



Great Salt Lake Chapter [SRA]

Ride Captain Responsibilities



What is a Ride Captain (RC):

Ride Captain (RC) is the name for the rider who coordinates a multiple-bike ride and is a fundamental part of any ride planning. RC can be referred to as both the Leader and the **Sweep/Tail Gunner(s) (S/TG(s))** who, among their other duties, ensure other riders are safe. Working as part of a team, the **RC** is responsible for the safety of the riders and smooth running of the ride itself. Duties include planning, thinking ahead, communication and rider education. The **RC** may even act as a tour guide.

RC has to be well versed in the route. Must know about potential hazards, road conditions and any special events happening at the time of the ride. **RC** will ride the route a few days in advance to make sure nothing has changed, will keep an eye on the weather and possible road construction detours/ changes and will also be present at ride planning meetings.

Objectives & Attributes:

1. Provide for the safety and welfare of all individuals within the group and the reasonable safety of any surrounding motorists or pedestrians.
2. Avoid creating hazardous situations.
3. Lead the group to its destination and back in a well-organized, disciplined and safe manner.
4. Knowledgeable of the state laws and group riding guidelines.
5. Knowledgeable of 3 wheel motorcycle characteristics.
6. Be in good physical condition and mental attitude.
7. Have an assertive, positive, in-control attitude.
8. Create a feeling of safety & respect from the group riders.
9. Know appropriate hand signals.
10. Maintain a high priority of tact, understanding & diversity of riders. Remember, you were once a new rider. Deal with problems & issues as you would want to be treated.

Ride Captain 'select' Qualifications:

1. Be an Experienced Rider
2. Maintain a current valid motorcycle driver's license.
3. Maintain current motorcycle insurance, with no less than the MINIMUM required by the state for street riding purposes.
4. Volunteer for the Position
5. Complete the SRA-GSL Ride Captain Training Course
6. Recommended, but not mandatory - successfully completed a MSF Basic RiderCourse (BRC), Experienced RiderCourse (BRC2), Returning Rider-Basic RiderCourse (RR-BRC) or Advanced RiderCourse (ARC).
7. Be accepted by club officers as a Ride Captain.

Ride Captains (RCs) Duties:

1. Has full charge of the group until arrival at the destination (End Ride Point).
2. Ensure a well-maintained First Aid kit is present on ride; Recommended RC has a current First Aid/CPR certification.
3. If you are the RC for a Road Ride - Bring a clip board & print 2 copies of the **'Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement'** & the **'GSL Ride Captains Pre-Ride Safety Briefing Checklist'** from the GSL website **Safety Corner**
4. Will wear a Ride Captain vest (high visibility)
5. Will be at the head of the group, and will ride just to the left of lane center.
6. Will lead the group in a manner consistent with the objectives and guidelines as stated herein, and will execute his/her best judgment in situations not specifically covered in these guidelines.

7. RC & S/TG(s) should all have cell phones & #s are exchanged (**hands-free (blue-tooth) capability is recommended**)
Note: If RC does not possess a cell phone, designate a rider within the group as 911 caller.
8. Ensure a well-stocked tool kit is present on ride.
9. Identify other riders carrying cell phones, tool kits, and first aid kits and make their presence known to everyone in the group.
10. All RCs will meet at least 30 minutes prior to departure to coordinate responsibilities.
11. Perform Pre-Ride Safety Briefing Checklist to all riders (If Safety Officer is present, can delegate)
12. Will not depart from any scheduled stop until signaled from S/TG.
13. Will be responsible for the final decision with regard to ride termination due to inclement weather, hazardous conditions, or other difficult or unsafe conditions.
14. Will identify new riders and place them in the group formation accordingly.
 - Will place riders new to freeway riding in the right of lane center near the front of the group.
15. Will instruct any rider to ride in a specific position within the group, or leave the group entirely, for reasons of misconduct, disorderly, unsafe riding, faulty/unsafe equipment, or danger to the group. Common sense and tact should be used.
 - Deal with problems & issues as you would want to be treated using a tactful word in the ear of a rider whose behavior is causing problems.
16. Will lead the single file staggered formation (3 wheel), in one traffic lane.
17. Will be responsible for initiating all maneuvers within traffic in a "safety first" manner.
18. Will establish & maintain a uniform speed consistent w/the ability of the least experienced rider & w/consideration of safe road conditions, traffic, local road or freeway, narrow road, mountain/ curvy roads, traveling directly adjacent to parked vehicles, weather or any other condition which may severely restrict the ability of individual group members to perform emergency avoidance maneuvers.
19. Will maintain a safe following distance by using the MINIMUM 4 second rule between the group and any vehicle ahead. This distance may be increased at the discretion of the Ride Captain, but will NOT be decreased.
20. Be flexible, patient, mentor/teach new riders and HAVE FUN
21. Deal with the police and other unexpected surprises, and making sure everybody has a fun, safe ride. The Ride Captain is part of a team including the sweeps/tail gunners, and is, by definition, an experienced rider.

Tail Gunner (TG) Responsibilities:

Responsible for guarding the rear of the group from tailgating and for keeping up with riders that need to stop for one reason or the other. Always communicate your intentions with the TG when dropping from the formation with the 'thumbs up or thumbs down' signal. The TG can also be known as the *Sweep* (S).

The Sweep (S) Responsibilities (in large group rides):

In a large touring group ride is normally following in a car or truck (rescue vehicle). They would provide occasional relief for passengers of bikes on a long trip. They can also carry luggage and camping gear for the group and first aid supplies. An ice chest with beverages and some snacks are also a nice touch. Being the *Sweep* on a ride is kool! It's always nice if the sweep has a trailer hitch to accommodate a rescue trailer if needed.

Sweep/Tail Gunner (S/TG) Duties:

1. Will assist the **RC** in the performance of his/her duties and be well-versed in group riding procedures
2. May be required to assume the duties of **RC** in his/her duties.
3. Will ride at the rear of the group (except when conditions dictate otherwise) unless required to take on the responsibilities of the **RC**.
4. Will be observant of any hazardous conditions or conduct, take immediate corrective action and inform the **RC** at the earliest safe opportunity.
5. Will normally ride where they can see the formation the best.
6. Maintain Group Integrity of the group - S/TG will become RC's eyes for ensuring group integrity
7. Lane protection is the **S/TG's** added responsibility. ON the highway, as the group prepares to make a lane change, the **S/TG** will make the lane change 1st as soon as is safe to do so, followed by the RC, then the remainder of the group. In this way, the **S/TG** protects that lane keeping it clear for the entire group to move into this lane.