

One of the best group motorcycle rides you have ever tried started out as an idea hatched by an officer of the Marathon Police Department a few years ago. Sergeant Kory Gertschen wanted to do a fundraiser for Special Olympics and asked his Chief if he could put together a group ride to raise money. The Chief said go for it and as they say "the rest is history".

Today, the Marathon Motorcycle Fun Run is sponsored by the Marathon Lions Club and is well known in Central Wisconsin as the ride you don't want to miss. What started out as a good idea by Kory (now Chief of the Marathon Police Dept) has evolved into a daylong event which has raised more than \$300,000 for Special Olympics over the past 14 years.

Kory stepped away from the day to day oversight of the ride about 18 months ago, but remains as an advisor to the volunteer committee which organizes and coordinates the ride and associated activities.

The ride has grown to the point where it is now held at Veteran's Park in Marathon which is a venue large enough to hold the crowds which attend the event. Activities include the ride itself, numerous raffles, door prizes, live and silent auctions, food, and refreshments. The day's events conclude with live music by the very popular band Led West.

Last year's ride did a drive by of the Special Olympics State Track Meet at Stevens Point and stopped at the Lion's Camp at Rosholt where the riders learned how their donations help support camp activities and witnessed a Leader Dog demonstration.

Special Olympics is founded on the belief that all individuals with cognitive disabilities can benefit from sports participation. The Motorcycle Fun Run helps subsidize training, travel, and other costs needed to support the athletes.

The Marathon Lions Club supports sight and hearing impaired persons within the community as well as high school scholarships, youth activities, clubs, and other local needs.

This year's ride is set for June 6th and will leave Marathon and travel Northeast of Wausau toward Antigo before returning to Marathon for a pig roast with all the trimmings and the evening activities.

If you are looking to try a group ride for a good cause and a really good time remember the Marathon Fun Run. For more information and to register online check out www.marathonfun-run.org or you can email to: marathon-funrun@gmail.com.



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