



BMMC Ride Captain Memo

To: All Ride Captains
From: Tom Clements - Ride Captain Coordinator
Date: November 25, 2008

As Thanksgiving fast approaches, I wish you all an enjoyable holiday with family and friends. One of the things I am thankful for is the fine group of BMMC Ride Captains that we have!

I wish to emphasize a few items that should make our Club's rides even better than they already are. First, when you are a Ride Host, realize that you have help available. If you are feeling overwhelmed and/or under-prepared, just contact me or any other Board member and we can either help out directly or send you toward other resources.

Second, please use the Ride Captain Guide to the fullest extent possible. The Cell phone list/briefing card that you have - and a new one for 2009 will be forthcoming soon - is a copy of the briefing guidelines that are in the RC Guide. I want us all to use it, without fail, as we give our pre-ride briefings! Don't trust your memory or make an attempt to "wing it." The Ride Host's briefing sets the stage for the entire ride and is too important a task to leave to chance.

Third, "Public Praise, Private Criticism" is an adage worth embracing by all of us. Whenever you have a beef to pick with a fellow rider - be that rider a new member or another RC - make every effort to find a place and time in which the critique can be delivered out-of-range of other eyes and ears. If such a place cannot be found, wait until it can. On the other hand, handing out attaboys that others can see and hear are the way to go. This fosters

group pride, camaraderie, and makes the praise have even more impact. Plus, it allows other riders to better understand what constitutes good group riding skill.

Fourth, as Ride Host, always download a few extra *Guest Waiver* forms from the website (under Downloads) and have them ready to use, just in case the BMMC inviter or guest invitee failed to get and complete the form beforehand.

Fifth, please be sure to utilize our new procedure for forming the groups. Do not announce the order of departure and don't feel that the Ride Host must always lead the first group. Keep the order of departure a secret, initially known only among the Lead/Sweep teams. This forces the member and guest riders to form up not knowing whether they will depart early or late. In that way, the eager-beavers or the laid-back late-comers don't always end up with like-minded riders. I hope it will lead to more-extensive BMMC fellowship.

I look forward to a great 2009 riding season. Thanks again for the skill and leadership that you bring to our Club!