

**Subject:** Ready2Roll Cycling - 2019 Ride 5, Mar 2, 8:00 am, Cat Spring  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 8:45:59 AM Central Standard Time  
**From:** Ready2Roll Cycling  
**To:** Steve Moskowitz

**Cat Spring Social Hall, 13035 Hall Rd, Cat Spring, TX, 78933**

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This week, we are returning to the quiet, pleasant, rolling roads around Cat Spring and New Ulm. The ride options are 25, 36, 49 or 59 miles but, as you can see on the map (already posted online), there are basically two routes - the 25/49-mile route or the 36/59-mile route. The shorter version of each route goes to RS2 and come back, the longer option adds a very pleasant loop to New Ulm and back.

The only time constraint this week is riders wishing to do the loop from RS2 to New Ulm need to depart west from RS2 by 10:00 am. This means averaging 12 mph to do the 59-mile loop or 9 mph to do the 49-mile loop.

**Before we get to the ride details, let's look at the weather...**

The biggest issue is the light, but on-going rain. Those of you who have been to Cat Spring know that ample parking areas are very few (one) and far between. They also are subject to capacity limits when it's muddy so we don't get vehicles stuck or leave ruts on the fields. We are working very closely with the management of the Social Hall and may have to implement some contingency parking plans in the weekly Friday update this week.

Please keep an eye on your inbox and, if you have not already done so, please work on carpooling so we reduce our need to parking. See the notes below - we point out a very easy option to carpool from the Sealy Park & ride lot which is about two minutes out of the way for every rider coming to the ride from the east as they exit I-10 and enter Sealy.  
**PLEASE CARPOOL!!!**

OK, let's get to the ride news...

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Today, we do have one important item to mention that is directly related to your enjoyment of our rides the next eight weeks.

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

We are heading to some really pleasant and really small towns 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](http://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 only a few carpools posted – so we 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 13 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 normally make a U-turn and then, make a left (at MacDonalds) on Hwy 36 to head to the ride. Instead, make a right turn 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 - just stop and join 1-2 other riders in one vehicle.

This is really critical this week - we can't fit the usual number of cars into these very small but very pleasant small towns.

**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 your 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 will find that you are on the road behind our support team.

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.

### ----- **2019 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Ride 5, Cat Spring – Mar 2, 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 ride returns us to the rolling to gentle hills west of Sealy. We have plenty of route options: 25, 36, 49 or 59 miles.

The PDF of the route is already online (Communications page in the Maps section) and the Ride with GPS maps will be ready by later Thursday.

NOTE – There are essentially two route options, 36/59 miles or 25/49 miles. The two options separate at mile 1.8 so, to avoid confusion and help us spread out safely, **we'll send all the 36/59 mile riders out first in waves and, after a brief break, we will send all the 25/49 mile riders out.** Please start with the correct route and then, in the correct wave so you spread out quickly and safely. This will also allow us to deploy our SAG support more efficiently and more effectively.

Let me rephrase the start process to be sure everyone understands. **Those of you riding 25 or 49 miles, please wait to line up until we send all the 36/59-mile riders on their way.** Faster riders in the 25/49 group don't worry - the slower riders ahead of you will all have turned and be off your route by the time you pass the route split point at mile 1.8.

On the 49 and 59-mile routes, note that at mile 13.4/23.1 which is just past Rest Stop 2, there will be a hard "Right on Zimmerscheidt" (this rhymes). This is the start of a really really pleasant 6.8 mile 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 definitely the toughest hill 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.

**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. 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 you will 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 7:30, you should figure on a wait to get in and parked and possibly a late start behind our excellent SAG support team.

OK, we're keeping this note shorter than usual because we want to give you plenty of time to get to work on your carpools and to get to Cat Spring early this Saturday.

Watch for the usual Friday update to cover any late, breaking news and possible contingency parking plans...

Thanks!

**Steve, Marshall, Jan and Robbie**  
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