

Eyes On Wheels New Patrol Rider Orientation

Hood To Coast Relay 2023

Presenter: Gary Wasserman

New Patrol Rider Orientation

Overview

1. What is Hood To Coast?
2. About Eyes On Wheels – A Brief History
3. What Is A Deterrence Patrol?
4. Patrol Logistics

We have limited time; please submit questions using the Zoom chat window. Please put zoom in Mute during the presentation.

What Is Hood To Coast?

“The Mother Of All Relays”

- *From the HTC website:*

The Providence Hood and Portland To Coast Relay is the most popular and largest running and walking relay race in the world, annually drawing participants from over 40 countries and all 50 states. Known as the *Mother of All Relays*, the event takes 8 to 12 member relay teams 198 miles or **128 miles (from Portland)** from the iconic top of Mount Hood to the beaches of the Pacific Ocean. The event has sold-out for 30 straight years and on lottery opening day for 23 consecutive years!

- Each running team is split into two groups of six each. Each group is supported by a van. For example there are 1,050 teams and up to 12,600 runners and walkers (plus 2,500+ drivers) and 2,500+ vans! There are several thousand volunteers manning the exchanges.

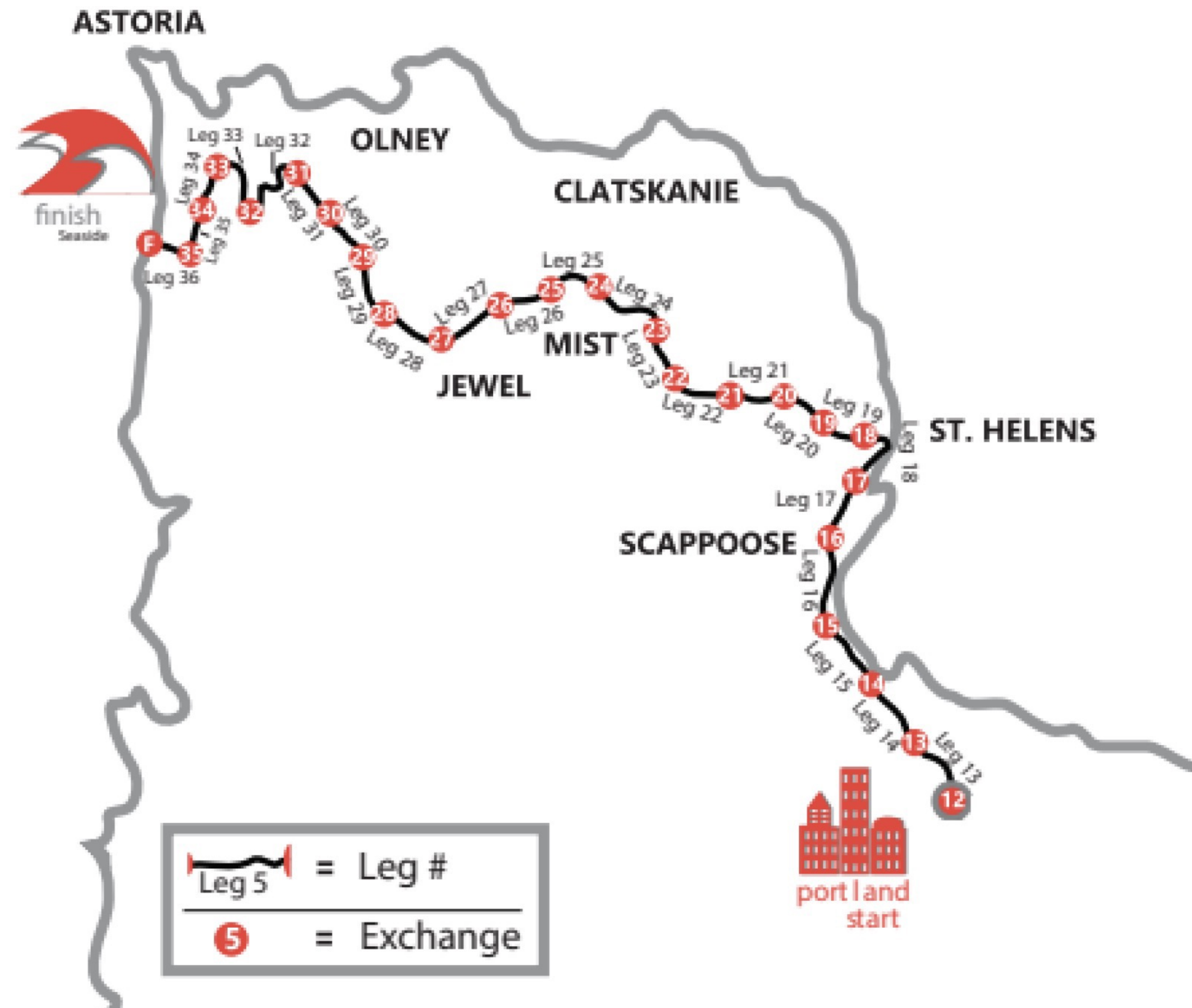
What Is Hood To Coast?

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- The race is divided into “legs”. The full race has 36 legs numbered 1-36. The west side, which EOW patrols, has 24 legs (13-36).
- At the end of each leg is an “exchange”. At each exchange runners from the just completed leg get back into their team van and the next runner exits the van and starts the next leg. For example, Leg 15 ends (and Leg 16 starts) at Exchange 15. This continues until all six runners on the van have run a leg.
- A “Major Exchange” is an exchange where the two team vans meet. Van 1 picks up its sixth runner. Van 2 drops off its first runner. Van 1 then proceeds to the next “major exchange”.

What Is Hood To Coast?

“The Mother Of All Relays”



What Is Hood To Coast?

“The Mother Of All Relays”

- The race starts at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood
- The finish line is in Seaside, OR on the sand near the Promenade turnaround (Lewis and Clark monument)
- Our patrol area starts just past Exchange 12 (Leg 13) on the west side of the Tilikum Crossing bridge. We do not cross the bridge.

About Eyes On Wheels

About Eyes On Wheels

Background – Why We Patrol

- Over 27 years ago 3 women were assaulted, at night, along OR Hwy 202 while running in the HTC course on the way to Seaside.
- In response the first motorcycle "course observers" were recruited (only 6 bikes that first year). This first volunteer group was comprised of NIKE employees and their spouses. It was limited to just the area where the assaults had occurred the year before. That year no inappropriate behavior occurred.
- The response of the HTC participants to having someone out there watching out for them was phenomenal! The HTC office was flooded with over 1400 emails in praise of the peace of mind that the motorcyclists provided to the walkers and runners.
- The next year the motorcycling course observer's patrol was taken over by Rose City Motorcycle Club (John Goff) and expanded. Then due to some assaults on walkers and runners in the Portland area, the patrol was expanded to its current size of 127 miles from Portland to Seaside.

About Eyes On Wheels

Background

- In 2013 RCMC transferred management of the patrol to Eric Bates who named the patrol “Eyes On Wheels”. Additional events were added including “Reach The Beach”, “Cascade Lakes Relay”, “Tour de Cure”, etc.
- In 2018 the patrol was managed by Mackenzie Studebaker
- In 2019 management passed to Gary Wasserman
- In 2020 Eyes On Wheels was incorporated as an Oregon Non-profit receiving IRS designation as a 501(c)(3) corporation the following year
- Current information about EOW including the current board members can be found on <https://www.eyesonwheels.org>

Patrolling For HTC

Patrolling For HTC

What Is A Deterrence Patrol?

Deterrence: noun: the action of [discouraging](#) an action or event through [instilling](#) doubt or fear of the consequences.

The hours of darkness present an opportunity for bad actors to interfere with the race. Interference takes many forms some of which are:

- Harassing participants verbally and/or physically
- Changing course signage to confuse or misdirect participants
- Blocking roadways and/or creating unsafe situations.

Patrolling For HTC

What Is A Deterrence Patrol?

How Does Our Patrol Deter Bad Actors?

- Our presence creates uncertainty in the minds of bad actors
- We interact with spectators and others (who might wish to interfere) making them aware someone is watching and encouraging them to go elsewhere
- We are a communication channel to race officials and law enforcement
- Our presence reassures participants that someone has their back!

Patrolling For HTC

Staying Safe

We patrol to help keep participants safe. We need to stay safe, too.

Best practices for staying safe while patrolling:

- No physical confrontation or interaction with spectators or participants
- Polite but firm conversation is our main tool for communicating
- Spectators in vehicles? Call your patrol partner and/or rover and wait for backup. Never approach spectators in vehicles alone.
- Document situations with notes (location, time), photos, audio
- Use caution around team vans. Drivers may be tired and or distracted.

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How To Talk To Spectators

Polite but firm communication:

- “Sir/Ma’am, as you may have noticed, you are on the route for the Hood to Coast relay. Hundreds of vehicles and thousands of participants will be coming through here. It’s not the best place to be parking tonight. And because participants have reported issues with someone in this area, we’ve noted and reported your description and vehicle description. For everybody’s safety, it will be best if you move along. Thank you”
- Be diplomatic. Do not argue, do not try to convince. Deliver the message. Simply repeat the message if needed. Return to your motorcycle and watch for a few minutes. It is likely they will drive away. You’ve done your job.

Patrolling For HTC

What we DO

- Our job is to ride. Our moving presence is the key.
- Take a 5-10 minute off-the-bike break every hour. Stay hydrated and nourished. Then resume riding
- Our job is to observe. Keep your head on a swivel. Watch for things that just don't look right.
- Know where you are. Miles from last exchange (reset trip meter), Miles to next exchange (if using GPS with your exchange locations programmed)
- Provide information as best you can when asked (i.e. exchange locations). Refer people to an exchange captain if you don't have an answer.

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Patrolling For HTC

What we DO

Continued...

- Encourage safe behavior: Vans should park entirely outside the fog line. Participants should be on the left side of the road except on legs 14-16 on Hwy 30
- Communicate with Race Control, Exchange Volunteers, other EOW riders. Report problems, pass on information.
- Respond to emergencies by offering assistance. Resume riding as soon as possible
- Be helpful (if you can stand up that tipped over HoneyBucket, please do)
- Represent HTC, EOW, and the motorcycling community in the best way possible

NOTE: A boring patrol is something to be celebrated!

Patrolling For HTC

What We DON'T Do

- Act as law enforcement
- Chase anyone
- Escort participants
- Go off course looking for “lost” participants
- Get too involved in something that takes us away from our patrol (Rovers can help with these situations)
- Anything that would negatively impact HTC, EOW, or the motorcycling community in general

Patrolling For HTC

Speed Etiquette

- Never exceed posted speed limits - even when responding to an incident
- Hwy 30 - generally ride “at speed”
- Everywhere else we ride at reduced speed
- Max 15-20 mph on legs with participants on them (even if they aren’t where you are)
 - 5-10 mph may be more appropriate. You want everyone around you to feel safe.
- Reduced speed on legs participants haven’t reached yet (pull over and wave vans to pass if needed)

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Radio Protocol

- Details of the Radio Protocol Will be Covered at the Dinner Meeting



Patrol Logistics

Patrol Logistics

In Advance Of The Patrol

Inspect your motorcycle!

1. Tires With Sufficient Tread (Not At The Wear Bars)
2. All Lights And Signals Operating
3. Horn operating
4. No Fluid Or Exhaust Leaks
5. Brakes Operating Properly

Be sure to leave time to address any problems BEFORE the patrol!

Patrol Logistics

In Advance Of The Patrol

- Patrol Assignments Will Be Distributed After This Training
- Review your patrol assignment and leg maps to make sure you know which legs you'll be patrolling and which exchanges you will pass by or through.
- Consider contacting your patrol partner and introducing yourself.
- Patrol Partners Will Be Seated Together At Dinner
- Leave At Home:
 - Weapons, Politics, Drugs

In Advance Of The Patrol – Example: HTC Leg Maps for Team 2
<https://eyesonwheels.org/htc-info/>



Patrol Logistics

What To Wear

- **EOW Strongly Endorses ATGATT!**
 - Wear protective gear including motorcycle jacket, gloves, helmet (as per OR law), sturdy shoes or boots
- **Be Prepared For Cold and Wet** - The Coast Range is subject to wet and cold weather in late August. Bring layers and warm gloves. It will be warm after dinner but will get cold in the late evening and early morning
- It has rained during the race in the past - Be prepared for wet weather!

Patrol Logistics

What to Bring

- **A FULL gas tank** - after dinner we go directly to our patrols; no time to stop for gas
- **Flashlight(s) and spare batteries** (having a flashlight around your neck on a lanyard can be really handy)
- **Water Or Sports Drinks** - Dehydration will degrade your riding and your safety
- **Fully Charged Cell Phone** (and charging cable if possible) - You will be using WhatsApp during the patrol, phone is useful for 911 calls as a backup to HTC radio
- **Your License, Registration And “Proof Of Financial Responsibility”** (Insurance Card)
- If you have removable luggage consider installing it as a place to mount patrol signage

Patrol Logistics

At The Dinner Meeting

You will be given the following to use for the patrol:

1. HTC provided radio handset, ear piece, and spare battery
2. EOW Retroreflective Vest
3. EOW T-shirt (for first time patrol riders)
4. Race Official Signs for your bike
5. Contact Sheet For Other Riders And The Race Officials (Call Signs And Phone)
6. ***The Radio, ear piece, spare battery, vest, & signs* must be returned at the end of the patrol.*** Two drop off sites will be available after the patrol.

Patrol Logistics

After Dinner

- Attach “Race Official” Signs To Your Motorcycle - EOW supplies “clean room” tape that removes easily and doesn’t leave residue on your finish
- Locate and pair up with your patrol partner
- Test your HTC radio (including any BT pairing you’ve established)
- Photograph your odometer and WhatsApp to Deb at 503-704-8487
- Participate in the group photo
- **Rovers lead the group out and onto the course** - When you reach your patrol area let the rest of the patrol continue on. More details at dinner.
- Begin patrolling
- Patrol Teams 11 and 12 will hear from Deb regarding the motel in Astoria.

Patrol Logistics

End Of Patrol

- All Patrols End At Sunrise
- When the last race participant exits your patrol area your patrol is complete (even before sunrise).
- Photograph your odometer and WhatsApp the photo to Deb directly at 503-704-8487
- When your patrol is finished head to one of the equipment drop off locations to turn in your gear.
- If you need a place to rest before heading home contact Deb

Patrolling For HTC

Questions?

Please submit questions through the Zoom chat window.