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Subject: Ready2Roll Cycling - Ride 1, Rhodes Stadium, 8:00 am
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To: moskose@swbell.net

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Ride 1 Gets Going from Rhodes Stadium at 8:00 am this Saturday!

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Good morning riders!

It's Wednesday which means it's time for the details on Training Ride 1. We have a great ride lined up with a choice of three distances for beginners, returning veterans and year-round riders. This is ride #1 so we do have a time constraint but we'll cover all that a little further down in the ride notes.

First, I want to share a quick community update to help make sure that we remain welcome in the communities where we ride.

Waller County Update (Important!)

Since much of our first full ride is in Waller County, here are a few VERY IMPORTANT points you all need to remember:

- Waller County has noted that their officers will be out observing riders in the county and issuing tickets. Much of our ride this week is in Waller County and we have notified them of our route and the timing so it is very likely that there will be officers out observing and issuing tickets to riders who:
 - Fail to come to a complete stop at an uncontrolled stop sign
 - Ride more than two abreast
 - Fail to go to single file and allow traffic to pass if the road is wide enough for a safe pass (In Waller County, most roads we'll be on are wide enough so listen for traffic (or faster riders) and let them pass safely)Good News – We drove the route Sunday (and Monday) and, due to the recent heavy rains and high water in some areas (especially the rest stop), we tweaked some of the Waller County portion of the route so you will have a good, paved shoulder for much of the western end of the route. Please stay on the shoulder – it's safer and allows the traffic to pass.
- Just because you see officer(s) at an intersection does not mean to ride through. You need to call out the intersection as you approach and you (and riders with you) need to slow down and prepare to stop. If the officers wave you through, call this to your group and proceed through at a steady, but moderate pace. And please thank the officers for keeping us safe.
- If you have skipped the safety and courtesy tips I have been sharing, you better go back and re-read these tips. I may send them again this week in case many of you deleted the first, or second set of safety/courtesy tips.
- Review/know the Rules of the Road – here's a very useful page on the BikeTexas site: <http://www.biketexas.org/en/infrastructure/texas-bicycle-laws> Pay particular attention to section 551.103.
- I want to repeat – **it is possible that there will be Waller County officers at one or more locations this Saturday observing riders and issuing tickets** so each of us needs to follow the laws and be respectful of the local community.
- Last year, there was a televised story about this and the local resident they interviewed said: "I would just love to see them pull behind each other so that cars can safely pass...I think that would go a long way, I really do."
- Note: This year, we are using the Harris County law enforcement/cycling liaison to coordinate the officers on the route. They have specified at least one officer at each intersection we pass that has a stop sign or light so there should not be any uncontrolled intersections.
If you do come to one, please make sure your entire group does come to a stop and proceeds in waves as 2-3 riders stop, then proceed after letting cross traffic take their turn. After the entire group is safely past the intersection, gradually resume your normal pace.

----- Important Tip – Please Arrive on Time!

Over the first two weeks, I have noticed several riders arriving quite late, in some cases at, or after our ride start time. Some of these riders are heading out after all our SAG vehicles are already on the road. This means they are missing out on two key pieces of our ride support:

- If they need mechanical assistance, none of the SAGs will know they need assistance
- The turn signs will be gone as the very last SAG picks up the signs as they pass

I have mentioned the need to arrive on time before but, now that we'll have our full complement of riders, I need to emphasize that our SAGs need to get on the road with the 99% of our riders who depart on time.

If you are late, please be aware that you will need to carefully study the early

part of the route and ride without any signage or SAG support until you are able to catch the back of the pack.

2017 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Week 1 - Katy to Brookshire, Jan 28, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

It's time for everyone to get started on their training so, for Ride 1, we have planned a nice, flat route with distance options for beginners (21 miles), returning veterans (38 miles) and year-round riders (49 miles).

The 21-mile beginner route goes to the first rest stop, then comes back the way they came. We will start the 21 mile riders last so, If you plan to ride 21 miles, please wait until we call you to get into line to start.

The 38 and 49 mile routes continue south after the rest stop and then west on Morton Rd to FM-362. Just after the right turn onto FM-362, the 49 mile riders make a left onto Clapp Rd while the 38 mile riders go straight. There will be an officer and signage here. The 38 mile route turns right on FM-529 and heads east back to RS1 (now RS2) and then, back to Rhodes Stadium.

The 49-mile route takes Clapp Rd to FM-359 and makes a large, triangular loop on FM-359 (RS2 is on the right at mile 25.8), FM-529, FM-362 back around to FM-529 and then back to RS1 (now RS3) and finally, back to Rhodes Stadium.

There is a very wide, flat shoulder on 359 and a flat, single width shoulder on 362. Please use the shoulders. You can ride two abreast (no more than 2) on the 359 shoulder but only if you agree to go to single file if any riders need to pass.

The stretch of road north of Rhodes Stadium goes to two lanes for about 4 miles. Please ride single file on the way out and the way back on this section.

NOTE – Rhodes Stadium will lock up at 1:00 pm so you do need to be back by 12:30 pm so you can be out of the parking lot by 1:00.

To ensure that everyone is back on time, there will be cut-off times at the points where riders decide their distance.

- The first cut-off is at Rest Stop 1 (10.5 miles) where the short route turns around to return to the start and the longer routes continue heading out. **The cut-off time for riders going longer than 21 miles will be at 10:00 am. All riders must head back (east) of FM-529 after 10:00 am**
- The second cut-off point is at mile 18.9 where the 49 mile route turns left onto Clapp Rd. **The cut-off time for riders wanting to ride 49 miles will be at 9:30 am.** All riders must continue north on FM-362 after 9:30 am. (This allows you to start by 8:15 am, stay at RS1 5-7 minutes and average a little over 16 mph)

Directions to Rhodes Stadium (from in town)

Take I-10 to the Katy Fort Bend exit (742) which is just past the Grand Parkway. Continue about a mile on the Frontage to Katy Fort Bend Rd. Turn RIGHT and drive about 1/2 mile. Just after passing Colonial Parkway on the right, you will see the entry to Rhodes Stadium on the left. The entry will be unlocked for us at 6:00 am and the lights will be on at that time so it's pretty easy to spot on the left as you approach.

The address for the stadium is: 1733 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493

There will be plenty of room for us on the east side of the stadium. The sign-in tables will be at the southeast entry (ahead on your left as you enter) and we'll be using the restrooms in the stadium which are accessible through the entry we're using for sign-in.

We'll be lining up to depart out the east gate (the same gate you use to enter) no later than 7:45 so you need to arrive by 6:45 to have time to park, sign in, etc. PLEASE arrive no later than 6:45 am this week.

Don't forget that you do need to be back by 12:30 pm!

Reminder – Arrive on Time!

This is our first full training ride of the year and is our closest start (for 90+% of us) so it's usually our largest ride of the season. This means more traffic and a delay entering the stadium lot. In other words, the later you arrive, the longer you will need to wait and the more likely it is that you will be behind the SAGs and some turn signs may have already been picked up. Just sayin'...

Watch for a special topic note this afternoon and any needed ride/weather updates this Friday.

Thanks!
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