I swear that princess wave is just on the verge of popping up. Never mind that the front riders have more than left us behind, and you can't be rude by just passing him up to catch the group so you just join in with the wave.

I'm sure you all have ridden with this one. You've partnered up side-by-side riding down the highway when you notice, hey, where'd he go? You think, "oh my gosh, what's wrong? Having trouble with your bike?" so you drop back with him. Oh good, everything's ok, and you catch up with the group. A few minutes later, what the?? He's back in your rear view mirror again. You don't drop back just wait...wait....wait yup he's beside you again. Oop, there he goes again. Makes you glad you are the last ones in the pack.

Don't get me wrong I've had my fair share of dirty looks from Road Captains and such for not riding correctly in a group. I do a mental check of what I did wrong and do my best not to make the same mistake twice. Always remember, speed consistency and your own personal distance affects not only you but also the folks you ride with.

Ride safe, have fun! Jane