



## What do you need to know about joining us on a ride?

Most of us remember turning up for our first ride wondering how friendly this lot would be, how to fit in, what happens if I run into a bit of trouble and how can I have a great day? Well, if that sounds like you and you want to join a ride, this is how we roll...

### Before the ride

- Know yourself & your ski: typical fuel range (litres & kms) of your ski, think about your typical experience to date, what ride conditions you're comfortable with and probable fatigue levels.
- Basic gear: do you have the MAST essentials such as correct PFDs in good nick, tow rope, extinguisher etc. These may be checked at the ramp before you leave.
- Read the Club's Code of Conduct to understand expectations. Find it at [www.jetskitas.com](http://www.jetskitas.com)
- Club ride conditions: you must have PWC endorsement. Your ski must be registered & insured (for at least public liability); have a sturdy tow rope attached at the bow (but not long enough to get caught in your intake grate); accessible rope or similar for tying up at ramp.
- Read the ride briefing for full details on what to expect: ride distance, any special gear required, any extra fuel required, whether a passenger is ok, lunch plans, briefing time at ramp etc.
- Ask on Facebook for more info or contact the Ride Leader by phone. Tell us if you'd like some support or help at the ramp (eg reversing trailer) or on the ride (eg a ride buddy). We will be discreet...
- Register/RSVP for the event via Facebook so we know to expect you & watch FB for updates or changes (often due to weather).
- Useful extra gear: these aren't essential *unless the ride briefing says so*. Think about hat/cap/helmet and gloves (for warmth in winter or sun protection); sunglasses and/or goggles; non-slip boots/shoes; plenty of drinking water and lunch/snacks; handheld VHF radio; mobile phone in waterproof cover; personal locator beacon (PLB); a breaker bar and socket the right size for your intake grate. *CHECK as many of us have learned it may not be what the handbook says!!*
- Bring your info to fill in the ride sheet at the ramp: rego number, insurance policy info, emergency contact details. Bring your membership form & signed waiver (on website) or grab at the ramp.
- Be at the relevant ramp and have your ski set up well ahead of briefing time. Look for the Club flags to find us. Ask for guidance on tying on fuel drums if needed. Of course, don't hog the ramp!
- Listen carefully to the ride briefing, introduce yourself to the ride leader and ask any questions. It's far easier to check things while on dry land!

### On the ride

- Each group has at least one Ride Lead at the front & Ride Sweep at the rear They wear fluoro green vests over their PFDs. Every other rider wears orange fluoros & must ride between the Lead & Sweep. Sometimes the "ride buddy" for new people wears a pink fluoro.
- **No one** rides in front of the ride leader. Ride in the 'one-out-one-back' position not directly beside, to give the ride leader room to change direction.
- Don't overtake the ride leader without clearing it with him/her first. The ride leader's word is final.
- The group needs to stay within radio range so it must stay reasonably close together.
- No one is to fall behind the rear sweep. If the sweep needs you to pick up the pace, please do so unless there's a good reason. In that case, talk to the sweep to help you sort out the issue.
- New or less confident riders are encouraged to ride at the front of the group to access more settled water (if available on the day)
- If you are riding up the front, you have the privilege of clear water. It's not the same for those behind you. Zig-zagging & frequently changing direction up front makes it much more difficult for the rows of following riders who are already managing separation & muckier water behind you.
- If you want to get from the rear to the front of the group, ride around the outside if the conditions allow rather than straight through the middle!
- Check over your shoulder before you change direction ("Head check"). Someone might be in your blind spot & going faster than you realise.
- If there's an incident, check the people & call the nearest ride leader or sweep. Keep your distance unless called in to help.
- Maintain separation: don't ride close behind the person in front & keep wide on both sides. Allow room to see & avoid someone who falls off in front of you or slides sideways off a wave.
- Try to ride in a straight line! It's easy to accidentally veer into the path of someone coming along behind.
- Be considerate of others if you have a ski with music and speakers on board.
- Please help out at the boat ramp if you can & feel free to ask for help if you need it.

Non-members are welcome to come on one "test ride" before committing to joining up.