



THE RIDE FOR MISSING CHILDREN



6
1
1
0
2
0

THE AWARENESS
CONTINUES...

Meeting Dates/Locations:

Monday, January 14

New Rider Meeting Monday, February 11 -

MVCC IT Room 225 - 6:00pm

General Meeting Monday, February 11 -

MVCC IT Theater - 7:00pm

Monday, March 11

Monday, April 8

Monday, May 13

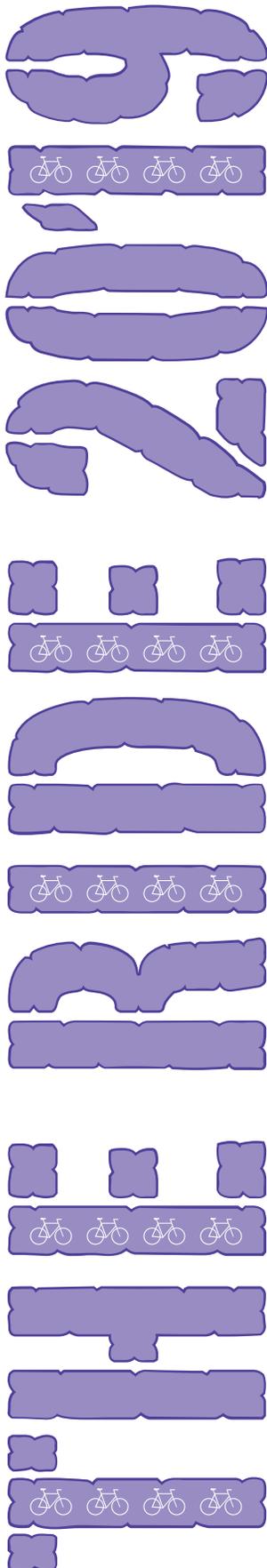
Benefactor Reception - May 29

*Duane's Ride
for the
July 4th Parade
in Utica!*



CHECK
OUT FEBRUARY'S
AGENDA ON
PAGE 4!

RIDE DAY – Friday, June 7, 2019



CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

Diamond Plus

New York Sash

Platinum Plus

Birnie Bus Service
First Source Federal Credit Union

Platinum

Fastrac Market

Gold Plus

BME Company

Gold

Carbone Auto Group
Sullivan Contracting

Silver

Clinton Tractor & Implement Co.
Di Highway Sign & Structure Corp.
Dick Sonne's Cycles, Fitness & Skis
Mohawk Valley Community College
New York Central Mutual Insurance
NYSCOPBA
Northland Communications
PJ Green
Romanelli Advertising
Trainer Associates

Bronze

Bartell Machinery Systems, L.L.C.
Commercial Travelers Insurance Company
Cooley Group, Inc.
CoughlinGiambrone, LLC
Daniele's Banquet Facility
Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy Insurance
Holiday Inn
Indium Corporation
Jack Kunkel's Revolutionary Wellness
JPJ Communications
Master Planners & Associates, LLC
Mohawk Limited Luxury Restrooms
Mohawk Valley Health System
New Hartford Shopping Center
New York State United Teachers
Otsego Mutual Fire Insurance Company
Paragon Athletic Club
Patricia Electric Inc.
Speedy Awards & Engraving
T. C. Peters Printing, Inc.
Teal's Express
TyPac, Inc
Upstate HomeCare
Wal-Mart Distribution Center

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!!

Father Paul Drobin and Grandfather Dick Jordan putting the final ornament on our Tree. Father Paul provided the special ornament that



was hand made in Poland. The tree came from the Newman Center at Utica College, where Father Drobin was Chaplain for 19 years! Father Paul retired in June and the Newman Center closed. Father Paul was so very pleased to donate the Christmas Tree to our Missing Children's Center. 



A few models showing off apparel you can buy at:

<http://www.missingkids.com/supportus/store>





Abby Potash, Director of Team HOPE and Sam Fastow, Child Advocate who spreads awareness about parental abductions, work directly with families in need of their support and guidance through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

TEAM HOPE

Written by Abby Potash, mother of Sam Fastow

On July 21st, 1997 my 10-year-old son Sam was abducted. He was on a weekend visitation with his father and was supposed to go to day camp on Monday, July 21st. When I went to pick Sam up after camp I learned that he never went to camp that day. At first, I thought that he and his father had been in an accident, then after some investigation, I found out that his father had taken him. Two weeks prior I found out that his father had also taken all the money in Sam's college fund and he wouldn't tell me where it was. He took that money, \$40,000, to fund the abduction. I called all his relatives, friends, anyone I could think of and everyone denied knowing anything about the abduction or where he had taken Sam.

I reported Sam missing and was even more frightened because the Detective had never handled a missing person case prior to my son's. Thankfully, what he didn't know about handling a missing child case, he made up in perseverance and dedication. Two other agencies became involved in my son's case. The Sheriff's office in the county our son's father lived in and the FBI. I spent most of my time contacting agencies and disseminating Sam's picture because I wanted to reach the person who had seen him. A picture was the only way that he would be found because his father had \$40,000 in cash and new identities.

Thankfully after 8 ½ months, Sam was recovered because someone recognized him from the "Shop Wise" card that they received in the mail over 1,600 miles away. PICTURES DO WORK. He was recovered by the FBI. The FBI contacted the media and told them about the recovery, so the airport was swarmed with media as my son and I saw each other for the first time. That moment should have been a private moment because my son was traumatized and frightened. It impeded his healing from the abduction. I've learned a great deal from this experience. Months after Sam was recovered, I received an invitation letter to be a part of a newly forming program to help families with missing children. It was like a dream come true. I was honored and overjoyed at the thought of uniting with other parents to help other families experiencing having a missing child. I was grateful to be invited. When Sam was missing, I quickly learned the obstacles and difficulties facing parents, and I knew then that I wanted to help others. Now, I was given the opportunity to help...

There are some experiences in life that are so meaningful words cannot express the profound impact that they make. When Sam was missing, I quickly learned the obstacles and difficulties facing parents, and I knew then that I wanted to help others. Now, I was given the opportunity to help through Team HOPE, a volunteer-based peer support network helping families with missing and exploited children.

Every year on the anniversary of his recovery, we, together, call those who helped when Sam was missing and after he was recovered, for all they did for us. Sam and I do presentations to mental health care providers, law enforcement, social service agencies and others to help them understand the needs of the child and the parent, which are very different. He too has a deep desire to help others experiencing the nightmare of family abduction and has been working for NCMEC for over a year.

We believe in the Ride for Missing Children and are honored to be invited to the Ride. We are grateful to the Riders, Volunteers and Organizers who work so hard to make this event a success. The Riders, Volunteers and Organizers help families with three very important things - bringing awareness to the missing children's' issue, raising money for the creation of posters (which is how Sam was recovered) and bringing HOPE to families.



CONTRIBUTORS

A&P Master Images
Bonide Foundation, Inc.
Central Valley Teachers' Association
Chain Reaction: Mobile Bicycle Repair Services
Chobani Greek Yogurt
Choice Investments LLC
Delta Lake Inn
Excelus BlueCross BlueShield
Heritage Health Care Center
Raspberries Café and Creamery
Rome Teachers Association
Ryder Transportation
Oneida County Presidents' Councils of NYSUT's Utica Regional Office
Utica Mack Truck, Inc.
Utica Truck Sales, Inc.
Village Floral

FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Volunteers and cyclists who are members of our CNY Ride family can help educate children of all ages about personal safety and bicycle safety through our Speakers Bureau, Community Outreach and Spokespersons groups.

If you would like to become a part of our education mission, speaking to groups of school children, staffing a booth at various school or public events, or reading to children in their classroom, please join us for a training session on (either) evening of March 19th or 21st, at the NCMEC office located at 934 York St. Utica.

The class is mandatory for any and all new and returning speakers.

Returning members should arrive before 6:00 p.m. and interested new members should arrive at 6:45 p.m. This training is required by NCMEC's national office. Members of all three of these education groups are allowed to meet with school children on behalf of the Ride for Missing Children CNY only after completing the training class.

If you are interested, please contact Karen LaScala at karenlascala@gmail.com to advise which training session you will be attending (3/19 or 3/21). If you have questions, you can call Karen directly at 315-225-6632.

Become a SPOKESPERSON - We will be stopping at Staley Upper Elementary, Rome, Harts Hill Elementary, Whitesboro, General Herkimer Elementary, Utica, and Barringer Road Elementary, Ilion. We'll also be riding by many other schools throughout the day as we make our way from Oneida to New Hartford.

The school committee is gearing up to assist riders and volunteers in making acquaintances with some of the students we'll be visiting on June 7, 2019. The best way to meet them is to become a participant in the SPOKESPERSONS program. Riders and volunteers are able to visit elementary school classrooms to read to the students and then sit a while to discuss one of the Four Rules of Safety with the children. Many teachers throughout the Mohawk Valley region are interested in having a RFMC presence in their classrooms and you can be the person to bring our mission to their students.

If you are interested in becoming a spokesperson, please contact Amanda Mondrick-Robertello at: Amondri38@utica.edu



AGENDA: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

6:00pm - New Rider Meeting - MVCC IT Room 225
7:00pm - RFMC General Meeting - MVCC IT Shafer Theater

Introduction: Chip Hemmel
National Anthem: NYS School for the Deaf Choir
Sponsor Spotlight: Jim White
Welcome: Chip Hemmel
Ride Announcements: Chip Hemmel
Why I Ride: Michael Jordan
Recovery Roundup: Wendy Fical & Ed Suk
Gems from Grampa: Dick Jordan 



NEWSLETTER STAFF AND PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTORS

Staff: Wendy Fical, Karina Belyea, Amanda Mondrick-Robertello, De Anna Stafford, & Gary Plunkett

Photographic Contributors: Katie Reilly, Kathy Daniels, Stacy Rejman, Sandy Foley, Nedra Isenberg, & Gary Plunkett

THE SHORTEST MONTH

By Chip Hemmel

Though it's the shortest month, our planet is moving very rapidly toward the light. Yet, February tends to be the month that tests our will to venture out to do...well...almost anything.

So, we take a "New Crew" look at an "amended" view of "How to Winterize Your Mind" by Vivian Swift.*

One: *See the sun rise and set every day... Don't miss a minute of daylight.*

With my trusty canine friend to nudge me, this one is a given. But if you don't have a dog to walk there are many options for you, starting with the easy one: an early and/or late walk, or run. Or ski or snowshoe, or fat bike/mountain bike ride in the woods to start your day. If none of these ideas sound appealing, head out for an early morning SPIN, TRAINING, "BOOT CAMP" or CONDITIONING CLASS. Work the legs, get the heart beating, work those lungs - breathe deeply in through the nose, out through the mouth - AND get some "seat time" before the sun rises. Looking for an option between classes? Consider some YOGA or MEDITATION to keep limber and content.

Two: *Learn to draw a tree...Now is the best time to see what a tree really looks like. Draw one every day.*

Once you have your tree drawn add some leaves to it in \$25 increments. As you pass each fundraising milestone, color in one of those leaves. Fix your tree poster to a spot you see every day. Set a goal of having your tree in full bloom by March 31. Now, relax and enjoy our "Orientation Ride" season, knowing the banking is done.

Three: *Put something beautiful in your room so that it's the first thing you see when you wake up.*

What could be more beautiful than to gaze upon a Classic Bianchi Road Bike in Celeste green leaning on your wall each day? What's that? Your significant other is not too keen on having a bicycle in your bedroom? Well, how about a picture of you on your bike on a beautiful spring day? Or a dish garden of forget-me-nots? Something bright and beautiful will help you rise and shine.

Four: *Mend something with your hands. Sew it, glue it, nail it, fix it.*

I'll be adjusting my derailleur and repairing some holes in my cycling clothing "...while the snow whirls wildly without..." You may not have such a need but I'm willing to extend the meaning of "fix it" to include using your hands to call the bike shop and load and unload your bike so that you may get it tuned up and ready for "The Rides of March."

Five: *Hibernate. Life is but a Winter Dream.*

Hey, you've been busy. Go ahead and enjoy some down time by the fireside with a good book — such as Aili & Andres McConnon's Road to Valor — you've earned it!

*From the collection: When Wanderers Cease to Roam: A Traveler's Journal of Staying Put. 



**Don't let the parade pass you by!
(July 4th Parade in Utica.)**



A MESSAGE FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

If there is a specific position you'd like to participate in, please sign up as soon as possible. You will find the Volunteer Registration Application on <http://www.therideformissingchildren.com/>. We have included pre-ride day positions for anyone that may not be able to volunteer on the day of the ride on the application. Please note, when signing up for a specific position, that food is not a part of the Closing Ceremonies but is specific to Riders throughout the day of the Ride for Missing Children. Closing Ceremonies is at the end of the day after the Ride is completed. If you need to change your selection please do not go to the First Giving website, just notify Diane Crompt by e-mail and she will update your selection.

Just a reminder that you are under no obligation to create a donation page when registering to volunteer. However, if you would like to create a donation page you can do so.

The next Rider/Volunteer meeting is Monday, February 11th. We hope that you will attend as many of these meetings as possible. The meetings are very information-al and educational. You will be receiving more information on the meetings in future editions of the RFMC Bulletin.

New volunteers and returning volunteers that did not participate in the 2017 or 2018 RFMC, MUST have picture IDs taken. Due to security reasons, you will not be able to get on the buses the day of the Ride or enter Troop D State Police headquarters without proper ID. Photos will be taken before each Rider/Volunteer meeting starting at 6:00 PM.

Don't forget to check out the volunteer Facebook Page [RFMC Mohawk Valley Volunteers](#). Other than the monthly RFMC Bulletin, this is where all volunteer information can be found.

There will be a **MANDATORY** meeting for all Day of Ride volunteers on Tuesday, May 1st at 6:00 P.M. at the NCMEC Center, 934 York Street, Utica, NY.

**Any questions regarding volunteering or volunteer positions for the Ride, please contact:
Diane Crompt - dcrompt43@gmail.com**

We would like to thank all our volunteers for being such an integral part of our Mission:

*“Making Our Children Safer,
One Child at a Time”*



S.A.G. DRIVERS!!!

We still have a few SAG Driver Volunteer slots open!

Have you ever thought about SAG Driving? Want to help out more then on just the day of the ride? Or are you a new rider this year and have any family member's that want to be a part of the ride but don't want to ride a bike? Well SAG driving may be what you are looking for.

If you are interested in Sag Driving but are unsure or may have some questions please email:

Sheila Fonner - safonner@yahoo.com



Yes
and No!



GET YOUR FUNDRAISING DONE & BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE NEXT RIDE MEETING!

The new Fundraiser Manual is here! Please check it out on our website in the document center for all you need to know about our fundraising guidelines!!!

We will accept any ride donations that you have collected so far at Ride Meetings. Just bring your completed log sheet(s) and there will be donation collection tables manned with friendly volunteers that will add up your donations, check over your donation log and send you on your way.

Ways to help us to process donations quickly and efficiently!

- **Checks Only – NO Cash**
- Print your first and last name (riders) in the memo of each check submitted
- Write neatly
- Check your math - does your log add up?
- Have your checks in the same order as they appear on the log
- Don't forget to add your donors' email addresses
- Submit a Donation Log (logs can be found online here!)

<http://www.the rideformissingchildren.com/assets/2019-Donation-Log-RFMC.pdf>

🚲 **Please note: There will be no pooling of funds among riders!** 🚲

Keep in mind that people want to help, and they will, once you ask!! 🚲



APPAREL

JERSEYS, THERMAL AND WIND JACKETS, WIND VESTS, ARM WARMERS, CYCLING GLOVES, AND CYCLING CAPS

Every new rider will be given a RFMC jersey their first year. Wearing a jersey that fits comfortably will make your first ride even more enjoyable. Since the jerseys run small, we ask that all new riders try them on before we place our order. Sample sizes will be available to try on at the February and March RFMC meetings.

We will also be selling RFMC wind jackets (white for shepherds and pink for riders), thermal jackets (white for shepherds and pink for riders), arm warmers, cycling gloves, cycling caps and wind vests that may be ordered. The size kits for each will all be available for try on at those monthly meetings if you are interested in ordering. Cycling caps are one size fits all. Any or all of this apparel can be worn on the day of the Ride.

Sleeveless jerseys can be ordered for summer wear but may not be worn on the day of the Ride.

Wind Jackets, Wind vests, cycling gloves, arm warmers, cycling caps, extra Ride jerseys, sleeveless jerseys and thermal jackets need to be paid for when you give us your order form. The deadline for trying on, ordering and paying for these items will be at the March 11th RFMC meeting. This apparel will be in your Rider bag in May.

Please be patient if you have to wait in line. We like to spend time with each new rider trying on and ordering their first jersey.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy: C021957w@aol.com or Kelley: kbcough@aol.com



WINTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SADDLE TIME:

○ Fitness Farmacy in Little Falls

Joy Presta is a 1st time Shepard this year, and her friend Breanna Keblish is a 2nd year Shepard. They both teach spin at Fitness Farmacy in Little Falls. The schedule is as follows:

Spin with Joy	Monday 5:15 AM and Wednesday 5:15 PM
Spin with Breanna	Tuesday 5:15 AM
Rockin' Revolution	(Spin & AB Combo) Sunday 9:00 AM and Tuesday 6:00 PM
Other Spin Classes	Thursday 5:30 PM & 6:00 PM, Friday 4:30 PM, and Saturday 9:00 AM

○ Sonne's Training Sessions

Free training sessions with your own bike! Trainers are available for reservation (only 30 available). To register please call 315-736-7106. You must register for these sessions 1 week prior and arrive 30 minutes before the start of session to set up your bike. You may take advantage of storing your bike at Sonne's in between sessions!

Training sessions began January - Tuesday & Thursday @ 6:30pm - Saturday @ 8:30am

DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER TO RIDE!!

Rider Registration:

https://www.imathlete.com/#/legacy?url=%2Fevents%2FEventReg%2FEventReg_SelectType.aspx%3F-fEID%3D70549%26fNew%3D1

Volunteer Registration:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/rideformissingchildren/cny-volunteers>

🚲 **Please note: It is NOT mandatory for you to donate to register as a volunteer!** 🚲

- If you are a **Corporate Sponsor**, please contact **Jim White** for the additional instructions that you will need for your registration: jkrwhite@verizon.net
- If you are a **Family Rider**, please contact **De Anna Stafford** for the additional instructions that you will need for your registration: destay4rd@gmail.com

