



It's time for the weekly ride note as we start the final quarter of the training series. Before we get to the ride news, I do have a few items to share so let's get going...

GREAT Job Riding Last Saturday!

I want to commend everyone who braved the beautiful weather but very tough wind last Saturday. Most of us stuck to the 49 mile route but that was plenty of miles with the extra work the wind required.

I especially want to commend everyone for riding safely and courteously and obeying the Rules of the Road. We got some very positive feedback from the local law enforcement agencies we're working with about how well our riders did and how organized, safe and courteous we were. Everyone keep up the good work – ride like you are a vehicle, obey the vehicle laws, don't impede traffic and be safe, courteous, and sensible.

Important Reminder – Confirming You Are Registered for Ride 11

All of you should have received a special note on Tuesday about the requirement to register for Ride 11 coming up on April 2. Each year, we have a number of riders who show up for this ride thinking they are registered but they aren't on the list. The problem appears to be that their registration form did not submit properly and no data was recorded.

Fortunately, there is a very easy way to confirm you have registered successfully. You will receive an email from BikeReg.com. The Subject Line of my confirmation

note was: "H4H / R2R Merchandise Transaction Receipt". If you don't get an email within a few minutes after you registered, then the email was entered incorrectly or the data was not recorded. If this occurs, please register again. I'll remove any duplicates before the list goes to print but, if you are not registered when you arrive at the ride, you will need to fill out a paper registration form and will even be required to write very neatly!-)

Ready2Roll Cycling 2016 Training Series – Ride 10, Bellville, Mar 26, 7:30 am

This is our second, and final 7:30 am start of the season and this week, the early start is happening to allow you enough time to be finished by 3:30 pm. This is a brand new route and the first time Ready2Roll Cycling has started in Bellville thanks to some good exploratory work and calls by Marshall Cohen.

Marshall and I met with the Bellville Chief of Police and bragged about how safe, courteous and patient you all will be and they have been great to work with and are looking forward to our arrival. I will send you some recommendations on spots to grab a bite after the ride – anyone who's been to Bellville certainly knows about Newman's Bakery and I'll definitely be taking some gingerbread dudes and other Newman's stuff home after the ride.

This is another ride on mostly quiet and fairly hilly roads from Bellville to Cat Spring and southwest of Cat Spring. The route options are 53 or 70 pretty hilly miles. If we get a few missing SAGs added to the volunteer list, we should also be able to offer a 42 mile short option but this is dependent on a few teams sending me the 4-6 SAGs that are not yet on the volunteer list for this Saturday.

The map is already posted on the Communications section of the Ready2Roll Cycling site in PDF format to view and GPX format to load into a GPS device. It may appear that we only have one rest stop but this is an optical illusion created by the loops in the mapping process. It may also appear that once we get out of the Bellville area, we almost exclusively make right turns except around the rest stops – this is not an illusion.

We have eight law enforcement officers lined up to cover a few key intersections, a few turns and keep us safe at the rest stops. Please obey the officers and

gradually slow down (and communicate) as you approach and don't roll through any intersection until the officer has confirmed you can go. There will be a few stop signs along the route southwest of Cat Spring. Please remember that you are operating a vehicle and come to a complete stop before proceeding.

Directions to the Ride Start – Austin County Fairgrounds

Veteran riders of the BP MS-150 will instantly recognize our start as the mid-way/lunch stop on Day 1 of the ride.

The county fairgrounds is officially located at 1076 TX-159, 77418 but if you are coming from the south like many of us will be, a better address to put into your GPS is 1060 E Main, 77418 (or the coordinates: 29.945647, -96.247474 if your device will accept Lat/Long input)

To get there, most of us will take I-10 west to the Sealy/Hwy 36 exit. Take 36 north through Sealy (obey the speed limit – it goes down to 30 in town) and then north about 13 miles to Bellville. Make a right turn at the light on E Main St (Newman's will be straight ahead tempting you to stop but wait until after the ride) and cross the railroad tracks. The fairground is three short blocks ahead on the left. E Main splits into E Main (right) and E Hill (left) just after you cross the tracks and we'll fill the front parking fairly early so if you arrive later (after 6:30), it may be quicker to veer to the left after crossing the tracks and turn right into the fairgrounds. I'll put a map of the grounds and the parking areas online by Friday to help you navigate once you are in Bellville.

If you live further north of I-10, it will be quicker to take one of the main north/south roads to FM-529 and take 529 west to Bellville. 529 becomes Main St in Bellville so you will be right where you need to be.

Please note that, like last week, we need to get away early so you have time to get the long miles in. If you arrive late, you may be behind the SAG support and the signs for the early turns will already be moved and reversed for the return ride back. If you plant to arrive and depart late, please be sure your bike (and tires) are bullet-proof (so you don't need SAG support) and be sure to memorize the route in advance.

More Culinary Trivia...

Those of you who are fans of Ken Hoffman in the Houston Chronicle should note that the Dairy Queen which Ken mentions in numerous stories about his rides to Austin is less than a mile down Main St so if you want to try one of the massive triple double cheeseburgers he mentions, this is your golden opportunity.

OK, that covers the ride news. Watch for the Friday late update with more details about Bellville parking and dining and any weather or traffic news that may come up and watch for two more reminders about registering for Ride 11 – the registration closes at midnight on Mar 31 so you need to register before that time if you want to participate in the Apr 2 ride.

Thanks!

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