

Sharing your Ride Location – Key Concepts

There are a number of reasons for sharing your location, while on a long ride, with family, friends, and fellow ride participants: Loved ones can be reassured that you're making steady progress, a friend can determine when you're likely to arrive at a pre-arranged meeting point, or a ride organizer can determine when you'll be passing through a particular control.

If you have a Smart Phone and mobile data plan, it is possible to share your ride location for under \$10 per year, using Spotwalla – a pay-for-use (but very inexpensive) online tool:

SpotWalla is an online personal location management system that supports both satellite-based tracking devices and cellular phone applications. With SpotWalla, you have complete control over your location data, allowing you to share your location publicly or privately. It's a useful platform for capturing satellite tracking and location marking information during trips, making it easier to share with friends, family, and fellow riders. The system supports various devices, including Garmin satellite trackers, SPOT trackers, and Smart phones (running Bubbler android or SWTracker iOS app). Whether you're on an adventure ride or participating in an event, SpotWalla helps you manage and share your location securely.

So how do I get started sharing my location on Club Rides?

- 1) create a Spotwalla account
- 2) add and activate a device on that account (a Spot/InReach device or Smart Phone (running Bubbler android or SWTracker iOS app), and
- 3) join the **Location Page** set up to track riders on [RandonneurOntario Brevets/Permanents](#) currently underway. (To do that, you just Browse Location Pages from your Spotwalla dashboard, where you'll find the Randonneurs Ontario page, and JOIN. Password is "ontario").

In Spotwalla you also have the capability to create and share **Trip Pages** (showing "breadcrumb" data points each time your device is polled by Spotwalla) with an **overlay of the route** you intend to ride. Here is an example of a [Trip Page \(generated for my 2024 Trace Team\)](#) . (While there are easier ways to share your location with ONE "significant other", a Trip Page is great to share with a larger group of family and friends, and permits an overlay of your route).

PLEASE NOTE:

When you create your Spotwalla account, it is "seeded" with \$2.00 US (Spotwalla up-front funny money). Spotwalla charges 3 cents/day for each day your device (Spot, Phone with Bubbler, etc) is "active" and polled, plus 4 cents/day for each day your data is stored. If you leave your device active, and don't delete your data, your account balance will go down 7 cents each day, and quickly you'll be in arrears. If you delete your data after each ride, and only have your device active on days you're riding, your 2 bucks will last a long time. Please see this [Support Page](#) (especially the section at the bottom regarding "Cost Saving Measures". Given the minimal cost to use Spotwalla, I hope you find it worth supporting.

On-line help for all Spotwalla concepts is available at [Help: Main \(spotwalla.com\)](#)