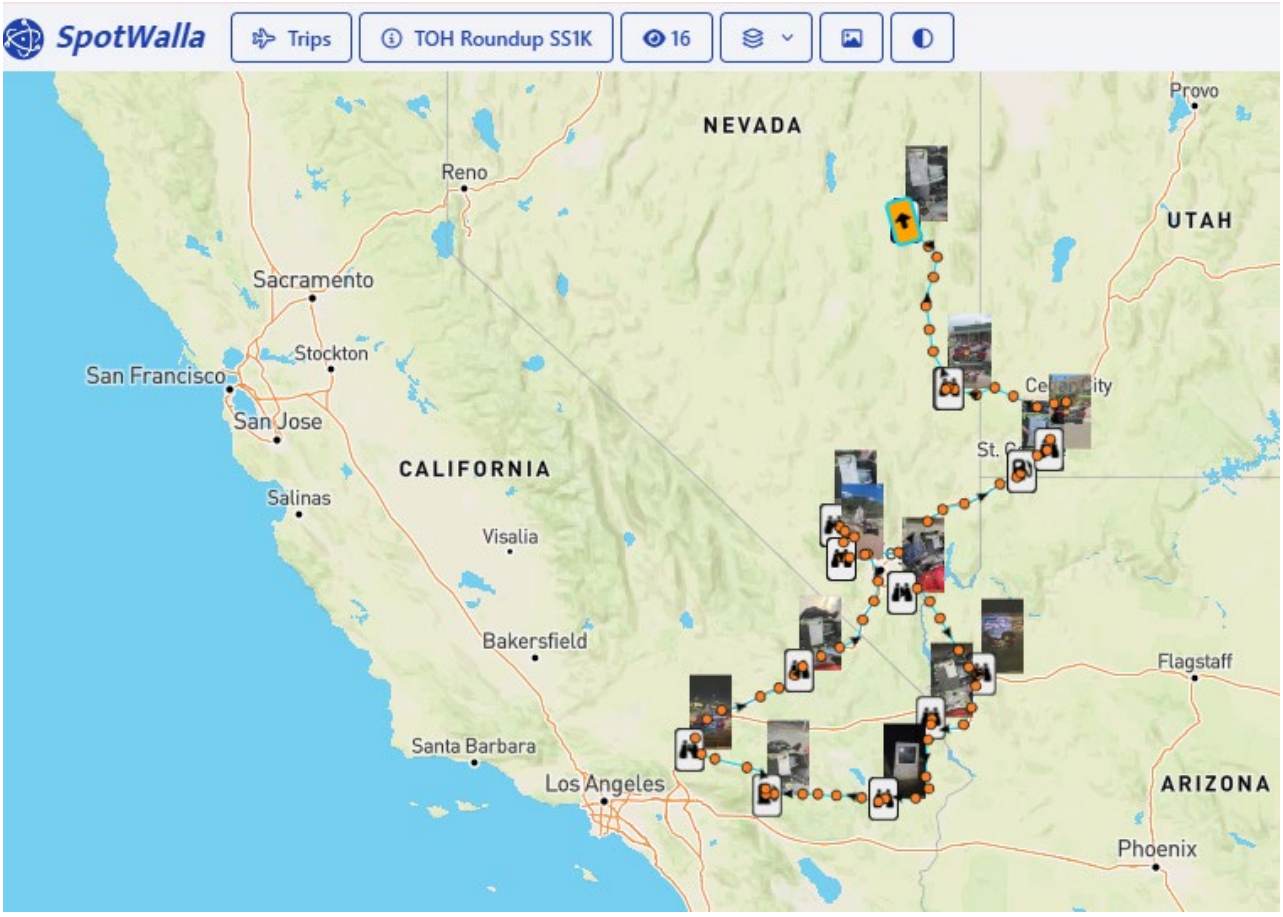
Electronic Ride Journaling BASICS using SpotWalla - Including Details for SCMA Rides

In order to provide an option for paperless ride verification, the SCMA has chosen to employ the SpotWalla personal location management system. SpotWalla is widely used within the Long-distance riding community and provides the capability to capture both date/time/position data and the required selfie image to conclusively document visits to required checkpoints during the course of completing an SCMA ride.

SpotWalla receives periodic ***messages*** from a device in the rider's possession; those messages can also contain images depending on the type of ***device*** being used. The rider can create a ***trip*** from a collection of messages by specifying a start and end date and time; the trip is then displayed as a series of points on a graphical map interface. Small icons identify the type of message that was sent and provide a micro-thumbnail of any associated images. The map will zoom to address-level detail and each message can be clicked to show the precise date/time/position data. Once a trip has been created, a web address link (URL) for that trip is available within SpotWalla which can be shared with friends, family and of course the SCMA Ride Chair. As long as the necessary images (receipts, selfies, etc.) have been embedded in the trip, sharing this URL eliminates the need to send them separately via email or postal mail.

SpotWalla will be piloted on selected SCMA rides in 2025 and evaluated for suitability as a paperless option for other SCMA rides in future seasons. **STEPS TO START.**

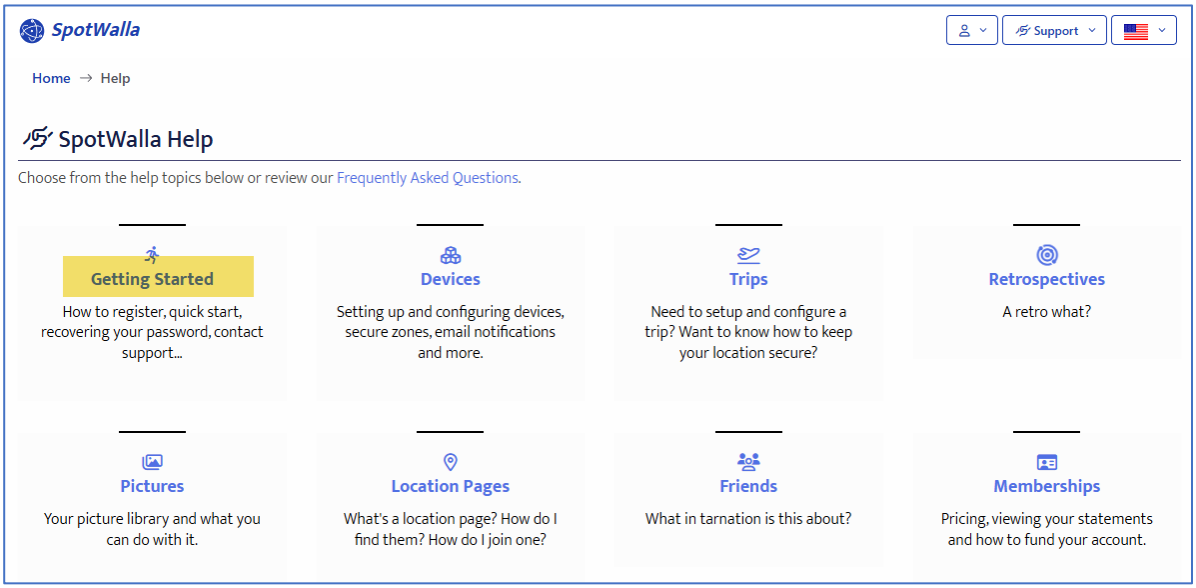
SpotWalla Account, Pick a Device, Setup a Trip, Share Trip Web Address, Record Trip, Submit Trip



Sample End Result TRIP (above). Each dot on the map represents a message sent to your private SpotWalla account. Messages are generated at periodic intervals by the device provided the location has changed from that of the previous message. The map of the trip can be zoomed to show more map detail or more images associated with particular location on the map.

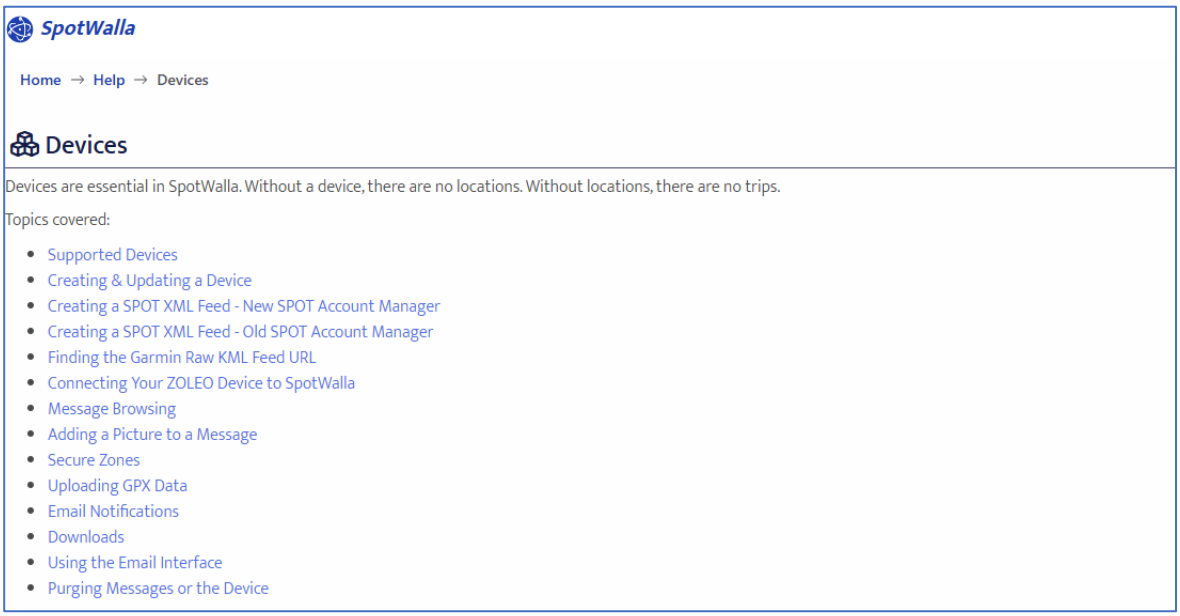
Create a SpotWalla Account

If you're new to SpotWalla, you'll need to establish a SpotWalla account and link it to a device of your choosing. To get started, visit https://spotwalla.com/help and click on **Getting Started**. Follow the steps in the dialog to create your new SpotWalla account.



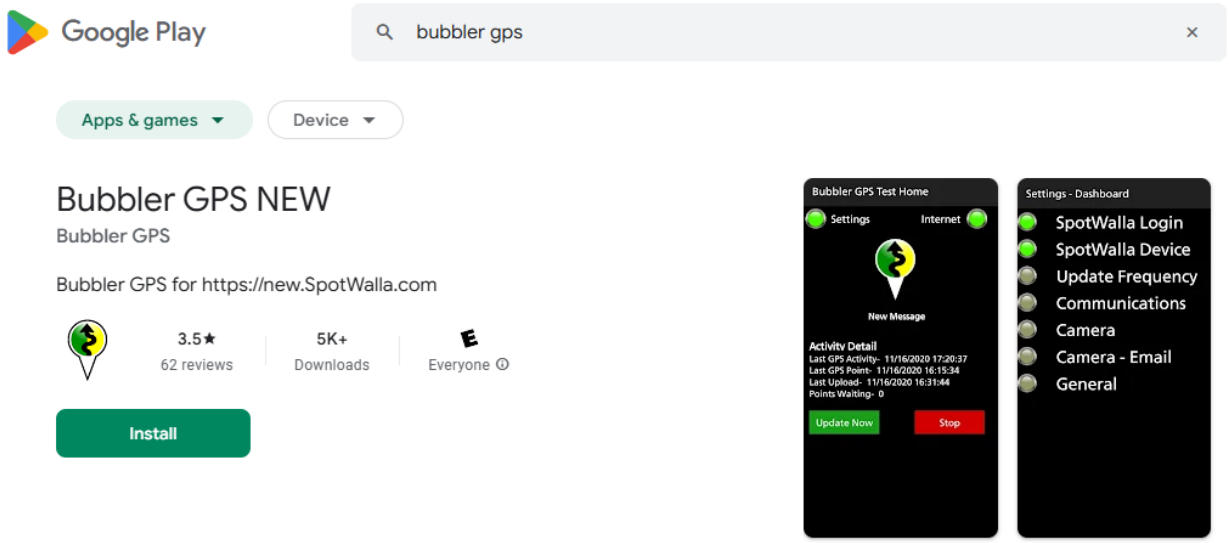
Pick a Device – Set It Up and Test It

Once your account is activated, you will need to need to identify a device to generate the messages that will be sent to SpotWalla. SpotWalla can receive messages from **Android and iPhone iOS cell phones** via an installed App in addition to any of the popular satellite personal tracking devices like SPOT, InReach and Zoleo. For purposes of documenting an SCMA ride, an Android or iPhone is the best choice due to the minimal cost and the capability to embed images in the messages as they are created. If you're already set up to use your satellite tracker with SpotWalla, that will also work but will necessitate additional effort to add images to your SpotWalla trip. SpotWalla does support using multiple devices with one account, so it IS possible to use both a satellite tracker and cell phone to build your trip if desired. Once you've chosen your device(s), use the **Supported Devices link** https://new.spotwalla.com/help/devices#supported to established communication between your device and SpotWalla.

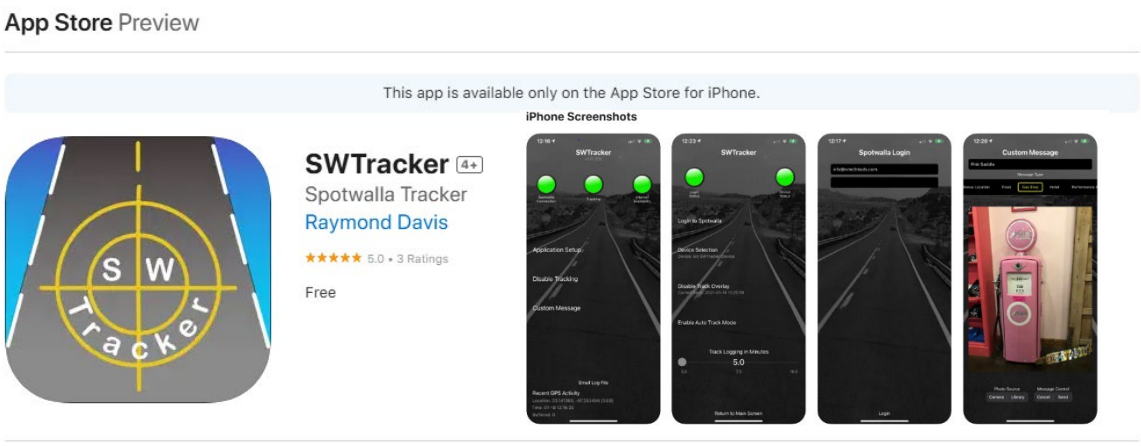


If you will use your cell phone, you'll want to review the app documentation using the links from SpotWalla, then load the app to your phone.

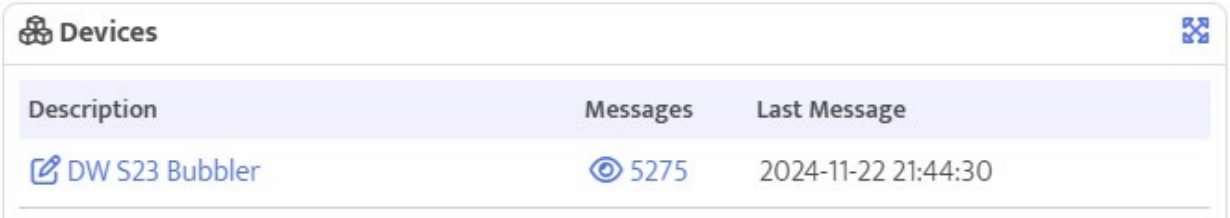
For Android phones, download Bubbler GPS NEW from the Google Play store.



For iOS, download SWTracker from the iPhone App Store



Once the app has been loaded to your phone, configure and test it according to the instructions from the app website. Once you can see a message in the Devices tab of the **SpotWalla Dashboard** you will know that communication has been established.

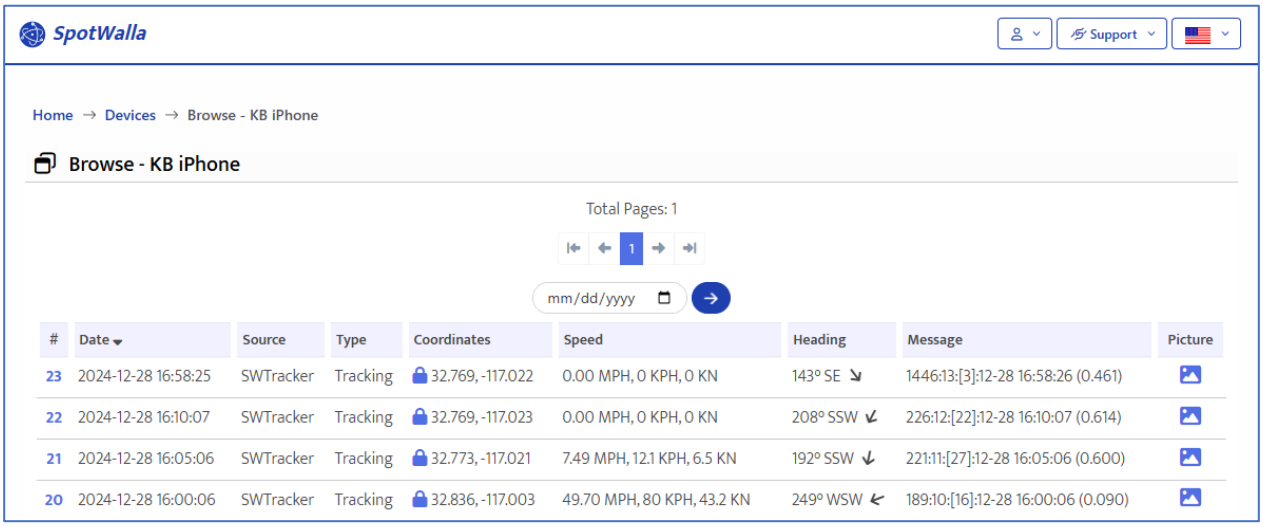


Test the Device by Adding a Picture and Sending a Message

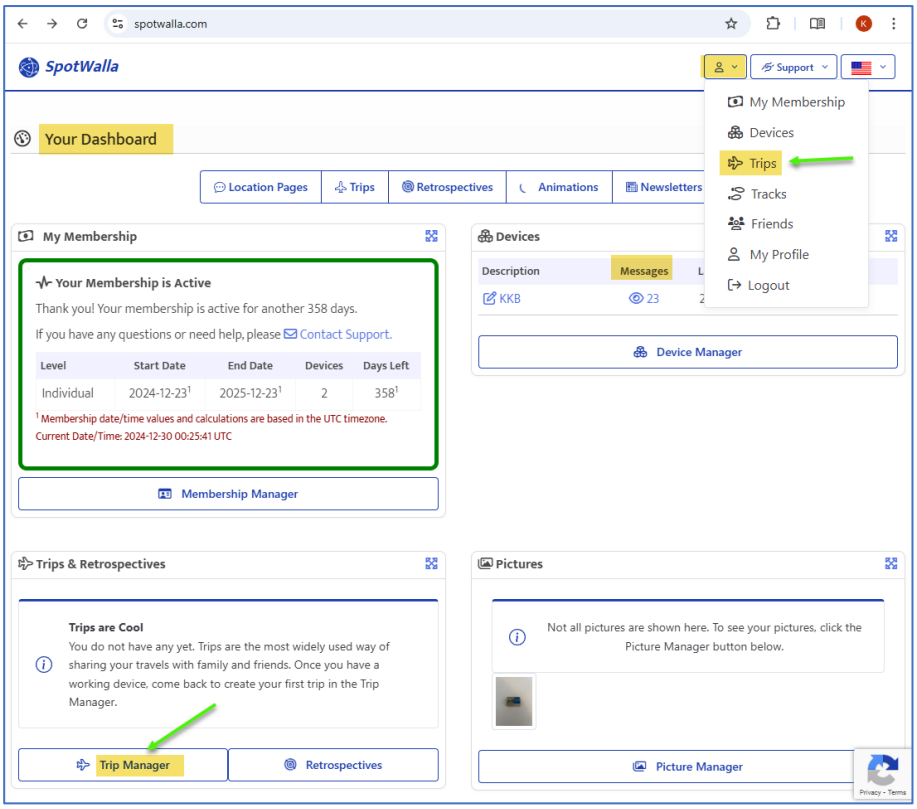
This is a good time to experiment with taking a picture and adding it to a message via the app. Remember to send the message after adding the image; the act of taking the picture does NOT generate a new message. At this point you're good to go in terms of documenting an SCMA ride using SpotWalla, but you might want to practice a bit on a local ride or two to fine-tune your settings.

Fast forward…you've completed your ride and SpotWalla now contains a series of messages that document your location at particular points in time.

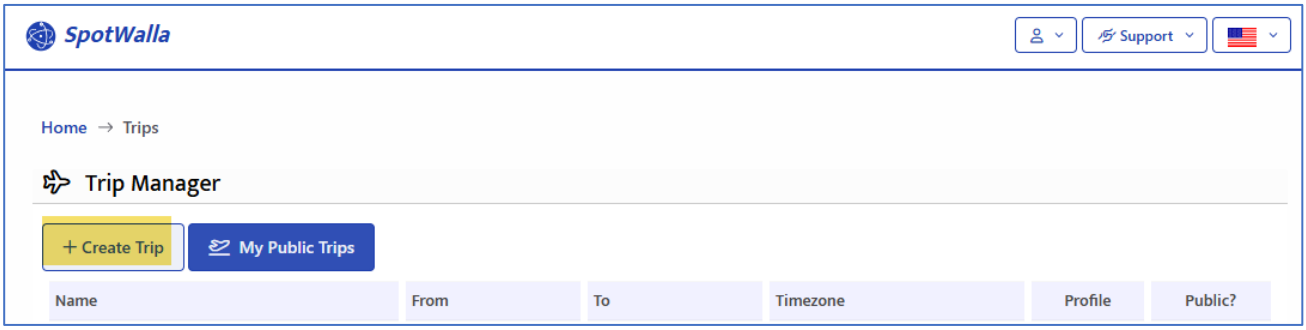
Click on the **Messages icon** in the Devices section of Your Dashboard to see these:



You must now bundle these into a trip, which is easily done. Go to **Trip Manager** from Your Dashboard or from the Menu at the top under **Trips**.



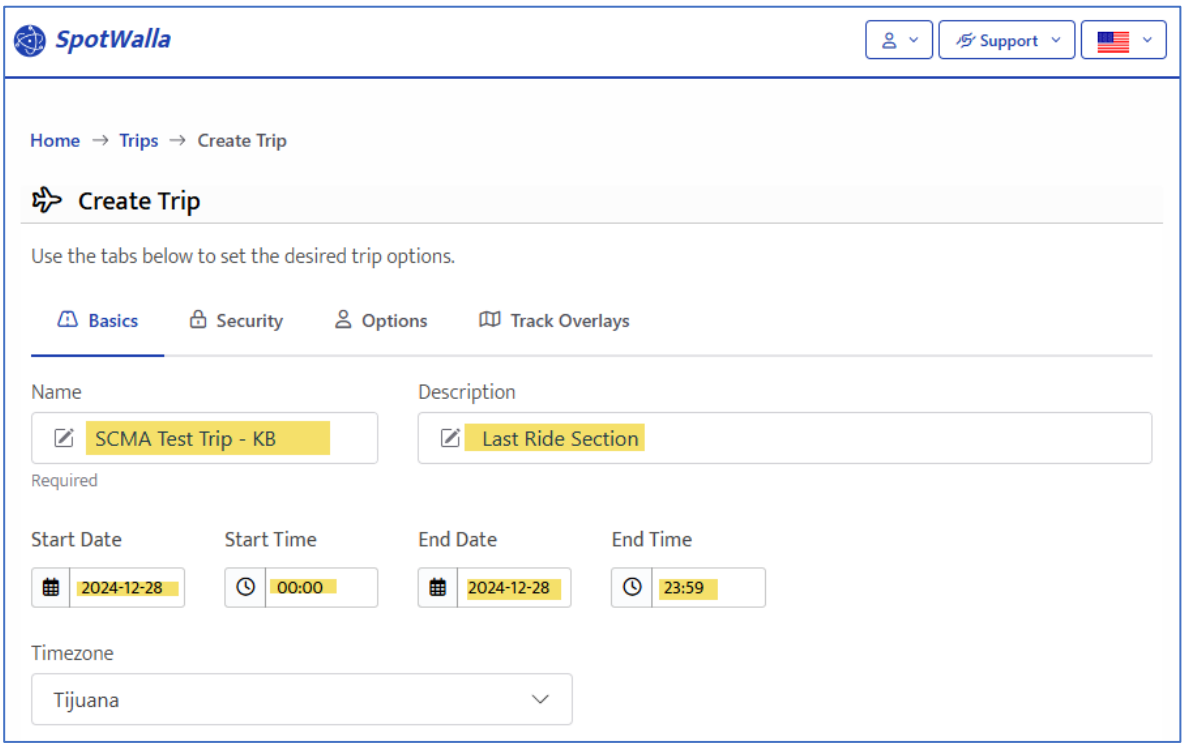
Click on Create Trip



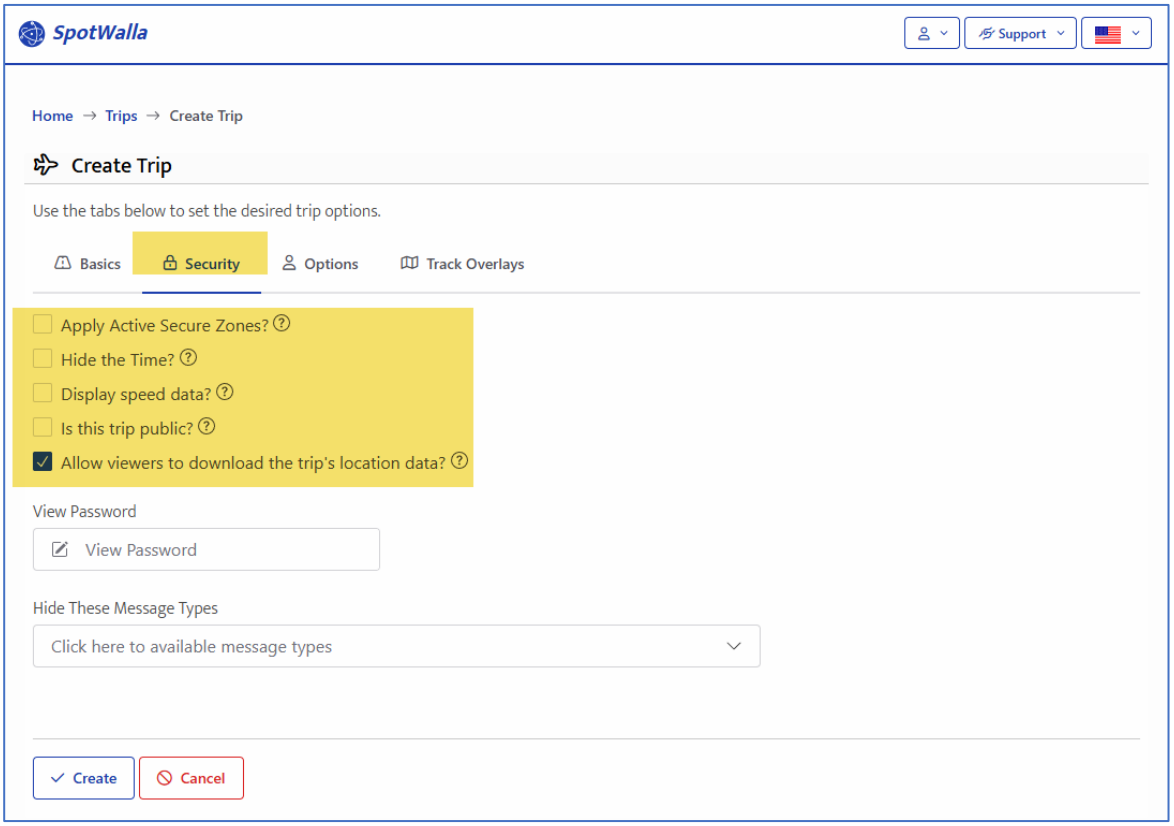
While all aspects of your SpotWalla trip are up to you, we do have some suggested best practices:

1. When creating your trip, include some personal identifier (name, initials, etc.) and the name of the *SCMA ride in the Name and/or Description fields to remind the Ride Chair what they are looking at and whose ride it is*. We have several Ride Chairs who manage multiple SCMA rides.
2. For a timed end-to-end ride such as the USA Four Corners Tour you need only *create a single trip* which encompasses the start and finish dates and times of your trip. For other rides whose checkpoints need not be visited at one time, you may wish to create *several smaller trips which represent a leg of your ride*. This approach makes it easier to manage your trip and easier for the ride chair to review it. An alternative is to create a custom message type that is used only for checkpoints associated with your ride; the trip can then be customized to include only those types of messages.

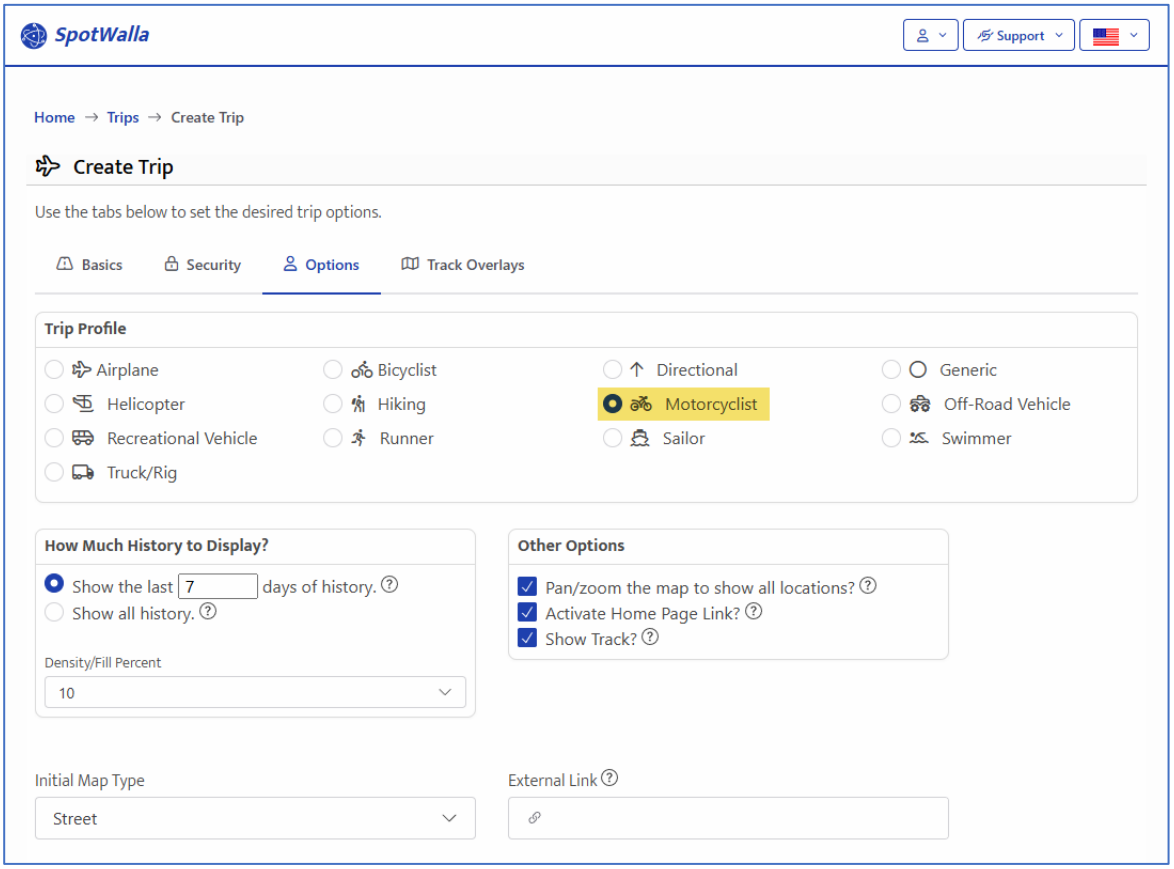
Identify Trip Information and Options. Create a Name and Description and Select the Start and End Dates and times to create a Trip from the list of location Messages sent by SWTracker to SpotWalla in addition to Photos and other Messages you sent. Verify the default Timezone is correct.



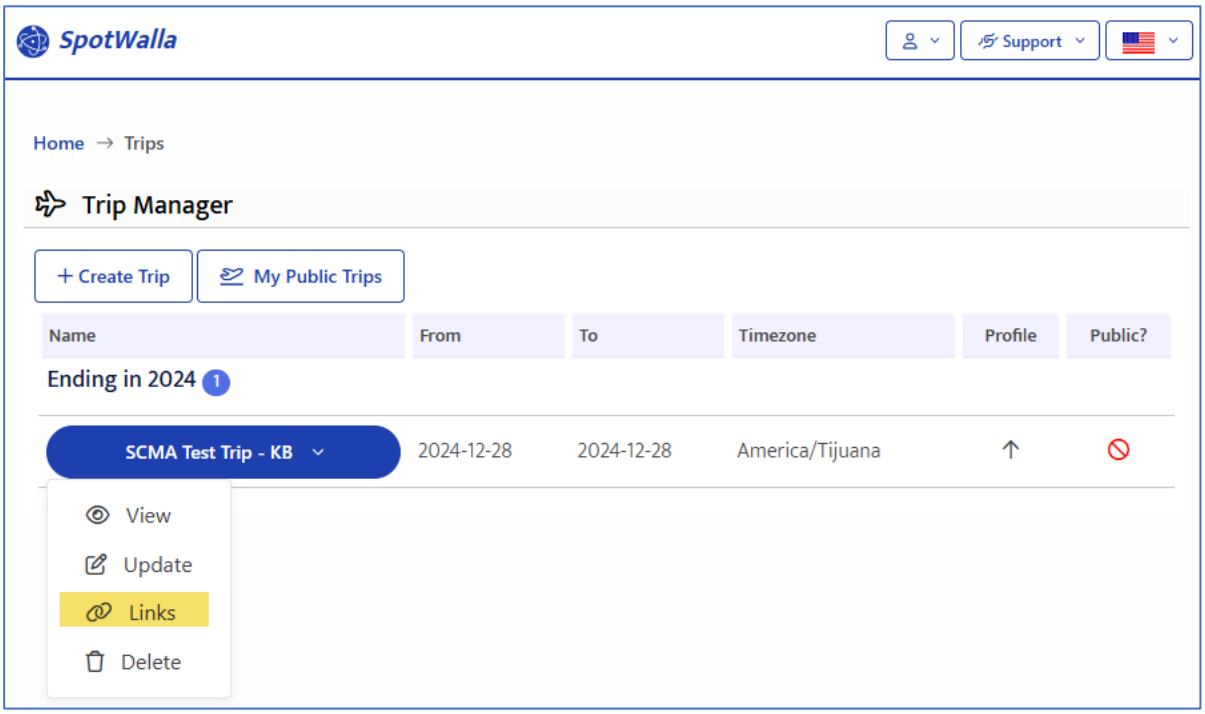
On the **Security Tab**, Check the last one and Uncheck the others.

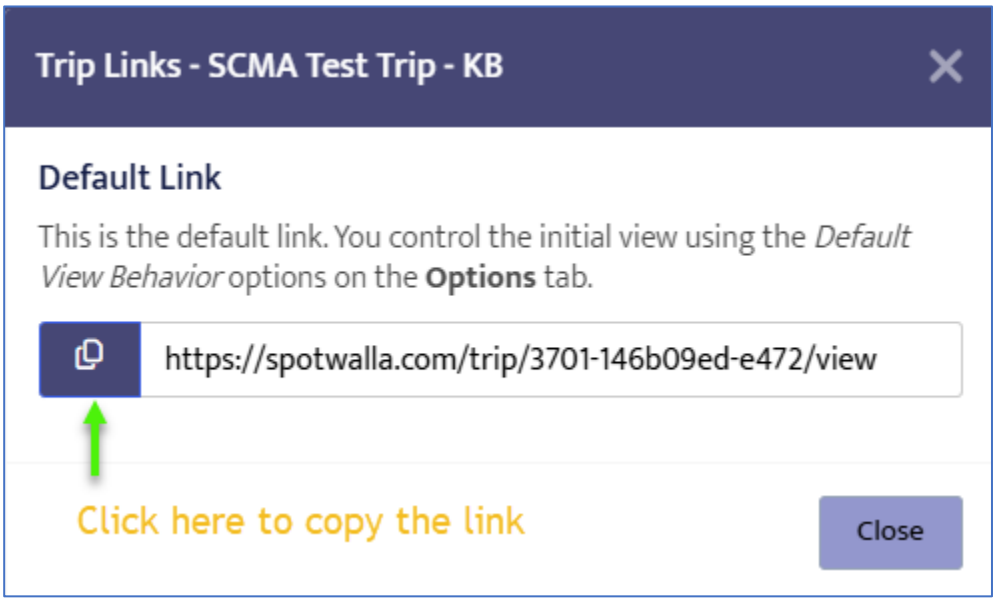


You may want to select the **Motorcyclist**



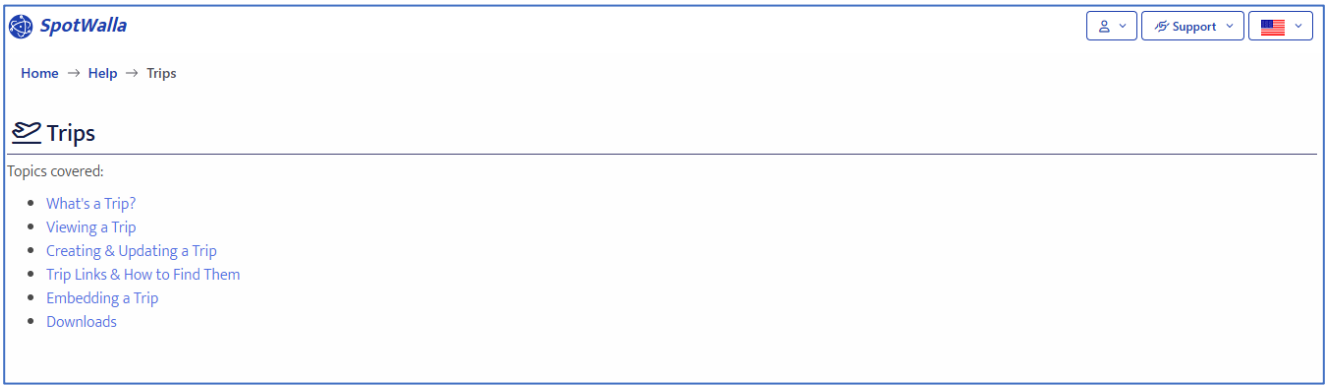
When you are ready to email your records to the ride chair Open **Trip Manager to Get the Links** that you will email. Select the Trip or Trips one at a time and select Link then copy the link paste it to your email.





Include a description of each trip, which SCMA ride you are submitting and send the email to the proper SCMA Ride Chair. You will hear back from the Ride Chair when the review is done.

You can research all the details of **SpotWalla Trips** by using the **Trips help menu**.
https://spotwalla.com/help/trips



If you get stuck and have questions related to setup and use for SCMA rides you can request help at membership@sc-ma.com.