

**Dear BCR Riders,**

**Thanks for joining a Buckeye Country Roads tour.** We look forward to hosting you on what will be a wonderful adventure exploring the attractions of ‘Ohio as you’ve never seen it!’ Whether it is exploring the rural charm of Ohio’s Amish countryside or the beauty of its lakes and islands, we will do our best to create an intimate, friendly and memorable vacation. It is important that every rider has a relaxed and fun trip, but that also means riding safely and in compliance with basic rules of the road. Ohio has marvelously varied terrain and endless miles of asphalt made for cyclists to enjoy. But in order to negotiate the miles safely we ask that you observe the following safety rules in order to enhance your trip and to promote the safety of those around you.

- 1. You must always wear an CPSC approved bicycle helmet when riding on this tour.** Even small spills can lead to head injury if your head is unprotected.
- 2. Control your speed when going downhill.** Unexpected problems lurk on many descents. You might encounter potholes, gravel, or a stop sign at the bottom, and many great downhills have some hidden danger that can suddenly end your day’s ride. Even what you think are gradual curves can turn into disaster if you take them too fast. **A 30 MPH speed limit is recommended.** Those who disagree need only to think of the consequences of snapping a brake cable, blowing a tire, getting a flat, or hitting a hole or gravel patch while speeding.
- 3. Observe all road markings indicating ‘slow’ or ‘caution’ (sometimes marked ‘XXX’)**
- 4. Walk over Railroad tracks, or ride across with great care at a 90 degree angle. Be extra cautious if riding over tracks that are wet.**
- 5. Ride no more than two abreast and single file when traffic is present. Be very cautious if drafting off of another rider. Touching wheels will almost always spell trouble!**
- 6. Ride to the right. Pass on the left only, and let other riders know your intentions when slowing, stopping or passing. If dismounting to walk a hill, pull as far to the right as possible and walk on the edge of the berm or on the side of the road.**
- 7. When at intersections, it can be helpful to signal to others that the crossing is ‘clear’, but please exercise your own judgment even if another rider does do so. Your well-being is in your hands, not theirs.**
- 8. Use a mirror when riding, whether on the bike, your helmet or your glasses. It’s always important to know what’s around you.**

- 9. Never ride with head-phones. Your ability to hear activity around you can be very important to your safety and that of the other riders.**
- 10. When gravel is present, whether marked or not, be very cautious. No sudden attempts to maneuver, no hard braking. Get off and walk if you are at all uncomfortable.**
- 11. No use of cell phones while riding. Dismount in order to talk on your phone.**
- 12. If sampling or drinking any alcoholic product while on the route, be aware that cyclists are subject to the same legal liabilities as are motorists. Ohio's limit for blood alcohol content is .08 percent. Severely limit such sampling to a reasonable amount.**
- 13. Make sure your bike is in good working order before leaving home, with tubes and tires in good shape. To avoid possible long waits for SAG vehicle help, carry one or two spare tubes, a pump or CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge, rain gear, and enough water for 25 miles.**

We very much want you to have a safe and enjoyable ride, and we want to see you on the road, but not *ON* the road!!

Rod Hutton and Joe Florian  
Chief Cycling Officers  
Buckeye Country Roads Bicycle Tours