

# Shifting Gears

bike to  
create a world  
free of MS

## Bike MS Myths Debunked!

### Fun & support along the route

Medical support, encouragement & well-stocked rest stops every 8-12 miles will keep you hydrated & fueled the whole way.

### 1 or 2 days & mileage options

Multiple scenic & supported routes available for cyclists of all riding levels, including a special short route for beginners.

### Customized training tools

Training tools, like TrainingPeaks, local bike shop training rides & info can help you climb any pesky hills.

### Encouragement & excitement

We, along with volunteers, family & friends, will cheer you on the whole way. After all, we are your biggest fans!

### Fun for the whole family

Invite everyone you know for a family-friendly party at the finish line. Board & beer to celebrate!

### Bike shop support

Support & maintenance from Bike Shop partners will keep your bike running throughout the weekend.

### Easy fundraising tools & incentives

Personal fundraising webpage & online tools, prizes & tips make fundraising easier than ever!

### Free delicious food

Lunch & dinner options on Saturday. If you stay for Day 2, we provide a free breakfast & meal at the finish line.

Think you know all about Bike MS? Intimidated by the challenge? Concerned about meeting the \$200 fundraising minimum? No worries! We've got some common myths to debunk as we give you a sneak peek into what's to come this year.

We're committed to providing the same high standards you've come to expect for over 30 years: Same constant support, same top-quality experience and same mission to end MS forever. Join us for celebration, camaraderie and the knowledge that you're changing lives through Bike MS.

# Bike MS: Wichita Autumn Trails Classic Ride

## Details

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2013 » START/FINISH: LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 300 S. IUKA, PRATT, KS 67124 »

ROUTE: FIGURE-8 RIDE

**DAY ONE: 30, 50, 80 & 100:** Starting and ending in Pratt, KS each day, you'll experience the wonder of the Kansas countryside as we edge toward the Flint Hills and through small town gems like Medicine Lodge, Sawyer, and Isabel. We'll have a lunch stop along the route and a special Century stop for our 100 mile riders.

**DAY TWO: 36, 58 & 81:** It's a rolling plain of green grassland as Day 2 of the ride brings you to new territory and new people to cheer you on. With route options to accommodate all skill levels, anyone can sign up to make a difference!

**START/FINISH:** Rider check-in and doughnuts for breakfast will be at Liberty Middle School. Start line will be open from 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. and will be staggered to alleviate congestion. Top fundraisers are first in line. After your ride, join us for food, fun and festivities at the MS Village. The second day begins with a breakfast buffet at 6 a.m. inside the Pratt Municipal Building. The ride will begin at 8 a.m. in Pratt. Cross the finish line on Sunday and receive a finish medallion, claim your luggage, grab food and listen to music.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Free outdoor camping is available in the grassy area south of the school circular drive way. Indoor camping and showers will also be available on site. Local hotels are also available:

DAYS INN PRATT- 1901 E. 1st St., (620) 672-9465  
 ECONO LODGE- 1336 E. 1st St. (620) 672-6407  
 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS- 1903 Paulene Place, (620) 508-6350  
 BUDGET INN- 1631 E. 1st St., (620) 672-6468  
 ECONOMY INN- 1401 E. 1st St., (620) 672-5588  
 EVERGREEN INN- 20001 W. US Highway 54, (620) 672-6431  
 REGENCY INN & SUITES- 1401 U.S. 54, (620) 672-9433

**THE VILLAGE:** After a fun day of riding, relax and unwind after the Day One ride with live music, massages, and snow cones at the finish line. Gather your team and enjoy a family-friendly, fun community dinner celebration at the Pratt 4-H Center at 6 p.m. The building is located just a mile south of the start/finish line with ample parking outside. Enjoy food, drinks, and a slide show of the day's ride. Invite your friends and family to join the celebration.

## Become a Sponsor: Gain Exposure

Partnering with Bike MS can help your company build employee morale, provide community exposure for your business and show your dedication to making our community a better place. The emphasis with our sponsors is building long-term partnerships that assist our organization's effort to maximize fundraising donations while offering businesses a platform to

showcase their dedication to helping our community. Corporate partners continue to receive unique benefits beyond the direct return for their donation. If you or your company are interested in finding out more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact [JASON.DILTS@NMSS.ORG](mailto:JASON.DILTS@NMSS.ORG) or call 316-854-0775.

**Pratt**  
Has Something  
for You!



# Bike Safety

BIKE SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU » MAY IS BIKE SAFETY MONTH

Cyclists need to possess basic bike-handling skills and safety knowledge in order to keep themselves and others around them safe, especially while participating in group cycling activities, like the Bike MS Ride. Our focus is to provide a high quality, safe and fun bicycling experience.

For this reason, the National MS Society has partnered with the League of American Bicyclists to provide our cyclists with the knowledge and resources to cycle safely. [Headphones, cell phones, radios and similar radio devices are not permitted while riding.](#)

## THE BASICS OF RIDING IN A GROUP

Group riding takes practice. Riding with other cyclists all around you may cause you to feel trapped. Relax. It is most important to create your own safety zone. This may vary depending on the speed and ability level of the people you are with, so be flexible. Let others know of your anxiety — they may also be new at this.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN A PACK INCLUDES:

- Be aware of others around you.
- Communicate well in advance: Use gestures in combination with verbal commands.
- Ride with your head up: Look down the road; not at the person in front of you.

## HELPFUL TIPS

At Bike MS events, our active route support team works to make the ride safe. Here are a few additional suggestions to help keep everyone safe on the ride:

- Thumbs down for help: SAG vehicles and motorcycle escorts will stop for you if you are off the road, off your bike, and giving a "thumbs down" sign or holding your helmet in the air.
- Rest stop etiquette: All cyclists who enter a rest area must pull over, dismount and move completely away from the road and rest-stop entrance. When exiting, move beyond the rest area and proceed with caution on the right side of the road before merging with faster cyclists.

- Maintain control & speed of your bike, even going downhill.
- Know your limits: Crashes can occur when inexperienced riders do not have bike-handling skills to make quick decisions in a pack.
- Safety starts with you: Group mentality is not always safe. Expect to stop at all red lights and stop signs — it is the law! Each cyclist is responsible for verifying that the intersection is clear.
- Adjust your safety zone to fit the conditions of the road, weather & traffic — Always plan an escape route.
- Never overlap your wheels with another cyclist.
- Do not use aerobars in a pack.
- Passing: Passing others and being passed occurs continuously during the ride. Call out "passing on your left" and allow time for the cyclist being overtaken to move to the right — then pass safely.
- Mechanical problems: Examine mechanical problems and change flats completely off the road. If you have a problem you cannot fix yourself, flag down a SAG van and seek a mechanic at the next rest stop.
- Be courteous: Bike MS cyclists are privileged to ride on many trails as well as public roads. Be courteous and use no more than half the trail so as not to block the flow of other users.

## Get the Latest Bike MS Buzz

Haven't heard from us recently? You may have accidentally opted out of our emails and you're probably missing out on important Bike MS updates. Don't miss out on any of the latest and greatest Bike MS buzz.

You could even win great prizes! To opt back into e-mail, please contact us at [MIDAMERICCHAPTER@NMSS.ORG](mailto:MIDAMERICCHAPTER@NMSS.ORG) or 316-854-0775.

# Calendar of Events

## MAY (BIKE SAFETY MONTH)

13-17 Recruitment Week  
16 Bike MS Kick-Off Party  
29 World MS Day  
31 LAST DAY FOR "EARLY BIRD" REGISTRATION

## JUNE

Training rides throughout the month  
17-21 Team Week

## JULY

Training rides throughout the month  
13 MuckFest MS  
22-26 Fundraising Week

## AUGUST

Training rides throughout the month  
19-23 Fundraising Week

## SEPTEMBER

7-8 Bike MS Nebraska Ride  
7-8 Bike MS Ozarks Ride  
7-8 Bike MS Wichita Autumn Trails Classic Ride  
14-15 Bike MS Kansas City Ride

## OCTOBER

31 Prize Deadline

## NOVEMBER

30 Tread Setter deadline

# Start or Join a Team

AS A PART OF THE MS MOVEMENT, YOU AND YOUR TEAM ARE COMMITTED TO A WORLD FREE OF MS. » WE'RE COMMITTED TO YOU AND THE SUCCESS OF YOUR TEAM.

## RECRUITING

Team members can be anybody — friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors — and they can all easily register as cyclists online. Whether you're a corporate team or a team of family and friends, just be sure to ask everyone you know.

## RAISING MONEY

Fundraising comes more naturally when you make it personal. If your team is cycling for someone with MS, ask them if they would be willing to tell their story. Be sure to follow that with a statement about how much

progress we've made in treating the disease. Don't forget to ask everyone who sponsors you if their employer offers matching gifts!

## REALLY HAVING FUN

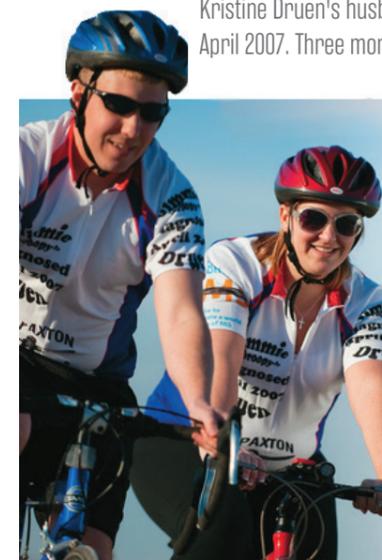
Being a team captain is an opportunity to share a great experience with others — a community coming together for a common goal and the accomplishment of a unique personal challenge! As a leader, it's up to you to remind your teammates of why they registered. Bike MS can be more than a fundraising event — it can be a joyous celebration of how far we've come together!

SHOW YOUR TEAM PRIDE » DISCOUNTED RESOURCES FOR YOUR TEAM

**TEAM JERSEYS** - Primal Wear is the official apparel sponsor of Bike MS. As part of their ongoing commitment to the National MS Society, Primal will donate 15% of your team's custom jersey order back to your team's fundraising account. You can also buy Bike MS branded cycling apparel and accessories- and Primal will donate 25% of your order total back to Bike MS! Visit [PRIMALWEAR.COM](http://PRIMALWEAR.COM) for more information.

**TEAM T-SHIRTS** - Through our national partnership with Pure Protein, we're getting access to their team t-shirt site and the opportunity to purchase team t-shirts at cost — that means no markups! Simply go to [TEAMPUREPROTEIN.COM](http://TEAMPUREPROTEIN.COM) and you can buy team t-shirts, customized with your team logo and/or photo, and share your team pride with everyone. T-shirts cost \$6.95 per shirt plus a one-time set up fee and shipping.

# How We Grew Our Team



Kristine Druen's husband, Jimmie, was diagnosed in April 2007. Three months later, while on a camping trip, she decided to form a Bike MS team with a group of friends and coworkers. Six months later there she was, on the longest ride of her life.

"We so just winged it," Kristine, who lives in Kansas, said. "We showed up that first morning thinking, what have we gotten ourselves into? None of us had ridden more than 20 or 30 miles straight. And that first day, we rode 87."

## CUSHIONING THE BUMPS

Now, if Kristine were to start over again, she would train first.\* But not for the reason you might think. "The hardest part wasn't the bicycling," she remembered, "but the sitting. Getting on the bike that second day was really, really difficult." She advises novice riders to wear padded bike shorts as she now does. "They definitely help."

Kristine's dad has ridden Bike MS for over 20 years in Springfield, Mo. So he lent Kristine and her team support. "My dad was as close as we got to professional training," she laughed. The last three years, he's ridden with Kristine's team, and in 2010, father and daughter rode on a tandem bicycle. "It was different, but fun!" she said.

"My dad rode originally for exercise, but the more he did it, the more he learned about MS and the movement," she recalled. "It became very important to him." And in April 2007, it became very important to Kristine, too. "I

saw what my husband was going through. I very quickly got motivated to help. I needed to do it for him."

## GROWING THE TEAM

From the original six friends who gathered around a campfire and resolved to ride for Jimmie's sake, Team Droopy has grown every year. They now include fellow police officers (Jimmie is a police officer), Kristine's coworkers, childhood friends and friends of friends.

"The first thing I tell new people is it's not a race—it's for fun," said Kristine. "Then I tell people to make a list of everyone they know—from church, family, work, neighborhood—and go to those people. Just ask—if you don't, they won't sponsor you."

The team also designs and sells jerseys to raise funds. "Jimmie has an orange Cheetos T-shirt that he wears religiously, and we usually have the color orange somewhere in the design. We take things that are meaningful to him and tie them in." As for the team's name, it comes from Jimmie's high school nickname. "They thought he looked like the cartoon character Droopy Dog," she laughed.

## JIMMIE JOINS IN

Jimmie and Kristine have done Walk MS together. And this summer, Jimmie is doing Bike MS, too. He has found a disease-modifying medicine that works for him. "He had lost feeling in his feet and legs, but he feels he's gotten a lot of that back. He's ready to ride," said Kristine.

During the cold months, Jimmie trained on a stationary bicycle, using Training Peaks' online help. As soon as the weather warmed up, he started riding outdoors. "He's very positive," said Kristine. "And honestly, seeing how well he's doing, I just want to do anything I can for him and all the people with MS out there." Jimmie is ready to ride again in 2013 for his third year of Bike MS.

# Join the Elite: TreadSetters Club

The Tread Setters Club is a group of elite fundraisers who strive year after year to raise the fundraising bar. The Tread Setters 25 Club is made up of the top 25 fundraisers from the previous year. To reward these special individuals, each member receives benefits before, during and after the ride that are exclusive to the Tread Setters 25 Club.

## SOME OF THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

□ Yellow Rider Number— this number corresponds with your previous year's fundraising rank

- Unique MS logo item exclusive to Tread Setters 25 Club members.
- VIP Parking Pass
- Premier start line position
- Wall of Fame
- Access to the VIP breakfast on Saturday morning of the ride.
- Free massages

To be a member in 2014, you must rank in the top 25 fundraisers in 2013. Start fundraising now to secure your membership in Tread Setters 25 next year.

bike  
MS

Bike MS

THE OFFICIAL BIKE MS NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2013

# Shifting Gears

## Early Bird Discount Ends May 31

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM » AND ONLY PAYS \$20 FOR BIKE MS! THIS OFFER ENDS MAY 31. » REGISTRATION THEN JUMPS TO \$30.

## Bike MS Wants Your Brainssss

Every year a group of people debate questions such as: Should we have grape or strawberry jelly at the rest stops? How much pickle juice is too much? Everything from where the route goes to what food we have and how we recruit cyclists.

You can still ride AND help plan Bike MS. Even if you can't attend the meetings, you can still be part of the ride. Come meet once a month to discuss everything about Bike MS 2013. Contact us at 1-800-432-4867 or MIDAMERICACHAPTER@NMSS.ORG.

Coming to Kansas City July 13, 2013  
MuckFestMS.org



**muckfest**™MS

Rise to the dirty challenge

*Casasic Ride*

*Wichita Autumn Trails*

*Bike MS: 2013*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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MS®