

Report from Mikael, September 16. This is based on data from 13 members who responded to a short list of questions circulated on September 4. I hope the data are self explanatory. Sometimes the numbers indicate the number of responses, at other times they are averages. Additional comments from respondents are enclosed in boxes. I edited these slightly for length and to increase anonymity.

1a. How many BCR rides have you done this year (2012).

Average: 4.769230769

1b. How many rides would you have done if all rides were unsupported

Average: 4.769230769

1c. Do you decide to ride a brevet based on the level of support that is offered?

No 12

Sometimes 1

1d. How much do you appreciate the support that volunteers provide during a brevet?

I very much appreciate the support and the encouragement given by volunteers. It is great to see a friendly face at a control.
Support is always welcome but not required. It is very nice to meet a smiling face at a secret or at the house of the organizer etc
Very much, but this is not the same as finding it necessary.
Very very much appreciated. It is fun to see a familiar face.
am polite and thank the volunteers, but I don't need it
A great deal. The encouragement from the volunteers has helped me on every ride that I've done.
As a new member this year, the support has been fantastic, but that isn't the reason I go on these rides. What I really enjoyed was getting to know the other riders/volunteers and getting out to ride with like minded people on different routes.
See above
Greatly. It's nice to see a friendly face, and to know that support, if needed, is available.
Greatly appreciate, would rather they were out on the brevet with us.
volunteer support is an incredible luxury. I heartily appreciate every bit of support that is offered.
Nice but not essential as long as there are places to buy food and drink along the route

2a. How many rides did you organize this year (2012)?

Average: 2.333333333

2b. How many hours do you estimate that it took to organize these in total?

Average: 47.22222222

2c. What could be done to reduce the number of hours that it took you to organize these rides?

One idea would be to have templates online of the established routes for control cards and route sheets. This is where I spent most of my organizing time putting these together. Another idea might be to have someone dedicated as a "go-to" person(s) who knows the ropes. (Thanks to a fellow member who helped me immensely when I was organizing my first brevet).
Use existing routes, have more volunteers to cover checkpoints. "Paperwork" probably can't be trimmed.
Nothing I thought I was extremely efficient #;o) Not really an issue, I did them because I chose to.
Keep a file of the cue sheets for the various rides. Ask riders if they encountered any problems with the cue sheet directions. Note this on the cue sheet for future reference. These past cue sheets would not replace pre rides as many things can change on a route from one year to the next.
Savings of time are difficult to be had. The biggest gains could be made with the route files, having a route database would be helpful. The most efficient route organized this year was the XXX, where I rode with everyone on the day of.
Not necessary
Nothing
Better archives of material from previous rides

3a. How many rides did you volunteer at?

Average 2

3b. How many hours do you estimate that you volunteered for?

Average 100.9 Note that average for a VI ride is less than 5. Average for RM1200 is more than 100.

3c. What could be done by the organizer to reduce the number of hours that you volunteered for?

Lowered expectations for the support required for the ride. More convenient location of controls.
Unstaffed controls. Control locations are usually driven by the route, and the need to have controls at extremes. Information controls can be used to supplement live controls, but should not replace all controls. Staffed controls are only needed when the ride is so big it overwhelms businesses, or when no businesses are available and services need to be provided (eg Gold River, middle of night). Most of my volunteer time was either driving to control, or waiting during control opening until all riders accounted. Servicing riders on VI is actually quite short--maybe a couple of hours at each control. Longer controls can be split, but that needs more volunteers, and in many cases, more driving.
As this is time I choose to do something I enjoy doing, reducing the time spent is a moot point.
In my case not a great deal, as it is a personal commitment to ensure tat when I organize a brevet, I feel very responsible for the safety of the riders. In addition I appreciate when I complete a brevet there is a friendly face to say "congratulations - well done". In my opinion this is particularly important for new riders
My control was fine but I've seen volunteers sitting around for hours and hours waiting for a rider to come through but not sure how this could be improved with the varied rider capabilities and weather conditions.
Early specification of route details – might not reduce hours, but would make life easier
Probably nothing. I had a great time that day feeding people and cheering them on.

4. Would you be more likely to organize rides if you were NOT expected to get volunteers and food for each control?

Yes
No
The same. I didn't have any volunteers and did everything myself (Start, Finish and Secret Control) and my family made most of the food that was offered.
Yes
I don't do that anyway. If I have volunteers, I use them. If I don't, the riders are on their own. If I provide food, it is just what is convenient, often purchased during the event. This changes for large entry rides.
No. If I can find volunteers great, if not, it'll be what it will be.
Yes
Yes
Absolutely!
No, and I usually don't get volunteers, although it is nice to have help as when my friends co-organize and that is good!
I didn't think that was an expectation because I have ridden brevets where the controls were not staffed. That time required to organize an event is not an issue for me. I don't mind asking for help if a task seems too big for me to handle. For me the limiting factor is that I am already stretched too thin to take on anything new - unless I want to give up riding (and that's not going to happen any time soon!).

5. Would you be more likely to volunteer if there were fewer hours expected of volunteers at each ride?

No
I plan on volunteering for one to three rides a year and this wouldn't change if the times were different.
No
As this is time I choose to do something I enjoy doing, reducing the time spent is a moot point.
No
No
Not necessary
If I have some time next year I might be able to help out at a contro
Yes
No. As said in the introduction, I allocate a whole day to volunteering, even if the "control" itself is only a few hours.
Not Sure. I rode some great routes and the support was fantastic, so it was only natural that I gave something back. With that said, I feel that it would be OK if there were less support on rides if there wasn't enough volunteers. All you REALLY need is someone at the start and finish the rest of the controls that are "peopled"are the gravy on top of a great ride
Hours are not the issue for me
no, this is a hobby and I find leisure in associated volunteer duties.