

SAFETY FIRST MESSAGE: Ride Predictably, Communicate and Ride to the Right

Coach Alan Bazard – Shell Safety Coordinator

Ride Predictably. This means riding smoothly and consistently. Don't try to take turns too quickly or make any sudden maneuvers, unless absolutely necessary to avoid a collision or other unsafe situation. Look ahead when riding to identify possible obstacles or problems in your path and plan your "escape" well in advance. Then communicate what you plan on doing. . . "coming out", "stopping", "slowing", "rider on your left", "car up", "right turn", etc. Looking ahead and riding predictably will not only help you avoid a collision ahead of you, but it also makes it easier for others around you and can help you avoid a collision with another rider, or even a motor vehicle.

Communication: In addition to letting others know your actions, let your fellow riders know what you see. Do NOT automatically assume that the driver of a car sees you. Call out "CAR RIGHT" or "CAR LEFT" (front and back too) to alert riders around you. Then they will be ready to take defensive action, if needed, too.

One more Safety Topic this week, **Remember to Ride to the Right!**

Riding with the direction of vehicular traffic, Cyclists should ride as far to the right of the road or shoulder as safely possible. If the shoulder is maintained, then cyclists should be inside the shoulder (right of the white line). If no shoulder, ride within 18 inches of the white line or curb.

Texas State law allows cyclists to ride no more than two abreast. If riding two abreast impedes car traffic, then riders must ride single file.

Be safe, ride single file on busy roads and narrow roads. On quieter back roads it is nice to ride next to one another and talk. Just check behind frequently for vehicles approaching from the rear and move to the right to let them pass safely. And, if you hear a rider behind you call out "Car Back" don't wait for the car to be directly behind you, start moving to the right, right away. Remember, we are sharing the road.

For questions or more information on Group Riding Safety, contact Coach Alan – asbazard@yahoo.com