DRUID DRIBBLE
Edition 1 Volume 10 – Head Road Captain

One of the most visible Chapter Officers one will immediately identify and seek out will be a Road Captain. These folks (all volunteers) plan, coordinate, and execute the core reason why H.O.G. is successful, the rides. They are usually the most seasoned, experienced, levelheaded riders you will meet. With this being said, the whole point to H.O.G. is to get out and ride…period. We, as humans, are a social lot. Very few of us are complete loners who interact with no one. There is sometimes an exception here that all of us need. The quality of getting out on a motorcycle, many times by oneself, to "decompress", to "relax", to just hit a level of nirvana, to be with just me, myself, and I, - cannot be overlooked. No deadlines to meet, no phones ringing, no texts pinging, no one yakking in your ear, all establish a level of "aahhh" that can't be replicated by any other activity.

However, unlike many other activities, motorcycling offers you the option. Solitude for times when it is needed like described above and companionship with others who enjoy sharing the challenge of the open road. Having someone to share this experience with is the other option that our Road Captains set the stage with. The guru who "herds the cats" aka – the Road Captain team for the Chapter, is the Chapter's Head Road Captain.

Most Chapters have several scheduled rides each month with sometimes a short notice ride that pops in here and there. The intent is to offer options to the Chapter members a way to get out of town with others who like and want to ride motorcycles. Riding in numbers offers the chance to let one's hair down (literally and figuratively for those of us who have lost that battle), allows one to interact with like-minded folks who enjoy motorcycling, and offers the safety net of having others riding with you.

The Head Road Captain (HRC) sits down with the Chapter's Road Captains and coordinates the manning of these rides. The HRC will identify who volunteers to lead a ride (aka the ride's Lead Road Captain - LRC), who will volunteer to "Sweep" for that ride, and perhaps identify if a "Rover" is needed in the middle of a ride's formation. The HRC confirms the dates and ensures the scheduled ride does not conflict with other Chapter or perhaps even major Dealership activities. The HRC also does a sanity check to ensure the ride doesn't go too long or hits a destination that can't be achieved in a reasonable time frame. A "map review" of the proposed route by "Google" or other means is routine. The HRC also ensures that there is a gas/rest stop scheduled as needed. We normally tie in a meal component in with our rides and if applicable, the HRC ensures the ride's LRC contacts that restaurant and confirms that they can take us as a group if for nothing more than a matter of courtesy. The LRC and the HRC will initially ck the TXDOT website to make sure the route is clear and will be reconfirmed shortly before the conduct of the ride to make sure nothing has changed. One thing to acknowledge is that the LRC will many times

pre-ride the route normally a week out or so taking time out of their day to enhance the efficiency and safety of the ride … all in the name of risk management.

The HRC is also responsible for keeping the Road Captain team on one sheet of music. The intent here is that no matter who is the LRC/Sweep team, hopefully the riders will find that the metrics of the conduct of the ride will yield no surprises from one ride to another. The HRC will also try to offer a recognized Red Cross F/A instruction for the Road Captain Team so in case something does happen… To further support the Road Captain team, the HRC will offer tips and opportunities for the Road Captain team to enhance their skills by scheduling an Advanced Riders Course through the Dealership's Rider Coach/Instructor.

The Head Road Captain, as you see, is a pretty busy individual with a lot of self-imposed duties all in the name of keeping the Chapter's rides coordinated, safe, fun, and entertaining. They work hard and readily deserve the respect they get. Of note, in the Caliente Chapter, they are the only Chapter Officer voted into position by their peers (aka the other active Road Captains). All the other Chapter Officers be they the Primary Officers or the Discretionary Officers are either appointed or approved by the Dealer Liaison. That speaks in spades of the importance, competence, and respect this position entails.