

Any one can lead a ride.

Russ Bethe

Chapter Educator WI-G

With thanks to Nick Hansen for some of the content.

At the January social, Nick Hansen was asked to give a talk on how to set up a ride. Nick is one of the best ride planners I know and has set up some of the best single and multi-day rides I have been on. Nick discussed what it takes to run a ride and showed how simple it is. The best part of being in a riding group is that someone else is taking all the work out of planning rides for the group. This takes out the hardest part of planning a ride for most, "where are we going?". To lead a ride all you have to do is pick someplace you want to go and pick a route to get there. Sounds pretty simple and it is. Remember when you pick a place not everyone will want to go there but that is their problem, they will miss out on the fun if they don't come along. The next thing to do is to pick a date, time and meeting place. Make it a time when you can go, a trip without the leader really does not work very well. Besides if you miss your trip you will have done all the work for no fun in return. The next step is to get the information to a chapter officer so that it can be promoted at social, on the web page and Wisconsin Wings. The earlier you get this information in the more riders you will be able to attract increasing the fun.

Those are all of the basic start up things that need to be done for each trip. After this is done all other things can be done but do not need to be done on every trip. It depends on what you plan to do. You should try to ride the route in advance but on very long trips this may be not very easy to do. I just got lucky and was able to check most of a route I will be using for a trip to Honda Homecoming later this summer while on a business trip. If the opportunity had not come up I would have just used the old look at the map method. When you plan your route make a stop every 80 to 100 miles. Plan more time to get somewhere than you would for just you. Groups travel slower than solo riders. If someone needs a stop before the scheduled stop do it and then just change the stops around if you can do it. Be flexible while in route. And do not forget to take a map along. Highway departments tear up roads without any prior notice. You can check a route on Friday and everything is fine and the next day you will get there and the highway department has decided to replace the pavement or there is a three-alarm fire blocking the road.

If you are going to a restaurant or some attraction you may want to call the manager and see if they have special group policies or rates and make a reservation. Most places will take a reservation for a group and have you call just before with the exact number. We have been to several places that do not give tours to individuals but will take a scheduled group for a tour so do not be afraid to ask. If you have a favorite activity that normally does not involve a motorcycle, this may make a great winter fun activity. Invite the group. Some recent examples have been dinner rides with the car, paintball, or a sporting event. If you have special interest share it with the group. Don't be afraid to try something new.

If just half the members lead an event over the year we would never be home because there is just too much to do. So please share just one event with the chapter. You may hear one person complain about something but you probably will give several others a very good experience they never would of thought of or known of on their own. And this is the reason we joined and participate in the chapter. Fun and different experiences.