

2008 BP MS150 Training Series - Ride 7 - Brookshire-Bellville - Mar 2, 8:00 am

That's right - March 2 - Sunday...

If you missed the note last week, we are riding on Sunday this weekend only in order to allow many of us to coordinate or participate in the ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run this Saturday.

Because many of us will be running or working on Saturday, this ride will be slightly easier than last week - still hilly but mostly on the middle third. Those of you who go long will recognize that challenging climb on FM-949 north of Cat Spring that may have been the first "off of bike" experience for some. You should find the hill easier to climb this week.

Last week, you indicated that you liked the cool, sunny day. 806 riders signed in. More of you forgot to sign out than the last ride so please remember this is part of the weekly ride process.

Please also note that this week, all riders will need to sign in and get a ride specific wrist band! Each of you will be issued a unique wrist band to be worn on your left wrist, just for this ride. The last time we rode out here, many of you arrived late, parked in the overflow and never signed in. If you plan to participate in our ride this Sunday, please arrive early enough to sign in and get your bike ready to ride by 7:50 am.

There are more notes below on the sign in process below and a reminder about our (growing) Lost & Found collection. Please read these.

OK, let's get to the weekly details...

2008 BP MS150 Training Series - Ride 7 - Brookshire-Bellville - Mar 2, 8:00 am

This week, you get a break on the drive as we're coming back to the Brookshire area for our start. As noted above, you also get a break on the hills to encourage you to concentrate on riding safely and demonstrating consideration and good etiquette when you ride.

This week's ride flat to mild rolling terrain. There is a stretch of rolling hills around Bellville including a repeat of a particularly nice stretch of FM-949 that you did several weeks ago on the Sealy ride but this is a pretty mild ride overall. The ride distances are about 41 miles and 54 miles.

There is a shoulder on FM-359. You can ride two abreast as long as you stay on the shoulder and shift to single file as needed to let riders pass. PLEASE don't force riders to move over onto the road to pass. Passing riders, please call as you approach and be patient about waiting to pass. When we turn left from FM-359 onto FM-529, you will be riding along part of the actual MS150 route. You will need to ride single file on this stretch - it's rolling so stay on the right side of the road, about 18" from the edge. There is also a shoulder on the stretch of Hwy 36 we ride and the rules are the same as on 359.

The other roads we will be on have no shoulder so single file is the rule of the day. We have improved on this but, as you will see from some of the feedback on Friday, we still can get better in this area.

Breakpoint #1 will be located at the Krueger's Market at FM-331 and 529 in Burleigh where the long and short routes split.

Breakpoint #2 will be located at the Sealy Cattle Auction parking lot on Hwy 36 as you enter Sealy. The auction will be closed this Sunday during the Houston rodeo so they have approved our using the parking lot for our stop.

There are a few miles of the route along SR-36. This is the major north/south road in the area. The short route has to cross the highway. **Please STOP and be VERY careful before crossing Hwy 36 and then, ride on the wide shoulder!** Remember to ride single file as you enter Sealy and turn left at the first traffic light. Those of you who came to the Sealy ride have fond memories of your last ride on the shoulder of Hwy 36.

Directions to the start of the ride:

This ride starts from Royal High School which is located at 2520 Durkin Rd. The high school is just north of Brookshire. Take I-10 west to the first Brookshire exit, FM-359. Turn right, go to the light and turn left. Then, go to the second light, turn right and continue through Pattison, staying on Hwy 359. Turn right at the school complex and go to the last school on the right. Turn right just before the school and go to the parking lot in back.

We will fill the parking lot so carpooling is a necessity. Once the lot is full, proceed past the high school and turn right. There is a small stadium with limited parking that we have permission to use as overflow. There is also a new neighborhood across the street from the high school where you can park but you need to be sure to park on one side of the street only so we don't block emergency access to the neighborhood. We may also be able to use the Middle School parking, I'll send an update if this is approved.

NOTE - PLEASE DON'T ride on the track at the stadium before, during or after our ride!

The start will be in the back of the high school so, if you arrive close to 8:00 am, you can probably count on leaving alone as you will have to drive to the overflow parking, set up, come to sign in, and then depart. PLEASE don't skip the sign-in step if you park in the overflow. We have no way to keep track of you on the roads if you don't sign in and you won't have a wrist band that you need to ride this week.

Sign-In Details:

- We require all riders to sign in before each ride and sign out when they complete the ride.
This is done to ensure that we know you are on the road and when you have safely completed your ride.
All that is required is for you to initial in and out on an alphabetical listing of paid riders.
- You will notice a column on the left labeled "Paid". If I have received your payment, there will be a "P" next to your name
- If you have not paid yet, you will need to pay and sign in at the payment table (the lower table next to the sign-in tables)

The fee for the series is \$110, payable to the ConocoPhillips Bike Club

Please be sure to sign out on the payment list when you finish

The week after you pay, your name will be listed on the normal sign-in list

- Please arrive at the start (See directions) no later than 7:20 am (7:10 if you still haven't paid)
- Get a Tyvek band this week and put it on your left wrist to indicate you are paid up

This is not our usual Pit-Pass, we are "auditing" our riders this week as we start the 2nd half of the season

- Pick up a ride map - you can share one with a group
- Get you and your bike ready to ride.
- Line up for the ride orientation at 7:50 am
- Depart PROMPTLY at 8 am.

Note - If you arrive after 7:30 and expect to do all the above by 8 am, you better be a good pursuit rider!

PLEASE arrive no later than 7:10 if you still need to pay so you have time to get everything in order and prepare to ride.

Reminder - Lost & Found Collection - Growing

The year started out pretty slow as I had one jacket for a few weeks. It was claimed but recent additions have included 4 insulated water bottles (one was claimed), 2 1/2 pairs of gloves (all have been washed and are ready to wear), a Bluetooth headset, and a bike! The bike was claimed pretty quick but I was hoping we could auction it to raise MS donations - it was a nice bike!

The L&F items are located at the payment table, please check there if you are missing something.

We also have spare helmets if you forgot yours and one spare pair of shoes, not sure of the size. THANKS to whoever donated another helmet to the spares collection!

In case of bad weather check the Bike Club hotline @ 281-293-2931

Don't forget our bike club web site. All our ride maps are posted. Some of the maps are being updated as we get information on construction so please check shortly before the weekly ride to be sure you have the most current map. You can also find a carpool forum, an online bike exchange and links to plenty of other good stuff such as an archive of all the notes this year.

Head to the bike club online and be sure to add to your favorites:

<http://www.conocophillipsbikeclub.org>

And remember that Tim Hansford is chronicling our season. You can see LOTS of photos of each ride online at:

http://www.feldoncentral.com/photos_enhance/CoP2008/

I look forward to seeing many of you at Royal High School this Saturday - please carpool and PLEASE arrive on time!

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