

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

RFRC OH-1 Shop; March 10, 2024

Presenters:

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THANKS FOR ATTENDING!



RFRC on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Smoky Mts., NC

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

ABSTRACT

The joy of a group ride can be ruined with improper leadership. Both the Road Captain (“RC”) and Tail Gunner (“TG”) play pivotal roles in assuring a safe and enjoyable ride; from planning to stops to safe return home. This short course provides important guidance for RCs and TGs to maximize their skills in these roles.



Fundraiser Ride to KY (200905)

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

- I. Introduction of Participants
- II. The Reason for this Course
- III. The Basics
- IV. The Ride Itself
- V. New Rider Program
- VI. Common RC Mistakes
- VII. The Constitution
- VIII. Conclusion



Along VT4, central VT

II. The reason for this course

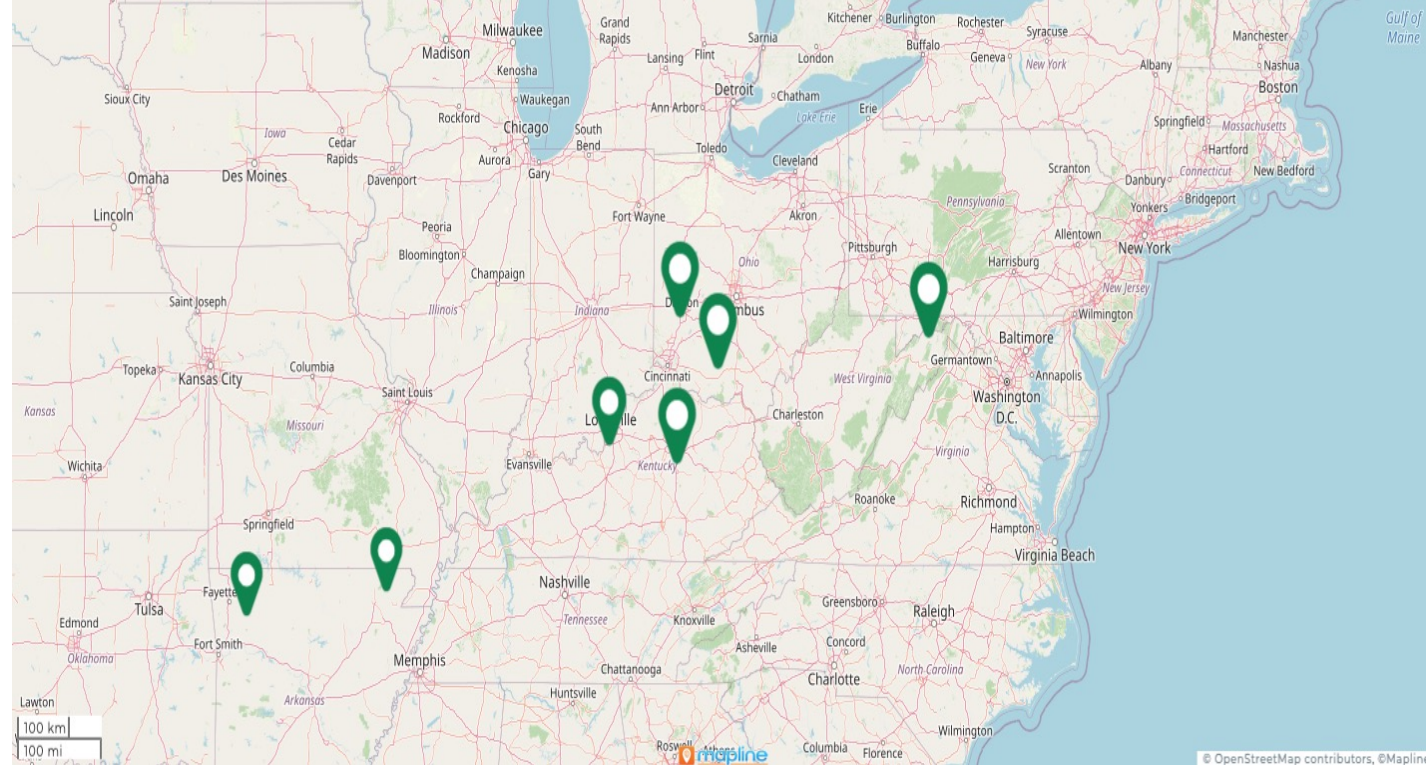
1. Example of past accidents by others
2. Importance of a good RC
 - A. Potential Dangers
 - B. Intersections
 - C. Separation and Cars
 - D. Speed v. Safety
 - E. RC and TG BOTH have an obligation to keep the group safe



ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

III. The Basics

- A. Knowing your riders
- B. Positions
- C. The pre-ride meeting
- D. Ride communications
- E. Chase Cars



RFRC Locations as of 240310

III. The Basics

A. Ride planning

1. Pre-ride the ride (if possible)
2. Safe roads
3. Total mileage
4. Mileage between stops
5. Weather concerns
6. Comfort, gas, and food stops
7. Blockers*
 - a. Tied to shifting positions*



Wings riding in the Ozarks, S. MO

* This is a point of controversy within the RFRC

III. The BASICS

B. Knowing your riders

1. Beginner v. experienced
2. Positioning of new riders
3. Hotdogs
 - a. We represent Leo!
4. Dealing with 1%'ers
 - a. Give respect, get respect
 - b. Again, we represent Leo!



Tail of the Dragon, TN

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

III. The BASICS

C. Positions

1. RC, TG, medic, mechanic
2. Shifting position or filling spots (up to the RC)*
 - a. Discomfort with riding inside or outside?
3. Single-file or staggered
 - a. Tighten up in towns, near lights, etc.
 - b. Widen out when more open for comfort
4. Passing vehicles (esp. trucks)...do it fast!
5. Blockers ride 2nd -5th
 - a. Commonly Pres rides 2nd; not in the RFRC
6. "2nd RC" in middle of bigger rides (8+ bikes)

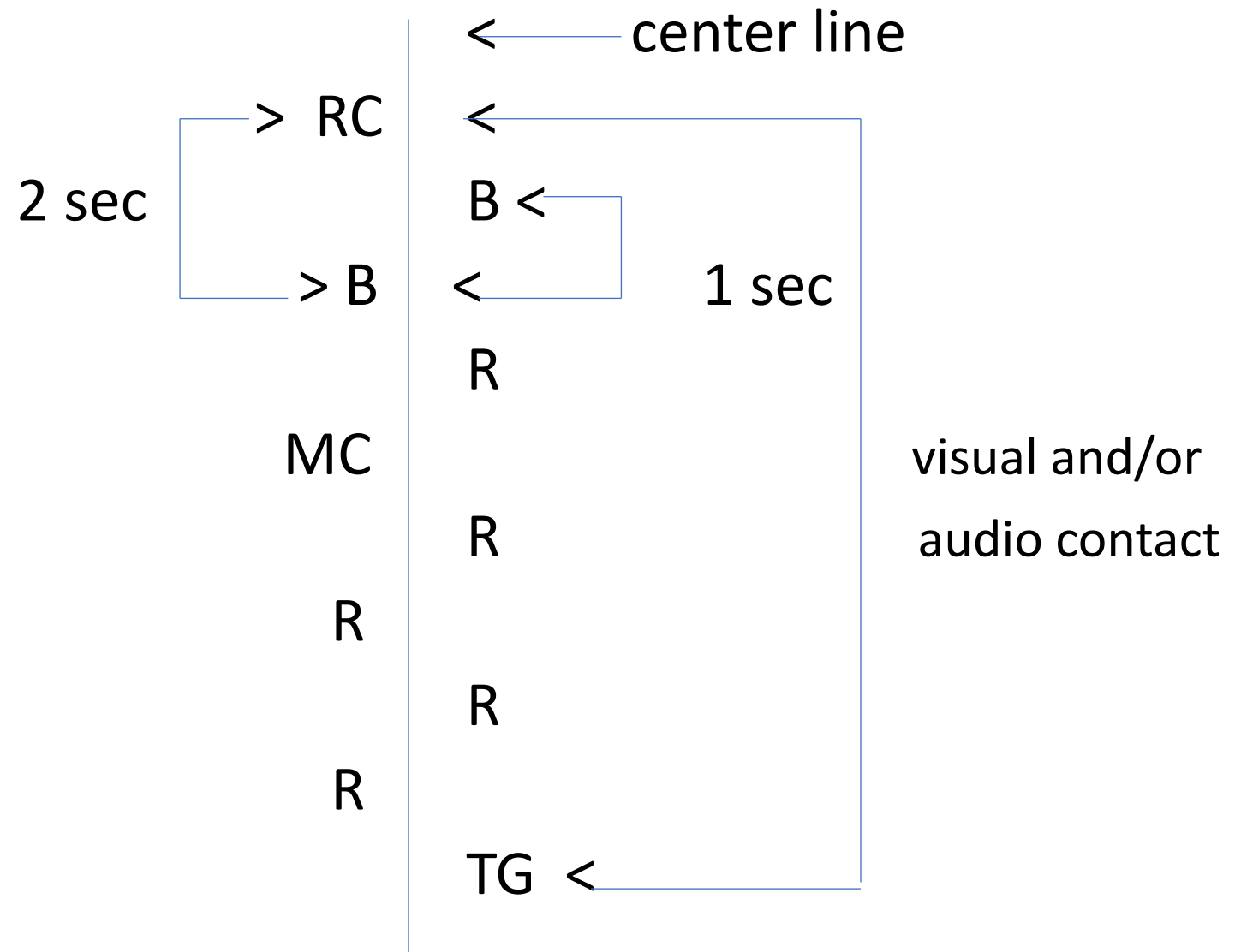
* This is a point of controversy within the RFRC (See the following diagrams)



Toddler at Thunder on the Strip, circa 8/23/05

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

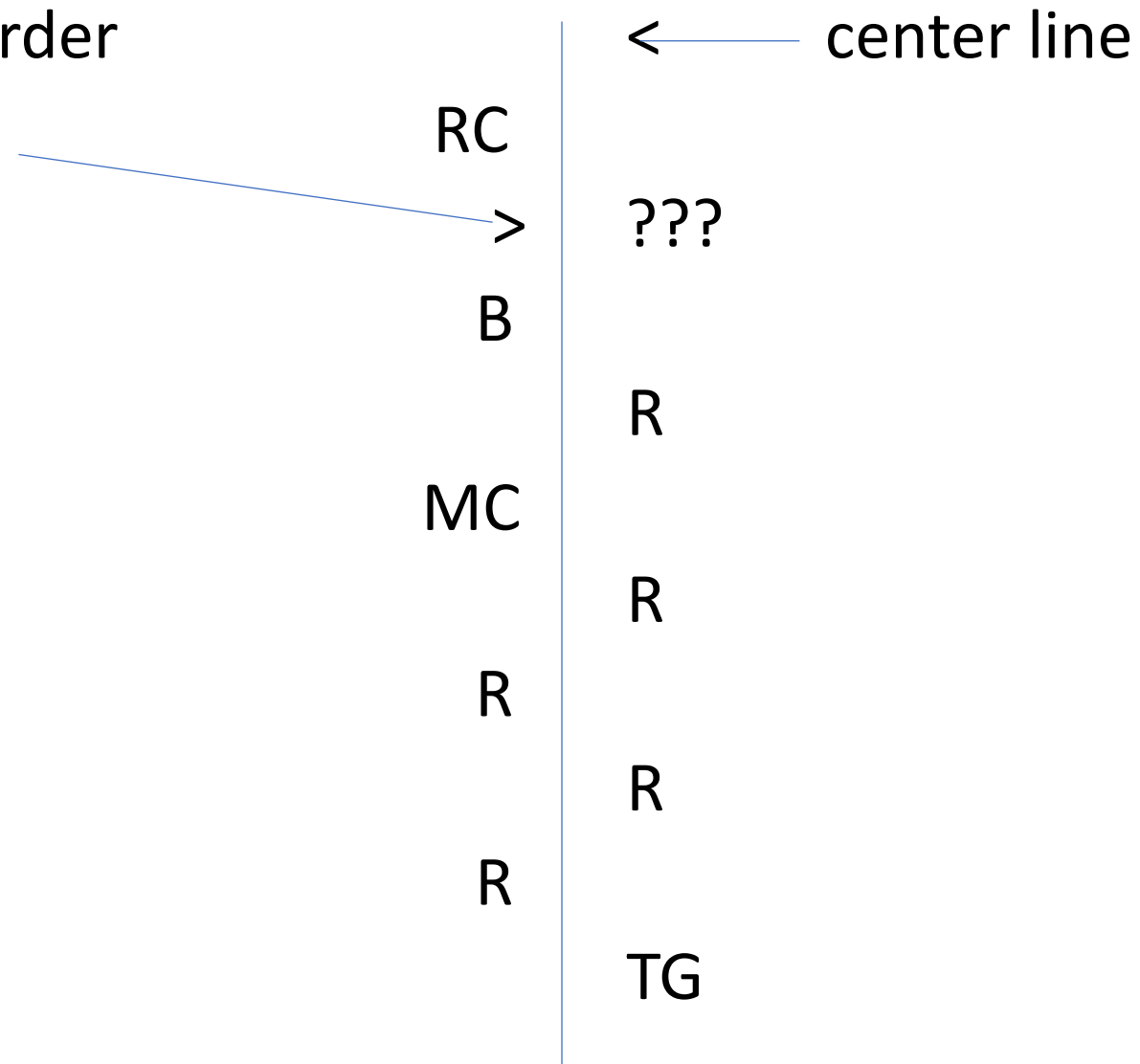
Ideal Riding Order



ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

Altered Riding Order

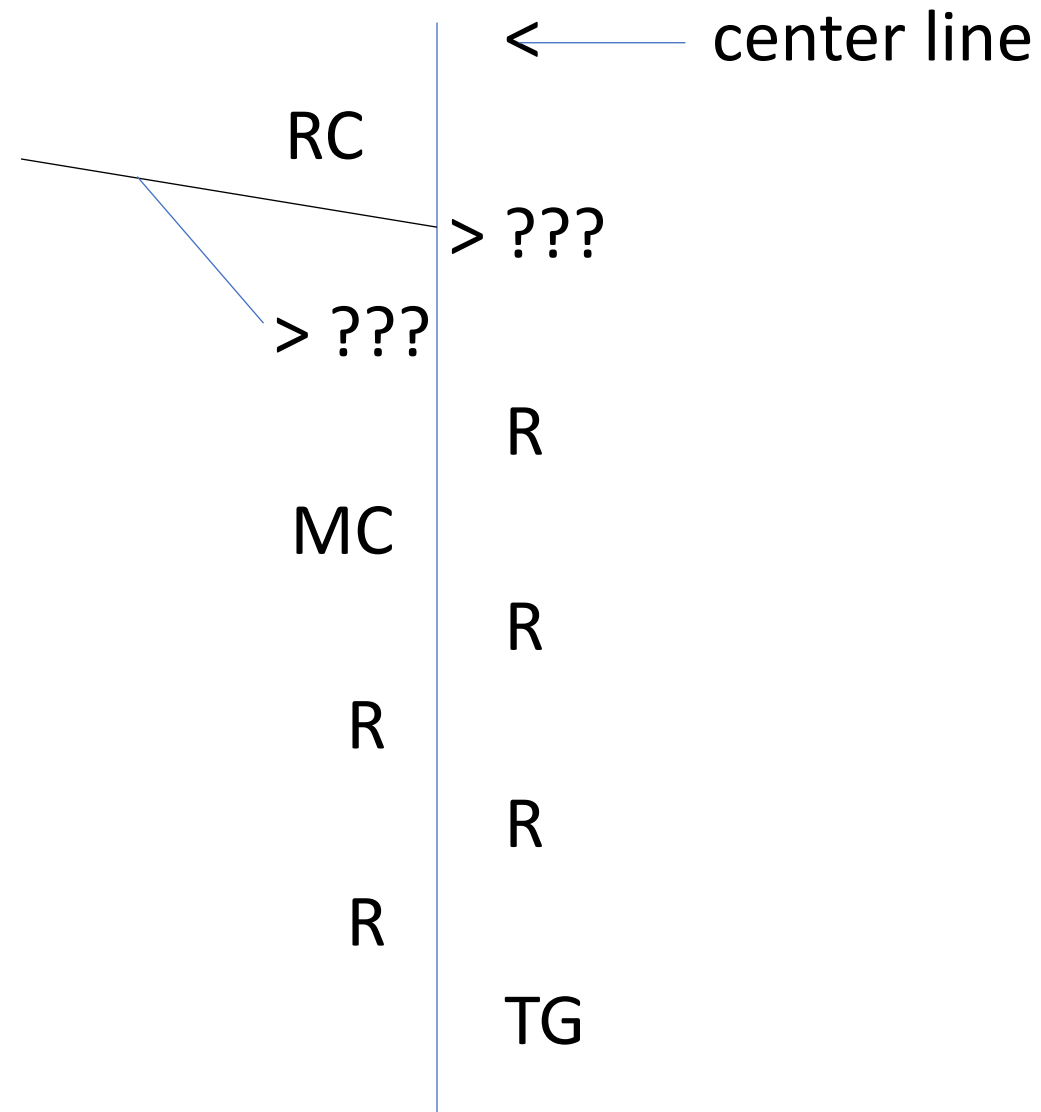
- A Blocker is gone



ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

Altered Riding Order

- Both Blockers are gone



ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

III. The BASICS

D. The pre-ride meeting

1. Review the route
2. Review the hand signals
 - a. And get them up high/passed back & forth
 - b. Standard and “internal” ones
3. Review riding speed and positioning
4. Planned comfort and food stops
5. Potential hazards
6. Single-filed or staggered
7. Stay tight in towns, for lights and signs



Bugsy Stylin'

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

D. Pre-Ride Meeting, Continued

8 Blockers?

- a. Tell folks to move over to let blockers by
- b. If not blocking, stay in the middle of the pack

9. “Tail wags the dog” getting back in line

10. Emphasize “Ride Your Ride”

E. Ride communications

1. RC to TG and between

- a. Ideal to have CB’s, cardos, etc. front and back

F. Chase Cars



RFRC at Hocking Hills, OH, circa 230715



IV. The Ride Itself

1. Periodic stops to discuss concerns
2. Emergency stops; mechanical or medical
3. Passing; yes or no or depends



The *Sunset Mistress* and *Roukan* in Rocky Mt. National Park, CO

ROAD CAPTAIN/TAIL GUNNER TRAINING

- V: RFRC's NEW RIDER PROGRAM

- At least one chapter officer, preferably at least two, takes a ride with the new rider to evaluate their skill level and need for improvement
 - Their angles, their speed, their group riding, their comfort on the road and on their bike
- Based on a bad experience we had with an “alleged seasoned rider”...
- New Rider route will be used consistently so every new rider has the same experience. The route should include some highway, moderate turns, and bends. We will pull in and out of a gas station making sure they can exit and enter the road safely in a group while evaluating how well they ride in the pack.



VI. Common RC Mistakes

1. Forgetting to make sure to have full gas tanks and empty bladders
2. Riding too fast/losing contact
3. Losing folks at lights, stop signs
4. Not being aware of lagging riders
5. Overestimating rider skill level and/or tolerance for long rides



Road Captain/Tail Gunner Training

- VII: RFRC's Constitution
 - We know it is a significant piece of literature, But ALL RFRC members are expected to read and know it.
 - And officers are expected to be resources for it

VIII. CONCLUSION

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The Kancamagus Hwy, NH, circa 220815