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Subject: Ready2Roll Cycling - Ride 3, Hempstead, Feb 4, 9:00 am
Date: February 1, 2017 at 10:08 AM
To: Stephen moskose@swbell.net

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Note the 9:00 am Start Time!

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Good morning everyone from sunny (in the afternoon) Santa Monica, CA! Before we head to our granddaughter's for the big 4th Birthday weekend, we are spending two days with our "baby" daughter here on the ocean, literally! We're right on Ocean Blvd on the 4th floor and the sunset last night was amazing. Almost as amazing as the sunset was the Strawberry Ricotta Frittata Tostada Crostata we shared for dessert afterwards.

This week, we have one of our two partner rides for the season so I have information to share that is unique to this ride. Please be sure you read the whole note - I did repeat a few things to make sure you don't miss any important information.

We partner with two local rides during the season because some weeks, there are too many rides around town to avoid overlapping with our ride. We identified some rides that are very well organized and share our focus on safety, courtesy, and excellent support. We work with the organizers to ensure the ride is well planned and supported. We even use our wave start to get everyone away safely.

This ride is open to the public so any of your friends who are not participating in our series can register for this ride and come out and ride with you. They do need to register and pay but you do not - your fee for the series includes the fee for this ride. (Email only readers, you are welcome to ride - you do need to register and pay the ride fee to Faith West Academy)

If you are planning to ride this Saturday, please read on - there are a few important details you need to know.

The first detail today is to call your attention to the start time - **9:00 am is the correct start time.** We'll be starting just this side of Hempstead at the Waller County Fairgrounds - please allow plenty of time to arrive in Hempstead no later than 7:30 am as it takes a LONG time to travel the final mile or so into the parking area if you arrive later.

----- 2017 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Ride 2 - Pedaling the Prairie - Feb 4, 9:00 am

This week, we have a special treat - we're partnering with Faith West Academy for the Pedaling the Prairie ride! There will be plenty of distance options - 28, 45, 55 or 70 miles. The two shorter routes will be fairly flat while the 55 and 71 mile routes will include more of the rolling roads out to Bellville and back. Note - 28 or 45 miles is plenty for most of our riders unless you have already been riding longer distances. This is only week 2 of the season so you will have plenty of opportunities to ride longer later in the season.

Directions to the start of the ride - Waller County Fairgrounds (22000 Fairground Rd, Hempstead, 77445, GPS: 30.077756,-96.036301).

NOTE - I am recommending two driving routes below because if everyone takes the Hwy 290 route, traffic will really back up. Those of you who live further west should drive up FM-359 from Brookshire and miss the traffic backup. So please override your GPS unit and trust me - if we send some of you up FM-359 and the rest of you come out Hwy 290, it will significantly reduce the traffic back-up.

NOTE2 - If you haven't driven on Hwy 290 recently, there is a major widening project under way so please allow 20 minutes extra time to get to the ride and plan to arrive by 7:30 to beat the crowding and enjoy the free pre-ride breakfast.

If you live inside the Grand Parkway:

Take 610, the Sam Houston Tollway, or the Grand Parkway to Hwy 290. Take 290 northwest to the FM-359 exit. Turn LEFT (South) on 359 and drive about a mile to old Hwy 290. Continue under 290 about 100 yards to Old Houston Hwy. Turn LEFT on Old Houston Hwy and then, the make a RIGHT on Fairgrounds Dr. The parking will be on your left and the Fairgrounds on your right.

If you live west of Katy:

Take I-10 west to the first Brookshire exit. Take FM-359 north about 18 miles to Fairgrounds Dr. Make a right on Fairgrounds Dr. and the parking will be on your right and the Fairgrounds on your left.

Let me share a few notes about this ride:

- **This ride is open to the public.** Anyone can register to participate in this ride at the packet pickup (\$40) or at the start before the ride (\$45). This means that if you have any friends who can't make our series but would like to drop in and join you for one ride, they can do that this week.
- **This ride is open to the public.** That means that in addition to our large group, they may have as many as another 1,000 riders. There will be a big crowd out to

ride if the weather is mild. The large crowd also means:

- o **Please arrive by 7:45 am** – this will allow plenty of time to park, get ready and avoid the long line that will form later in the morning.
- o **We will use our wave start but it will take about 20 minutes longer to get everyone on the road.** Please be patient – some of the riders have not been through the same focus on safety and courtesy – don't let this ruin your ride – be patient and allow extra room for unpredictable riders until you have spread out and you can safely settle into your pace with riders you know.
- **There will be two sign-in areas** – one for the general public and one for Ready2Roll Cycling. We will probably be on the far right (south) side of the covered pavilion with our usual 4 sign-in tables and the alphabet signs noting which names are in each sign-in list.
- **Please enroll before Midnight Thursday!** - If any of your friends/teammates enroll for our series this Friday, after our sign-in list has gone to print, they must print out their enrollment confirmation and bring it to the ride. If there is no proof that they have enrolled, they will need to register and pay the public registration for the ride (In other words, it is much better to enroll before midnight this Thursday).
- **Weight Warning** – This ride is probably the only ride of the season where most of the riders may go home heavier than when they arrived. There are three reasons for this:
 - o The ride is serving donated coffee juice and breakfast before the ride so if you arrive early, you can eat after signing in.
 - o The ride is serving a donated hamburger lunch with drinks and chips after the ride
 - o The ride is serving the usual assortment of snacks at the rest stops plus thousands of donated, home made brownies!!!

Reminder - Since there will be a lot of us heading to Hempstead, you want to do five things:

1. Arrive early - 7:30 will allow you plenty of time
2. Carpool
3. Arrive early - Allow plenty of time for traffic, especially on the stretch of 290 under construction
4. Come out 290 if you live inside or near the grand parkway
or come up 359 from Brookshire if you live father west
5. Arrive early!!!

----- **More Partner Ride Notes**

The ride will draw a large attendance as it is open to the public. Marshall Cohen will be directing the start and we will be using our wave start based on your pace but you can expect that some of the riders not familiar with the process and the value of the wave start will cheat so be especially careful, be patient at the start and allow a little extra time to fall into your normal ride pace. It will take longer to start all the waves but this will allow the riders to spread out more quickly and safely.

If you are coming with friends who are just participating in this ride, you can all start together. All the riders start by pace so just arrive early enough to get everyone sign in at your respective sign-in tables, then get your bikes ready and get into the line to get started. It will take close to 40 minutes to get everyone started but once you are on the road, you will spread out quickly and safely. Don't be in a hurry – there will be plenty of home made brownies for everyone so be patient and get ready for a really well supported and enjoyable ride.

The fee you paid for the training series includes the partner rides so you don't need to pay to ride this Saturday – this also includes all our Ride Marshals, Bike Medics and Law Enforcement riders.

Those of you who enrolled for email only (no fee) are still welcome to ride, you just need to register for this ride and pay the registration fee to the ride organizers.

OK, that's it for today, watch your inbox this week for the Friday update note with any late ride updates as well as traffic advisories.

Thanks!
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