

**Subject:** 2010 BP MS150 Training Series Ride 10 - Chappell Hill, Head for the Hills Ride, Mar 27, 8:00 am  
**From:** "Moskowitz, Steve E." <Steve.E.Moskowitz@conocophillips.com>  
**Date:** Wed, 24 Mar 2010 08:27:39 -0500  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients;

I was really sorry that we could not safely slip in our ride last Saturday but I was glad I sent everyone home rather than let you head out into the weather that developed so quickly.

The decision to call off the ride Saturday morning was a no-brainer - I just wish the weather would listen to the weather forecast occasionally!

Actually, at approx 10:27 Friday night when the weather forecaster on Channel 2 said that they expected the rain to arrive around, 2-3 pm and they did not expect any severe weather, I was hopeful we would be able to ride. Saturday, at 4:30 am, I checked the radar forecast and the timing was still similar (1:30 in the Cat Spring area) and there was no lightning activity showing up anywhere in the state so it looked like we could limit everyone to the short route and safely make it home with an hour to spare.

Good thing for the new web phones as I had several Ride Marshals and Medics with them and about 6:45 am, they noticed that the front had picked up speed and was more organized as it passed through Austin. Sure enough, we pulled up the real time lightning maps and there was lightning activity coming with the front. I was sorry we had to call off the ride but not sorry I made everyone stay safe. After everyone left, we drove to Brenham to drop the coolers for next Saturday and while the storm activity on the leading edge was fairly brief, it was pretty intense and I was glad we were all safe and indoors - well, MOST of us were - here was a short note one of you, who slipped out way too early sent me...

"Steve,  
I'm glad you made a right call to cancel last Saturday's ride on-site,  
a heavy downpour hit New Ulm road area with thunder and gust wind around 9:20am that day.  
A few riders, myself included were soaked wet and hardly managed to return to the parking lot  
I believe if you were letting riders out, it would be a disaster then...."

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Sunday, six of us went to Chappell Hill to make sure the hills were still there...  
...THEY WERE!!!

I hoped the wind would blow us up the climbs on the way back but the wind was out of the west so it just kept trying to blow us into the middle of the road. We had to tack up the hill so we weren't riding in the traffic! Two laps was plenty - it was a beautiful (if windy) day and the BBQ at Waller County Line on the way back was as good as ever...

OK, speaking of Chappell Hill, let's move on to the weekly ride news...

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**2010 BP MS150 Training Series Ride 10 - Chappell Hill, Head for the Hills Ride, Mar 27, 8:00 am**

I can't recall if I mentioned it but the ride this week will have some hills...  
...Actually, it will have a LOT of hills but this is what we have been building up for so "bring 'em on!"

As you head out of Chappell Hill (in small, safe waves), you will immediately hit a nice descent followed by a mild rise and another bigger descent, then a pretty good climb. Then, it's on to another descent and an even bigger climb followed by a short flat section and then, it looks like the road comes to an end but this is really just the final, biggest descent on the way out of town. The good news is there is no climb waiting after this final descent but you will soon realize that this is really bad news - the climb is waiting but it's well after you have lost all you momentum from the last descent! At this point, some of you will be wondering what's going on and we're only 7.5 miles into the ride!

This series of nice descents and tough climbs will continue unabated for pretty much the entire ride. If it

feels like it is too tough, don't worry - there is a 26 mile option as well as 45 and 63 mile routes. It is OK to just do the 26 miler this week if the hills are too much. This is one of our two toughest rides of the year and is more difficult than the actual ride to Austin.

**Correction:**

I told you last week there were 5 Rest Stops this week but remember, I'm memory challenged...

**...there are actually 6 rest stops this Saturday! (or 3 on the 26 mile and 4 on the 45 mile route)**

I did tell you all that this is our final partner ride of the season and it will be a good one. The rest stops will be stocked very similar to ours because they use my shopping list, the start will be in our usual waves by pace and 80-90% of the riders will be from our series so this will feel very much like one of our rides.

**NOTE - Because this is a partner ride, there is a online registration process that each rider MUST complete in order to ride.** I have sent two notices to all our paid riders with the link and details on how to register. If you have not paid and want to participate in this ride, please go to the site below and follow the normal registration process and pay for the ride. We will not be accepting payment for our training series but you can register and ride just like any other rider since we are partnering with the ride.

Here is the link for Unpaid riders to use if they want to participate in this spectacular ride:

<http://www.bikereg.com/events/register.asp?EventID=9842>

Those of you who have paid need to check your inbox for your link and directions - please DON'T use this link or you will also have to pay to participate. I will send all our paid riders one final reminder with the details and link tomorrow morning so if you missed or deleted the first two, watch your inbox tomorrow.

**Registration closes at 10 pm Thursday night, Mar 25 so please register before then if you want to ride.**

**Directions to Chappell Hill...**

Take Hwy 290 northwest out of Houston to Hempstead. Stay on 290 and drive approximately 12 miles past Hempstead to Chappell Hill. This will be the first (only) traffic light on 290 after you pass Hempstead. Turn RIGHT at the light (some of you will stop at the Shell station on the right) and drive a very short distance to one of the two open gates on the right. There should be volunteers and/or law enforcement directing some of you to come around the first gate and go to the 2nd gate to enter.

All riders will park in this field and then, come over to the sign-in area at the northwest corner at the Vol Fire Dept. There will be porta-lets here as well.

After you sign in and are ready, ride up Main St a couple of blocks to Poplar St. Make a RIGHT on Poplar and ride down to the museum where we will line up to start. There is a public restroom at the corner of Main & Poplar that will be open for us and there will be some porta-lets at the museum.

There is one way in/out of Chappell Hill and the traffic will back up coming in at the peak time so PLEASE allow extra time to arrive, park, sign-in, get ready, and ride over to the start. Carpooling will help to ease the congestion on arrival and make parking easier for all.

The drive to Chappell Hill takes just over an hour from I-10 and the Sam Houston Tollway so be sure to allow plenty of time to get there before the crowds.

**Here's an aerial overview of the area:**



After the ride, it's a long drive back to town so you may want to grab a bite. Bever's Kitchen has great food and is just across Main St. If Bever's is too busy (they will be during the peak time), another great spot is the Waller County Line BBQ I mentioned above. This is in a Shell station located on Hwy 290 at FM-362. It's right on your right heading back to town about 10 miles after you pass Hempstead - about 20 minutes from Chappell Hill. If it's nice out, it's really pleasant to have BBQ and maybe a slice of cake, pie

or banana pudding while enjoying the weather.

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OK, that's plenty of weekly news for today. I will see many of you in Chappell Hill this Saturday...

Thanks!

**Stephen Moskowitz**

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