

# TRIKES

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Greetings, fellow HOG members!

As the weather gets cooler, more people are getting out to ride and our group is certainly no different. As you may have noticed, we have quite a few trike riders in our

group so I thought this would be a great opportunity to talk about the differences between two wheels and three wheels. First, let's go with the obvious, there is an extra wheel!

Trikes are the go-to choice for aging riders because they provide more stability thanks to that third wheel. But it also makes handling a trike different than handling a two-wheeled cycle.

First, let's talk about the law. (You knew I was gonna do that, don't act surprised.)

Once you get trained to ride a two wheeled motorcycle and obtained your endorsement, you can ride either a two- or three-wheel motorcycle. If you were not aware, the legal definition of motorcycles includes vehicles with three wheels. Except Slingshots, they were recently excluded from the definition.

If you don't take the course for two wheels and opt for the course with three wheels, you will have a trike restriction placed on your license. That means you can only ride three wheeled motorcycles.

The reason I wanted to talk about trikes is because they are overrepresented in fatal motorcycle crashes. There could be many different reasons for that, but it is something we should be aware of to make certain we ride safely and incident free. Below is a link to a You Tube video for Harley's trike orientation video. If you ride a

trike, or are thinking of riding a trike, I encourage you to give it a watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l0zedccC4A>

One of the other differences between the two vehicles is the way you must steer. Two wheeled steering is called counter steering, you push on the handgrip in the direction you want to turn. Turn right, push right. On three wheels, you turn the front wheel in the direction you want to go. To turn right, you pull on the right handgrip.

There is advanced training available for trike riders. But unfortunately, there is no place near us that offers the

course. If we get enough trike riders interested, I may be able to get something set up, but it will require traveling to another area of the state.

Pensacola and Jacksonville would be the closest places. Our road captains have noticed that when trikes are in the front of the pack on our group rides, the captains have a difficult time in seeing the rest of the group.



For that reason, they are requesting that trike riders on group rides find a place in the middle or the back of the group. You may be aware that we try to keep our groups limited to 10 riders. When we have more than that, we will break out into enough groups to accommodate everyone. If there are enough trikes, our captains will make a group just for trikes. We are fortunate in our chapter to have enough captains to be able to accommodate everyone who wants to ride. Additionally, several of our captains ride trikes! Whether you are on two wheels or three, ride safe and have fun!

ATTGAT,  
MARK