

Don't just *ride*, *Bike MS*

BIKE MS: MINUTEMAN RIDE *presented by Biogen*
SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015
RIDE GUIDE



Minuteman Ride
2015

one-day bike MS series presented by



National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Greater New England Chapter
101A First Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451-1115
1-800-344-4867 • bikeMSgne@nmss.org

Welcome

Bike MS Ride Guide ● Minuteman Ride ● Saturday, July 18, 2015

Welcome to the 2015 Bike MS: Minuteman Ride! With your support, we are providing hope for people in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont who are living with multiple sclerosis. For every dollar raised, 85 cents directly supports the mission of the National MS Society. You are truly making a difference.

Bike MS: Minuteman Ride is a celebration of your hard work. While there is still no cure, we have made great strides in the movement to create a world free of MS.

Research is cutting edge, and there have been great advances in diagnosis and treatment.

As we take to the roads in July, please remember those who face the challenges of multiple sclerosis on a daily basis. On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter, thank you.

Happy Riding!

Liz

HIGHLIGHTS OF MINUTEMAN RIDE 2014

TOP 5 TEAMS		TOP 5 INDIVIDUALS	
Team Landry	\$50,133	Douglas McAllister	\$50,133
Biogen Idec Rolling Clones	\$28,967	Eli Lipcon	\$42,984
Our Bikes are Borrowed	\$2,970	William Ryan	\$3,275
Transcendcyclists	\$2,654	Lewis Geffen	\$2,941
Karner	\$2,480	Mark Zamir	\$2,455

2015 GOAL: \$175,000

BIKE MS PRIZES

THE MORE YOU RAISE, THE MORE PRIZE LEVELS!

All Bike MS cyclists raising \$1,000 or more will receive a custom embroidered Bike MS cap.

All Bike MS cyclists raising \$1,500 or more will receive, a custom embroidered Bike MS cap and a 1-Day VIP cycling jersey.

All Bike MS cyclists raising \$5,000 or more will receive a 1-Day VIP cycling jersey, a bike shop gift card and will be eligible for the Passport Program.*

*As a National MS Society cyclist and top fundraiser, cyclists from our chapter who have raised at least \$5,000 are eligible to become a member of the elite National Bike MS Passport Program! Through the National Bike MS Passport Program, members are eligible to attend many other Bike MS Rides throughout the nation. For more information, visit www.bikemsgne.org.

You can also decide to donate your prize back to the chapter. By doing so, you can help us continue to deliver quality programs and services locally to nearly 21,000 people living with MS.



Pre-Ride / Start / Finish

PRE-RIDE PREP – BIKE TUNE/CHECK We recommend that you have your bike tuned at one of the Bike MS supporting bike shops (see page 5) before the ride. All cyclists should carry an extra tube, a pump, and patch kit. You may not know how to repair a puncture, but another cyclist may be able to help you.

WHAT TO BRING FOR THE RIDE:

- Helmet – REQUIRED
- Tuned-up bicycle, with pump
- Seat bag with tire patch kit & spare tube
- Two water bottles and/or hydration pack
- Rider numbers and wristband – REQUIRED
- Padded bike shorts, jersey, gloves & shoes
- Jacket, rain gear, arm warmers, leg warmers or tights as needed for weather
- Sunglasses, lip balm, and sunscreen
- Identification (driver's license)
- Emergency cash and credit card
- Cellular telephone
- Medications
- **NO HEADPHONES, IPODS or RADIOS!!**
Electronics are not permitted while riding.

START / FINISH

Concord District Courthouse
305 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742-3616

REGISTRATION

Opens at 7:30 a.m.

START TIME

8:30 a.m. for 60 mile & 25 mile rides

DIRECTIONS TO THE START/FINISH

From 128 north or south: Exit 29B - merge onto 2 west towards Fitchburg. Left at Concord Turnpike/MA2/MA2A/Route 2. Right at Walden Street. End: 305 Walden Street.

PARKING is available in the courthouse lot.

REGISTRATION AND DONATION DROP

When you arrive at the start, go to check-in for registration.

JUNIOR RIDERS

All participants between the ages of 14 and 18 must have a signed and notarized waiver, and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian unless they have a signed and notarized Authorization of Responsibility waiver. Both forms can be found in the Document Downloads section of the website. All participants must be 14 years or older on the day of the event. No trailers or trailer-bikes and no child carriers/seats.

FOOD

The National MS Society provides nutritious snacks, water, and Gatorade along the route at each rest stop. A barbecue lunch is offered at the finish line.

Training

TRAINING

Bike MS rides can be challenging, but a little training and preparation make the ride easier and more enjoyable. Here are some simple steps to bicycling success: fitness training and sports nutrition.

Fitness Training

Bike MS rides are fun and achievable for nearly every skill level. As a starting point, less experienced riders should consider the steps listed below to help prepare.

Check with your bike shop

The best source for bicycling information is your local bike shop. Make sure your bike is properly fitted!

Official bike shop partners are a good source for any cycling question. (See page 5.)

Participate in team or bike shop training rides

You'll have a much safer and more enjoyable experience after you've spent time in the saddle during organized rides, learning the ins and outs of group cycling.

Contact one of our bike shops for more information on local rides or visit the training section at www.MSnewengland.org for a listing of training rides.

Keep track of your mileage

A key part of training is assessing how you've improved. Adding a bicycle computer to your bike is a good step. Basic bicycle computers can monitor your distance, ride time, and speed.

Start with short rides

Keep your first few rides of the year short and easy. 30-60 minutes of riding get you used to sitting on the saddle without over-tiring. Don't worry about speed or distance on these rides. The purpose is to become comfortable on the bike and to gain basic cardiovascular fitness.

Add in occasional longer rides

After becoming comfortable with riding for an hour or so, attempt an endurance day of two or more hours once a week. Try to maintain the same pace established during the shorter rides, but slow down if it is necessary to ride a longer time. Taking rest stops every hour can help rejuvenate you on longer rides. Be sure to eat and drink enough to avoid depleting your energy reserves (known as bonking). The purpose at this stage is to gain confidence in your ability to do long rides and to improve your cardiovascular fitness.

For more advanced training, add hill intervals

After mastering the basics, challenge yourself with more advanced training. After warming up for at least 20 minutes, find a hill you can climb in 10-20 minutes without totally exhausting yourself. After riding up the hill, recover on the way down, and then go up again. As your fitness improves, add more repeats. The power and stamina developed with hill work helps you to tackle the larger hills on the route.

Sports Nutrition

Eating and drinking right is just as key an element of training for and riding in Bike MS rides as is the number of miles a rider spends on a bike. The best way to take charge of your body is to use common sense. However, always consult your physician before starting any training program.

It is important to be well hydrated before, during, and after a ride. If you do not drink enough fluids, dehydration will result, causing nausea, muscle cramps, chills, and lack of motivation. Dehydration could lead to heat stroke, a serious medical condition.

To prevent dehydration, we recommend you use the following general guidelines: on all rides, you should drink 4 to 8 ounces of water or carbohydrate drinks every 15 to 30 minutes. Drink more if it's hot or humid, or if you're really riding hard. On rides over two hours in duration, carbohydrate replacement drinks empty more slowly from the stomach, so the total amount you drink should be increased to 5 to 10 ounces every 15 to 30 minutes. These energy drinks help increase your performance, reduce cramps, and lessen the possibility of heat stroke. In addition, energy bars help you avoid the famous "BONK" that many cyclists experience on longer rides. You should eat on long rides. Good food choices include energy bars and fruit.

SUPPORT VEHICLES (SAG)

To signal Support And Gear vehicles, follow these three steps:

- 1. Off Road.** Move off the path.
- 2. Off Bike.** Stand or sit nearby.
- 3. Signal to SAG or staff vehicle.**
 - Use thumbs down for help needed.
 - If resting, give thumbs up sign.

Etiquette and Safety

RIDER/SAFETY CYCLING ETIQUETTE

- Obey all traffic signs and signals. This includes traffic lights and stop signs. If in doubt, check www.massbike.org/bikelaw
- Communicate with your fellow riders using proper cycling terms, such as "On your left," "Car back," etc. (See page 4.)
- Ride single file, please! Stay to the right, except to pass. Pass on the left side only. Do not pass on the right.
- Do not cross center line in roadway, regardless of passing zone.
- Use proper signals when turning. Make left turns from the center of the road or left turn lane.
- Cross railroad tracks perpendicular to the tracks.
- Ride in control of your bike at all times. You should be able to stop within a reasonable distance.
- Ride defensively and predictably, with consideration for your fellow riders. If you must stop, move off the road to the right.
- Don't use aero bars when in a group.
- Point out and call out any road hazards ahead. These include potholes, drain grates, stray animals, opening car doors, bigger sticks or stones, parked cars, etc.
- Do not overlap wheels of cyclist ahead of you. A slight direction change or gust of wind could easily cause you to touch wheels and fall.
- Pedal down hill when you are at the front of the bunch. Cyclists dislike having to ride under brakes.
- When climbing hills, avoid following a wheel too closely. Many riders often lose their momentum when rising out of the saddle on a hill which can cause a sudden deceleration. This can catch a rider who is following too closely, resulting in a fall from a wheel touch.
- Follow the instructions of MS Ride Leaders. Ride Leaders are registered riders who assist with safety and communication along the route. They are distinguished by their unique bike jerseys.
- Also check League of American Bicyclists website: bikeleague.org

BIKE MS TIPS - VOCAL WARNINGS

- **Slowing** - When someone yells out "Slowing," this means that there is something that is causing the pack to slow down. This can be anything from a light, a slower pack of bikes, or a car up ahead. In any event, prepare to slow down. Tap your brakes and repeat the yell "Slowing." This is to indicate to others that you've heard them and you are also slowing. This will also alert those behind you that you are slowing down.
- **Stopping** - When someone yells out "Stopping," this means that there is something that is causing the pack to stop. This can be anything from a light, a slower pack of bikes, a stop sign, or a car up ahead. In any event, prepare to stop. Tap your brakes and repeat the yell "Stopping." It's VERY IMPORTANT not to slam on your brakes, especially if there are others behind you!!
- **Hold your line** - When someone yells, "Hold your line," this means that you need to stay in a straight line as best you can. In most cases, the person yelling this out to you is attempting to pass. If you swing out or if you don't keep your bike steady, you could cause the other rider trouble.
- **On your Left** - When someone yells, "On your Left," this means that they are passing you on your left. No need to take this personally. Let them pass as they have the right of way. You should never hear "On your Right." That is, a cyclist should never pass on the right. However, there are many cyclists with varying experience. Be on the look out for those who will pass on your right. If someone does this, *kindly* remind him or her that they should pass on the left. Also, it is common courtesy to say "Thank You" to the person yelling "on your left." This indicates that you've heard them.
- **Car Up** - When someone yells, "Car Up," this means that there is a car up front. It is intended to be a verbal caution indicating that a stop may be necessary. If you hear this, repeat the call so that others know that you are aware of the vehicle up front. It is also common courtesy to repeat this so that others behind you know about the car.
- **Car Back** - When someone yells, "Car Back," this means that there is a car behind you. It is intended to be a verbal caution indicating that a car may be passing from behind. It is also common courtesy to repeat this so that others in front of you know about the car.

Good to Know

2015 Bike MS Jerseys for Sale

Purchase a top quality bike MS cycling jersey from Primal, offered at below typical retail pricing.

Buy a bike MS jersey for training and help promote our great rides!

To Order:

www.bikeMSgne.org, click on **Bike MS Store**.



Team photos

Team pictures are taken Saturday morning before the ride. Team pictures are great to use in thank you letters and next year's donation requests. Get your team together and strike a pose!



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make it happen!

Do you know anyone who can lend a helping hand? If so, please contact Emily Christian, Development Manager, Endurance Events, at 781-693-5154, or e-mail emily.christian@nmss.org. Volunteer assignments range from preparing ride materials to loading trucks or managing a rest-stop.

WEATHER

We ride rain or shine, and there is no rain date. In the event of severe weather, the Ride Manager may suspend or cancel the ride. Should the weather take a turn for the worse during the ride, SAG vehicles will transport you to designated shelter areas along the route. If the weather looks questionable, call 781-693-5185 no earlier than 24 hours before the ride for a recorded message on the event status.

BIKE SHOPS

Partnering with Bike Shops is crucial to the success of Bike MS rides. The following are Bike Shops who support the Minuteman Ride:

Landry's Bicycles	landrys.com	Boston, Natick, Norwood, Westborough
Wheelworks	wheelworks.com	Belmont, Somerville

Bike MS Champion

Bike MS Champions connects Bike MS cyclists to people living with MS. Many cyclists who ride in one of the Bike MS Rides don't personally know anyone who has MS. Creating relationships between cyclists and people with MS helps motivate, inspire, raise awareness, and communicate the importance of finding a cure. Cyclists who choose to participate are connected with their Champion through a bright blue bandana, signed by the Champion. Cyclists keep this bandana with them throughout the ride. For many cyclists, MS Champions create that extra motivation to reach the finish line. Many MS Champions like to write inspirational messages or words of thanks to their cyclists. Others prefer to share their personal experiences living with multiple sclerosis in a note to their rider, through email messages, over the telephone or in person. To join the Bike MS Champions program, please contact Sue Tidd at 207-781-7960 or sue.tidd@nmss.org

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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