



Good evening! It's Wednesday which means it's time for the weekly ride note...

Before I go any further, PLEASE note **our start location this week has been changed to Foster High School** in Richmond. The physical address is 4400 FM-723, 77406. Note - Each week, about 75% of our riders open the weekly note so 1 out of 4 of our riders may be wandering around in Fulshear looking lost as we ride through town after starting in Richmond...

**A few other helpful notes after our first ride last week.**

**A few groups started early** – as much as 30 minutes early. We can't stop anyone from riding but if you start early, please understand the following:

- You will have little to no support on the road until our SAGs arrive much later.
- We may not have rest stops fully in place yet
- You may miss last minute route changes due to weather impact on road conditions (This happened last week and the early groups missed the pre-ride notice of a late route change as well as the updated signage since they left early)

**A few of you arrived quite late.** It does take us a while to get everyone on the road but please note that you should arrive so you are dressed and ready to ride by the posted ride start time. This way, you start with the correct wave and don't have to pass a lot of riders or be passed a lot after starting in the wrong wave. Starting late also means you may be behind our SAG support on the road and we may miss you if you need assistance. PLEASE arrive on time – please...

**Next, a reminder about the weather and our Ready2Roll Cycling hotline...** The forecast is mostly cloudy, 50-60 degrees with a 60% chance of rain in the afternoon. This is only our 2<sup>nd</sup> ride so the basic distances will be 18 miles or 39 miles with a 50 mile long option for those who can finish 50 miles by noon. We'll be pushing the noon finish in order to get everyone off the roads before the possibility of rain increases. **Please remember to add the Ready2Roll Cycling hotline to your phone – the number is: 281-907-9007**

OK, one more CRITICAL tip and then, we'll get to the weekly ride info...

-----

### **Carpool Tips & Tricks (REALLY Important!)**

Last week, we started at Rhodes Stadium where there was plenty of room for the 800+ riders who showed up. This week, we'll be starting at Foster H.S. (see details below) which means we'll probably have access to about 600 spaces max (there is another event at the school). Now, it's already time to move out of the immediate Houston area and into the very pleasant communities out of town.

This also means that it's time to remind everyone that it is critical that all of us make every reasonable effort to carpool to the rides. A group as large as ours will overwhelm the small towns where we ride if we all try to take our own car.

The first place to look for a carpool or to host a carpool is our Ready2Roll Cycling Classified pages at <http://www.ready2rollcycling.com> . You do need to set up a user account (no cost) in order to post a carpool listing. Note how the postings include the zip code and neighborhood in the subject. This makes it easier to find carpools close to you or on your way to the ride.

In the past, many riders have written to note that: "no one lives near you". Tip #1 is to **understand that you don't necessarily have to carpool from home**. You could meet at a Park & Ride somewhere on your way to the ride or a Starbucks, or other place open early on Saturday. It may be 10 miles or more from your home but will be on your way and somewhere more riders can meet. This still reduces the need to park a lot of cars out in the small communities.

I have arranged to meet riders on the edge of the parking of the cinema at I-10 and the Grand Parkway and carpooled from there. I have also met many riders at the Starbucks on the tollway frontage rd. at Town & Country/City Centre. They open pretty early so we get there about 5:30 am, go in for coffee, tea, etc. and a pit stop, then hit the road with hot drinks for the drive. We park away from the store so plenty of parking is left available and we do business in the store before (and after for some) the ride and let the manager know. Another spot I have noted is the Panera Bread on I-10 westbound just west of Greenhouse – it opens at 6:30 so you could grab a snack and head west to the ride. There are many spots you can carpool from that still reduce our impact on the small towns.

You can also meet at your office or other spots - the key is to make the effort to find a carpool and not waste brainpower thinking of why you can't carpool.

It is critical that you PLEASE take the time to start working on your carpools now. As you will see below, parking will be tight this week unless we all carpool.

-----

### **Ready2Roll Cycling 2015 Training Series - Ride 2, Foster H.S., Richmond, 8:00 am**

This week, we are going out to Richmond for some fun on the pleasant flat roads out towards Fulshear and up to Brookshire.

The short route will be about 18 miles (1 stop) and the long route will be 39 miles (2 stops). For riders who are averaging at least 18.5 mph and have been riding, there is a 50 mile option with three stops.

The busiest road we'll be on has a shoulder so we'll be sending you out in 50-75 rider waves and leaving extra space. Please start in the right wave and be patient. If you start too soon, you will be going too slow and force riders to pass. If you start too late, you will be impatient trying to pass the slower riders who started ahead of you. Please listen as we organize you for the wave start and start with the right wave. On the stretch of FM-1489 heading to Brookshire, please ride single file.

NOTE – In addition to the usual wave start (fastest riders go first), there will also be a bit more time between each wave as we hit a light just after we get on the road so the extra few minutes at the start will allow you to spread out and settle into your red pace faster and more safely. If you are new to the wave start, please trust me and try it. It really does work better than the conventional mass start.

-----

### **Directions to the Start – Foster High School**

The ride starts at Fulshear Business Park. The park is located just south of the intersection of FM-359 and FM-723 at the very north edge of Richmond. The address is 4400 FM-723, 77406. Here are the GPS coordinates for the entry drive: 29.628310, -95.811674.

To get to the start, take I-10 or the Westpark Tollway west to the Grand Parkway. From I-10, take the Grand Parkway south to the FM-1093 exit. Make a right on FM-1093 and drive approx

1 mile to FM-723. If coming on the Westpark Tollway, continue west past the Grand Parkway - the Westpark Tollway merges into FM-1093 - continue about 1 mile to FM723. Make a left on FM-723 and drive about 4 miles to the light at FM-359. Continue a few hundred yards past the light and the high school as well as Briscoe Middle School are on the left. We have approval to use most of the lot but there is a swim meet also scheduled and **I will be sending some specific parking details about were to not park this Friday.**

New riders, remember that if you were passed a lot at the start of the ride last week, start with a slower wave and, if you passed a lot of riders at the start of the ride, move up to a faster wave this week.

Please start working on your carpools ASAP because it is going to be very tight at the start if we don't and riders who arrive solo (and are not part of the weekly volunteer team) may be directed to park offsite. It will be busy to please arrive early – Please...

OK, once again, please be sure you understand that we moved the start, that you need to arrive on time and start on time and please read the Friday update in case we need to share any other late details.

If this is your first ride, arrive a little earlier to get your rider number and place it on the front or left side of your helmet.

I'll see many of you out in Richmond this Saturday...

Thanks!

**Steve Moskowitz**

Ready2Roll Cycling

[SteveMoskowitz@ready2rollcycling.com](mailto:SteveMoskowitz@ready2rollcycling.com)

[www.ready2rollcycling.com](http://www.ready2rollcycling.com)