

OK, I hope everyone enjoyed the short break from the really hilly rides as the next three weeks, we will be ramping back up, so to speak...

This week, I am keeping the ride note as short as possible because I have one other critical note that requires quick action to help make our roads safer for cycling. I want everyone to PLEASE read this note so, Let's get going...

MS150 Training Series - Ride #9 - Gold Rush Ride, Mar 24, 8:00 am

This week, in an effort to further improve our relations with local communities and accommodate the crowded pre-MS150 cycling season, we will be partnering with a "sophomore" ride - the Conroe High School Golden Girls Gold Rush Ride.

This means they are expecting around 300 riders for their local event plus the 400-500 that we usually get at our northern rides. While that means we will be at the upper end of our crowd size, there will be four routes (25, 44, 56 and 65 miles) and our usual wave start by pace which will help to quickly thin things out.

Additionally, there will be 4 rest stops on the 44 mile option and 5 on the 56/65 mile routes. I would also be willing to bet that, like last year, there will be plenty of very helpful, very enthusiastic "golden girls" working at each rest stop plus many parents. In other words, you can expect a very well supported ride. Did I mention the home made snacks at the rest stops?

NOTE - Our check-in process will be a different than normal this week!

We will have our own sign-in tables and you will sign in like you normally do but expect the process to be a bit slower. You will be issued a numbered wrist band, specifically for this ride. This is NOT our normal Tyvek band, we are NOT issuing those this week. We are making a donation to the Golden Girls for each of our riders so please look for our check-in table and be sure to get your wrist band. If you have not already paid for your training series, you either need to pay \$95 for our series on Saturday, or go to the Gold Rush sign-in table and pay \$25 for this ride only. Please don't mail checks this week as it is too late to credit these for Saturday. Only riders who have paid for the entire season can use our sign-in process - no friends relatives dropping in for one week - they need to pay for the Gold Rush Ride at the other set of sign-in tables.

NOTE - EVERY rider must be wearing a wrist band specific to this ride in order to participate. If any of you are forwarding my notes to friends who drop-in without paying, please don't forward this note and please let them know that they can't ride w/o paying \$25 to the Gold Rush Ride. Double ditto for unregistered riders. This week, there will be a LOT of volunteers from Conroe High School checking for unregistered rides - this is a major fundraiser for the High School and it's not fair for anyone to try to drop in w/o paying/registering.

As I noted, we have to ensure that all of our riders are registered and paid so the check-in team will need to look each of you up before issuing you a wrist band so you need to allow extra time to check in. Waivers may be required as well.

This will be the only ride I will miss this season but you will be in good hands. I will see you all on Mar 31 in Chappell Hill (Hint - there's a reason it's called Chappell Hill). Next week (3/31), I am

can carry 1-2 carpoolers from Austin where I'll be staying for the weekend. See more on this next Wednesday.

Directions to the Start of the Ride - Montgomery Jr. High School, 22627 Hwy 105 West, 77356

From Houston take I45 North to Loop 336. Go West (left) on 336 and then turn West (left) on Hwy 105. Go 14 miles to Old Planterville Rd and turn left. Turn right into rear parking lot of Montgomery Jr. High.

Reminder - General Packet Pickups Begin March 27

Riders can start picking up their packets next Tuesday, March 27. While our larger teams may be offering team pick ups, most of you will probably prefer to pick up your packet at one of the general pickup events that is closest to your home or work. The team pickups are optional and may not be convenient for all of you. (ConocoPhillips riders - watch your inbox for details on our team pickup on April 11 but you still may prefer to go to one of the general pickups).

The calendar of general pickup events is located online at:

http://www.ms150.org/ms150/packet_pick-up.cfm

Check the calendar for the event(s) nearest you.

OK, here's a coincidence...

...last year, when I sent this week's note, I was in my on-boarding process at M.D. Anderson. This year, I am back for my routine bi-monthly exams tomorrow and follow-up w/ the Oncologist Friday so, over the next few days, when I'm not out of the office for the weekend, I will likely be out of the office at MDA. In other words, I won't have much access to e-mail for the next few days and my e-mail priority will be 100% on work so, if you have any questions, PLEASE check with your team captain - please don't expect a reply from me until next week.

I do have some good safety tips and ride feedback coming. Watch your inbox Friday morning for the weekly update and safety tips.

I'll miss the crowds this Saturday but am looking forward to seeing everyone in Chappell Hill on Mar 31

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Important News - Action Required - Bicycle Safe Passing Bill

Here is an opportunity for us to help make our roads safer for cyclists but you MUST act now! Please read on...

SB 248: Final Call for Safe Passing in the Senate

We are in the final stage for SB 248 in the Senate. The Senate floor debate has been postponed because we have not identified 21 solid votes from the Senate. We have encountered a few unexpected challenges, and **we must make every vote count!!**



The following Senators' positions have not been confirmed, but **by acting NOW, you can make a difference and show your support of SB 248.** If you live in any of the following Senators' districts, make sure and **contact them via email or phone and let them know how valuable this legislation is for cyclists:**

Senate District 1: Senator Kevin Eltife (R-Tyler)
 Senate District 5: Senator Steve Ogden (R-Bryan)
 Senate District 7: Senator Dan Patrick (R-Houston)
 Senate District 8: Senator Florence Shapiro (R-Plano)
 Senate District 9: Senator Chris Harris (R-Arlington)
 Senate District 11: Senator Mike Jackson (R-Pasadena)
 Senate District 12: Senator Jane Nelson (R-Grapevine)
 Senate District 17: Senator Kyle Janek (R-Houston)
 Senate District 18: Senator Glenn Hegar (R-Katy)
 Senate District 19: Senator Carlos Uresti (D-San Antonio)
 Senate District 22: Senator Kip Averitt (R-Waco)
 Senate District 24: Senator Troy Fraser (R-Abilene)
 Senate District 30: Senator Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls)
 Senate District 31: Senator Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo)
 Senate District 15: Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston)
 Senate District 20: Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen)

If you are not sure who your state Senator is, follow this link: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> and enter your address to find out who represents you.

You can write your Senator via e-mail using the simple formula: *firstname.lastname@senate.state.tx.us* Please copy Texas Bicycle Coalition on any written correspondence you send to your Senator.

SB 248: The Safe Passing Bill

The Safe Passing Bill would require a motorist to give at least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist and would require a commercial vehicle to give at least six feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist.

Approximately 50 cyclists per year are killed in bicycle-automobile crashes in Texas. About 40%

of those are killed by motorists traveling in the same direction. Most of those 20 deaths per year could be prevented if this law were enacted and obeyed by motorists.

The Safe Passing Law, modeled on the Move Over Act (for emergency vehicles) which passed in the 2003 Texas legislative session, simplifies the punishment issues and provides a clear framework for identifying the obligations of a passing motorist to either move over or slow down when passing a cyclist. With this law, the vision of "Share the Road" can be fully realized.

Your letters and voice count! Every letter that gets sent to State Senators and Representatives in support of legislation for cycling is taken into account when making decisions for passing laws. Thank you for your continued support of SB 248. We will continue to keep members and interested cyclists aware of legislation that will affect cycling in Texas; however, it is expensive to pass this vital legislation. **Your membership and donations are important to us and help keep cyclists on the roads and safe in Texas. Consider [joining](#) or [donating](#) now!**

[Learn more...](#)

Texas Bicycle Coalition

The Texas Bicycle Coalition is continually working to advance bicycle access, safety, and education for the state of Texas.

Website: <http://www.BikeTexas.org/>



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