

Hints for Newbies

If you are doing STP Escort duty for the first time, then you are a “Newbie”. This guideline is to assist the GWTA Escorts in deciding what their responsibilities are as well as how much authority they have over the bicyclist in the STP. The riders as well as the STP committee members appreciate the GWTA escorts and their assistance in making the STP a safe and well-supported ride. Here are some helpful hints (rules sound so formal) for the Escorts to use in their interaction with the cyclists.

- Urging the cyclists to follow the rules of the road is encouraged.
- The most common duty may be running for inner tubes for (unprepared) people with flats and no spares. You are not expected to help them change the tube or pump up the tire. If you wish to assist and the person in charge of your zone doesn't feel it is a problem, go ahead. It's good for moral as well as giving your backside a break.
- The other common duty is handing out bandages, aspirin, and other such aide. If you run low, you can re-supply at a first-aid station or from one of the Subaru's.
- If you have to stop to help someone, if at all possible, park on the opposite side of the road and turn on your flashers. Often the STP bicyclists are so focused on pedaling with their head down that they may not see your motorcycle in their path, and you become an obstruction.
- If you have to get off your motorcycle to go help someone, you're advised to take off your helmet, too. You'll be less intimidating, and will be able to hear better, too.
- If there is damage to a bicycle, such as a broken spoke, you are welcome to take the wheel to the nearest repair station, wait for it, and return it. **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TRANSPORT A BICYCLE OR A CYCLIST!!!** There is a tremendous desire to be as helpful as possible, but this can be a major liability problem, should anything happen while you are transporting someone. If a cyclist needs transportation, have a Subaru contacted. If things are busy for the Subaru's, it's quite easy to get a PSV (participant support vehicle) to transport the rider.
- If a hit and run is observed and it is at all possible to get the number of the person riding away from the accident, please do so. That information can be helpful to those who are handling the incident.
- The part of a GWTA Escort's duty which is necessary, but not so much fun, is an incident report. Usually, you will not have to complete a report, but there are a few reasons to do so.
 1. If a rider is transported by a vehicle other than an official STP vehicle, and a Subaru isn't on the scene. This is needed so Operations knows what has happened to the rider, should someone be looking for that rider.

