

Dear Riders,

Please take a minute to read the following message, as there are some things about this year's Mountain Of Misery you need to know. We appreciate your participation, and more than that, we appreciate your cooperation. Thanks!

This year's Mountains Of Misery is going to be a very different event than in years past. Yes, the course, the climbs and the participants will be much the same. But this year, and in years to come, there will be a much greater emphasis on Safety.

We have had problems in the past with riders breaking not only the rules of the event, but the law.

And worse, some riders have been rude, even as they break the law.

This cannot happen. Citizens along the course have noticed, and the complaints have been numerous over the last few years. Many Craig County residents don't want MOM back, and are actually working to keep MOM out of Craig County.

Frankly, MoM has become a dangerous ride. Just last year participants yelled at first responders to move their emergency vehicles out of the way WHILE the responders were working an emergency scene, a county official was given the finger by a cyclist who illegally crossed the center line into HIS lane, and traffic was illegally blocked throughout the course by packs refusing to yield to cars behind them. All of these actual incidents just described weren't just breaking our rules, they were breaking state law.

As a result, things have to change. This year will be different.

For starters, the NRVBA has hired seven Virginia State Police to cover the course with the riders. There will be troopers in cars and on motorcycles. They will be present to enforce the law, whether it is broken by motorists OR CYCLISTS.

Anyone caught broken the law will not only be cited by the police, but will also be sanctioned by the event.

How can you, as a rider, be sanctioned?

1) Riders who break the law will be pulled off the course immediately or at the next rest stop and returned to the Start.

2) Riders who are rude, non-cooperative or who break MOM rules will not receive a Finisher's Shirt, have a Finish time posted, or be allowed to register for future MOM events.

MOM is full by the end of April each year. If you are banned from the event, you won't be missed. Sorry. The rules are simple; riders just need to follow them. **THEY WILL BE ENFORCED.**

Riders will also notice a change in the waiver this year, where info will be spelled out in more vivid detail concerning the rules, laws and sanctions riders will be required to follow, and will receive should they not cooperate.

Is this renewed emphasis on safety and the rules necessary?

Absolutely. When riders are yelling at first responders, who are out there to help fellow cyclists who are injured, it isn't funny...for the downed cyclists or the first responders. A few "bad apples" can spoil things for everyone, and it's time we all cleaned up our act and acted like adults.

Mountains Of Misery is a wonderful event, a beautiful ride and an immense challenge. The volunteers, law enforcement, first responders and local citizens are invaluable to our event...please treat them with respect and listen to what they are telling you...be safe, considerate and polite while you ride.

Please do not take this lightly...MOM was very close to not happening this year because of rider behavior over the past few years. We need you, the riders, to take responsibility and spread the word that irresponsible, illegal and rude behavior will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Anne Jones Thompson
Kelly McPherson
MOM Ride Directors 2011