

Road Captain's Meeting

Saturday March 14, 2009

I just want to say thanks to everyone who was able to make our meeting Saturday. It was great to get together again and we had some good discussion about the upcoming riding season, the State HOG Rally, and some changes for the coming year with regard to our responsibilities on rides.

For those who couldn't make it, you were missed. However, I'll try to summarize what was discussed in this e-mail - and in addition, going forward, we are going to add our meeting minutes to the website on the Road Captain's Page so that those who have schedule conflicts can still catch up on the web site.

Let's start with a couple of basics:

1. First, if you want to participate in our Chapter as a Road Captain, it's pretty simple. Just let us know – show up – and participate! It's just about that simple. Of course, we want to carry on our tradition of safe riding, so there are some things on the Road Captain's Page you should become familiar with and we do request Advanced Riding Skills training. But the big thing is to be available and participate on our rides. So, be sure to catch me or any of the current Road Captains if you have an interest. They'll be glad to help you out as well.
2. Second, if you were **not** at Saturday's meeting, but are still interested in becoming or remaining a Road Captain, please send me a short note at shaffer.mark@sbcglobal.net. I currently have 33 Road Captains listed for the Chapter. With a new riding season at hand, we are trying to re-establish who is currently active in our ranks as there have been a lot of changes with folks over the winter months. Please include your cell phone contact information. We are going to try to get a card printed up for the HOG Rally so that we can all have quick access to one another. I also am trying to update my Road Captain distribution list to be sure nobody is being left out. So if you do not want to participate any more, let me know that also and I'll take you off my list so you don't get all of this stuff in your e-mail.
3. We are officially beginning the riding season with this Tuesday's dinner ride to the Brightwood Grille. With that, we've decided as a Chapter this year to try to commit 4 Road Captains to each ride that we can so that there is either an alternate, or in the event of a huge turn-out, extra road captains to maintain safety. RCs can either notify me, Rick Fish, Tim Goudy or Vernon and Donna Reese of your interest in one of the posted rides on the calendar and we will then enter the names of the Lead, Sweep and Alternates on the calendar on the website. And by the way, it's better to have too many RCs than not enough!! So let us know which rides you can help out with –because the calendar's pretty loaded – just go check it out. **By the way, this is the participation part. We really need to get names attached to rides as soon as possible. We'll monitor who is participating and over the long term, if you are unable to help us out due to your schedule, that's cool. You just can't continue to be a Road Captain. There are still a lot of Chapter Activities you can be involved in. If everyone steps up for say at least one ride per month as a Lead, Sweep or Alternate – we'll have more than enough help to successfully lead all of our planned rides this year. Thanks in advance for stepping up.**

4. Over the next several weekends, beginning the 21st – we'll be scheduling either a Saturday or a Sunday ride for Road Captains Only – these will be our pre-ride of the coming State Rally Routes for Guided Rides. Those who can are encouraged to make the rides with us – but if you are unable, you are encouraged to be sure you are familiar with the various routes as your schedule allows as we will definitely need all Road Captains to participate in the coming State Rally. So check out the HOG Calendar online to see when these rides will be.
5. There are two Advanced Riding Skills classes currently scheduled for this year. The first one is April 11 and the second is September 5. These are one day classes that are available to HOG Members for only \$50. Harley-Davidson will reimburse you \$50 in a gift certificate you can use at the Dealership. So be sure and go on-line to the Dealer sight and find out more specifics about the course. It would be great to fill the April class up with our Road Captains in advance of the State Rally.
6. For the State Rally – it will definitely be necessary for us to have some more detailed meetings and discussion prior to the May 28 Kick Off, however we did talk about a couple of things for starters:
 - a. We will need All Road Captains for the Rally! Mark Claassen is heading up the coordination of Leads and Sweeps for all of the Guided Rides at the Rally. Many were volunteered for at the meeting this Saturday. We will post on the website what rides we still need commitments for.
 - b. We will have a Road Captain's Meeting each morning of the Rally. This will be to ensure that we have sufficient help for all of the Guided Rides, also for the Harley-Davidson Demo Rides as well as any other issues that might crop up during the Rally and require some additional Ride Assistance. We would ask that everyone be prepared to participate in those meetings.
 - c. We're trying to decide on a way to identify Road Captains for the Rally so that folks who are going on the Guided Rides will know who to approach for information. We kicked around ideas from just "Staff" T-shirts that will be available to ball caps to vests. If you have an idea for this, don't be bashful. Share it! We will also try to establish a "Ride Board" that will contain information about the rides, times of departure and return and the names of the Road Captains for that ride. Hopefully that will help attendees also.
 - d. Much more to come on the State Rally as we get closer – so stay tuned.

I think that about covers it for now. Be sure to send me a note or give me a call if you have any questions. Watch the calendar for the upcoming Road Captain Rides – and keep an eye on the web site for future updates to the Road Captain's Page. Looking forward to a great Riding Season!

Mark (Road Dawg) Shaffer