

Subject: 2013 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Ride #5 - Houston Oaks, Sunday, Feb 24, 8:00 am

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:12:14 PM Central Standard Time

From: Stephen Moskowitz

CC: Team Audrey's Heroes Aaron Jacks, Sun & Ski Allison Albrecht, Marathon Allison McCaslin, BP Amanda Banduch, Sun & Ski Andrew Christ, Statoil Angel Callejon, Martha Turner Ashton Martini, Mattress Firm Dream Team Becky Means, HP Cara Baez, CBI Chris Cagle, Shell Chris Holan, Ol Army Cycling Chris McFarland, ERM Chris Young, Martha Turner Courtney Henderson, Critz Cullen, Sun & Ski Sports Daniel Graham, Susman Godfrey David Peterson, CGGVeritas Derrick Cooksey, Marathon Elizabeth Smith, BP Eric Cioti, Team DODI Evan Jones, Harris Caprock Gary Wise, BG - Toni Gonzales, Enbridge James Edgar, Ready2Roll Cycling Jan Cohen, NOV Jason Bozic, Enbridge Jeff Cardinal, CGGVeritas Jesse Rivera, Texas Children's Hospital Jill Simon, Calpine Jim Sandt, Urban Bicycle Gallery Judy Tuttle-Wurth, Transocean Karen McConaughy, Parker Drilling Kathy Moran, The Methodist Hospital Kathy Shadle, BG Katie Bennett, For the Cause Kim Kareah, Team DODI Leo Magallon, Team CAIC Lina Arango, Apache Lisa Nutting, Houstonian Lisa Rainey, Toyota Manuel Sanchez, Team CAIC Marco Contreras, Memorial Hermann Maria Nelson, CGGVeritas Maria Rivera, Houston Oaks Mark LeBlanc, WellFit Group Mark LeBlanc, Shell Mark Poindexter, Ready2Roll Cycling Marshall Cohen, Phillips 66 Marshall Cohen, EP Energy Michael Ferrel, Sun & Ski Sports Mynette Murtagh, Calpine Norma Dunn, CGGVeritas Raul Castor, HP Rebecca Forsyth, Ready2Roll Cycling Robbie Moskowitz, HP Robert Thornton, Because We Can Ron Brannigan, HEB Samantha May, Texas Children's Hospital Seema Patel, Ready2Roll Cycling Steve Moskowitz, ConocoPhillips Steve Moskowitz, ConocoPhillips Steve Moskowitz, Sun and Ski Store #82, Ambulance Racers Stuart Guss, Fugro Ted Tankard, Sun & Ski Toby Craig, EP Energy Todd Gornick, CenterPoint Tory

This must be Rodeo Run week because the Wednesday morning note is coming out late - I think I missed the morning window...

...of course, we're riding on Sunday this week so maybe I'm actually ahead of schedule!:-)

Note - the subject line is correct - we're riding on Sunday, Feb 24 this week. This is the only week we'll be riding on Sunday. This Saturday is the 26th running of the ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run and many of us will be running or volunteering on Saturday so we're riding on Sunday this weekend. Our ride start time is still 8:00 am.

We ordered some poster stands so this Sunday, in addition to the large signs on the front of each sign-in table, there will be signs about 20' in front of the table so you can see which sign-in line to use. We'll use the same splits as last week as this seemed to work well to limit long lines.

- 1 - A to B
- 2 - C to E
- 3 - F to G
- 4 - H to K
- 5 - L to M
- 6 - N to R
- 7 - S to T
- 8 - U to Z

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This week, we'll stay with the gently rolling roads but head northwest of town slightly to Houston Oaks Country Club.

We'll be riding from Houston Oaks which is a very pretty development on what used to be the Tenneco golf course. The golf course is still there plus a lot of beautiful new homes. The route is fairly flat with a few gently rolling roads. Not enough to call hills but you will benefit from some shifting so take the time to practice and get a feel for your

natural cadence range. If you do the 46 or 58 mile option, there will be a nice rolling 12.7 mile out and back section between rest stops 1 and 2. Since the distance between stops is too great with this added 12.7 miles but the stop will probably be fairly lightly used, it's noted as Rest Stop 1.5 on the map – which is already online at www.ready2rollcycling.com. Click the Communications link on the red bar near the top, then click Houston Series and scroll down to the Maps section and look for "05 – Houston Oaks.pdf" at the top of the list. All the maps are online with the current week on top. We're adding the maps slightly in advance as some riders were confused when the newest map was not on top of the list.

There will be two rest stops on the 34 mile route, three on the 46 or four on the 58 mile route.

Directions to the Start - Houston Oaks, 22602 Hegar Rd, Hockley, TX 77447

The GPS coordinates for the main entry are: 30.096666,-95.841916.

Take Hwy 290 NW from town to the Hegar exit. This is approx 5-6 miles past the new Outlet Mall on the right at Fairfield. Exit and make a right (north) on Hegar and drive about 3-4 miles to Houston Oaks. The entry will be on your right and will be marked. We have law enforcement officers out early on Hegar to help expedite your arrival since Hegar is the only road in.

Note – thanks to several of you who noted that the Ready2Roll Cycling calendar was pointing to River Oaks, not Houston Oaks – this has been fixed!

Here are a few notes about driving into and out of Houston Oaks shared by Mark Leblanc – our weekly ride liaison and on-the-ground expert. Mark is the Facilitator of Wellness, Fitness and Bicycling for Houston Oaks so he's quite familiar with the roads in the area!

- Remember that Hegar road is a two lane country road. You will travel ~ 6 miles on Hegar, with one stop at FM2920, before turning on Magnolia Road. Allow sufficient time for some back ups.
- All vehicles will enter Houston Oaks from the Magnolia road entrance. This means, if coming from Hwy 290, you drive past the main entrance and turn right on Magnolia road further north. The entrance is on the right ~ 1/4 mile down. Parking will be in the field on the right. Look for volunteers.
- This gate will also be the exit for bicycles so late arrivals, ie. after we start lining up at 7:45AM, will have to wait on the side of the road until the riders leave and put you behind the ride support team.
- This gate will not be the vehicle exit you use after the ride. This is to prevent motor vehicles and tired cyclists from crossing paths as you leave. Motor vehicles will exit to the south and drive through the property, exiting out the main gate. PLEASE do not try to use the north road to Magnolia rd to exit after your ride.
- The good news is that this flow takes you by the great baked potatoes right after the ride – see below.

Trust me on the tip that you don't want to arrive after we start lining up to ride. If this happens and you have to wait to get in and park, by the time you get in and parked and ready to ride, everyone will be way down the road. Last year, we had a group, we refer to as the "Mongolians" because they arrived on time but started quite late (they said something about one of their riders being very long-winded and waiting on him to get dressed and ready to ride). Our support team had already moved the first turn sign and officer at a key left turn early in the route. The group missed the turn and apparently rode all the way to Mongolia or at least that's what it looked like at the fire station when we, I mean they finally realized they must have missed a turn and stopped to ask directions and modify their route to account for the extra miles off the map. We, I mean they missed a rest stop and the chance to do the nice rolling road out to Hwy 6 and back. Please arrive early enough to get in and get parked and please carpool as always.

PLEASE arrive between 6:45 and 7:00 to allow time for possible traffic backup and to get parked and ready to ride.

I will send a few more details about parking on Friday just to be sure everyone heads to the right spot.

Sunday Lunch Deal - Baked Potato Bar

Note that Houston Oaks will be serving a GREAT baked potato bar with many topping options after the ride so if you go long at speeds under 18, the potatoes may all be gone. The very pleasant covered outdoor space where the lunch is served is well worth the moderate walk from the parking or you can drive over on your way out after the ride since you need to head out past this area as noted above.

MAJOR Traffic Warning – Main Lane Closure on Sam Houston Tollway at Clay Road this Weekend!

Thanks to eagle-eye, Marshall Cohen (who reads his HCTRA e-mail but not mine!) for sending along a note that the Sam Houston Tollway Main Lanes will be closed in both directions at Clay Rd this weekend to install new sign structures. Traffic will be diverted to the frontage road and the tolls will be waived to allow traffic to move but this is definitely an area to avoid unless there is no alternative or you are passing through before 5:30 am.

Here are the full details from HCTRA w/ my notes in red...

"All northbound and southbound lanes of the W Sam Houston Tollway between Clay Road and West Road will be closed beginning Friday, February 22 at 10 p.m. through Monday, February 25 at 5 a.m.

During the closure, the direct connectors from northbound W Sam Houston Tollway to US 290 will be closed. The direct connectors from US 290 to the W Sam Houston Tollway will also be closed. (I added the bold here for emphasis)

Northbound drivers will be required to exit the tollway at Clay Road and will be able to re-enter the tollway using the free entrance ramp at Philippine Street. Southbound drivers may either exit the tollway at West Road to continue south and re-enter the tollway at Clay Road, or access US 290. The southbound W Sam Houston Tollway direct connector to eastbound and westbound US 290 will remain open.

Drivers should expect delays. (Steve's note - "delays" is an understatement)

The bottom line here is leave earlier and use a route that avoids the Sam Houston Tollway this weekend! This should make the news Friday so watch to make sure the possible weather tomorrow does not delay this work.

Volunteers Needed -

We can still use a few more riders to help judge the Hoopla teams at the ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run this Saturday. You will get to ride your bike in front of a few hundred thousand spectators in downtown, then out and back on Allen Parkway while all the Hoopla teams on the course cheer madly and give you the same red carpet treatment the runners will get a few minutes after you come by. The team (5 riders) will confer after enjoying all the Hoopla and submit the winning teams to the awards team.

Thanks to those of you who already offered to help – I'll be sending notes on assignments and maps tomorrow or Friday morning.

OK, I promised a short fairly note today. The ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run should pass 14,000 participants today and I need to make sure everyone has a safe and fun run before we ride on Sunday. There is still time to register for the ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run if you come to Luke's Locker on West Gray (2 blocks east of Shepherd) between 10 am and 7 pm tonight, Thursday or Friday.

I'll see many of you at the Rodeo Run on Saturday and many more of you at Houston Oaks on Sunday...

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