



## Bike MS Ride Guide Saturday, July 14, 2012



Thank you to our sponsors:



## Bike MS Ride Guide

### Minuteman Ride

Saturday, July 14, 2012

Welcome to the 2012 Bike MS: Minuteman Ride, presented by New England Acura Group! With your support, we are providing hope for more than 18,000 people in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, 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!

*I want to personally thank you for joining the MS Movement. People with MS need us now more than ever. Let's remember the reason we are all here – to create a world free of MS!*

Liz Strawn  
Ride Manager

## Highlights of Minuteman Ride 2011:

### TOP 5 TEAMS:

Hopkinton Hens	\$2,211
U.S. Art Cyclones	\$2,060
Team Ute	\$1,585
Lyra	\$1,221
Team Velox Rota	\$1,165

### TOP 5 INDIVIDUALS:

Will Ryan	\$5,550
David Walt	\$3,150
Ron Joseph	\$2,640
Mary Galusha	\$2,476
Karen Kenney	\$1,590

**2012 GOAL: \$70,000**

Prizes				
DOLLARS RAISED	T-Shirt	Bike MS Gloves	1-Day VIP Jersey	Bike Shop Gift Card
Top 5 Fundraisers	Bike MS Wind Jacket			
\$20,000+	◆	◆	◆	\$200
\$10,000 - 19,999	◆	◆	◆	\$100
\$5,000 - 9,999	◆	◆	◆	\$50
\$1,500-\$4,999	◆	◆	◆	
\$1,000 - 1,499	◆	◆		
\$250 - 999	◆			

## Pre-Ride

### 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

60 mile & 25 mile - 9 a.m.

### 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, PowerBars, PowerGels, and Gatorade along the route at each rest stop. A barbeque lunch is offered at the finish line.

## 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](http://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.

## Rider Etiquette/Safety Cycling Etiquette

- Obey all traffic signs and signals. This includes traffic lights and stop signs. If in doubt, check [www.massbike.org/bikelaw](http://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](http://bikeleague.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## 2012 Bike MS Jerseys for Sale

Purchase a top quality bike MS cycling jersey from Verge, offered at below typical retail pricing. Only \$45!

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

### To Order:

[www.bikeMSgne.org](http://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 Brenda Barbour, Associate Vice President of Volunteer Development, at 781-890-4990, ext. 135, or e-mail [brenda.barbour@nmss.org](mailto:brenda.barbour@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	<a href="http://landrys.com">landrys.com</a>	Boston, Natick, Norwood, Westborough
Wheelworks	<a href="http://wheelworks.com">wheelworks.com</a>	Belmont, Somerville

## Bike MS Champion

When you see fellow cyclists wearing a *blue bandana*, it signifies that they are members of the **Bike MS Champions** program. This program connects Bike MS cyclists to people who have MS. Some cyclists have the bandana signed by someone they know who has MS. However, many cyclists who participate 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.

## Contact Info

### Chapter Address

Greater New England Chapter  
101A First Avenue  
Waltham, MA 02451-1115



**Main Phone:** 800-344-4867

**Websites:** [www.bikeMSgne.org](http://www.bikeMSgne.org)  
[www.MSnewengland.org](http://www.MSnewengland.org)

**Bike MS Email:** [bikeMSgne@nmss.org](mailto:bikeMSgne@nmss.org)

### Sr. Development Manager

Liz Strawn 508-759-0402  
[liz.strawn@nmss.org](mailto:liz.strawn@nmss.org)

### Associate V.P. of Development

Joel Richards 781-693-5143  
[joel.richards@nmss.org](mailto:joel.richards@nmss.org)

### Associate V.P. of Volunteer Development

Brenda Barbour 781-693-5135  
[brenda.barbour@nmss.org](mailto:brenda.barbour@nmss.org)



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