



KawaNOW

North Central Region
Prairie Thunder Nomads

2010 Regional Rally

July 9 – 11th, 2010

Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Dave Mills – “BiscuitsNGravy”
Regional Leader

Ray – “Rayski271”
Assistant Regional Leader

Greg Wilson – “glwilson”
Volunteer

<http://www.kawanow.org/>

Welcome to the North Central Regional 2010 Rally

Welcome to the 2010 KawaNOW North Central Region Rally held July 9 – 11th, 2010 in the beautiful river-bluff area of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

Prairie du Chien is located in southwest Wisconsin. It sits along the 250 mile National Scenic Byway “Great River Road” that winds along the banks of the Mississippi River offering breathtaking beauty, and incredible geological formations along the river and adjacent bluffs.

The city is the oldest community on the Upper Mississippi River with rich heritage and traditions and is filled with sites of historic significance. Many are located on St. Feriole Island, one of the city's earliest settlements. Villa Louis, a Victorian-era estate developed on the island in the 1840s by fur trader Hercules Dousman, was Wisconsin's first State Historic Site and is available for tours.

Two state parks and a National Monument are also located in the area.

3-days of riding are in store for this year's rally location – which provides some of the best motorcycle-riding areas in the Midwest.

Group-riding is an opportunity to share the open road, wonderful scenery, camaraderie, and love for a common motorcycle – the Kawasaki Nomad with other like-minded people of KawaNOW.

But like most motorcycle experiences, this one is best enjoyed by following a few simple guidelines that keep everyone safe; while providing a memorable experience for all.

It is the intention of this rally to provide a safe environment where everyone attending can have a great experience.

It is recommended that you read the information provided on the following pages and listed websites so you become familiar with the group-riding-rules, and etiquette.

Thank you for doing your part in helping making this year's rally a great success!

Sincerely,
Dave, Ray, and Greg

RALLY CHECK-IN – RALLY PACKETS

You are asked to check-in to the rally in the late afternoon of Thursday, July 8th, 2010 at the Country Inn & Suites, 1801 Cabela's Lane, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 between 4PM and 6PM (The Country Inn is located at the north-end of town off Rt. 35 Great River Road.)

While every attempt will be made to have a table or other obvious location of a “check-in point”, it may be that we will be required by the hotel to change our plans. In the event you arrive at the Country Inn and do not see the check-in point; go to the hotel's front-desk and ask for Dave Mills or Greg Wilson. The hotel will be instructed to contact us.

Make every attempt to arrive and check-in prior to 6pm. Late arrivals will have to pick-up their rally-packet prior to the pre-ride meeting on Saturday, July 9th at 8AM.

Rally waivers, and other important information will be provided in your rally packet. Waivers and ICE emergency forms will need to be filled-out completely when arriving at the pre-ride meetings.

PRE-RIDE MEETINGS: MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

PRE-RIDE meetings will be held each day of the rally at **8:00AM sharp** at the Country Inn & Suites, 1801 Cabela's Lane, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 (Located at the north-end of town off the Rt. 35 Great River Road.)

Please be on time in respect for the other group members.

RIDE DEPARTURE time is estimated to be at **9AM sharp** on Friday, the 9th – otherwise 8:30 on the remaining days.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED EACH DAY to the pre-ride meetings for the overall safety of the group for anyone wishing to ride with the group.

BRING THE FOLLOWING TO THE PRE-RIDE MEETING

- ✓ **Waivers signed and filled-out:** Have your ride-waivers filled-out completely.
- ✓ **Emergency Information Forms:** Have these filled-out completely.
- ✓ **Full gas tanks; and empty bladders:** Come to the debriefing meeting with both of these.

Sorry, but no one will be allowed to join the group-ride without their waivers and emergency information filled-out and handed in.

SAFETY-CHECK YOUR BIKE PRIOR TO THE RALLY

- ✓ Do preventative maintenance; and have your bike checked-out for any potential mechanical and safety problems prior to the rally.
- ✓ Use your owner's manual for basic safety-check items.

RIDE CAPTAIN AND SWEEP-RIDER INTRODUCTIONS & DUTIES

At this time; the Ride Captain & Sweep-Rider have not been determined – although, we have a good idea who they will be.

- Greg and Dave will provide a pre-ride briefing and separate the group into smaller sizes when the number of motorcycles exceeds a pre-determined number deemed to be controllable and safe for the group ride of that day.
- The Ride Captain will lead the group-ride, and will be the “boss” of the ride – making all decisions, as best as possible, for the safety and enjoyment of the group as a whole.
- Please follow the instructions and guidance given by the Ride Captain.
- A “Sweep-rider” will ride at the end of each group and keep the group together.

SUPPLIES & GEAR NEEDED ON RIDES

- Water
- Snack bars & etc.
- Glasses
- Money / Credit Card
- Phone
- ICE Card
- Rain Gear
- Map of local area / GPS
- Tools
- Proper clothing, boots, and sun-screen
- NOTE: Helmets are not required for riders under the age of 18 in the states we will be riding in. (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and possibly Illinois)

Check the North Central Region Rally Board for the “**Packing List**” thread for other items that may be necessary for a rally-ride.

ADMITTING YOUR RIDING SKILL LEVEL

Skill-levels of all riders will be asked about during the pre-ride meeting.

All of us started-out without any motorcycle riding skills, and among this group there is nothing wrong with admitting your level of riding skill; or comfort with group-riding.

The rally rides are about having a great experience in a safe situation.

Speak-up during the pre-ride meetings if you have concerns – and during the ride if necessary.

- ✓ This will help the Ride Captain determine a ride's appropriateness for any particular rider's skill level; and help determine positioning of riders within the group for safety purposes.
- ✓ Admitting your skill-level or concerns will help the captain arrange the ride to accommodate for everyone's enjoyment and safety.

- ✓ Do NOT join a ride that you question your ability on. Your decision to ride beyond your ability may jeopardize your safety and the safety of others on the ride.

GROUP RIDE ROUTES

- Descriptions of the road types to be ridden will be given in the pre-ride meetings; as well as any possible hazards specific to the route. (i.e., straight, sweeping, twisty, hilly, gravel, potholes, animals, and etc.)
- The routes were chosen for their variety in road-types and scenery; with additional consideration to a safe group-ride environment.
- Routes posted on KawaNOW may be changed due to unforeseeable causes, such as construction or gravel-overlays.
- **Route Printout:** A condensed turn-by-turn printout of the ride will be given to each rider.
- **Bring your own map of the local area.**

SPEED

- The rides will NOT exceed the local speed limits; and may on occasion be lower than the listed speed limit.
- **Ride distance, time, and pacing-speed** will be discussed in the pre-ride meeting.
- We will not be riding fast on these rides.

DISTANCE TIMING & BREAKS

The premise for the distance timing of a ride was made using a rule of thumb that for every 1 to 1 ½ hours of riding time there will be a 10-15 minute break when you are not riding.

(This NOT a hard-fast rule on any of the rides in this area; as some routes do not allow for the timing of such stops; thus consider this as a “general-rule”.)

- It would be during these short stops when one can stretch; go to the restroom (if available); and get a quick drink (that you bring on your bike as some stops will not be at a place of business or town).
- **NO ALCOHOL** consumption is allowed on this group-ride.
- Restroom breaks will be considered about every 1 ½ hours; or as close to that time-period as possible. (Don’t drink a lot of coffee before the trip!!)

FUEL STOPS

- Gas stops will be determined by the shortest distance any one bike can go before fueling and the availability of fuel along the route.
- Fueling should always be done when the Ride Captain stops for fuel.
- In other words; even if you are not empty, fill your tank when the group stops for fuel – otherwise you risk running out of gas later if no other gas-stops are available.

FOOD STOPS

- Lunch will be any time from 11AM to 1PM and will be estimated prior to each ride.
- Plan accordingly – bring snack-bars. (Dinner will be at the end of each day’s ride; at one’s own choice. Be sure to check with others.)
- The locations for food-stops will be basic restaurants or bar-restaurants with common American food-fare.
- Consideration was given to the pricing of the menu; however we cannot control what any establishment may charge.
- One exception to the pricing will be when we stop at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor’s Center. The price of lunch there is approximately \$10-12 per person for lunch, but it has always been good food, reasonable portions, and an absolutely great location.

Safety First:

GROUP RIDING RULES & ETIQUETTE

You were provided a sheet in your rally packet called the **Motorcycle Safety Foundation's "Guide To Group Riding"**.

Please read and "know" this information before joining a group-ride. The group's safety depends on you doing so.

HAND SIGNALS

A certain number of the "hand-signals" will be used throughout the rides.

- ✓ You will be expected to repeat the signals given by the bike in front of you so the remaining group will know what to expect.
- ✓ This is particularly important for the signals indicating:
 - Staggered positioning
 - Single-file positioning
 - Road hazards
 - Slowing pace

Please do your part in being a helpful and safe group-rider by knowing these signals and passing them to the other riders in the group.

BUDDY-SYSTEM

You will be responsible for the motorcycle behind you.

- ✓ If they need to stop, you stop.
- ✓ Always keep the motorcycle insight within your mirror.
- ✓ If the motorcycle behind you becomes separated by a vehicle, slow down so you can see them in your mirror.

- ✓ When the group ahead makes a turn, you should put your signal on and wait at the side of the road before the turn until the motorcycle behind can see you.
- ✓ The motorcycle ahead should slow down to allow you to catch up after you have made the turn with the motorcycle behind you.
- ✓ This technique will avoid riders missing a turn and becoming separated from the group.

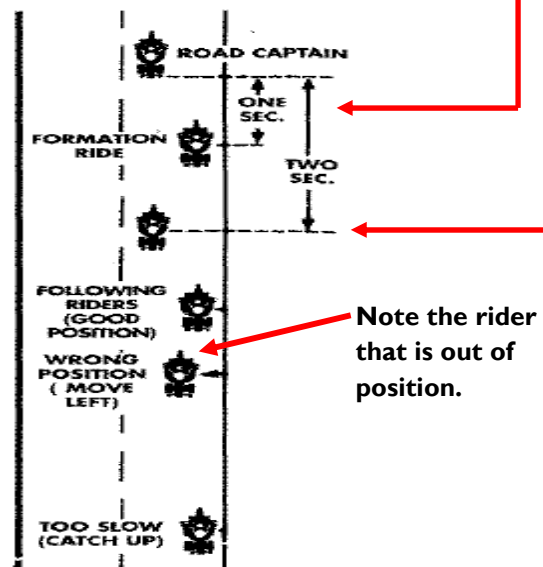
RIDING IN STAGGERED FORMATION

Two-Second Rule:

Bikes sharing the same-half of a single-lane will remain a minimum of **two-seconds** behind the bike directly in front of them in that section of the lane.

One-Second Rule:

While in the staggered formation; each rider will remain at least one-second behind the bike that is in front of them but in the opposite side of the split-lane (the staggered position).



Riding out of position is dangerous to the remaining members of the ride; and should not be

done by anyone unless to avoid a road hazard or other danger to the rider.

- ✓ Once the danger is passed; this rider should resume the correct position as soon as possible.
- ✓ Any rider insisting on riding out of position may be asked to leave the group-ride for the safety of the group.

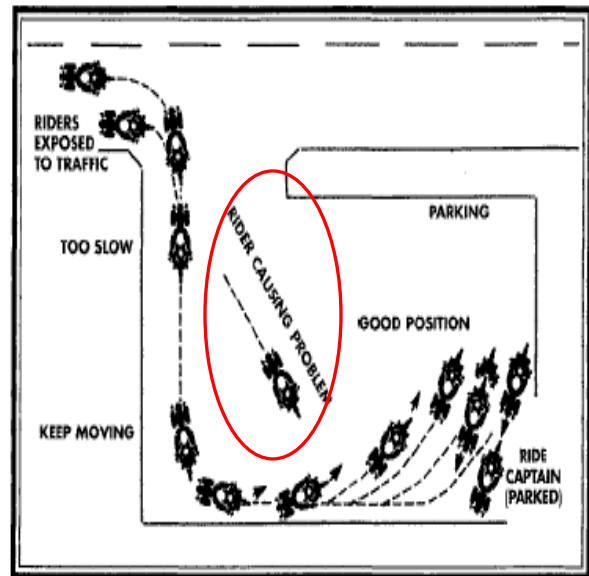
GROUP PARKING

“Now, how do you get a long string of motorcycles stopped and parked without creating a traffic hazard?”

- The best scenario is when the group has space to motor into a parking lot and park side-by-side to conserve space.
- Riders should pull up to the left (or right depending on the parking lot) of each rider ahead, so that everyone can immediately back into the parking space without waiting.
- When your group pulls into a parking lot, don’t try to be creative. Follow the parking drill with everyone.
- Don’t ride up behind the next rider, but pull alongside the left or right (depending on the lot), and immediately roll your machine back into the parking space.
- Creative parking decisions tend to slow the parking process and leave tail-enders still trying to get off the street.
- With a little experience, the whole group can get parked quickly, which helps move everyone off the road efficiently.”

Here is a good picture of an effective technique to park quickly and safely.

- ✓ **The “creative” rider slows the parking process and becomes a parking lot hazard to other motorcycles.**



LEAVING THE GROUP

- ✓ If you plan to break off from the group, let the Ride Captain know to avoid any confusion as to where you are, and to avoid the group being delayed unnecessarily.

STOP SIGN POSITIONING

- Do not pull alongside of the bike in front of you.
- Come to a stop at stop signs in a staggered pattern – even if the road is ridden in a single-file pattern.

RALLY DINNER

A final rally group-dinner has not been determined at this time.

It was thought that we would organize one after arriving at Prairie du Chien, and after Friday’s ride.

By doing so, we will be able to know how many people will be attending.

MUST READ EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Motorcycle Safety Foundation:

http://www.msf-usa.org/index_new.cfm?spl=2&action=display&pagename=Library

Quick Tips to Group Riding:

http://www.msf-usa.org/downloads/Group_Ride.pdf

American Motorcycle Association:

This is a link to a 10-minute video by the AMA on You Tube about group riding techniques and safety. It is a great video that is recommended for all riders to review well prior to the rally. You may have to copy and paste the link into your browser.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erpkYD7SMfw>

Sunset Harley Owner's Group Formation Riding Etiquette Online Demo:

<http://www.sunsethog.com/groupRiding.html>

PRAIRIE du CHIEN WEBSITE

To learn about the various restaurants, sights, and other information about the Prairie du Chien area be sure to check out the following website.

<http://www.prairieduchien.org/index.htm>

FINAL NOTES

Many individuals do not realize that all staff members, regional leaders, and their assistants of KawaNOW.org are volunteers.

Such is also the situation regarding the North Central Regional Rally. Everyone that has worked hard to put this rally together has done so purely with their own time, energy, and money for the sole purpose to organize an event to provide those attending a memorable experience in their lives.

There is no doubt some of the attendees will never see each other again, and there is also no doubt long friendships will result from this rally.

In all cases, there will be many good acquaintances made.

To those attending... we wish to thank you for doing so, and hope we will succeed in creating a memorable event.

Hopefully, we will all return to the next one in two years!

Ride often, ride safe, and keep the sun in your face and the wind at your back.

Sincerely,

Your KawaNOW North Central Region volunteers