

May  
2005  
June

# Caloosa Chronicles

Bi-monthly publication of the Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club of Lee County, Florida  
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## Bike Florida 2005 The Regular Way

or how we rode 375 miles on pancakes and worms  
by Chris Wells

In the months before BikeFlorida, I was looking forward to seeing another part of the state. What I didn't realize that we would see such a wide variety of scenery and geography in our circumnavigation of Tallahassee and Apalachicola National Forest. Each day's ride had its own highlights and challenges, and long bridges were often the order of the day.

We arrived in Monticello to find that John Morrison and Ron Cox had moved the 'No Camping' sign (in front of the main buildings) far enough to enable us to camp with them and as close to all of the facilities as possible. This approach to campsite selection was standard procedure throughout the week. Many riders had arrived the day before and ridden around Monticello that day. We also discovered Bubbaville, a sea of blue tents which were set up each day for those who had engaged this service. We need to ask Wayne and Joann about the rumor concerning mints left on the air mattresses each night. Tom Hauser was present, after biking up from North Fort Myers and spending one night before making the return trip.



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## Tom Hauser's Way or how to get to Monticello by bike

To get to Bike Florida, just take I-75 north, find some way to get to US19, and go north 'til you see the Monticello exit. Or, if you're riding a bike, use the same route only don't ride on I-75. It's verboten. But who would do something that stupid? Isn't that overdoing it? Isn't Bike



Florida enough bike mileage? How about riding up and then just ride back without doing Bike Florida? Now that's really insane. No sane person would ... wait! I think I just did this. Let me check. Wow! I did, both ways, 750 miles in 9 days. Well, actually 6 full days and 3 half days.

Weather-wise, and I certainly wouldn't consider it wise, I had 3 good days, 3 marginal days and 3 bad days. What's a bad day? Well, one bad day it rained all day (12 hours). It also rained the night before, so I had to pack up a wet tent and sleeping bag (my tent leaks, but it least predictably). The next day with a north (head) wind, the temperature started out at 40° AND HIT A HIGH OF 53°. Finally, on the way back, I had a strong, warm and humid headwind, all 125 miles of it.

The secret to riding all day in a headwind, besides cussing, is to pick a short range target such as a convenience store, get off the bike, stagger in, ingest lots of caffeine and sugar so that you'll have to take off for the next short range target. My best days were arriving and departing Monticello. I took a shower, washed clothes, dried my sleeping bag and tent (after 3 wet nights), and de-squeaked my chain.

I improved my route selection from last year's trip, but found 2 new bottlenecks that need to be remedied for next year's trip.

# 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 in May is 8:00 a.m. Ride Start in June, July and August is 7:30 a.m.

May 2005		
Sat, 5/07/05	Alva	
Sat, 5/14/05	Greenbriar	Jeff Brim, 939-7263
Sat, 5/21/05	Alva Special	Dale S. 540-1260
Sat, 5/28/05	Golfview	Bill G., 275-7615
June 2005 Ride begins at 7:30 a.m.		
Sat, 6/04/05	Greenbriar	Ron Cox, 334-7580
Sat, 6/11/05	Gateway Special	Bob Hale, 772-9402
Sat, 6/18/05	Venema Ride	Gerry V., 694-6757
Sat, 6/25/05	I Like Ike	Dale V., 768-0574
July 2005		
Sat, 7/02/05	Alva Special	Rosemarie, 303-0476

## Club Meetings

May 25, Wednesday @ Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

June 30 - Thursday @ Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share.

## Breakfast after the rides

Tues/Thurs at Annie's in CC

Saturday at Franke's on Fowler in Ft. Myers

All Riders: Download ride maps before club rides. Maps to all rides can be found on the club's website: [www.caloosariders.com](http://www.caloosariders.com). Only new riders will be given maps at the ride start. Rides

## 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 8:00 a.m. This ride is for expert riders interested in racing.

Pelican/Cape Coral: 8:00 in May, 7:30 in June at Pelican Park on Pelican Blvd, north of Cape Coral Parkway. Pace: 12 to 20+ for 26 to 35 miles.

# Special Club Events...

## Memorial Day Picnic at Cape Coral Yacht Club Monday, May 30 at 8:00 a.m.

Ride, swim and eat - not necessarily in that order. The club has reserved the pavilion on the beach for the day and is providing the hotdogs, hamburgers, buns. The rest is pot-luck. Bring a picnic dish to share. Bring your swim suits and water toys, and plan to spend the day in luxurious decadence. If you are so inclined, you can even fish. To get to the CC Yacht Club, turn south on Coronado. Stay on Coronado until it becomes Driftwood. Follow that road to the end. If you go into the water, you have gone too far. Call Bill Garrison, 275-7615 for more information.

**Upcoming events.....**  
Mystery Ride in August  
Zolfo Springs Ride in October  
Turkey Leg Century in November  
Christmas Party in December



## Members ... For Your Information

1. The officers for 2005 are President Richard Bennett, Veep Bill Garrison, Treasurer Dale Sterz and Secretary Alan Byerly. Tracy Wells is handling Membership, JoAnne Van Neta is the Ride Coordinator and Jackie Kampfert is the Newsletter Editor.
2. If you change your address, phone number or e-mail address, give that information to Tracy Wells at [WellsonWheels@comcast.net](mailto:WellsonWheels@comcast.net) or call her at 282-2291.
3. Make a note of the meeting times. The meetings have returned to Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
  - Wednesday, May 25
  - Thursday, June 30
  - Wednesday, July 27
  - Thursday, Aug. 25
  - Thursday, Sept. 29
  - Wednesday, Oct. 26
  - Wednesday, Nov. 16
4. Welcome our newest members: Liz Abbott, Dan Avery, Cameron Backes, Dick Brandstatter, Jean Dickson, Nedene Hennrich, Alan and Mary Hook, Gerald Lamb, Paul & Judy Lewis, Bruce Patzwahl, Rebecca Roberts, Joan Robinson and Kathy Warr.
5. Download the maps for all of our rides from [Caloosariders.com](http://Caloosariders.com).



## Continued from page 1 - or how we rode 375 miles on pancakes and worms by Chris Wells

The route to Quincy the next day included rolling hills, beautiful brick houses and large farms. Azaleas were in bloom and trees covered the roads foretold by signs reading 'Canopy Road', something we had never seen before. We passed through Havana (not to be confused with Havana) and some riders stopped at a sidewalk café, while others rode the remaining few miles straight through to guarantee a shower before the cold water ran out in the gym. There was hot water in the shower truck before, alas, all the water ran out, but, somehow, we all smelled good for dinner.

Breakfast on most days was provided by Chriscakes, who had people running in all directions trying to catch flipping pancakes or peacefully eating cereal and fruit. Riding to Blountstown included some challenging hills with one speedy descent and a rough road leading into Torreya State Park, which, contrary to my early comments, was worth the bumps providing a beautiful rest stop setting and an optional visit to the historic Gregory House at the bottom of a short steep hill overlooking the Apalachicola River. This mansion was moved across the river in the 30's to its present location. If they were going to move it that far, why not to the top of the hill? The Blountstown stop offered country music in the gym and the town featured an ice cream shop that

was, in their own words (and ours) Yummy!

Seventy-five miles was the length of our route the next day and with an ominous forecast for the afternoon, we all made tracks early and retraced our path over a long bridge out of town and then to the road through Apalachicola National Forest, which answered the question, "How far can you see in a straight line?" This was lovely flat riding, leading to a huge lunch in Sumatra. With rain on our heels, some stopped here while others ate yet another banana and continued on to the next stop where a very, very tall fire tower had us only wondering what it looked like from the top. Finally and with little warning, we were on Apalachicola Bay and headed through Eastpoint to a bridge with no end, even when it ended. A humid, misty crosswind escorted us across a three mile low bridge, and when it appeared to land on an island we got the first view of the sixty-five foot bridge over the boat channel. This bridge was later closed to the bikes by the sheriff due to the weather and riders were sagged in. (On most days, riders could be sagged to the first stop and ride from there). So we then dropped right into town and landed at a beautiful old armory that, because of the forecast, was our home for the night. Actually two nights. Apalachicola is a wonderful town in transition from

a fishing economy to a combination of that and tourism with stately old houses and fun places to eat. The next day and night were spent here with either a ride to St. George Island on the Gulf or a stroll around town. Either choice was rewarding.

Back across the bridges one more time and we were on our way along the beach to Sopchoppy, a small town even more interesting than its name. Rest stops at a park and a marine lab offered great views of the water and Carabelle is a town we want to see again. Sopchoppy is a small crossroads town in the Forest and near a river and is the home of Worm Grunting. This is a method of inducing earthworms to leave the ground by pushing a flat piece of metal over a stake driven into the ground producing a vibration unpleasant to the worms and detectable in one's beer glass. This was a great stop, complete with live music and an early morning lightning storm and downpour which encouraged us to get on our way to Monticello. We had only light rain on our return and spent some time on a nice bike path before getting back into some of the Red Hills near the finish. And there we were (!) getting a shower, eating, and hitting the road. A great trip, enjoyed with many good friends. When can we sign up for next year?

## Operation Bunny Rescue

New members Liz Abbott and Becky Roberts were riding along the Veteran's Parkway bike path one Saturday when they found a half-grown domestic bunny on the side of the strip. Both women recognized that the rabbit was out of its element and stopped to investigate the situation.

It was obvious that someone had dumped the terrified animal. The women, both animal lovers, leaped

into action. Liz rode back home for the car while Becky stayed on the path to care for the bunny.

While Liz was gone, a couple of cyclists stopped to see what was happening. Serendipity. They contacted a friend who wanted a rabbit. Long story short, the lucky bunny found a home.

Kudos Liz and Becky. There need to be more people like you.

# 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 wa  
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 cond  
expected. I further agree and

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND

DEATH (RISKS); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my o

takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE

foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY AC

the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHAR

employees, and other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and

cers, volunteers, and

FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAI

OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING

INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on

litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as the result of such a claim.

I HAVE READ THIS

FREELY AND WIT

GREATEST EXT

TINUE 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**

## **Shophe 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



P.O. Box 870

Ft. Myers, FL 33902