

# TRS 2012 RAGBRAI Reg Info and Newsletter

**\*FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER WITH TEAM ROADSHOW ON RAGBRAI GO TO THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. (group # 1808)\***

Hello RoadShowers!

1st, the official RAGBRAI registration deadline is April 1st, but I will be unicycling in Moab then so **our deadline is March 21st. On March 21st I will close the group and send in the money. You cannot register for a wristband after March 21st.** You can, of course, still ride with us. To ride with us please RSVP using our new [website form](http://teamroadshow.com/?page_id=51) ([http://teamroadshow.com/?page\\_id=51](http://teamroadshow.com/?page_id=51)) (much preferred) or e-mailing me.

The waiver is electronic this year! Yes! So all you have to do is mail me a check for the registration amount. Make it out to me (Mike Seager) not Team RoadShow.

Historically I tend to get a bit long winded in these annual e-mails. I've decided to include a table of contents this time to aid your skimming. However, when you do have time please read everything - the dissemination of this information is vital to the longevity of the team and our RAGBRAI success.

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**Firstly, my contact information for your convenience:**

**(Removed for online posting. Go to the [TRS Contact Page](#).)**

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## Section I: News

### 2011 Recap

As you all likely remember 2011 was a stressful year for the team. Last August I sent out an E-mail that recapped our expenses and the results of the *big meeting* that took place in one of the towns. This was the table of contents:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) RAGBRAI 2011 Spending Report
  - a. Income breakdown
  - b. Spending breakdown
  - c. Discussion
    - i. Mandatory Fee vs Sliding Scale
      1. History
- 3) Recap of Discussion
  - a. Communication
    - i. What works, what doesn't
    - ii. Solutions
      1. Website Fixes
        - a. Gallery
        - b. Forum
    - iii. Discussion
  - b. Transportation
    - i. Brainstorm recap
    - ii. Desired features
- 4) Delegation
- 5) Merchandise

You can read the full newsletter by downloading it from here:

<http://teamroadshow.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/TRS-Post-RAGRAI-Newsletter-2011.pdf>

If you were a part of that conversation and haven't read the newsletter yet, please do. Since last RAGBRAI we've bought a new bus, become an LCC, created more transparent finances, and completely redone our website to improve our ability to communicate and collaborate.

Despite our technical difficulties, we had a great year and a lot of fun. I am very much looking forward to 2012! Partially because:

### ***We have a new BUS!***

BJ has really been a rock star this year. He took the lead on the bus search and did an amazing job. BJ collected money using the TRS [pledge page](#) and using that money he bought the bus just a few days ago. TRS raised \$5000 for the bus, paid about \$3000 for it, and have some money left over for customizing. BJ has sent out this request regarding customization:



Hi All.

Our **NEW BUS** is safe and sound in Central Wisconsin! Thanks everybody for helping us get to this point! Now it's time to transform this thing. There's a couple ways you can be involved.

You can:

- Share your opinions on how we should set up the bus.
- Help make the decisions of what we're actually going to do to the bus.
- Come for one or more work party weekends to get this thing ready for July
- Donate items needed for the bus.
- Send your love to everyone that is helping.

Please send me an email if you want to be involved.

Thanks!

~bj

I can't thank you all enough for your generosity and dedication helping keep this team alive. It moistens my face.

The fate of the old bus has yet to be determined. Ideas?

### ***We are an LLC!***

BJ also has put a tremendous amount of work into making us a Limited Liability Corporation. Now Team RoadShow is **Team RoadShow LLC**. This cost some legal fees which came out of the bus fund, but it is well worth it. Being an LLC has many advantages:

- Individuals are free from liability and lawsuits incurred from bus accidents, injuries, etc.
- TRS LLC (you!) owns the bus, not an individual.
- There is now a TRS bank account, debit cards, and checks.
  - Now I don't have to pass thousands of dollars through my personal bank account for RAGBRAI registration (**after this year**)
  - Support crew will have a TRS debit card for gas and supplies
  - People can donate to us and pay fees through PayPal (not quite set up yet)
  - Other TRS finances can be even more transparent and "above the bar" since they won't be mixing with my personal bank account (About time, I always lose money on that.)

Currently BJ, Kendra, and I have control of the LLC and accounts (If I remember correctly).

## 2012 Organizers

Every team needs organizers, and here they are for 2012 - These are the people who can help you keep tabs on what is going on.

**Team RoadShow LLC Financial and Legal Controllers:** BJ Welling, Kendra Seager, Seager

**Ringmaster / "At Large" Coordinator / Webmaster:** Seager

**WI Team Leader / Regional Coordinator:** BJ Welling

**IA Team Leader / Regional Coordinator:** Paul Jennings (unconfirmed)

**IN Team Leader / Regional Coordinator:** Darcy? CT? Brent? Jessica?

**Support Crew Chief:** Troy?

**Support Crew Captian (and boss):** Kendra Seager (will be riding a bike and doing support)

**Bus Steward:** BJ Welling

BJ almost certainly would like help managing the bus and the Wisc Team. Here is looking at you Tamas, Troy, Jackson, and anyone else who wants to help.

The regional coordinators manage the logistics for who gets where, when, etc in their region. I have been filling the role of "at large" regional coordinator which umbrellas Iowa, Indiana, Oregon, and elsewhere.

In general any questions BEFORE the ride should go to me or your regional coordinator. **Questions DURING the ride go to the support crew chiefs first** and then either to me or the other regional coordinators. **I can't stress enough that Kendra is the motherfucking 8-year expert on ride finances, support, finding spots, and making camp comfy.** Please talk to her if you want to help on support.



### Support Crew information

Generally we have 3ish support crews - the Wisconsin main bus, an Iowa/At Large vehicle of some sort, and Indiana vehicles. It's the job of the main support crew chief to make sure things go smoothly between the crews, that the vehicles get out on time, that we get good camping, pack our stuff, deal with member dues, and take care of meals if wanted. This is a job for several people, but it runs best with one person doing most of the delegating. As the team gets bigger we run the risk of having "too many cooks in the kitchen," - a common problem with large communally run teams.

So, before the ride - the regional coordinators and I run the show, **but during the ride the support crew chief(s) run the show under Kendra's guidance.** Often the support crew chiefs delegate work to me, the regional coordinators, and the slew of other volunteers (usually everyone).

### Juggling and Support

In order for money making performances to happen, the jugglers need to not do a whole lot of support in the afternoons (even me). In fact, one of the main jobs of the support crew is to have food ready for us pretty close to us getting into camp so we can be juggling by around 6 or 7pm. I know this sounds self-serving, but bear with me. I quote from the post-RAGBRAI newsletter:

**Approximately \$400, or about 19% of our income this year came from our juggling shows.** The majority of that was just one night in Grinnell (three shows). \$60 of that was from the fire show in IA city, after paying out \$20 to our musicians.

We did fewer shows this year than in previous years due to the stress and work related to the bus breaking down, the extreme heat, and a variety of other factors. This number is usually higher, and has been how we've financed 50% or more of RAGBRAI in the past.

**We've had some years where all the food and beer from Tuesday through the end of the week has been paid for by performance earnings.** However, for that to happen again, there needs to be a focused effort to get the performers into the downtown area by 6 or 7pm, and fed by 5 or 6 pm. [even if they don't get their lazy biking asses into camp themselves until 5pm]

Getting the jugglers fed early and into town = better food, better beer, and more money into your pockets. ☺

## **Contact List**

The full TRS contact list is available upon request. I haven't figured out a way to post it to our website yet (even with a password) so it's not ravaged by spambots. E-mail me if you want it.

## **Website**

I have completely redone the <http://www.TeamRoadShow.com> website. It's damn awesome. We now have:

- A merchandise link
- A donation link (not functional yet, but soon will be linked to the TRS LLC account)
- **A repaired gallery** with pictures from 2004-2009
  - Please start using this again, I love having all our pictures in one place and not spread (only) all over Facebook and Flickr.
- A video page with REAL VIDEOS of us performing
- Cast member (that's you) info
  - Financial reports
  - Forums
  - News
  - **Online RSVPing for RAGBRAI**

## **Forum**

One of the complaints we had last RAGBRAI was that we didn't have a good way to communicate and discuss things as a team. People didn't want to use FB and e-mail sucks. So, I worked my balls of creating a forum for us and only a few people are bothering to use it. Please, this only works if you use it. If you have a better way for us all to communicate please tell me.

You can go directly to it here: <http://teamroadshow.com/forum/> You'll need to register to post, but everyone can read posts. Registration requires my authorization to defeat spam, but it's quick and easy. Just follow the link on the website.

**Note: Pick a username that is obvious.** I get about 5 spam attempts to register a day, so if I don't recognize your name I'm going to mark it as spam. I'll also be posting important updates to the news section of the website with a link to the subsequent discussion in the forum.

## Facebook Group

We used to have two FB groups, which was really annoying. Now we have one. [It is here:](http://www.facebook.com/groups/156127537761461/)  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/156127537761461/>

## Section II: RAGBRAI Registration

### ***RSVPing with Team RoadShow***

Are you coming on RAGBRAI? Please let me know if you are a yes/no/maybe so I can keep a list updated for the benefit of our regional coordinators. If you forget to RSVP you can still come, but I may have Mark fart on you. This is the extent of registering with us.

I prefer that you use [our new website RSVP system](http://teamroadshow.com/?page_id=51) to register so I don't get all confused. You can find it here: [http://teamroadshow.com/?page\\_id=51](http://teamroadshow.com/?page_id=51) Alternately, you can still e-mail me if the internet scares you.

TRS is often advertised as "the poorest team on RAGBRAI." Usually this line is used near the end of performances to get people to put money into our hat - but it is rooted in truth. TRS welcomes everyone - and I think it would be a damn shame if anyone missed out on RAGBRAI for financial reasons - especially when Pastafari still has perfectly good garbage cans.

Most teams charge a minimum of \$100 - \$150 to ride with them. We, however, are working on a sliding scale system. To ride with us, pay anywhere from zero to one trillion dollars. We'd prefer at least \$50 for gas money, paying off the new bus, paint, food, and beer. \$100-150 is even better.

**These suggested fees are separate from whatever your regional coordinator is charging to get you to the start town.** How much you pay should be however much you can comfortably part with. If you plan on drinking lots of beer and eating our yummy home cooked food please plan for that when you figure in how much you can donate. But, like I said, if you don't have any money but still want to eat we aren't going to stop you. Just remember us if/when you do ever come into money. Also, a big thanks to those who have consistently paid well every year. Our little socialistic microcosm thanks you.

**Note:** There was discussion of implementing a mandatory fee last RAGBRAI. For information on what happened with that discussion and why a mandatory fee was *not* implemented please read [the post-RAGBRAI newsletter](http://teamroadshow.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/TRS-Post-RAGBRAI-Newsletter-2011.pdf) at <http://teamroadshow.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/TRS-Post-RAGBRAI-Newsletter-2011.pdf>

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### ***RAGBRAI Registration***

#### **Why?**

RAGBRAI Registration is \$150 for a rider and \$35 for a driver. The rider fee was raised last year. Registration lets you ride the sag wagon if you get tired and gives you discounts on food/merchandise. It also gets you on shuttle buses for free or a discount.

[Edited for online posting]

Note: if you register you **HAVE** to register with TRS or we will not get credit for it!!!

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## HOW TO REGISTER FOR RAGBRAI AS PART OF TEAM ROADSHOW

- 1) Go to <http://www.ragbrai.org/>
- 2) Click "registration" in the top bar
- 3) Click "complete an entry form online" or "login for returning users"
  
- 4) If you've registered with us before simply login and look to the right where it says submit entry or "entry not yet submitted" or something like that. Click it and then follow the directions. **Make sure you are registered with Team RoadShow, group #1808**

Or - sign up fresh following their instructions -

- 5) **\*MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP WITH "Team RoadShow" / GROUP #1808\*** If you don't do this we don't benefit at all from your registration.
- 6) Electronically sign your waiver. You no longer need to send it to me, and I no longer need to forge all the ones that aren't sent by the deadline.
- 7) Send me a check ASAP (last time, next year will be pay pal or a check to TRS).

**The registration deadline is March 21st. I will close the group on that day.**

Send money to:

(Removed for online posting. [Go here for contact info.](#))

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\*fin\*

Thanks for taking the time to read all this. When you e-mail me please have Team RoadShow, TRS, or RAGBRAI in the subject so it can be sorted correctly.

This year will be our team's 9th anniversary! (9th time on RAGBRAI)

I look forward to seeing you all again. Happy adventures!

--- Seager