

**From:** Steve Moskowitz SteveMoskowitz@ready2rollcycling.com  
**Subject:** Ready2Roll Cycling - Special Topic Note  
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**To:** moskose@swbell.net

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## Overview of upcoming Partner and Special Rides...

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Good morning everyone!

The main theme of this special topic note will be to share some details about our two partner rides and a two special opportunity rides, one in the middle of the training series and one right after which are worth your consideration.

Before we get to that, I wanted to share two important items, one about forwarding your email and the other about a road hazard warning shared with me by one of our riders who rode with friends last weekend out of Hockley.

### Heads-Up When Forwarding My Emails...

First, let me share an important note about forwarding your email to others. If you look down at the very bottom of this note, you will see a link to Unsubscribe from this list. When you click that link, it automatically takes you off of the 2017 Ready2Roll Cycling distribution list. It knows who you are because that unsubscribe link has a code that lets are email know who asked to unsubscribe. If you forward my net to another rider and they click the unsubscribe link, it removes you from our distribution list because that link still has your ID code. So, when I suggest that you invite friends to join you at the rides noted below, or you just want to pass my corny jokes and bad puns along to others, you should at least take a moment to remove the unsubscribe links at the bottom of the message.

If I send any special links and/or passwords specific to enrolled riders, please remove these too because I review the rider lists on the rides we partner with and any riders who registered improperly with our link/code may arrive to find they are not registered and are turned away after a long drive to the ride.

### Warning - Dangerous Track Crossing in Waller Hockley Area

OK, PLEASE read this next item because it's a warning about railroad tracks recently installed or modified in the Waller Hockley area...

A group of riders rode on Old Washington Road which is just south of Old 290 in the Waller/Hockley area. A rider reported that they slipped crossing some poorly detailed new railroad tracks about two miles west of Hockley and learned of another rider who fell at the same spot on the same day and heard more reports of trouble with these new tracks.

For those of you who do ride in the Waller/Hockley area, this looks like its just south and east of Waller. Be careful if you are riding in this area. Fortunately, none of our routes use Old Washington.

### Special Topic - Upcoming Partner Rides and "Special Rides"

OK, let's get to today's special topic - "Special Rides". Of course, all our rides are special but a few are slightly different.

Because we are planning 12 regular and 2 beginner rides each year and because there are BP MS-150 Recommended Rides almost every Saturday leading up the the ride to Austin, we found that it was not always possible to avoid any overlap with any local ride. In order to eliminate conflicts, we decided that "if we can't beat 'em, join 'em"! So, we looked at all the local rides and after visiting with the ride directors to understand their planning process and safety approach, we picked two rides which we felt were planned well and well supported and we partnered with these rides - our riders join their riders and they use our wave start.

What this means is that these two rides are open to the public to register and ride and they are also open to Ready2Roll Cycling riders to participate. One of the rides (Feb 4) does not require you to register and one (Apr 1) does but don't worry, I will make that simple and clear. There is no extra fee required, we pay your fee to the ride organizer. Since these rides are open to the public, you are welcome to invite friends to come along who are not enrolled in the Ready2Roll Cycling training series. All they need to do is register on the public registration page, pay their fee, and come ride - they will even get a ride t-shirt which we don't get but we pay a group rate and decline the extra swag because most of us have too many free event t-shirts. (The Apr 1 ride does give you the option to buy a tech t-shirt, see below.)

Here is a summary of our two partner rides:

### Feb 4, 9:00 am - Pedaling the Prairie

First of all, note the 9 am start. This is a very well planned and supported BP MS-150 Recommended Ride which is organized by Faith West Academy. This is a very active private school with very supportive parents. This is especially visible in the large breakfast before the ride, the large hamburger lunch after the ride and the homemade brownies at every rest stop. This will be the only ride of the season where everyone will end the day heavier than when they started!

The ride does let us use our wave start (fastest riders in the first waves, slowest rides in the last) and offers distances of 24, 45, 55 or 71 miles in the pleasant flat to gently rolling roads between Hempstead, Brookshire and almost west to Sealy (long route).

This is the 2nd ride of our season so most of us will do the shorter options but you have plenty of options.

Remember, you don't have to register for this ride, you will just come to the Ready2Roll Cycling sign-in tables (which will look the same as they do at all our rides), sign in, and sign out when you finish. Do arrive no later than 7:45 am. There will be traffic backed up and you don't want to miss the free breakfast...

#### **Apr 1, 8:00 am - Head for the Hills**

This ride is planned by the Rotary Club of Washington County. Each rider who plans to ride does have to register but we have our own registration site (please DON'T share with riders who have not enrolled in our series) and there is no fee for the ride but you can order and pay for an optional tech t-shirt and/or the hamburger lunch which benefits the local Volunteer Fire Dept. It's a long drive back after the ride so I always order a bunch of burgers for our SAG volunteers and my wife and I.

There are route options of 26, 43 or 62 miles and this is one of our most beautiful routes and is definitely our hilliest route of the season. I do have a collection of the tech t-shirts going back several years and each one has something mis-spelled so eventually, I may sell the entire collection and retire early...

I can't emphasize what a great ride this is and will send several dedicated notes with the link to register for this ride. Please use our link to register (there will be a password) and please DON'T share the link or password with anyone else - I'll send it to every rider enrolled in our series (except the riders who selected email only since they aren't training).

OK, these two rides are listed in our training schedule and are included in your rider fee. The next two rides are extra rides and you do need to register but both are worth it, if your calendar permits...

#### **Mar 5, 8:00 am - Kate's Ride**

This is another BP MS-150 Recommended Ride. It was organized by a group of ConocoPhillips riders to help the daughter of one rider who was emerging as quite a cyclist until an accident left her partially paralyzed. The ride was organized to benefit Kate and other victims of spinal cord injuries. If you look at the calendar, you will note that Mar 5 is a Sunday so this ride does not overlap with a Ready2Roll Cycling Ride. If you look at the calendar closer, you will also note that there is no Ready2Roll Ride on Sat, Mar 4 because some of us (i.e. me) are co-chair of Race-Day operations for the Rodeo Run sponsored by ConocoPhillips so we take one week off but, if you want to ride that weekend, we have a special discount deal on this ride.

I will be sending you a dedicated note with the link to register and the code that Ready2Roll Cycling enrollees can use for the discount. You are welcome to invite friends but please DON'T send them the discount code - this ride benefits a good cause and we don't want to divert any of the funds they need to treat spinal cord injuries.

This ride offers routes of 22, 33, 45 or 60 miles. The route may look a little like our Sealy ride (Week 4, Feb 18) but if you look closely, it is our Sealy ride! We worked closely with them to help ensure they would offer a safe route and a well supported ride. Don't worry, you won't be bored - this is a beautiful rolling route that you will enjoy every time you do it and it's a fairly short drive vs. many of the other rolling routes that are further west.

#### **May 6, 7:30 am - Bike for Mike**

This BP MS-150 Recommended Ride is the weekend after the BP MS-150 so you will be well trained and the 7:30 start will be sleeping in after the weekend before. This ride is in Memory of Mike McCann, former Chairman of the Fulshear Planning Commission and an avid cyclist. We love to support this ride because it's fun, well supported and benefits the Fulshear Community which is very supportive of a lot of local cycling activities passing through. If that's not enough, the back of the pack SAG driver is one of the sharpest, most experienced cycling volunteers known - me!

Oh yes, did I mention that the ride starts and finishes in the Union Chappel Vineyards/Bar O Ranch? Do you know what comes from vineyards? The liquid refreshment at the great post-ride lunch will offer more than the usual water and soda...

The 19, 35, 51 and 68 mile routes are all flat on the mostly quiet roads west (and slightly east) of Fulshear. This is a great treat to enjoy after the BP MS-150 and the post-ride party/lunch is a great added treat. No one will get lost behind the back of the pack - I can guarantee that!

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OK, that's plenty for this special topic note. I wanted to make sure you were aware of the partner rides that are part of the series and the two extra rides we highly recommend registering for, if your schedule allows.

We're still watching the weather for this Saturday and the forecast still shows 60% chance of scattered morning thunderstorms. Keep an eye on your inbox and make sure our hotline (281-907-9007) is programmed into your phone in case there is any need to cancel the ride.

If you are reading the end of the note and skipped over the heads-up about forwarding my email, PLEASE go back and read it or you may suddenly drop off our distribution list without knowing why. It already happened to one team captain this year - please read that short item at the top of this note!

OK, time to get the volunteer note out to our crack support team for this weekend.

I hope see many of our new riders at Sun & Ski Sports, 6100 Westheimer this Friday night for Bike University...

Thanks!  
**Stephen Moskowitz**  
Ready2Roll Cycling  
[SteveMoskowitz@Ready2RollCycling](mailto:SteveMoskowitz@Ready2RollCycling)