

Preparing a Cruise



Check with a group of club members, that your proposed event is of interest, suitable, and that the price (if any) seems acceptable. Liaise with the Social Secretary and confirm with the committee on the date (to avoid clashes) and any subsidies that might be applied. Check if a permit is necessary for the venue. If any prizes are required, get approval from the committee. Club merchandise can be used as prizes.

Start Place and Time

When planning is 1st Sunday of the Month Cruise it is essential that the cruise departs at 10 AM and leaves from the club's regular meeting point at Burswood. Very rarely will the committee approve a different start time / location for a 1st Sunday of the Month Cruise but this will require at least 3 months notice so members can be notified in the club Magazine as well as the website

If the regular meeting point at Burswood is not suitable pick a landmark location not too far out from the major suburbs i.e. a major shopping centre or public park. Some shopping centres and parks are quite large so say exactly where. Remember that there can be 35 or more cars to park. A Street Smart/UBD map reference is also handy. If you need to meet at a different time, for instance if you are running a twilight cruise, please allow ½ an hour for socialising before the start of the run.

Duration, Distance and Where To Go

Scenery, and roads, with something at the end, it's great to end at a park (with a picnic area and facilities), a cafe or a pub. I have enjoyed doing runs over again, so look at the ones you have been on and, if you like, change them a bit for variety. A scenic or historic feature along the way is also welcome. Try not to end more than say 2 hours away from Perth.

1st Sunday of the month cruises finish around noon. Allow people to get back home by mid-afternoon. But if it is a round trip then add another hour or so. Typically cruises range from 70 to 140 km.

Roads and Things to Avoid

The most fun is on twisty roads that present a bit of a challenge. Avoid too much highway work. Keep to main roads in the suburbs; back streets break up the convoy and folk get lost. Use your judgement on how a convoy of 35 or more cars is going to handle the situation you are leading them into. Avoid (where ever practicable):

- right-hand turns on blind corners, just below crests or at traffic lights
- unmade or pot-holed roads
- turns into roads with no clearly visible street signs
- stops without adequate car parking or warning, do not have members "pull over" just after turning onto a road.

Breaks and Regroups

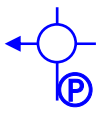

Every hour is about right. Try to arrange these near a petrol station and where there are public toilets. Make sure there is a safe space to park 35 plus cars. Allow some time for socialising, photo's, etc. Please do not leave a main regroup point as soon as the last car arrives, they may be traveling slowly because of mechanical issues. Allow the driver and passenger time to let the rest of the cruise know if they need any assistance.

Cruise Notes

There is no set format for cruise notes; most people use the following format:

Distance	Comment
0.0	Zero trip meter as you Turn Right out of car park
0.1	Turn Left at roundabout onto Victoria Park Drive
1.9	Turn Right at signals onto Orrong Road

Others use more elaborate notes with tulips:

Distance	Action	Location
0.0		Leave the Burswood complex car park via Victoria Park Drive, zero your tripmeter as you enter the roundabout and Turn Left
1.7		After ~ 1.7 km Turn Right at the traffic lights into Orrong Road (becomes Welshpool Road)

Which one you use is not important, the clarity and accuracy of your notes is! Always include the words "Obey all road rules and be courteous to other road users." at the top of your cruise notes.

Remember to check the distances and note major turns and road conditions, include street names at turns. Include your mobile number in the instructions in case people get lost, breakdown or have to leave the trip early.

Don't try doing the cruise notes from the UBD or Street Smart on the lounge room floor (this never works). Check that you have the left and right turns recorded, as they should be. Experience shows that not all our odometers record the same kilometres, never-the-less it is very helpful to have the distances between turns and land marks as accurately as you can. Try and include when a turn is at a T intersection so that club members know they don't have to look out for a street sign and can simply drive to the end of the road. Warn members if a road veers sharply or forks in different directions. Try and include warning for any obstacles that may be dangerous, i.e. train lines, potholes, speed humps, cattle grids, single lane bridges.

Include directions from the end point back to Perth if you end well away from the burbs.

E-mail a copy the Social Secretary at social@mx5club.com.au for the club records.

Final checks

It is always appreciated if you have done the run very recently to see if the roads are dug up, bridges or toilets closed, pub burnt down etc, so there are no nasty surprises on the day. It can also pay to check that there are no major events that may cause traffic problems, close roads or may be using car parks. Some members also like to check the daily multinova locations to see if the cruise route will pass any distractions.

Advertising

Try to advertise the event at least two months in advance by giving the trips coordinator a flyer or short notice to go in the MX-press magazine (check the deadline with the editors) and send a copy of the flyer to the webmaster for inclusion on the website. Things to include:

- What is the event? Is it a cruise or a navigation run? Are you going to an event or festival?
- Where is the Meeting Point?
- When is it? Date and Meeting Time and Departure time (allow ½ hour for socialising).
- Where does it end? What facilities (BBQ, Shops, Bakery, Café, Hotel) are there, are people to bring a picnic or BBQ lunch? What is the contingency in case of bad weather?
- How long it will take to get back to Perth at the end?
- If an RSVP is required include details of the date by which RSVPs are needed; to whom deposit cheques (if any) should be sent; if member subsidies apply and give your name and phone number (mobile).

E-mail these details about the run as soon as you have them to the trips coordinator at social@mx5club.com.au to add to the coming events calendar for MX-Press and to the webmaster at webmaster@mx5club.com.au to get the details to the website.

Provide updated details a week before the run to the social secretary at social@mx5club.com.au so he can email a reminder to members.

Thank you for giving your ideas and your time to organise an event for fellow club members!

On the big day: what works well

Before you leave home make sure you have:

1. Sufficient copies of the cruise notes to hand out (35 is usually plenty)
2. Some membership forms (these are available from the website).
3. A package for “report writer” for the club magazine, MX-Press;
 - A copy of the guidelines on preparing a report attached to this guideline.
 - Any additional information about your destination that they could use in their notes
 - Pen and Paper
4. Your name badge

At the meeting spot:

1. Be there on time and allow 30 minutes for the members to arrive. It is expected that if you organise an event you attend the event, or if you are unavoidably detained, at the very least arrange for someone to be the coordinator and get them the notes, etc.
2. Wear your name badge and encourage others to wear their badge too.
3. Make yourself known to any new members. Non-members who turn up are welcome; encourage them to join if they enjoy the day and give them a membership form. Assign an experienced member to first-timers to assist them in getting the most from the event.
4. About 10 minutes before commencement time, call the members together for a “drivers briefing” and distribute the cruise notes. You should mention all of the following items in your talk:
 - Welcome to members and new members; check everyone has cruise notes. Give them an outline of what to expect, tell them the end point of the cruise and briefly explain the route to be taken, point out any danger spots by way of reference to the cruise notes.
 - Ask someone on your run to write an article for the Club magazine, MX-Press. Make sure you organise the “report writer” at the start of the run rather than as an afterthought later... Give them the guidelines on preparing a report.
 - Reaffirm the club’s support of safe driving; your comments must include that everyone is expected to adhere to all road traffic rules, drive within you and your vehicles limits, driving to the conditions e.g. taking account of wet patches, dirt on the road, oncoming traffic, etc. be courteous to other road users and keep a safe distance from other cars. Warn members if it is a double demerits weekend
 - If members feel they are holding someone up continue to drive safely and at their own speed, it’s up to the other driver to overtake when safe and legal.
 - Occasionally red lights and stops signs break up the group, don’t worry if you fall behind as you will soon catch up at one of the regroup points. There is no reason to speed or drive dangerously to rejoin the cruise. There will be plenty of time to reach the regroup point.
 - Encourage those driving solo to “buddy up” with another car that has 2 occupants so they don’t worry about getting lost / left behind.
 - Explain the direction in which the cruise departs, count the number of cars and get moving

At regroup points:

- Allow some time for socialising
- Ensure all cars have made it to the regroup point and that the last cars are ok before you take off again.
- If you have a lost vehicle you ask if anyone has seen them take a wrong turn, consider asking someone to look for them (just in case they broke down or had an accident)

After the event:

- Follow-up with the person writing the trip report and make sure they emails it to the Editor (editor@mx5club.com.au) and Webmaster (webmaster@mx5club.com.au) as soon as practicable.

Preparing a trip report for MX-Press

Congratulations on “volunteering” to write the article on today’s run for the Club's MX-Press magazine. Don't let doing the article dominate your day ... have fun today. Please regard this guide as “tips only”; it's not the bible on writing Pulitzer Prize articles!

Due Date

Please get your report in within a week of the run so it can be uploaded on the website

On the Run

- See the organiser and get their name, the number of cars and number of people on the run. (This info might turn out to be the only factual bit in the whole of your yarn!)
- It's not just the things that happen when driving. Capturing things that happen at the start, stops, end and on the way home are also interesting.
- Jot down “memory joggers” as they happen (or at the breaks if you can't steer, hold the paper, pen, write and think all at the same time). Putting remarks on the run notes is a great way to keep things in context.

On the Way Home

- Make a promise to the big Mechanic in the Sky that you will make the due-by date. Work out a theme for the day while events are fresh in your memory.
- Drive safely ... we're depending on you to get the story to the Editor.
- At home (or at the office without being caught by the boss) fire up the PC and start the word-processor or e-mail program. The editor can take “Word” or similar text files, or you can write directly in an e-mail.

Essential Bits

- Keep it light: inject a bit of humour and wit ... and a fact or two if at all possible.
- Title: try something catchy and clever please. It is often easier to write the title after you have finished the article.
- Acknowledge the organiser(s) and the date of the run.
- Size: it is important. A typical article is ½ a page or so, for special 2-day (or longer) events a longer article may be appropriate.
- Writing in the first person: “I lost it on the bend ... ” is often easiest.
- If you photos they are great, include them in your e-mail with a title that can be used as a caption. Someone is bound to take some photos for the article, but it helps to make sure on the day.
- Mention names, it adds creditability to the yarn and will lead to future conversation around the water cooler of ... “Hey, look {insert name of person/s being impressed}, that's me!”
- Have fun: keep it nice and always respect the feelings of others.
- Avoid the inclusion of inappropriate behaviour that may reflect poorly on the club.
- Use the spell-checker and watch out for typos. It can help to let someone else read it over while you watch out for smiles and “glassy eye” syndrome.
- Sign off with your (nick) name.

Delivery of the finished article

Please e-mail your article and photos to the Editor (editor@mx5club.com.au) and Webmaster (webmaster@mx5club.com.au) as soon as practicable.