



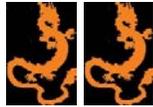
RIDE RATING GUIDELINES

The following is a brief description of the Dragon Chapter ride rating system designed to provide information to chapter members when deciding on which rides to participate in; based on their level of experience and/or comfort.



1 Dragon

This is the easiest of rides featuring non curving terrain and a ride of short duration (less than 75 miles round trip) that should find even the most inexperienced rider comfortable in going out, additionally no major traffic is encountered like that on the Interstate. These rides are excellent for inexperienced riders to grow their comfort level with group riding.



2 Dragons

This ride is a bit harder than a 1 dragon in that it might feature a few gentle curves and be a bit longer say 150 miles round trip. It could also feature some light urban traffic conditions. These rides would be a good chance for inexperienced riders to begin to stretch their abilities and gain more experience.



3 Dragons

Now we are starting to get to longer rides, up to 200 miles round trip and those involving curving terrain and perhaps traverse through metropolitan urban traffic. This rating requires skill levels above what would be classified as "beginner" or "novice".



4 Dragons

These rides feature lots of curves, some of which are decreasing radius turns (get tighter) and/or covering a major distance therefore requiring a great deal of technical skill and stamina, Even shorter rides with difficult curves could be considered a four dragon. (I.e. Tail the Dragon, Cherohala Skyway) Major traffic such as that on interstate 40 during rush hour can be part of this rating. Rides over 200 Miles round trip might also fall in this category.

5 Dragons



This is the most difficult category due to the severity and number of curves combined with a long ride. Devils Triangle, Moonshiner 28 and The Rattler would fall into this category due to the high technical skills required and/or the duration on the ride. Note some of these rides will be mostly curves and very long whereas others are very curvy even though shorter.

Other Points to keep in mind:

1. Extremes in weather and rain could easily add a dragon to the ride, Making a 3 into a 4. Be prepared for this possibility,
2. Experience Counts! What would be a normal 2 for experienced riders might be a solid 3 with only a few 1's under their belt.
3. Rides can have varying segments ranging from 1 to 5. It is up to the ride leader to evaluate the entire ride and give it an overall rating.
4. On the actual ride, where the ride leader deems it appropriate and safe to do so, as a ride approaches an increased level of difficulty, he can break the ride into smaller groups allowing each group to ride their experience level.
5. Urban traffic requires a high level of experience to deal with safely. Keep this in mind also.