

# Southern Minnesota Biker Runs in 2010

**ACCORDING TO ANN HOFMEISTER,** owner of the Harley-Davidson in Faribault, “No matter what kind of road trip you’re on, it’s always an adventure.”

It’s all about a “Good Ride for a Good Cause” shared Jane Arends, coordinator and participant in the Southwest Minnesota Toys for Tots Run, speaking of all the people who come together to show support and have a good time.

**What: Flood Run**

**When: April 17**

**Where: Meet at Lake St. Croix Beach**

One of the oldest and larger runs in America, the Flood Run originated during the 1965 floods when cyclists came to aid by helping lay sandbags by the Mississippi River. The ride, now in its 45th year, benefits Gillette Children’s Hospital. The scenic ride runs up and down both sides of the Mississippi River (Minnesota Highway 61 and Wisconsin Highway 35). Many towns along the way have special events going on during the weekend. Bikers are encouraged to “cross the river wherever you like and jump in wherever you like — just make sure to purchase a Benefit Wristband to show your support.” A Flood Run also takes place in the fall on Sept. 18. Go to [www.floodrun.org](http://www.floodrun.org).

**What: 2010 Rolling into the Future MDA Ride**

**When: May 15**

**Where: Meets at Faribault Harley-Davidson dealership**

This 125-mile ride is on the winding back roads of Faribault’s area lakes. Now in its eighth year, the MDA Ride helps to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Following the ride is food and a silent and live auction. Approximately 200 riders participate. Go to [www.faribaultmda.com](http://www.faribaultmda.com) and click on the MDA tab to register.

**What: Harley Heroes Ride**

**When: June 12**

**Where: Meet at Faribault Harley-Davidson dealership**

“This ride honors and acknowledges all military and public servants who are fighting and have fought to secure our freedom,” according to the Harley-Davidson dealership in Faribault. There is a flag-raising ceremony honoring the Veterans Memorial at the Rice County Courthouse, followed by lunch and special speakers.

**What: Pink Ribbon Ride**

**When: June 19**

**Where: Meet at the Purple Goose in Janesville**

This is their fifth annual awareness ride for breast cancer. Breakfast and dinner are included. New this year, a band will play the night before at the Purple Goose in Janesville. Proceeds go to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. [www.janesvillepinkribbonride.com](http://www.janesvillepinkribbonride.com)

**What: Tourist Trophy (TT) Ride**

**When: Mid-July**

**Where: Meet at Bergdale Harley-Davidson dealership in Albert Lea**

This run is part of a season-long Tourist Trophy Adventure Tour that encourages riders to log miles for a chance of winning prizes in their contest. The TT Ride takes place in the middle of the season and serves as a “check point” to see how you are doing on your mileage. Go to [www.bergdalehd.com](http://www.bergdalehd.com). Also watch for the Bergdale Albert Lea Harley-Davidson 25th anniversary ride and bash coming this May.

**What: LTD Motorcycle Memorial Tour**

**When: July 24**

**Where: Meet in Montevideo**

This soldier memorial (Lhotka-Timmerman-Day) ride is about 235 miles and has approximately 735 participants. Law enforcement, firemen, highway patrol, local police and sheriffs all help to make this run a smooth ride by keeping the roads open and traffic at bay. The benefit goes toward scholarships, and there is a raffle at the end. Go to [www.ltdbikers.com](http://www.ltdbikers.com).

**What: The “Cruise” 2010**

**When: July 25**

**Where: Meet at RCTC (Rochester Community Technical College)**

The “Cruise” is celebrating its 10th annual ride this year. It benefits the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. The route is approximately 125 miles around scenic southeast Minnesota. A parade goes through town to the Ronald McDonald House where the donation is made. A silent auction, live auction and live music follow. It’s a well-attended event with more than 1200 riders raising nearly \$125,000! Go to [www.rmhcruise.com/Home.html](http://www.rmhcruise.com/Home.html) to register online.

**What: Southwest Minnesota Toys for Tots Run**

**When: July 31**

**Where: Meet at the Rolling Lyons Club House, Amiret**

This run benefiting Toys for Tots starts first with a parade traveling to the Hitching Post in Marshall to drop off toys. After the ride bikers go back to the Lyon County Fairgrounds for a free hog roast. Cash and door prizes are awarded. New this year, they are back to one route, but it is your choice if you want to run it forward or backwards — plan to cross in the middle!

**What: KMS Memorial Ride**

**When: Aug. 14**

**Where: Meet in Franklin**

This ride raises money in memory of fallen soldiers: Koch-Miller-Schmit and also Wertish-Kahler. It’s a 150-mile loop that includes Marshall. There is a raffle for a new bike and cash prizes. Money is donated to the Veterans of America and scholarships are awarded to young people. Food and band follow. Go to [kmsride.com](http://kmsride.com).

**What: Sheriff Posse Ride**

**When: Aug. 22**

**Where: Meet at various starting points** (participating counties are: Steele, Rice, Dodge, Freeborn, Waseca, Blue Earth and Le Sueur)

Headed up by the multiple sheriff departments in the area, this ride incorporates seven different counties. It’s a fundraiser for the American Red Cross chapters that serve southeast Minnesota. The starting and ending spot rotates each year. [www.sheriffsposseride.com](http://www.sheriffsposseride.com)

**What: Outlaw Run**

**When: Aug. 28**

**Where: Meet at the Northfield Historical Society, Division Street, Northfield**

Ride over on your iron horse and retrace the escape route taken by the infamous James-Younger Gang that followed the attempted Northfield bank raid of 1876. The event starts with a reenactment on Division Street. The route follows the hoof prints of the Gang’s escape in a southwest direction out of town. There are stops along the way before it loops back to Northfield for a celebration at the Rueb’N’Stein with prize drawings, giveaways and music. Proceeds go to the Northfield Historical Society who believes in “Making History Matter.”

— Amy Acheson