

Tour de Mad Dog Challenge 2015

History

On a cold January 13 back in 2001, a few Louisville Bicycle Club members embarked on a self-organized winter century ride that followed the classic Boston-Munfordville-Boston route.

The ride schedule read -- 8:00 am, 100 mi. #3, Eddie's Big Dog January Century, Boston Store, Boston KY. Enjoy an unexpected break from the winter blahs with a leisurely century over a portion of the famous WACKY route. No drop policy will be strictly enforced on this ride.

Five people rode what was the first of the Mad Dog Centuries, starting a tradition that lives on to this day. Those truly "originals" were Eddie Doerr, Michael Pitt, Tim Chilton, and Bill & Anong Pustow.

The Challenge

While the tradition of the Mad Dog Century continues, the tradition was enhanced in 2004 by LBC member Tim Chilton, with the evolution of the **Tour de Mad Dog**. No less than 59 riders participated in the first Tour de Mad Dog Challenge. The inaugural TMD Challenge consisted of an opening Prologue followed by 20 century stages. A similar contest has been held each year since with the rider with the lowest overall adjusted "time" at the end of the TMD being declared the TOUR de MAD DOG CHAMPION.

While very few people can know what it is like to ride a long stage race, it is very possible for serious cyclists to complete challenging stages over an extended time period. The TMD Challenge shall consist of 21 stages, including an uphill Time Trial and 20 century rides (95 to 120 miles each) spread out over the course of the year and ending by the last day of the touring season. The TMD Challenge will also include a time-trial style Prologue scheduled at a suitable location in the Louisville, KY area prior to the completion of Stage Five.

Best of all, your actual ride time will not even matter! In order to win stages, the only requirement is to show up and complete the course within the allotted time limit. To win the TMD Challenge, a rider must complete many stages, stay in groups, and perhaps be a little lucky.

Of course, it is unrealistic to expect riders to participate in every stage, or even the Prologue. A simple, but fair, statistical method will allow riders to receive estimated stage times while not suffering time penalties that are crippling in terms of the overall TMD Challenge. Riders must complete at least 10 stages of the tour to be considered a official TMD Challenge finisher.

The Ethic

In order for the Tour de Mad Dog Challenge to succeed, participants must agree to an ethic that promotes a very high standard of sportsmanship. Any information requested by the Tour Director or his staff must be accurate and true. Any unsportsmanlike behavior (cutting the route, making false claims, falsifying information, etc.) will not be tolerated and will be met with warnings, time penalties, and perhaps even disqualification from the event.

The Louisville Bicycle Club

Since the TMD Challenge will be organized by members of the Louisville Bicycle Club, the individual stages will be posted on the official LBC event schedule for statistical purposes. All TMD Challenge participants must be LBC members, and must sign the standard ride sheet waiver before each and every event as required by club rules.

This is a Challenge, not a race. Your actual time on the courses will not even matter! Each stage will take place on public roads where all of the rules of the road apply to automobiles, to trucks, to motorcycles and to bicycles alike. Riders must agree to abide by all traffic laws at all times.

All riders should be healthy and should be adequately trained to complete each challenging stage. Also, cyclists who undertake such a challenge should be self-reliant in case something goes wrong on the course. Although the Ride Captain on a given stage may agree to sweep the course, or to ride with a certain rider, this cannot be assumed by the participants and does not mean that the RC is there to take care of you.

The Rules

I. Tour Director

- A. The TMD Challenge shall be organized and managed by the Tour Director. His/her duties shall consist of (but are not limited to) scheduling the events, registering riders, maintaining accurate event statistics, organizing staff, managing funds, acquiring trophies/prizes, and enforcing the rules in a fair manner.
- B. The Tour Director may be a participant in the TMD Challenge.

II. Participants

- A. The TMD Challenge is open to any cyclist who rides on a 2 or 3 wheeled human powered vehicle, single or tandem.
- B. There will be a male division and a female division. These rules apply equally to both.
- C. Participants MUST be members of the Louisville Bicycle Club for their results to count in the General Classification, however, TMD rides are open to the general public.
- D. All participants must register with the Tour Director before the start of the 5th stage. Riders need to ride at least ONE of Stages 1-5, to be in the TMD Challenge for that year.
- E. Riders need not participate in the Prologue to take part in either preceding or remaining century stages. A penalty time will be assigned to any rider that misses the Prologue, but completes one of the first five stages.
- F. Any cyclist may take part in any of these stages, but they MUST be LBC members to be the Stage Winner or to be considered a part of any finishing group in the competition.
- G. All stages will be publicized on the official LBC ride schedule with a special (TMD) classification.

III. The Prologue

- A. The Tour Director shall schedule the Prologue at a suitable location in the Louisville area. The course should be between 5 and 10 miles in length.
- B. The Prologue Course will not necessarily be flat.
- C. All riders who complete the Prologue will use their actual recorded time in the General Classification standings with the following exceptions:
- D. Exception: For women, a minimum average of 16 mph will be considered a recordable time. For men, 18 mph will be the minimum average. A “cut-off” finish time will be issued to any rider who falls below those averages (this is primarily to prevent anyone from “sandbagging” their results to further penalize any rider not present for the Prologue)
- E. A rider who is not able to participate in the Prologue shall be issued a time based on the slowest recorded time for their gender, plus a one minute penalty.
- F. No time bonus will be awarded in the Prologue.
- G. Drafting is expressly forbidden and will be severely punished with a time penalty.
- H. Tandems cannot be utilized for the Prologue or any Time Trial stage. This must be based on the individual’s effort, since it is a timed event.

IV. Century Stages

- A. The century stages shall be scheduled well ahead of time by the Tour Director and placed on the LBC Scheduler by either the century captain or the Tour Director.
- B. All stages will be take place on either Saturdays, Sundays, or legal Holidays (Generally, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day)
- C. All new cue sheets will be submitted to the Tour Director who will check for completeness. As a courtesy, captains will generally post their cue sheets and/or gps file of a new route on an established web site for other participants to review or download, but the cue sheet distributed at the START of each ride by the captain is the official course if there are any discrepancies or disputes.
- D. Riders must complete the Stage within a reasonable time frame that will be announced before each ride (usually 10 hours, but longer times may be allowed for longer, or more difficult, courses or riding conditions). Failure to complete the course within the time limit and will result in a DNF.
- E. All riders must complete the route as presented on the cue sheet except for road emergencies as addressed in these rules. Cutting the course will result in an appropriate penalty, perhaps even a DNF.
- F. For completion credit of a century stage, participants must depart at approximately the scheduled time that is on the LBC's Ride Schedule. Most exceptions to this rule will be covered in the LBC's Ride Captain guidelines located in the touring section. Riders MAY be given permission to depart either earlier or later (within reason) from a ride start by either the ride caption or TMD Director. Final rulings will be determined by the TMD Director. Riders seeking an exception are expected to contact the ride caption or TMD Director prior to the event.

V. Time Trial Stages

- A. Up to two TMD stages may be individual time trials. Creativity is encouraged, while long distances shall be discouraged. An uphill TT shall be no more than 5 miles and a flat to rolling TT no more than 25 miles.
- B. All of the rules that apply to the Prologue apply to the Time Trial Stage.
- C. The penalty for missing the Uphill TT stage is the time of the slowest GC competitor +1 minute.
- D. Drafting is expressly forbidden and will be severely punished the same as for the Prologue.
- E. Tandems cannot be utilized for any Time Trial stage. This must be based on the individual's effort, since it is a timed event.

VI. Time Bonus

- A. Raw times will be adjusted by a time bonus given to all who complete a stage. Stages will be given a difficulty grade by the TMD director and assigned a time bonus based on the following scale: "Moderate (Group A)" = no bonus time, "Difficult (Group B)" = 1 minute bonus, "Challenge (Group C)" = 2 minutes bonus time. No time bonuses will be given on Time Trial stages.
- B. To increase the fun and to help stagger times, additional time bonuses will be allotted on each stage. These time bonuses will be determined by a random drawing after the stage. Once a bonus is drawn and used, it may not be repeated during the current tour season. See the Appendix for approved time bonuses and their values.
- C. Time bonuses will in no way affect the declaration of the Stage Winner.

VII. Result Sheets

- A. Result Sheets will be available at the beginning of each stage start and each rider is responsible for legibly filling it out at the end of the ride.
- B. Each rider will submit the names of the other riders with whom he/she finished in their group, their finish time, and any relevant bike/rider info for time bonus purposes.

VIII. Determination of Ride Times and Group Riding

- A. The intent and spirit of the TMD Challenge is to foster group riding and Mad Dog camaraderie. Fictitious ride times will be awarded to riders based largely on the size of the group with which they finish. In most cases, the larger the group you finish with, the better your time will be.
- B. Immediately after each stage, there will be a blind draw to determine the stage winner.
- C. The rider whose name is drawn will be declared Stage Winner and he/she will be given a ride time based on the average of 20 mph. All other riders' times will be based on this winning time.
Example: On a 99.2 mile stage, The winning ride time will be 4:57:36.
- D. Actual ride times are insignificant and carry no weight whatsoever in determining the winner, provided the rider completes the course within the announced time limit. Even the last finisher can be declared the Stage Winner.
- E. The Stage Winner shall be awarded the best time for the stage, one full minute ahead of the other members of the group.
- F. When a group arrives at the finish with the Stage Winner, all of those riders will be awarded a time one full minute behind the computed Stage Winner time.
- G. The remaining times shall be allotted as follows:
 - i. Solo finisher: Stage Winner plus 10 minutes;
 - ii. Group of two: Stage Winner plus 7 minutes;
 - iii. Group of three: Stage Winner plus 5 minutes;
 - iv. Group of four: Stage Winner plus 4 minutes;
 - v. Group of five: Stage Winner plus 3 minutes;
 - vi. Group of six or more: Stage Winner plus 2 minutes.
- H. Any LBC member, competing in the TMD Challenge or not, will be counted as a group finisher for competition purposes. Also, any LBC member who participates may be in the drawing for Stage Winner. Of course, one must complete the stage in order to be declared Stage Winner. If the rider whose name is drawn fails to finish the course as directed by these Rules, the Stage Winner shall be declared by a blind drawing of all cyclists who successfully finished the course.
- I. When a Tour de Mad Dog stage is scheduled as a joint ride with another area bicycle club, those members (provided they are in good standing) may be counted among participants for group riding credit. However, only LBC members may be eligible for Stage Winner.
- J. All serious cyclists know what group riding is about. The TMD Challenge is designed to encourage groups of all abilities to work together to attain a common goal: finishing the stage! With that in mind, all riders should work together with his/her group to gain maximum advantage and maximum reward.
- K. Riders shall be considered in a group when they FINISH connected to other riders by a gap of no greater than 10 yards. Any gap greater than 10 yards indicates that these riders are in separate and distinct groups.
- L. Manipulation of the group riding system will be considered bad sportsmanship and is subject to sanction - even disqualification from the TMD Challenge. The Tour Director will implement methodologies as necessary to prevent unsportsmanlike behavior. Actions like attacking at the end with the intent of dropping one or more group members will not be acceptable. Similarly, riding solo off the front and waiting at the end to finish with a group will be considered manipulation of the system and may be subject to sanction. As a general rule, riders, "off the front" should allow themselves to be swept up by the group behind them with at least 5 miles of course left.
- M. Riders may wait (or even backtrack) at strategic points along the course for a slower group to arrive. This is especially encouraged in the case of being dropped by a faster moving group.
- N. A tandem will be counted as a group of two.
- O. A captain is expected to sweep their course for slower riders. Any rider(s) who is "dropped" by the captain and consequently finishes in a group size smaller than six, will be allowed to "add one" to their finishing group size for the purpose of computing finish times. Riders who "ride off the front" and get lost, are on their own.

IX. Missing Stages

- A. Riders need not ride all stages in order to participate. You must complete at least 10 stages to be a TMD finisher. (The Prologue does NOT count as a stage).
- B. Riders who miss a stage will get a time based upon the fictitious Stage Winner time.
- C. Missing a century stage will be punished by the following equation: Stage Winner Time (before time bonuses) + 26 minutes.

X. Winning the Tour de Mad Dog Challenge

- A. The Yellow Jersey Winner will be the rider with the lowest adjusted time, provided he/she has completed at least 10 stages.
- B. For the participants who complete 10 or more stages, the lowest adjusted ride time will determine the TMD Champion.
- C. In order to claim victory, a rider must complete at least 10 stages. If it becomes evident that no rider will complete at least 10 stages, then all riders are declared “Abandoned” and the TMD Challenge is canceled with no declared winner.
- D. Any rider will have successfully completed the Tour de Mad Dog Challenge by completing 10 Stages. Riders MUST complete at least one of the first five stages AND at least one of the last five stages to be an official finisher.
- E. Ties shall be broken in the following order:
 - i. Best time in the Prologue;
 - ii. Best combined time of the Prologue and Time Trial Stages;
 - iii. participation in the Prologue;
 - iv. most completed stages;
 - v. Eldest.

XI. Jersey Importance

- A. The Yellow Jersey Leaders (Men and Women) will have earned the highest status among the Mad Dogs. In accordance with that status, only the Yellow Jersey Leader shall be allowed to wear the colors that he/she earned for the next stage.
- B. If the Yellow Jersey Leader does not have a yellow colored jersey, the Tour Director may provide a suitable jersey for him/her to wear. (This may not hold if riders are exceptionally large or small.)
- C. Other riders who arrive at a stage start not having earned the Yellow Jersey will not be forced to adhere to this rule, but out of respect for the status of the leaders they should be strongly urged to wear other colors when they haven't earned Yellow.
- D. LBC jerseys (OKHT, Club, Racing, etc.), while having a yellow theme, will be exceptions to this rule.
- E. Due to weather conditions, jackets may be a necessity. This rule does not apply to jacket color.
- F. White Jersey Leaders for both men and women will be the status awarded to the GQ riders in the current TMD who have not reached their 25th birthday by the tour's end OR who have not qualified as a previous TMD tour finisher regardless of their age.

XII. DNF and Abandons

- A. All Participants must complete one of the first five (5) stages. Participants must also complete one of the last five stages to avoid being abandoned.
- B. When it becomes apparent that a rider cannot complete 10 of the 21 stages, that rider is declared “Abandoned”.
- C. Failure to finish the course, or to complete the course within the announced time limit, will be deemed a DNF.
- D. Failure to complete a rider sheet at the end of the stage could also be ruled a DNF. This will be left to the discretion of the Tour Director.
- E. A DNF will be penalized in the same manner as a Missed Stage.
- F. Failing to complete any one hundred mile stage in less than ten (10) hours will be considered a DNF. The time limit will be adjusted as necessary for longer or more difficult rides.
- G. Riders who are declared abandoned are still encouraged to participate in the remaining TMD stages. They are still eligible to be declared Stage Winner and can be counted as group members.
- H. If a rider DNF’s two consecutive stage attempts, he/she COULD be considered Abandoned. This will be left to the discretion of the Tour Director and will have more to do with being generally unprepared or unfit for the TMD Challenge rather than “bad luck” mechanicals that are unrepairable on the road

I. XIII. Road Emergencies

- A. Serious emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis. If someone becomes injured, sick, or hurt, riders are expected to stop and to render appropriate aid. No one will be penalized for helping others in need of aid. Time limits will be adjusted as circumstances require.
- B. Helping other riders with mechanical problems is allowed and encouraged. Remember, riders are rewarded for finishing in groups.
- C. No exchange of any food, drink, tools, tubes, etc. shall take place between a rider and a MOVING vehicle. SAG vehicles or “broom wagons” may be allowed on a course at the TMD director’s discretion to render aid to riders. Riders who leave the course in a vehicle will be DNF’d. This is to allow a “safety net” for riders who may be challenging their previous limits and provide support for the ride captain or sweeper.
- D. In the case of a course being severely disrupted due to extreme weather (flooding, downed trees, power lines, etc.), the Tour Director may declare the stage complete and assign all participants times. The best solution is to have the Stage Winner declared as usual with the remaining field all getting the same time, one minute back. Time bonuses are not to be factored in.
- E. Sweeper Rule: Any Ride Captain or designated sweepers (approved by the Tour Director before the stage) will be assigned a time that is the equivalent of a generic Group of Six (2 minutes slower than the Stage Winner), provided he/she actually sweeps the route. Riders who finish with the sweeper will still be assigned a time that relates to the size of their group(s). The time limit will be waived on the Sweeper, but he/she must still complete the course as presented on the cue sheet in a reasonable amount of time.

XIV. Funding

- A. The Tour de Mad Dog Challenge will be funded by Louisville Bicycle Club. Participation is FREE to all members in good standing!
- B. Prizes for the Yellow and White Jersey winners in both men and women’s divisions, individual stage winners, other podium finishers, and any official TMD finishers - will be left to the discretion of the Tour Director and LBC VP of Touring.

XV. Weather

- A. Stages may be canceled by the Tour Director or the LBC Ride Captain in case of bad weather. Multiple make-up stage dates and opportunities will be scattered in the TMD schedule.
- B. The Tour Director reserves the right to cancel or substitute any stage route or captain if circumstances warrant.
- C. LBC Touring Guidelines apply to all stages. The Ride Captain for any given stage has the power to cancel a ride for appropriate reasons as outlined in the Guidelines. That call will not be questioned.
- D. The Prologue, too, may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Tour Director.

Important Note:

The Tour de Mad Dog Challenge is dedicated to the memory of Michael Pearn.

Appendix:

A: Time Bonuses The following list of time bonuses will be approved for the TMD. Before or after each stage, a random blind draw will be held and ONE of the following time bonuses will be applied to all riders who qualify (time subtracted from their stage time). The draw will be handled exactly as the Stage Winner draw: no one will know until after the ride is complete.

Age: under 24 = 2 min

Age: 25-59 = 1 min

Age: 60 & up = 2 min

Weight: (Flyweight) Men under 149 lbs, Women under 119 lbs = 1 min

Weight: (Regular) Men 150-199 lbs, Women 120-149 lbs = 1 min

Weight: (Clydesdale/Athena) Men 200-219 lbs, Women 150-169 lbs = 2 min

Weight: (Super) 220 lbs and over, Women 170 lbs and over = 2 min

TMD Rookie = 1 min (never completed a tour)

TMD Veteran = 1min (completed at least one tour)

TMD Original = 2 min (completed ALL previous TMDs)

Bike frame: steel = 2 min

Bike frame: alum = 1 min

Bike frame: carbon = 1 min

Bike frame: titanium = 1 min

Gearing: standard double = 2 min

Gearing: compact double = 1 min

Gearing: triple = 1 min

Gearing: fixed or single speed = 2 min

Bike type: single = 1 min

Bike type: tandem = 1 min

Bike type: 'bent = 1 min

Started stage in Yellow or White Jersey = 1 min

Placement: stage winner gets additional minute off time

Placement: everyone in stage winner group gets additional minute

Rack or Fenders = 2 min

Handlebar bag or Brevet bag = 2 min

Backpack carried during ride = 2 min