

NSR Rally Rules

General Information

Rules, we don't need no stinking rules, do we?

Yes, rules make the expectations of the Rallymaster clear and ensure that all participants understand what is expected, required and not allowed. That way everybody is playing to the same tune.

Paperwork! Do I need paperwork?

Yes, before you can participate in this rally, you will need to produce the following items:

- Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement —Riders must sign this Agreement in the presence of a Notary Public before being signed into the rally. Open this link — [Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement](#)
- Valid Liability Insurance—equal to or greater than \$100,000 per person / \$300,000 per occurrence as evidenced by a Coverage Limits Declaration Sheet. Valid means that it must be current, in your name, for your motorcycle, in your state). This declaration sheet is available from your insurance company on request.

The insurance card you normally carry DOES NOT SHOW the dollar amounts of coverage.

- Drivers License—Current license with your name. It must show a motorcycle endorsement if required in the state of issuance.
- Vehicle Registration— all riders must have a valid and current registration card for the motorcycle they are riding in this event.

Can I get disqualified?

You'd better believe it! There are several things that will not be tolerated. Some are so severe you will essentially be banished from this rally, all future NSR rallies, and if egregious enough, maybe even the entire long distance riding community. Here is the list:

- Riders must render aid and assistance to any motorcyclist they encounter in need of emergency assistance. Not stopping to render aid is at the top of the disqualification list. (See “What if I stop to help someone and get delayed?”)
- Knowing you are going to be late, or not arrive, and NOT NOTIFYING the rally staff. As soon as you know that you will be late to the rally finish you MUST call the rally staff. Remember staff will be concerned for you and want you to return safely.
- Riders must obey all rules of law while riding in this rally. If it comes to the attention of rally staff that a rider has ridden carelessly or deliberately broken the driving rules of any state the rider has traveled in during the rally, the rider may be disqualified.
- Carrying more than 11.5 gallons of fuel. See “Can I carry auxiliary fuel?”
- Any manipulation of photographic bonus location imagery or EXIF data will result in disqualification.

How do I contact the rally staff?

Riders will be given the rally phone numbers from the Rallymaster when Rally Books are issued.

Can I ride with anyone else?

Teams

- Riders may not ride with anyone who is not registered and riding in the rally.
- Riders are welcome to travel with other registered riders, but must work as individuals when planning their route or making on-the-fly changes to their route during the rally. Riders must work as individuals when collecting bonus photos and other requested information, except as provided below:
- For the purpose of route planning before and during the rally, **teaming is allowed** if team members are declared prior to distribution of the bonus locations and associated bonus points 7 days in advance of the Riders Meeting on Friday night, June 11, 2010. Team members may collaborate on route planning, but must work as individuals when collecting bonuses. Team members will be indicated as such in published rally results. Declared team members are required to ride together.
- Mentor-Consulting: A novice class rider may be mentored in route planning by any other person (including an expert class entrant) prior to and during the rally, if declared prior to check-in.
- Undeclared teaming such as collaboration on route planning after the bonus locations are made available is a violation of NSR rules and shall lead to disqualification even if discovered months after the NSR is over.

We are riding two up, how does that change the rules?

All two up riding teams (as declared on the rider list) must complete all tasks as a team. Your pillion rider must appear in all photos asked for by the rally book. If the bonus asks for the rider to appear in photo then you both (rider and pillion) must be in photo. If your task is to walk one mile to find the bonus location, you must both walk to the location. The pillion may not operate the motorcycle at any point during the rally except in an emergency. Upon reaching safety, the two-up riding team shall immediately contact the rallymaster and report the situation. Both pilot and pillion may participate in route planning.

What if I disagree with something?

The Rallymaster's decisions are final. Every effort will be made to be fair but no protest of Rallymaster's final decision will be allowed.

Do you have any other tips for me?

Yes a few:

- A rally is NOT A RACE. Planning a good route and riding it within your planned schedule will do far more for your success than speeding.
- There is no accommodation for bad luck on the ride. Riders must deal with whatever may come their way on the journey.

SPOT users, whether or not they intend to claim the SPOT bonus are STRONGLY encouraged to send an OK signal at the beginning and end of any unplanned stop so that the rallymaster or anyone else you have allowed to follow your progress does not become concerned about your welfare unless there is real reason.

Registration and Check-In Information

When can I check in?

You must check into the rally during the hours posted in the rally schedule. Friday, June 11, 2010 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM.

Safety Information

AGATT, what is AGATT?

Your safety is of paramount importance. You must wear a DOT approved helmet and eye protection at all times. The rally staff strongly suggests wearing full body protection including armored jacket and pants, full-fingered gloves, and full height riding boots. If you show up without such gear an IQ test may also be required at check in.

Do I need an inspection before the rally?

Yes, it is a do-it-yourself inspection. Using the [2010 Inspection Checklist](#) (click on link to the left to save Excel spreadsheet to a folder on your computer), you will perform a self-inspection of your motorcycle and gear. If you find any problems you must report them to the Rallymaster immediately. Problems with your motorcycle must be repaired before you may participate in the rally.

Can I carry auxiliary fuel?

Yes, up to a maximum of 11.5 gallons total including capacity of motorcycle tank in a securely mounted auxiliary fuel tank made specifically for the purpose of carrying fuel. If you carry auxiliary fuel you must meet safety standards.

What are the safety standards for auxiliary fuel?

This can be a complex answer and subject to interpretation. In a nutshell, your aux fuel system needs to be safe in the sense that it is: of a robust construction, securely mounted, properly vented, properly grounded, and doesn't leak, and so on. The NSR rules do not attempt to provide guidance nor standards on what is proper. Other rally rules, readily available on the web, provide some guidance. You are strongly encouraged to review these rules and guidelines. Remember, you are responsible for performing your pre-rally safety inspection. The bottom line is, if your motorcycle catches fire and burns up because of your aux fuel system, it wasn't safe.

Bonus Information

What is the rally flag?

You will be assigned a rally flag with a unique number assigned to you. This flag is used to validate photo bonuses. It must be clearly readable in every photo requested.

What if I find another riders rally flag?

If you should come across another rider's flag in your travels, do not pick it up. That rider may be on his/her way back to get it.

What is this SPOT tracking device business?

We encourage use of a SPOT tracking device with tracking enabled, and have structured several advantages for riders who use it.

There will be a SPOT related bonus. To claim it, riders must include the rallymaster in their SPOT contacts list, and successfully send a SPOT "OK" signal to the rallymaster at the beginning of their ride to Cape Girardeau, MO to check-in and a second "OK" signal upon arrival at Rally HQ. Tracking must be turned on during your travel to Cape Girardeau, MO. You must create a "SPOT Trip Manager" trip covering your journey from home (or wherever) to Cape Girardeau, MO to check-in and a second "SPOT Trip Manager" trip covering June 11 and 12, with "time of day component" not hidden. See <http://jasonjonas.org/spot/about.jsp> for full information. If your trip is password protected, you must provide your password to the rallymaster, but you are not required to password protect your trip. You must also attempt to send an "OK" message at each logable event in the rally, including bonus locations, fuel stops, beginning and end of rest period, and other stops in excess of 10 minutes. To qualify for the SPOT bonus, the above steps must be initiated at least 24 hours prior to check-in on Friday afternoon, June 11.

And last, but not least, SPOT "OK" messages may optionally serve as additional proof of capture for a difficult to photograph nighttime bonus. At least one attempted digital photo is still required (and must be submitted), but you no longer need to worry about the legibility of your rally flag # in the nighttime photograph or that the object being photographed is too dark to clearly recognize. We also want your tracks just in case any of the "OK" signals, which are required at each bonus stop, fail to be received by the satellite. Ditto for your 5-hour minimum rest stop (start and end "OK" signals).

SPOT users are strongly encouraged to mount their SPOT tracking device in a manner that maximizes successful satellite reception, but there will be no penalty for missing or dropped "OK" messages. SPOT 2 tracking devices have a number of significant advantages over the original SPOT tracking device. One of those is that when SPOT 2 transmits its location, it not only sends its current position, but its previous two positions as well. The SPOT 2 designers believe this will significantly help fill in the gaps in SPOT transmissions.

How will I get bonus information?

You will be given bonus numbers with GPS coordinates and bonus point values in Garmin "gpd" file format and in Microsoft 2010 Streets & Trips "est" file format at 7:00 PM CDT exactly 7 days before the official Riders Meeting begins. This information will allow you to perform route planning, but will NOT contain the details of bonus capture requirements.

Where is my Rally Book?

The night before the rally start you will be given a Rally Book, which will contain the complete details of the bonuses. It will spell out exactly what you need to do to claim the bonus. There will be no surprises in the Rally Book because, in the interest of safety, we want all riders to get a good night's sleep before the rally start.

You will be told how many pages you will find in the Rally Book. It is your responsibility to count the pages and report to the Rallymaster any shortage before leaving the meeting at which the rally books are handed out. Riders must hand in the Rally Book at the end of the event. Rally Books are the property of the NSR. No book = No points. Please keep it dry.

Will the rally book provide good directions?

The Rally Book will provide all information necessary to capture the bonus. Bonus information is designed to be accurate. GPS coordinates given out 7 days earlier are accurate within plus or minus 1/8 mile. Most are much more accurate than that. Bonus capture instructions in the printed Rally Book will get you to the bonus spot if the GPS coordinates happen not to be dead on the mark. There will be no intent to deceive the rider.

Is there a rider's log?

A Rider's Log will be required. It lists only the bonuses you visited in the order that you visited them and will include the following information written in by you (either as you go or at the end of the rally prior to turning in your paperwork, receipts, etc.):

- Bonus #
- Date and Time (CDT in military format)
- Odometer reading
- Answer to question (applies only to those bonuses that have a question for you to answer)

How do I claim a bonus?

At each bonus location you must make a logbook entry of the following information:

- Bonus #
- Date and Time (CDT in military format)
- Odometer reading
- SPOT bonus claimants must send the required SPOT "OK" signals (see "What is this SPOT tracking device business?" hereinabove)
- You must also complete the instructions for the bonus. This may be one or more of: answer a question, obtain a receipt, or take a photo of the bonus location (with your rally flag).

What kind of photography is acceptable?

Only digital photos are acceptable. The time and date must be set on your digital camera to local rally time (CDT — your cell phone will give you the accurate local time).

Any manipulation of the photographic image or EXIF data will result in disqualification.

Set your camera at 1600x1200 pixel resolution or 2.0 Megapixels.

More expensive cameras have image quality settings in addition to image size settings (example: low, std, high). Read your camera's Owner's Manual to learn how to do the above including how to save the image size and quality settings so that you do not have to reset every time you turn your camera on.

And practice doing the above before you come to the rally. If you have questions on setting your image size and quality, see a rally staff member at the Rider's Meeting supper. Also, if the minimum resolution setting for your digital camera is 1600x1200, please set the image quality to Standard; not High. And, please take a few test photographs ahead of time to make sure the file sizes are always less than 1536 KB.

And practice doing the above before you come to the rally. If you have questions on setting your image size and quality, see a rally staff member at the Rider's Meeting.

The digital photo requirement is easy:

1. Take as many photos as you like at each bonus stop.
2. Pick one and only one to upload to the website database for each bonus.
3. Be familiar with how to download your rally photos onto your computer before showing up at the rally.
4. There will be four (4) All-in-1 USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Card Readers available for rider use.
5. Transfer your digital photos to your notebook PC or to one of two (2) available NSR computers.

Am I required to rest?

Yes, there is a mandatory **5-hour minimum** rest stop. It must be taken all at once and can be taken whenever you wish.

Do I need to rest in hotel/motel?

No. You need to document that you remained in one location during the mandatory 5-hour minimum rest period.

How do I document a rest stop?

You need two valid receipts; one for the start of the rest stop and one for the end of the rest stop (see "What is a valid receipt?"). The locations of these two receipts may not be more than 2 ½ miles apart. What this means is that your odometer may not increase more than 5 miles while obtaining the two rest stop receipts.

What is a valid receipt?

A valid receipt is a computer generated printout that contains the following information: location, state, time, and date. Examples of valid receipts are: ATM printouts, electronic cash register receipts, credit card receipts. NOTE: Increasingly, service stations are not showing location but rather store number. Be aware that if the receipt does not contain the four items specified your documentation is at risk.

May I take additional rest stops?

Yes. Riders are always encouraged to get all the rest they need. Like any other stop of greater than 10 minutes, additional rest stops must be recorded in your riders log including a start and end time. No receipts are required. SPOT bonus claimants must transmit start and end "OK" signals.

What if I can't find a bonus?

This might be the result of several conditions, which may or may not be the case. If you think: 1) the GPS coordinates are incorrect, 2) the location no longer exists, 3) the location cannot be reached by any legal path of travel, then you have two options; 1) Call the rally staff for clarification, 2) document the location, as it does exist, and submit it as a protested entry. Please be aware that protested entries will be denied if another rider is able to document that bonus location in a legal manner.

Can I get help with a bonus?

Very limited. Registered entrants (as declared on the rider list) must go to the location and retrieve the bonus request by their own work. You may not share bonus information with

another rider. You may obtain assistance in that another person may photograph the rider holding his or her rally flag at a location.

Will I need a fuel log?

Yes, you must keep all fuel receipts and transcribe the information on these receipts into a fuel log. An accurately completed fuel log is worth 1,000 bonus points. If any required information is missing you will receive zero points for the fuel log. You should record your odometer reading on each fuel receipt before you ride away from the pump. You must maintain the log throughout the rally ride no matter of your success at previous fuel stops.

Okay, so what information is required in the fuel log?

The fuel log requires location, state, time, date, gallons of fuel purchased, and odometer reading. The first 5 items (all but odometer) must be substantiated by a valid receipt.

What if my fuel receipt doesn't have this information?

You may make corrections to the time entry only. If any other information is incorrect or missing then you must attempt to obtain that information in another manner. Here are your options: 1) obtain a business card that has this information and/or, 2) have them print out a indoor gas receipt that does have this information and/or, 3) obtain a second credit card receipt that has the correct information. If all of the above are unsuccessful you will need to go to another near by service station, or store, or ATM, and secure a second receipt, which submitted together with the "bad" fuel receipt (missing adequate location information) will constitute a valid fuel receipt. You must keep all receipts collected during this pursuit and keep them together when handed in at the end of the rally.

Scoring Information

How do I finish the rally?

You must be checked in at the rally end point and have your official finish time and odometer reading recorded by the NSR staff. If using a SPOT, you must send an "OK" signal immediately upon arrival at the rally end point. Remember to keep your motorcycle in the open with an unobstructed view of the Southern sky so that your SPOT can "see" the GPS satellites and obtain its location. SPOT tracking devices do NOT transmit an "OK" signal until they have "locked in" on their current location via 3 or more GPS satellites.

Can I check in early?

Yes, you may check in any time before the rally closes.

How do I get scored?

After checking into the rally end point riders will be given time to work on their computers to log into the rally website and enter their Rider's Log information. Riders must transfer their Rider's Log information into the rally's electronic format found at the rally website. In order to receive points for a bonus, a rider must document the bonus information requested into the scoring system at their home page. If you don't enter the bonus info in the electronic document you submit and upload the photo of your choice for that bonus, it will not be awarded.

What is this self scoring business?

In order to speed up the scoring process and facilitate the use of digital photography we are using a web based scoring mechanism. This is a simple interface by which you will enter your bonus information into our database for scoring. Any photos submitted become the property of the NSR rally.

Okay, how do I self score?

Enter the first Bonus # visited on your route and hit the Enter key or click the "Fetch Bonus Info" button. Complete the requested information:

1. Date
2. Time in Central Daylight Military Time
3. Odometer reading
4. Answer any questions asked as part of fulfilling the bonus requirements
5. Click on "Browse" button to find and select the bonus photo you want to submit (not much different than uploading a photo to Smugmug)
6. Click on "Submit" button
7. A fresh blank form will appear - repeat for each bonus you want to enter in the order they were collected

What if I make a mistake on the scoring form?

Ooops, but no big deal. Like in 2009, there will be an UPDATE previously submitted Bonus web page on the rider's Home after Login self-scoring system Menu. There will be one UPDATE allowed which includes the ability to swap out the photo you originally submitted with a different photo if you accidentally picked the wrong photo the first time.

I am such a Luddite when it comes to computers. Can't I just do it the old way?

Out of the sheer kindness of our hearts we accommodated the more technically challenged riders in the past. Up until this year (2010), a rally staffer would take your Rally Book, receipts, digital camera memory card, fuel log, etc. if brought to him or her in a sealed rally envelope and manually scored you.

That generosity over taxed the rally staff in 2009. ***A large part of the reason we had to help so many riders was directly attributable to many new digital cameras not able to make photographs within the 512 KB maximum file size.*** We had to resize every photo that was too large and there were a lot. **Not going to happen in 2010 – there will be no resizing of digital photo files larger than 1536 KB and you will simply lose those bonus points.**

We will only manually score a rider in 2010 if you really are a computer Luddite and, if you are, you must declare that fact on your 2010 NSR Application. Your Luddite request will only be accepted after we talk to you and satisfy ourselves that you are indeed the antonym of a computer nerd. Some already known to us get to bypass the above interview.

Can I practice this self scoring before the rally?

Yes, you will have a web page set up for you about one month before the rally. This is a sand box for you to play in, try out, and ask questions about.

Mileage and Penalty Information

How is rally mileage measured?

Not applicable in 2010.

Is there a mileage cap?

No.

Time and Penalty Information

Is there a penalty window?

Yes, you may arrive up to 30 minutes late and still be considered a finisher. You will be assessed penalty points for this tardiness. (see "What are the penalties for being tardy?")

What if I am more than 30 minutes late?

Coming in after the window is closed will make you DNF (Did Not Finish).

What are the penalties for being tardy?

Late Penalties are as follows:

- 1-10 minutes = deduct 10 points per minute
- 11-20 minutes = deduct 20 points per minute
- 21-30 minutes = deduct 30 points per minute
- Over 31 minutes = DNF

What if I stop to help someone and get delayed?

If you stop to provide aid and/or assistance you must call rally staff at the time of the incident (or as soon as phone service becomes available) to qualify for any time allowance for rendering this help. If this rare situation should occur, you will need to enter the event into your rider's log. Running out of gas is not considered an emergency except in a desolate area with little vehicle traffic or late at night. You should stop, inquire, and use common sense.

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