

Abstract:

The Reliability Rally is a motorcycle tour exclusively for bikes with a purchase price of \$1000 or less. The goal is complete the ride route, while competing in various contests along the way. The ride will cover approximately 400 miles over the course of 2 days. The Reliability Rally organizes group lodging for the duration of the weekend, and provides several meals. A portion of the proceeds are donated to charity!

Bike and Rider Eligibility:

To be eligible for competition, the entered motorcycle must have a purchase price of \$1000 or less. **We go by the honors system on this.** The purchase price can be modified by parts/accessories SOLD from the bike. For example, if the bike includes an aftermarket seat AND original seat, one seat can be sold and the purchase price adjusted thusly. Stripping a bike of parts and replacing with aftermarket with the intent of affecting the purchase price is not allowed.

- **Price Rule exceptions:** Sometimes bikes purchased for over \$1000 can meet the spirit of the ride. Reach out to us for exceptions. reliabilityrally@gmail.com
- **Repairs.** Repairs to safety related parts are unlimited. This includes tires, battery, brakes, controls, lighting, horn, Fuel system, electrics, mufflers, chain, sprockets, bearings, suspension, etc.
- **Upgrades.** Performance upgrades are allowed but extensive spending is not in the spirit of the ride.
- **175cc Minimum.** To keep the ride moving, the minimum engine size allowed is 175cc. However – if you think your 99cc 2-stroke can keep up? Lets talk.
- **Registration.** All bikes must be street legal and legally registered to operate on public roads.
- **Insurance.** State minimum liability insurance must be carried on your motorcycle.
- **Identification.** Proof of identification is required at event check-in.
- **Reliability Rally Waiver.** All riders must sign the release waiver before the ride begins. A copy is available on our website.

Registration:

Event registration is first-come first-serve, and an initial fee secures and guarantees your spot. **This fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.** Preferred payment is through Paypal on our website. The registration window will be announced via the official email distribution list. Sign up at www.reliabilityrally.com. All official communication will come from our email, reliabilityrally@gmail.com. When registering, you must include the following information:

- Name
- Email address
- Cell phone #
- City/State of residence
- T-Shirt Size
- Emergency Contact name and phone #
- Preferred ride group: Relaxed or Spirited

Event Fee:

The Event Fee is required to be paid for participation in the Reliability Rally. This covers lodging, several meals, ride organization/leadership, prizes, charity donation, etc. Event specific details are available on the event webpage.

- **Event payment is due in full 30 days prior to the starting day of the event.**
- **We reserve the right to sell your spot if your payment has not cleared by this deadline**

Cancellation Terms: Cancellations must be made via email request: reliabilityrally@gmail.com

- **>30 days before start of event:** full refund of event fee
- **21-30 days before start of event:** 50% refund of event fee
- **<21 days before start of event:** no refund

Transfers available upon written request. An event fee transferred to a new rider must register separately.

In the event of an event cancellation:

Reliability Rally will refund 100% of funds for all registration and event fees.

Ride Rules

The ride rules, scoring and route may be changed by the organizers at any time for any reason.

- 1. Participation in the Reliability Rally is 100% AT YOUR OWN RISK.** Any and all injury or damages are YOUR responsibility alone. All riders must read and sign our waiver before the start of a ride.
- 2. Absolutely ZERO drug or alcohol consumption while riding.** There will be plenty of time to relax each evening.
- 3. Ride Groups.** We organize into groups of 5-7 riders. Each group will be led by a leader who will be familiar with how these events operate.
- 4. Ride at your own pace.** We have seen too many crashes due to someone trying to follow a faster rider. There are many reasons why a rider is faster: they may know the roads better or be more familiar with the conditions, better handling bike etc, you must and should not care about this. The bottom line is that this is not a race and safety is our primary objective followed by having a good time.
- 5. You are responsible for the rider behind you.** If the person following you is no longer visible, slow down so they can catch up or stop and wait for him. If they do not show up in 2 minutes of waiting there is a problem and you should turn around to investigate. The logic behind this is that if something happens to anyone it will cause a chain reaction moving forward all the way to the lead rider. This is a tried and tested strategy that works. Bear in mind that you do not want to make a U-turn in stupid places - use the pullover spots and if not available turn around on a straight section of road.
- 6. Passing rules.** You are welcome to pass any rider if they are riding below your pace or they have a smelly two stroke. Pass for the comfort of the person you are passing. Leave lots of room and make sure they are aware of you coming through. On the flip side, if someone is filling your mirrors, find a safe place (straightaway with good visibility) and wave them by. Everyone will be more comfortable.
- 7. Ride Route.** The ride route will be provided in several ways prior to the start of the RR, via a printed ride plan and also via .gpx file which can be read by various free phone apps (beeline is highly recommended) or Garmin devices. It is subject to change at any time for any reason. Regardless, you are responsible for having some idea of what the ride route is and where it is going.
- 8. Mechanical Problems.** Pull off the road in a safe place, with plenty of room for your ride group. Consider visibility to oncoming traffic, and direct traffic if needed. Your ride leader will assess the situation and determine the next steps. **(Max 20 minutes allotted for roadside repairs.)**
- 9. Crash/Accidents.** Pull off the road in a safe space, with plenty of room for your ride group. Consider visibility to oncoming traffic, and direct traffic if needed. Immediately tend to the distressed rider and assess for injuries. Call 911 if required. Your ride leader will assess the situation and determine the next steps. **If you crash, you are finished riding with us for the day. Ride leadership will try to secure recovery by the chase vehicle.**

Chase Vehicle

A chase vehicle will be following the ride groups for support of the ride leadership, and will be available as a convenience for potential recovery or relief during the ride. Space is limited!

- The Reliability Rally cannot guarantee personal or bike recovery in the case of a problem.
- The chase vehicle is not a place for riders to store their belongings.
- Riders are responsible for securing and strapping their motorcycle to the chase vehicle trailer.



Scooter of Shame

The Scooter of Shame is not property of the Reliability Rally LLC, however may be available for borrowing by it's owner on a case by case basis.

- Can be used only in the case of an on-road breakdown during the RR.
- **\$50 donation to the Neighborhood Resilience Project strongly encouraged if the scooter is used.**
- One time use for the weekend. (if you break down Saturday, you can't use it Sunday).



RR Scoring: Throughout the ride, various contests will be held to judge the riders and bikes. The scoring is based on seven categories, five of them worth 20 points and two worth 10. For example, 20 points will be awarded to the winner of each contest, 19 to second place, etc. Ties will both receive the same point value. No points will be awarded if a contest is skipped. The Reliability Rally reserves the right to change the scoring rules at any time!

1. Purchase Price: (Updated for 2024)

- \$0 - \$399 - 20 points
- \$400 - \$799 - 16 points
- \$800 - \$999 - 12 points
- "It was a grand" - 10 points

Bikes entered in a previous year's RR will default to \$1000 purchase price in the cost category. The intention here is to incentivize bringing new bikes!

2. Fuel Economy: At a predetermined fuel stop, you will refuel the bike of the rider in front of you. Put in as much fuel as possible. Distance traveled will be based on the Event Leader's odometer. Save your fuel receipt or tape a picture of the gas pump if possible. Least fuel used gets 20 points, etc.

3. Acceleration Test: At some point along the ride route, we will find a low-traffic "closed course" stretch of road. All bikes will be tested for acceleration over 1/8th mile using a phone app. Details for this app will be sent out before each event.

4. Slow Race: A balance contest! You will ride your bike within the confined space for as long as possible. Leaving the boundary or putting a foot down will stop your time immediately. Longest time wins 20 points, etc.

5. Reliability: Everyone who finishes the entire ride on the bike they have entered will receive 20 points. However points will be deducted for each unplanned stoppage. Failure to start (within reason) counts as an unplanned stoppage.

6. Rider's Choice: A vote will be held to determine your favorite bike in the field. No specific judgment is required for judging. However, you cannot vote for yourself. Most votes gets 10 points, second place gets 8, etc. Voting ties both receive equal points.

7. Best Modification: Motorcycles are frequently customized by their owners. The best accessory or customization will be voted on and there will be 10 bonus points awarded to the winner, 8 points for second, etc. Voting ties both receive equal points. You cannot vote for yourself. Also, **for the accessory or customization to be entered in competition, it must be attached the bike/rider for the duration of the ride.**

Machine Bonuses: Bonus points shall be awarded based on the type of machine entered. (Max 6, cannot be combined)

- **Asian Machines:** No Bonus
- **American/European:** 6 points
- **50 years old or older:** 6 points
- **2-Stroke:** 6 points

Ride in Bonus: Riding to the rally is not mandatory but is very much in the spirit of the event. Riders who ride to the event receive 1 bonus point for every 100 miles distance they cover, up to a maximum of 5 points. If you ride in from further than 500 miles away, congratulations, you are a badass.

General RR Tips:

- **Shop for bikes in the Fall.** Prices on used bikes plummet as the weather cools. Lots of folks just want these machines out of their garages. Early October is the high time for great deals.
- **Shake your bike down.** Put as many miles on your bike as possible ahead of the RR. Any glaring issues with the machines should become apparent in the first 100 miles or so.
- **Pack some light snacks and drinks.** The Reliability Rally will not stop for a formal lunch. Stops throughout the ride will be sporadic and parts of the route are fairly remote. We could be delayed due to weather or a breakdown, and some refreshments would be very helpful.
- **Bring tools and parts.** Rides are usually based out of remote areas. Bring what you think you might need.
- **Bring some earplugs.** These are helpful during the ride and to tune out your snoring neighbor!
- **Study the Route.** Printed maps, GPX files, and google maps routes will be provided. Knowing the route will come in handy in case of group separation.
- **Rain or Shine!** You and your bike should be prepared for riding through an Appalachian downpour.
- **Wear full protective gear.** Helmet, jacket, pants, boots, gloves. Dress for an unplanned asphalt slide.
- **Cell Phone.** Make sure your phone is charged and on. If for some reason you become separated from the group, you will be contacted with either a meeting point or other instructions.
- **Join the Facebook Group!** Find tons of bike postings, technical support, friends, and banter!
- **Common RR Failures:** these seem to be the most common issues we see at our rides. These are easy things to fix ahead of time.
 1. Crashes from riding outside comfort zone on an old and poorly prepared machine.
 2. Dry rotted and bald tires. We wide rain or shine.
 3. Broken throttle cables. Instant end to a great day.
 4. Broken chains
 5. Ignition systems that don't like getting wet.
 6. Flat Tires. Bring a tire repair kit and pump.