



This week, we have our longest drive of the season so you need to get up really early but it's definitely worth it! (There is an opportunity to stay very close to Fayetteville Friday night and sleep in – if you act fast - see the note below.)

We're heading to another small Texas town, Fayetteville. It's 25-30 minutes past Columbus so please allow plenty of time to arrive by 7:00 and please, please, please carpool!

2016 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Ride 8, Fayetteville, Mar 12, 8:00 am

This week, we're heading to the very pleasant and VERY cycling friendly town of Fayetteville to ride part of the actual BP MS150 route as well as enjoy plenty of rolling roads.

Our ride will offer routes of approx. 43 or 60 miles. The difference will be an extra 17-mile loop in the middle of the route.

The roads will be quiet and rolling. There may be a rough spot or two but we'll have a volunteer posted to alert you to slow down and there will be plenty of quiet roads to resume your normal pace so please pay attention to the reminders and enjoy the beautiful quiet roads.

Weather Alert!

We are keeping an eye on the weather. If there is a lot of rain this week, there may be problems with some of the ride support logistics. We'll have a better idea Friday and will include this in the Friday update.

Directions to the start (Fayetteville town square):

From Houston, drive west on I-10 to exit 695 (just west of Columbus); exit right on Highway 71 west. Drive 14.8 miles to FM 955 (~1.8 miles past

Ehlinger/Hruskas); turn right on 955 and go ~4.7 miles to the stop sign which is the junction with Rusk St/Highway 159. Turn right to the town square, or left for parking at the high school. I will be sending a Friday update to share details about the parking – we have arranged for parking in the square, the high school and the church on the north edge of town – all are within a few blocks of the start.

NOTE: At least one of the cafes on the town square where we'll start will be open at 6:30 and serving breakfast so a good plan to beat the traffic (one road in) is to arrive early and have a bite a few steps from the start area.

NOTE2: We'll be leaving Fayetteville on the same road you use to enter town so, if you arrive late, traffic will be held up as our riders are leaving – find a legitimate spot to park south of town and ride over to the square before starting. Please DON'T just start riding w/o signing in. We have no way to know if we missed you on the road if you don't sign in.

The physical address for the start is: 107 W Fayette St, 78940. The GPS coordinates are: 29.904307,-96.6759.

Fayetteville knows we are coming and that we will be a large group. I will send full details on parking options in the Friday update so please be sure to read the Friday update this week. We have two satellite parking locations 2-3 blocks from the square and we will have porta-lets at both so you can get ready, then ride over to the square to sign in and line up to ride. (There are 40 porta-lets scheduled this week)

The long drive and small community mean carpooling is required. There is a great carpool forum on our classifieds page so please take a look - it's a long and lonely drive alone...

You can also bet that we'll be walking to one of the cafes on the town square for lunch before the drive back to town. We'll have home cooked food, and maybe even some home baked pie and/or ice cream before heading home!

Looking to Sleep Later Saturday...

Several of you told me you are booking a room in Columbus (20 miles from Fayetteville) or La Grange (10 miles away) on Friday night so you don't have to leave so early. This is a useful tip for those of you who want to get up at your usual time and enjoy a short drive. You can find several motels open in both locations online.

Looking to Sleep REAL Late Saturday...

Fayetteville prides itself on being VERY bike friendly. If you haven't been there, you are in for a real treat. The local hotels and B&B's are very accommodating to riders. It may not be too late to make a reservation at one of the small hotels or bed & breakfasts in town, wake up at 5:45-6:00 am and walk/ride to the start and have a delightful weekend in town. There is a mini FotoFest exhibit at 3-4 galleries around the square. Some riders staying over Saturday after the ride may also do a small, unsupported Sunday ride.

Here is a helpful link to the available lodging in the area:

http://fayettevilletxchamber.org/wsx_chamber_group_listing.php?group_id=lodging#lodgingbbhotels/

I know that, as of Tuesday, Joan Herring had a few rooms open at Blackbird Farm just 5 miles south of town. She has several beautifully restored homes in the area which you can check out at:

www.blackbirdfarmtexas.com. We're staying at her Market Street Inn and Sealy House for the weekend. You can check with her at: joan@blackbirdfarmtexas.com

As you look at the pictures of the many small hotels and bed & breakfasts, note all the places with porches out front - Porches are wonderful places in Fayetteville!

Volunteer Updates (Important!)

I have several important updates to share with everyone – please read on...

Many of your team captains are reporting that they are having a real hard time getting volunteers. I know this is true because each time their teams are scheduled to help, I see many of your captain's names, along with their spouse and possibly even children on the weekly volunteer list. Ready2Roll Cycling tries to cover as much of the planning and logistics as possible to make sure all our riders have a very safe and well supported ride. We depend on getting just a few volunteers from each team to help support 1-3 rides. If many of you don't step up to help (or recruit help), we don't get enough volunteers to offer the coverage you appreciate. **PLEASE take a few moments to touch base with your team captain and see what you can do to help your team meet their volunteer commitment and help ensure our rides are well supported.**

Water Wizard Reminder – We are recording which teams drop off and take home coolers before and after the ride so, if you are dropping off and/or can help take coolers home to bring back to the March 19 ride, please look for the volunteer who is recording the water cooler duties before and/or after the ride.

We are missing some of our ten gallon water coolers. If you took coolers home and have not brought them back yet, PLEASE bring them with you to the ride. Please do make sure they are clean and fill them with 8 gallons of water – the weather is getting warmer and the rides longer so we really need all our coolers back so we have enough water at each ride.

CRITICAL NEWS! - We need a few more SAG Volunteers this week!

We are short on SAG volunteers this week. Teams that do not meet their volunteer duties will not be invited back next year so, when your team captain asks for your help, please help. You can recruit a family member or friend to help and earn credit for your team.

OK, watch your inbox Friday for the Fayetteville parking details, weather update and any other late news.

Don't forget to carpool and, if you want to sleep in longer Saturday, check out the lodging noted above ASAP.

I'll see many of you in Fayetteville this Saturday (and a few Friday and Sunday...).

Thanks!

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