

2020 RwGPS Rollout - Note 1

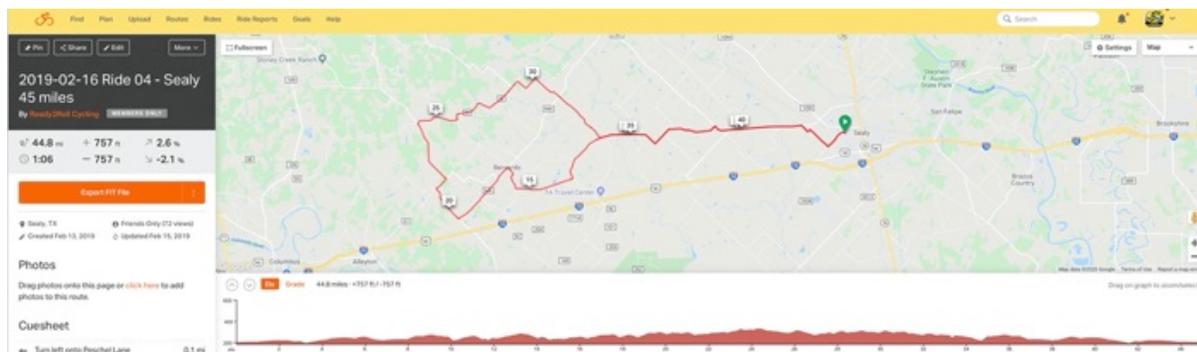
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We're doing something a bit out of the ordinary this week but there is a method to our madness...

Tuesday and Thursday are reserved for special topic notes and this week, you will be receiving notes both days - on the same special topic...

The reason is because the topic is one that can have a significant positive impact on your participation and the topic is about a GPS app we offer, to all our participating riders, at no additional cost. The app is fairly easy to use, once you have properly installed it but sometime, it's a little particular during installation so today, we're sending a short note to explain the app and our philosophy about how we use it and the benefits. On Thursday, the second special topic note will be the very technical details about installing the app and joining our Ride with GPS Club.

Many of you used the app last year (748 of our 2019 riders joined our club) and you are probably already familiar with the app and can skip this note and look for the Invitation to join the 2020 Ready2Roll Cycling RwGPS Club heading your way this Thursday. For those of you new to Ready2Roll Cycling or not familiar with the app yet, here we go...

One feature we added to our training series is a cycling specific GPS app called Ride with GPS. It's an app, for your smart phone (Apple or Android) which uses your phone's GPS capabilities plus it's map and voice features to allow us to create smart maps you download to your phone. When we say "smart maps", what we mean is that when you load our maps and select the route you plan to ride each week, your phone will tell you a lot of things such as:

- When to turn to stay on the route, or pull into a rest stop.
- When the turn, or rest stop, is a mile away
- When to pull over (and which way to pull over) for the turn, or approaching rest stop.
- After you turn, or leave a rest stop, how far to the next turn, or stop.
- When to get ready for, and which way to go at the long/short decision point
- Occasional points of interest such as Marshal Cohen's favorite road (unfortunately not covered this year due to hwy construction nearby)
- If you want, you can even use the app to navigate to the ride start in your car - the app is on your phone so the app developers realized they could add this to the features.

When we say "smart", we also mean that the cues are all in plain English so instead of hearing "Turn Left at Farm to Market five-seven-nine", you will hear "Make a left onto FM Five-SeventyNine...be prepared to stop until the officer directs you to proceed" After we have made our maps, had the routes approved and driven the route one last time shortly before the ride, we completely replace the generic, robotic cues the GPS app creates with real language verbal cues that are more meaningful to you. We add notes to let you know the intersection is controlled by our officers, etc.

Another smart aspect is we focus on verbal cues, then we highly recommend mounting your phone on your handlebars so you can easily hear the cues (see info below) and even turn your screen off to get much longer battery life. This makes sense because our cues make looking at the map (and away from the road ahead) unnecessary. Our route maps also convey a lot of information we know as the ride planners that is not known by the GPS app.

What is going to happen this Thursday is that you will receive another special topic email which will include technical step by step instructions to install the

Ride with GPS app plus a link which is actually an invitation to invite our Ride with GPS Club. The link is the invite plus a code that automatically admits you to the Ready2Roll Cycling Ride with GPS Club. Once you have the app installed and are a member of our club, the weekly routes we upload will automatically appear on the maps list on your phone.

Once you get used to the Ride with GPS app and maps, you will wonder why anyone would want to mess with a paper map. Paper maps can't tell you that the turn is coming up - they are actually hard to use at all when you are rolling - you need to memorize them or make stops to refer to the map.

This past weekend, we received some feedback from a rider who saw several of our riders pass by our bright, distinctive turn arrows without paying attention. This won't happen with the app as you will know how far ahead the next turn is, when it's a mile away, and when to turn.

The app is not required, we just feel it's a very effective tool to help riders who may miss the turn signs and/or who just like to be very well informed about what's ahead as they ride. As we noted, we have paid for a Club Membership with Ride with GPS and this allows all our riders to download/use the app and our maps at no cost. The club version of the app also includes a limited version of their very powerful map creation tools and they will probably offer our riders an option to get the full app for 20% discount, if you want to make your own route maps. We'll send more details on that option after we get the 2020 R2GPS Club rolling.

One other note - please don't forward the Thursday note, in particular, the link to automatically join the club. Our umbrella fee for the club is based on our number of participating riders and every rider who is eligible to join will get their own email with the link to join. Please don't pass this along to others - we'll have to deactivate their membership if they try to use our umbrella and this takes time that's better spent on keeping all of you safe and well supported.

We noted above that it is highly recommend that you mount your phone on your handlebars. There are many options but one bike mount we found that is very adjustable, very secure and easy to use is the Vibrelli Universal Bike Phone Mount. Amazon shows it's still available for \$14.98. It can hold phones up to 5.7" wide and go on handlebars from 0.9 to 1.3" in diameter. The ingenious

silicone "spider" that holds your phone is very secure and all your phone functions are accessible. It comes with several color spiders so it will last years using these as backups.

The Ride with GPS app really is a game-changer for keeping our riders well informed and on the route. We highly recommend it and have done a lot of customization to make it more valuable for our riders. The Ride with GPS site also includes the option to translate the files to GPX format for those who prefer to use a different GPS device.

Remember to watch your inbox this Thursday for another special topic email on the Ride with GPS app. That note will walk you through the installation and joining our Ride with GPS club...

Thank you!

Steve, Marshall, Jan & Robbie

Ready2Roll Cycling

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