

Subject: Ready2Roll Cycling 2017 Training Series, Ride 5, Bellville, Feb 25, 8:00 am
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 9:30:05 AM Central Standard Time
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**Training Ride 5 in Bellville at 8:00 am
on Sat, Feb 25!**

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Good morning Ready2Roll Cycling riders!

It's time for the weekly ride note as we start the second trimester of the trainin
Before we get to the ride news, I do have a few items to share so let's get goin

FYI - Little Known Secrets About Carol's at Cat Spring

Rest Stop 1 this week is located at Carol's at Cat Spring, a wonderful little resta
the middle of the wonderful little town, no actually, it's the tiny town of Cat Spr
(Davis) has been a great supporter of our rides over the years and so I wanted
some useful info about her tiny empire in this tiny town:

- The restaurant is closed while we're in the area but it is open on Friday a
Saturday from 6:00-9:00 pm
- It's worth the drive but if you prefer, Carol also has a beautiful ranch nea
you can stay. The Texas Bed and Breakfast Ranch has 12 cabins and hou
make an ideal spot for a group to rent or for individual riders to rent on 1
or Ride 11 weekend as the ranch is only a few miles from the starts of th
rides.
- Please check out the info and the pictures at: www.blisswood.net - after
the pictures, you will agree that Blisswood is an appropriate name for th

As you will see below, Carol's is the first, and the last rest stop on all the route
week. Please support her when you are inn (so to speak...) the area!

Ready2Roll Cycling 2017 Training Series – Ride 5, Bellville, Feb 25, 8:

This week, we'll continue to add a little more elevation and miles into our route

This is another ride on mostly quiet and fairly hilly roads from Bellville to Cat Sp
southwest of Cat Spring. The route options are 40 or 57 moderately hilly miles.
look at the map, you will see that the long route is basically an out and back fr
on FM-949 connected to a figure eight with one loop on the north side and one
the south side of FM-949. The short route omits the westernmost loop on the r
of FM-949. Several roads will look familiar as we rode them last week, some in

and some in a different direction. These are the roads I like which is why we're here this week. We'll even cross the Bernardo River on Kulow Rd one last time this week. Your speed under control and the crossing will go just fine. I'm headed out there again tomorrow - should be easier than last week.

There are three rest stops this week and the first one is used twice by everyone on the way out and the way back. The distances between stops are:

- **57-Mile Route:** 11 miles, RS1, 11 miles, RS2, 12.5 miles, RS3, 11.5 miles
- **40-Mile Route:** 11 miles, RS1, 6 miles, RS2, 11.5 miles, RS3, 11 miles

Some of you may be tempted to improvise intermediate route distances by riding loops in a different order or riding parts of the loops. Please don't do this as this will result in riders riding both ways on FM-949 at a couple of places. The routes are designed to be the appropriate distance for this week and are scenic and hilly. The long route includes a stretch on a nice, quiet road that we have never ridden before. The routes are designed to spread you out so you are never riding different directions on the same road at the same time so please don't improvise alternate routes this week.

Note - There may be a few of you who are slower riders just getting started or with MS and who need to turn around at RS1 and come back. This alternate is as you start with the last wave so you will not be riding back against on-coming traffic. If you start in the front waves or ride too quickly, this also creates problems with traffic so be sensible and the quiet roads we're on will remain quiet and safe.

The route map and a parking overview map for Bellville are posted on the Communications section of the Ready2Roll Cycling site in PDF format. The GPX maps to load into a GPS device will be posted by tomorrow morning.

Directions to the Ride Start – Austin County Fairgrounds (1048 E Main St, Bellville, 77418)

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

The official address for the fairgrounds takes you about a mile west of our actual start. Please use the address I noted above or the GPS coordinates: 29.945647, -96.270000. 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 through Sealy (obey the speed limit – it goes down to 30 in town) and then north 13 miles to Bellville. Make a right turn at the light on E Main St (Newman's Bakery straight ahead tempting you to stop but wait until after the ride) and cross the tracks. The fairground is three short blocks ahead on the left. E Main splits into E Hill (right) and E Hill (left) just after you cross the tracks and we'll fill the front parking lot early so if you arrive later (after 6:30), it may be quicker to veer to the left after the tracks and turn right into the fairgrounds. I'll also put a map of the grounds and parking areas online in the maps section 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 and the fairgrounds will be on your right as you enter Bellville.

Please note that, like last week, we need to get away on time so you have time to ride longer miles in. If you arrive late, you may be behind the SAG support and the early turns will already be moved and reversed for the return ride back. If you 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.

Cut-Off Time - 57 Mile Route

Once again, we're in the first half of the season so there is a cut-off time if you ride 57 miles but it is gradually getting later to allow more of you to ride long, i ready to try it.

The cut-off time this week occurs on FM-949 at mile 14.7 where the 40 mile route goes left and the 59 mile route goes straight. (This is in the very middle of the figure) Riders wanting to ride 57 miles need to be past this point by 9:30 am. You can if you average 12.5 mph and take a 10 minute or less break at RS1. All riders at this point after 9:30 will make the left turn to do the 40 mile route.

FYI - Little Known Secret About the Cut-off Time

The primary goal of the cut-off time this week is to have everyone out of Carol' Spring before 1:00 pm. This is because 1:00 pm is the approximate time that a ride for the Salt Grass Trail Ride hits town and it's better to come through town the horses come through! If you don't understand, just take my word for it... ..and please do watch for any slower than normal four-legged transports. There are a few strays out enjoying what looks like a beautiful day to ride - bikes or other transport options!

----- Culinary Trivia...

Those of you who are fans of Ken Hoffman in the Houston Chronicle should not miss Dairy Queen which Ken mentions in numerous stories about his rides to Austin a mile down Main St from our start in Bellville so, if you want to try one of the triple double cheeseburgers he mentions in his tales of biking to Austin, this is a golden opportunity - just not at the golden arches.

OK, that covers the ride news. Watch for the Friday late update with more details on Bellville parking and dining and any weather or traffic news that may come up.

Thanks!
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