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Subject: Ready2Roll Cycling - Ride 4, Feb 13, 8:00 am, Cat Spring
Date: February 11, 2016 at 12:37 PM
To: SteveMoskowitz@Ready2RollCycling.com

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We're riding in Cat Spring at 8:00 am this Saturday!

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I understand that I missed a wet early morning and a windy ride last Saturday. We had some amazing Santa-Ana winds (35-45 mph plus gusts) in Porter Ranch at the vert north edge of the LA area all week but I didn't have my bike along so I could not feel your pain.

This coming Saturday, the weather looks pretty good – partly cloudy in the morning and partly sunny in the afternoon with ride temperature of 51 to 64. There is a mild wind mostly out of the east but our ride goes more north/south than east/west so there may be a bit more work coming home but it should be a great day to ride.

I'm sticking to ride news in this note but will be sending 1-2 focus notes over the next few days to share a few important reminders. I'll limit the topics in each note so I don't overload you with too much information in any one note.

Today, I do have one important item to mention that is directly related to your enjoyment of our rides in the coming weeks.

The key word for everyone planning to ride this Saturday is...
...CARPOOL!!!

We are heading to some really pleasant and really small towns as we start to move out to the rolling roads so we need to keep our vehicle footprint as small as possible.

If you have not already done so, it's time to go to our training series website (www.ready2rollcycling.com) and check out the Carpool forum which is in the Classifieds section. If you don't see a carpool that works for you, then you need to set up a user id and post a carpool listing.

There are currently many carpools posted – the list has only grown quite a bit over the past weeks so I know that there are more of you out there who need a carpool. Note how each listing lists the general neighborhood and then get more specific about the meeting place.

If nothing else works, there is a Park & Ride lot on I-10 at the Sealy exit. We could easily park about 100 cars here and carpool the last 15 miles from here to Cat Spring. Our goal is to reduce the number of cars we need to squeeze in at Cat Spring. To use this lot, when you exit I-10, you make a U-turn and normally make a left on Hwy 36 to head to the ride. Make a right turn instead and drive under I-10 and make a right on the first road that leads back to I-10 east. The entry to the Park & Ride is on the right. This is an easy spot to set up a carpool for this ride as well as the New Ulm ride (Mar 5).

This is really critical this week.

The other critical need is to arrive early. There is one road from Sealy to Cat Spring and traffic will back up during the peak arrival time. If the peak arrival time is 7:30, many of you will not be parked until 8:00 am and will then have a line for the porta-lets plus time to sign in, etc. Please leave early enough to arrive by 6:45 to 7:00 am which will give you some extra time for a small traffic delay and to get ready to ride. The riders will be heading east at 8:00 am which is where you will be coming from. If you are arriving late, there will be significant delays and you may find that you are on the road behind our support team if you arrive after 7:30.

I don't mean to dwell on this issue but as we get to these really small towns, the combination of many vehicles and late arrivals puts a really hard strain on the pleasant quiet roads that bring us out here in the first place. Please carpool and please arrive by 7:00 am.

2016 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Ride 4, Cat Spring – Feb 13, 8:00 am

This week, we're heading to the Cat Spring Social Hall, for a wonderful, rolling ride around Cat Spring, Frelsburg and New Ulm.

This is the first ride in the rolling to gentle hills west of Sealy. The short route is just over 44 miles with stops at 13 and 27 miles and the long route adds a 10 mile loop at the beginning of the ride so this route adds up to just over 54 miles with stops at 23 and 37 miles. Note that the long route is aimed at experienced riders who can easily ride 23 miles from the start to RS1. For most of us, the 44 mile route is plenty for ride 4 and will get you used to mild climbing and descending.

NOTE – In order to avoid confusion and help us spread out on the quiet roads, we'll send all the 54 mile riders out first in waves and then, after a slightly longer break, we will send all the 44 mile riders out also in the usual wave start. Please do start with the correct route and then, in the correct wave so you spread out quickly and safely.

Very shortly after the first rest stop, there will be a hard "Right on Zimmerscheidt" (this rhymes) which is the start of a really really pleasant rolling road through the trees culminating in a final challenging hill on Zimmerscheidt before we get to FM-109. This is not the last hill but it is the toughest one on this ride. Some of you may need to dismount and walk up. That is OK, just call: "Slowing, dismounting" in advance and move near the right side of the road and carefully get off out of the way of any riders behind you. The key to being safe in this situation is to be predictable and communicate in advance, your intention to dismount and walk up.

The long route will be riding across the low water crossing point and we'll have volunteers posted to remind you to slow down, allow extra room and then resume your pace after crossing. If the water is high, they will ask everyone to dismount and walk across the short crossing. The road is also a bit rough at the lowest section so the volunteer will remind you to take it easy over this crossing.

Many of us have ridden these roads many times and you will understand why as soon as you get out and start riding. This is a really pretty ride.

Directions to the start - Cat Spring Social Hall (13035 Hall Rd, TX, 78933 GPS: 29.863805,-96.321688)

Here are the driving directions...

Take I-10 west to the Sealy exit (Hwy 36). Take 36 north through Sealy (obey the speed limit!) and turn left at the last light, just after you cross over the railroad track. (You also cross under another railroad track coming into Sealy). Drive approximately 11 miles to FM-949 (there is a sign to Cat Spring) and continue a few hundred yards past 949 to the Social Hall on your right.

I know I sound like a broken record (how many of you are old enough to understand what a record is?) but parking will be tight so please carpool unless you are part of the ride support team and need room to carry food, drinks, etc. Please also park as close together as is reasonably possible - we're parking on the lawn so there are no stripes.

Oh yes, there is one road so traffic will be slow at the peak arrival period - allow approximately an hour to get here from I-10 and the 610 loop and please arrive by 6:45-7:00 am – the traffic will back up.

If the parking fills and/or you arrive late and need to park along the road out front, this is permitted as long as you park completely off the road. Once we start lining up, access to the grounds will be impossible until all riders depart so, if you arrive after 7:40, figure on a long wait and a late start behind our excellent support team. If you do arrive late and start behind the support, you may be on your own without support until you catch up. We have to get our support out on the road with the riders who arrived on time.

OK, I'm keeping this note short because I want to give you plenty of time to get to work on your carpools and to get to Cat Spring early this Saturday.

I'll send an update Friday to cover any late, breaking news....

Thanks!

Steve Moskowitz

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