

2007 MS 150 Training Series - Ride 6 - Cat Spring, March 3, 8:00 am

I want to say THANKS to all of you who made the 2007 ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run another record success - all 7,080 of you!

I also wanted to say THANKS to all of you who honored the request that Sunday be a make-up ride. We had two days of safe, well supported rides thanks to your cooperation.

167 of you signed in Saturday and 204 rode on Sunday. The weather may have been a contributing factor in Saturday's attendance.

Here's a hint... If you read between the lines of my New Waverly ride notes (there are quite a few lines to read between!), you might start to notice a pattern developing - it seems like on the Rodeo Run weekend, Saturday is generally a good day for a run and Sunday is usually a magnificent day for biking...

Registration for the 2008 ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run is not open yet but I will let you know as soon as it is. If enough of you register to run, maybe we'll make Saturday the small make-up ride and Sunday the main event!

Before I go any further this week, a little history is in order...

This week's ride is one of the most pleasant rides of the series. It's not as challenging as some rides still to come but it does include some good climbs and plenty of rolling roads plus, the scenery is beautiful. For this reason, we have always included Cat Spring in our schedule.

In the past few years, we have grown to the point that, when we all descend on the town, the roads are crowded with our cars for much of the day. We have made significant progress in developing contacts in the community and, as you will see, we will start just outside of town. This should eliminate most of the congestion issues but you need to help us by doing two things:

1. Carpool

Most of you already are but it is even more critical this week

Check the carpool link on our site - <http://www.conocophillipsbikeclub.org/>

PLEASE carpool

2. Arrive no later than 7:30 am

The parking will get tight and the entry will be congested as we line up to start.

Late arrivals had to park on the side of FM-1094 and many missed our start

PLEASE arrive on time - It's about an hour drive from West Houston

I have made contact with the restaurant in town - Carol's at Cat Spring to let them know we are coming. It's a long drive back so I highly recommend you plan to drop in for a bite before you return to town - the food is excellent! See the details below.

If we all behave as well as we can, enjoy the beautiful countryside, and respect and support the local communities, Cat Spring should be contacting me in the Fall to see when we are coming back. This can happen - it does every year now in New Ulm and Chappell Hill.

OK, the most important detail this week is CARPOOL!!!!

We will be starting in Cat Spring. Cat Spring is a beautiful little town 11 miles west of Sealy. We have outgrown the ability to start in Cat Spring itself so we will start at the Social Hall on FM-1094 just outside Cat Spring. The hall has reasonable parking...IF we all carpool!

We will also have volunteers and, possibly, a law enforcement officer directing our start and finish as we will need to cross and ride a short distance on FM-1094 which has modest traffic at quite high speeds and no shoulder. PLEASE obey the volunteers/officer on your way out and back to the finish.

Did I mention that Cat Spring is little? PLEASE CARPOOL!!! Remember that there are quite a few spots along I-10 where you can meet for coffee and carpool on the way.

OK, that's enough of the introductory stuff, let's get on to the details...

2007 MS 150 Training Series - Ride 6 - Cat Spring, March 3, 8:00 am

This weeks ride takes us out to beautiful Cat Spring. We'll start in Cat Spring and head out into the surrounding countryside. The ride distances are approximately 41 or 50 rolling to hilly miles. The ride is pretty similar to last week but there will be one memorable climb just before you get to FM-109 on Zimmerscheidt Rd that will set your new standard for climbing if you are new to the hills. See more on Zimmerscheidt Rd. below, it is one of the high points of this ride, literally!

A few years ago, several of you added "bonus" miles to the route by making a left turn on Zimmerscheidt Road. In case I forget, I am reminding you all now - "Right on Zimmerscheidt". You should note that "right" and "Zimmerscheidt" rhyme. "Left" doesn't rhyme w/ Zimmerscheidt but if you go LEFT on Zimmerscheidt, you will get LEFT behind...get it?

DIRECTIONS TO THE RIDE START:

Take I-10 west to Sealy. Take the second Sealy exit (Hwy 36). Go north on highway 36, cross the railroad tracks and turn left on highway 1094. Go west on 1094 for 11 miles to the crossroads with FM-949. There is a sign indicating Cat Spring is one mile to the left. The Cat Spring Social Hall is a short distance past FM-949 on the right - sorry mappers, I don't have a physical address. Please allow time for a very pleasant drive out to Cat Spring. Remember, carpooling makes this drive even more enjoyable!

NOTE - There are no stores open real early in Cat Spring but the Smart Drinks van will be there so you can get your hot java, cocoa or smoothie right in Cat Spring.

Drive distance: about 60 miles from Houston. Drive time is approximately 1 hour from I-10 and the tollway. Please allow time to be ready to start by 7:45 am.

Hey, this thought just occurred to me...Do you know what would be a great idea? CARPOOL!!!

...And don't forget that Smart Drinks will be on hand by 7:00 am to make you a hot coffee or cocoa or a cool smoothie.

Important! – Local Restaurant Opens Doors for us...

Carol Davis of "Carol's Kitchen" in Cat Spring is looking forward to our return to town. You may want to head to Carol's for a bite before you head back to town. This will recharge your batteries when they benefit the most and support the local business. Here's more info...

"I want to let the riders at next weeks Cat Springs ride know about a restaurant that will be open on Saturday for Lunch. The location is across from our old starting point at 10745 FM 949, Cat Spring. I am also including the web address for the restaurant with some excellent reviews:

<http://www.blisswood.net/hillcountryrestaurant/index.htm>

Carol also operates a Bed and Breakfast that you can take advantage of for a weekend get away. The B&B is made up of your choice of turn-of-the-century Texas Homes, completely furnished with antiques of their era...all on the Lehmann Legacy Ranch, over 650 acres of working ranch. Carol has informed me she has several reservations still opened.

web: <http://www.blisswood.net/index.htm>

I'll see you in Cat Spring but please promise me that you will all CARPOOL!!! This is really critical over the next weeks as we head out to beautiful, small country towns.

Thanks!

Stephen Moskowitz

Team Captain, ConocoPhillips

281 293-2599

steve.e.moskowitz@conocophillips.com