

January
2005
February

Caloosa Chronicles

Bi-monthly publication of the Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club of Lee County, Florida
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Are you...Crazy!?

Ft. Myers to Key West, Florida - November 1, 2004 to November 5, 2004

The overall planning for this second annual Caloosa Riders Key West Ride started back in June. It had humble beginnings with a lot of talk and a lot of ideas on how best to ride from Ft. Myers to Key West and, unlike last year, come back on the ferry to Ft. Myers Beach. We estimated that it would be about 280 miles and take four days. Neighbors, clerks, reporters, the wait staff at Annie's Restaurant, the wait staff along our route and just about anyone we talked to about these plans had the same sentiment..."Are you...Crazy!?"

Fortunately, we picked November 1, 2004, Monday, as the start day. It was a clear, cool morning - a beautiful day. We had many riders and even a reporter and a photographer from the Ft. Myers News-Press saw us off from the parking lot in front of Publix Supermarket at the SWC of Daniels Parkway and Six Mile Cypress.

Our riders were:

Dieter "The Puller" Decker	Chad "Mosquito" Folden
Dutch "The Joker" Van der Kuyp	Bud "Early Bird" Elder
Jeff "Silent One" Brim	Ron "Cookie Man" Cox
Michael "Shrimp" Grosse Meyer	Dave "The Rabbit" Hernley
George "Motel" Sampson	Bob "Short Cut" Hale
Dick "Attila" Bennett, Ride Leader	Wayne "The Saint" Sampson, Sag Van

Escorting us that first day were Bill Garrison, Larry Hickey and Tom Houser. Tom pledged last year to never ride to Key West again. He kept his promise! He only rode with us to Everglades City while Bill and Larry rode to the Hendry County line before heading back. Bob Hale lived up to his nickname, Short Cut, by riding with us on Monday to the Hendry County line before turning back with Bill and Larry. He then rejoined us on Wednesday from Key Largo for the rest of the trip. He managed to cut the ride by over 100 miles. It was great to have so many riders together.

There is not much to see or comment on from Immokalee to Everglades City. But once we got to Everglades City after 82 miles into the wind, we were affectionately greeted by half the world's mosquito population. Some debated the entire population was there! Repellant worked as it should to allow us to set up camp, shower, re-apply repellant and be ready for an early dinner at the Seafood Depot about a mile south of the Barron River Campground. George 'Motel' and Wayne 'The Saint' stayed in a motel room each evening. They missed much of the mosquito fun. Even two passes by the town's mosquito abatement truck did not make a dent in the population. The locals say it just makes them mad.

Chad "Mosquito" had a very unique approach - open all the tent zippers while he put in his gear, sleeping bag, pad, etc. and then quickly get in and zip up all the openings trapping several hundred mosquitoes in the tent with him for the night. He admitted the next day that it got so bad during the night that he had to drape a clean pair of skivvies over his head to keep the buzzing mosquitoes' sound from his ears. No one subscribed to his approach.

Day two was from Everglades City to Florida City and, again, we had a head wind for most all the 87 miles across Alligator Alley. Wayne 'The Saint' scheduled rest stops at 20 miles, then after 15 more miles and finally after every 10 miles until we rolled into the Southern Comfort campground. Six and a half hours on the saddle was reaching everyone's limit. Bob 'Short Cut' and Dave 'The Rabbit' met up with us via truck at the Rte. 41/Krome Avenue intersection where Dick 'Attila' was changing the only flat of the day. Dave 'The Rabbit' rode the last 30 miles on Krome Avenue with us that afternoon. Bob 'Short Cut' followed by truck and stayed to have dinner with us at Capri's Restaurant not far from the Southern Comfort Campground. It was a nice dinner but a bit crowded - obviously a local favorite. 'Short Cut' then drove on to check into his motel on Key Largo. Dick 'Attila' had great cue sheets for the day - but they had not been updated with the correct location and correct name of the campground. Bud 'The Early Bird' Elder was lost to the rest of the group

Key West

Continued from Page 1

at the end of the day. We thought he was behind us due to a stop at Shark Valley, but in fact, he was ahead of us and had already had dinner at the Capri. A happy ending to a long day - despite the cue sheet confusion. Our tent sites that night were nestled together on grass, beneath a large almond tree and across the street from the showers!!

Day three – an easy 68 miles to Long Key State Park with the wind finally at our backs! We were up and packed, ready to go at 6:30. The sag van was loaded and we headed to Denny's on Rte. 1 for breakfast (although some chose to eat at Burger King across the street). Card Sound Road was extremely busy. Trucks, cars, vans and semi-trailers were constant. The first 15 miles to the bridge were the worst road conditions of the whole trip. Since last year, the road beyond the bridge had been completely repaved...it was a pleasure to ride all the way to the merge with Rte. 1. We met up with Bob 'Short Cut' at the intersection of Card Sound Road and Rte. 1 – about MM 106. Wayne 'The Saint' had the sag van there and we took our first rest stop of the day at about 27 miles into the ride.

We stopped at the bike shop in Tavernier to purchase some water bottles, extra tubes, tires, derailleur adjustments and we were soon off. Jeff 'The Silent One' was on his way to another year of record flats with two that morning. Fortunately, there were no more flats for him. He definitely believes in the saying – a picture is worth a thousand words. He was the prime photo target in the News-Press article about our ride. With every rest stop on each day, Wayne 'The Saint' was a welcome sight. There was nothing better than knowing there was cold water and Gatorade and 'The Saint's' smiling face. Not everyone stopped at each opportunity but early in the trip against the wind, in record heat and Ron 'The Cookie Man's' homemade chocolate chip cookies, the stops were tough to pass up.

We camped that night in Long Key State Park right on the water with a steady onshore breeze that lasted well into the night. After setting up and taking showers, we were off to Little Italy and a grand dinner. We broke bread as a group at one long table. Everyone was safe on the sidewalk ride back to camp in the absolute dark on Long Key. The night sky was perfectly clear and some of us gathered to discuss the beautiful evening and the day's events.

Day four was the easiest of the week – Long Key was 64 miles from Stock Island and Boyd's Campground only about 5 miles from Duval Street in Key West. Dave 'The Rabbit' was first to arrive prior to noon. The rest of us arrived by about 1:00 pm. After setting up, showers, etc., Dick "Attila" had ice cold beer waiting beside the pool. We all relaxed and watched the Blue Angels practice overhead for an air show scheduled for the weekend. Bud 'The Early Bird' is quite a plane buff, having actually made one. He thanked 'Attila' for arranging the air show – though it was wrong, 'Attila' took full credit for it! Dutch 'The Joker' kept the promise he made the first day - he would have a joke for us at each rest stop. He never failed to add some humor to our breaks.

We repeated last year's dinner at the Hogfish Restaurant a few blocks from the campground. Cold pitchers of beer with a couple of baskets of peel & shrimp started us out. Mike 'The Shrimp' almost did us in by continuing to order basket after basket of shrimp while we waited for our main meals. Thank goodness we all walked to dinner. The combination of four long day's of bicycling, afternoon beers at the pool and beer at the Hogfish gave many of us the "sailor's walk on a heaving deck"...except we were on dry land.

Day five broke with a beautiful dawn on Stock Island. Many slept in...to about 7:00 am. We found Ron 'The Cookie Man' asleep on the water's edge – on a mattress in his sleeping bag. We packed our bikes as though going for another day's ride but this time locked them up at Boyd's. We took the bus to Duval Street to have a delicious breakfast at the Pink Flamingo Café. We checked out Duval Street's preparations for the Jimmy Buffet concert later that afternoon. The stage with all its speakers was set up in the middle of the street in front of his Margaritaville Café. Corona's were being iced, Cruzon Rum was stacked and beach balls were already inflated but it was only 10:30 am. So, we headed to Fat Tuesdays for some 190 Orange!

Many of us shopped as we walked along Duval Street. Dick 'Attila' went to purchase the ferry tickets for the group at the City Ferry Terminal with Chad 'The Mosquito' and Dutch 'The Joker'. As it turned out, 9 rode the ferry back. The others managed car or bus rides back. I guess the week's heat, adverse wind and overall length of the ride changed the mind of many who originally talked about bicycling back to Ft. Myers.

We had excellent weather all week except for the cold front that hit us mid-afternoon Friday on our way to the ferry terminal. Squalls and a strong northerly breeze soaked us on the five-mile ride over from Boyd's. We loaded our bikes on the ferry in sheltered spots on each side of the boat. They were out of the weather for the wave pounding passage to Ft. Myers Beach.

We left the dock right on time at 5:30 pm unaware of the one last surprise. The cold front that whipped up heavy seas caused Mal de Mer in two of our nine riders. Many other passengers on board suffered the same fate. Obviously, the 130 mile return trip by ferry was the longest four hours of their lives. For some – next year's ride may not include a ferry ride. It will certainly not be a first choice for many! In the lee of Sanibel Island, recovery started but it was on dry land that it was complete. Pick-up rides had been arranged for all. Dieter 'The Puller' rode home over the San Carlos bridge. Jeff 'The Silent One' rode the Summerlin bike path home.

It was good ride overall. Everyone was safe, there were plenty of grins, giggles and laughs and quick recoveries from the saddle rashes and sore legs. Ultimately, we all felt good about the accomplishment of completing the 302-mile trip. As to the opening question:

"Are you.....Crazy!?"

YES!

Ride Schedule and Meeting Dates

All Sunday rides will leave from Bell Tower in Ft. Myers, Buckingham Park on Buckingham Road, or Pelican Park in Cape Coral. All Saturday rides will leave from Buckingham Park on Buckingham Road east of S.R. 82. Ride start is 8:00 a.m.

All Riders: Download ride maps before club rides. Maps to all rides can be found on the club's website: www.caloo-sariders.com. Only new riders will be given maps at the ride start. Rides leave at 8:00 a.m unless otherwise noted. All rides are between 30 and 40 miles unless otherwise noted.

January 2005		
Jan. 1	I Like Ike	Wayne, 936-1058
Jan 8	Gateway Special	Dale V. 768-0574
Jan 15	Greenbriar	Jeff Brim, 939-7263
Jan 22	I Like Ike	Ron Cox, 334-7530
Jan 29	Golfview	Alan Byerly, 437-1608
February		
Feb 5	Greenbriar	Dale S., 540-1260
Feb 12	Gateway Special	Tom Hauser, 997-6703
Feb 19	I Like Ike	Wayne, 936-1058
Feb 26	Alva Special	Dale V., 768-1574
March		
Mar 5	Golfview	Dale S, 540-1260

Short and Sweet 15 Mile Ride

There will be a 15 mile ride offered each Saturday for those riders who don't want to attempt the regular rides. The pace is slower and the distance is 15 miles.



Tuesday & Thursday Rides

Cay West Parking Lot - Cape Coral Parkway west of Chiquita. The group rides various routes through Cape Coral. Mileages vary between 20 and 50 miles. Some of the riders maintain a conversational pace (12 - 15 mph) while others ride much faster.

Wednesday Ride

Summerlin and Colonial in Ft. Myers 8:00 a.m. The ride follows the Summerlin Bike Path. This is a fairly intense ride with average speeds being far above a conversational pace.

Sunday Rides

Bell Tower: Racers meet at 7:30 a.m. This ride is for expert riders interested in racing.

Buckingham/Lehigh: 8:00 a.m. Lehigh area. Pace: 17-18 mph, distance 25 -35 miles, no stops. Contact Gerry Venema -694-6757. (A shortened version is done by 9:30)

Pelican/Cape Coral: 8:00 at Pelican Park on Pelican Blvd, north of Cape Coral Parkway. Pace:12 to 20+ for 26 to 35 miles.

Meeting Change

January: Tuesday, 1/25 at Rotary Park

February: Tuesday, 2/22 at Rotary Park

Rotary Park is in Cape Coral at Pelican and El Dorado

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share.

Annual Swap Meet at the January Meeting

Bring your bike treasures and junk to trade to sell.

We Have A Choice!

The 2004 hurricane season is now officially over and thank goodness! Bonnie, Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne allowed us many choices...staying or leaving for safer ground...putting up shutters or not, to name a few. The recent Presidential elections allowed us a choice between Bush and Kerry. There are always choices as we move through the challenges of everyday life.

The Caloosa Riders' membership has a collective choice to make as we face the New Year! What kind of a club do we want to be in 2005 and beyond?

Do we want to keep the status quo?

Do we want to add new members?

What image do we want to project to the community?

Are we a bicycle club or a social club?

Do we want to take a chance?

Do we want to keep the status quo? Here is the membership trend over the last four years:

Year:	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Members:	162	170	202	171	?

I do not particularly like this trend. What will 2005 hold for club membership? We face a choice.

Do we want to add new members? There are many choices here: Are we individually making an effort to add new members? Are we asking prior members directly to re-up for another year? Are we introducing our Club to the bicyclists that we see riding in our neighborhoods? Are we offering multiple levels of rides to encourage the newest riders? What are we offering our members? What is the incentive for becoming a member?

What image do we want to project to the community? Are we reaching out enough to the community? Should we be offering a safe riding course for all ages? We have been very fortunate in the recent press coverage of our touring rides to Key West. What else could we do to continue that local coverage and awareness? How can we appeal to the younger family looking for a healthy exercise choice?

Are we a bicycle club or a social club? The monthly meetings are a great social time to catch up with cup with

old

friends and share some great pot luck dishes. Can we renew the effort to expand our knowledge of bicycling items with outside speakers? We can also make it a time to warmly welcome new members and potential new members. The sag stops on our weekly rides also give us the same social opportunity. Why not be both with equal efforts on bicycling and fellowship?

Do we want to take a chance? This is really an individual choice. Do we gladly volunteer our help for the good of the club's various events? The old expression really is true: 'Many hands make light work!' Why is it always the same volunteers?...the 80/20 Rule prevails...20% do the majority of the work for the other 80% of the members! Why is the route-marking group always the same 3 or 4 people? The Royal Palm Classic has not yet created a volunteer waiting list - why? Those few volunteers the 80% rely upon will burn out - why not expand your own horizons and volunteer!? You will certainly meet some very nice people.

The 2005 Caloosa Riders Officers slate of nominees was quite a short list. The phrase 'railroaded into office' does come to mind. Bill Garrison, V-P, Alan Byerly, Secretary, Dale Sterz, Treasurer, Tracy Wells, Membership and I are all on board. So, here we go...charging into 2005 with a series of choices. We are a Club with a broad membership base and we should be able to appeal to a very wide range of people. 'With many hands', we should be able to change the downward trend of membership, make it meaningful and enjoyable to be members, create a bicycle supportive image within the community and easily be both a social and a bicycle club!!

I am hopeful that the choices made by the Caloosa Rider members in the weeks to come will add to the strength and vitality of the Club.

I am willing to take a chance...are you?

Suggestions for improving the 2005 ride-year are welcome and encouraged. Please contact any of the 2005 Caloosa Riders Officers with your Suggestions.

Members ... For Your Information

1. The officers for 2005 are President Richard Bennett, Veep Bill Garrison, Treasurer Dale Sterz and Secretary Alan Byerly. Membership will be handled by Tracy Wells, and all the others remain the same.
2. If you change your address, phone number or e-mail address, give that information to Tracy Wells at wellsonwheels@aol.com or 282-2291
3. Make note of the meeting change - Rotary Park on Pelican (s. of Cape Coral Pkwy) and El Dorado.

4. Welcome our newest members: Abe Finkel and Cathy Cochrane, Matthew Grubbs, Sally Hiller, Brian Mohr, Stephen Motz, George and Wayne Sampson, Charles Wahlig, Rich Becker, Renee & Benjamin Johnson, Marilyn & William Liu, Lou Rizk & Cheryle Phelps, Charles Mix, Roary & Barbara O'Rourke,
5. Download the maps for all of our rides from Caloosariders.com.
6. Support your club. Ride in the Royal Palm Classic on March 6.

Membership Application

Please Print Clearly and Read Completely

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

E-Mail _____

_____ New Member

_____ Renewing Member

_____ Family Membership: \$20

Spouse's Name: _____

_____ Single Membership: \$15

Membership is for the calendar year. Membership applications dated through October remain in effect until the end of the year. Applications dated November and December remain in effect through the following year.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in Caloosa Riders (Club) sponsored Bicycling Activities (Activity) I myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin: 1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the activity and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in Activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that: (a) BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISK AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH (RISKS); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES NAMED BELOW; (c) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Club, the League of American Bicyclists, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, and employees, and other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the releasees herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY NEGLIGENCE OF THE releasees OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such a claim.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTANDING ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Member's Signature _____

If Family Membership, Spouse's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: **Caloosa Riders**
P.O. Box 870
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Make checks payable to Caloosa Riders

Benefits of membership... • Newsletter • Discounts • Club Meetings • Free Classifieds

Club Member Discounts

These Businesses will give members a 10% discount on non-sale items. Bicycles excluded.

Present your membership card.

A.J. Barnes Bicycle Emporium

15248 S. Tamiami Trail
239-437-0373

The Bike Route

14530 US 41 South
Ft. Myers
239-481-3376

Ft. Myers Schwinn

3630 Cleveland
Ft. Myers
239-939-2899

Wooley's Bikeland

1025 Tamiami Trail
N. Ft. Myers
239-997-3111

Cape Coral Bicycles

8 Del Prado Blvd. S.
239-242-2453

Trikes & Bikes

3451 Fowler St.
239-936-1851

The Naples Cyclery

813 Vanderbilt Road
Naples 34108
239-566-0600

The Naples Cyclery

27820 S. Tamiami Trail
Bonita Springs, 34134
239-949-0026

Clint's Bicycle Shoppe of Naples

8789 Tamiami Trail N.
(Marketplace at Pelican Bay)
Naples
239-566-9620

Mother Earth Natural Foods

Cape Coral
Ft. Myers

University QuickPrint

4425 Del Prado Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33904
239-542-1020

Acme Bicycle Shop

615 Cross Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-3029

Paradise Bicycles

1712 Del Prado
Cape Coral
239-772-2453

Hearing Aid Services

MGregor Point Shopping Center
239-433-2060
Bonita Springs
947-2222



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