Florida Bicycle Touring Calendar

(VERY ABRIDGED! We’re trying to cram it all in so you’ll know what’s coming up. Watch for early registration dates and use the contact information for more details about each ride.) Data is from a calendar maintained by Roger Pierce. To add an event to the calendar, e-mail to RCPbike@aol.com. See complete calendar at www.afn.org/~bike/BTC

February 12-13 West Palm Beach
Brevet Series 2000: 300 km 186 mile Randineur rides series that will qualify you for Boston-Montreal-Boston. Membership in Randonneurs USA (RUSA) is required for all but the first two rides (200 and 300 km). Jim Solnick, (561)433-8796. Email: ride-more@juno.com.

Feb 13 (Sun) Boca Raton
Tour of Boca
Police-escorted (monthly). Registration starts at 12:30 pm, ride at 1 pm; fee: $2. Start at Patch Reef Park. Helmets required. (561)416-3410 BRBC hotline. Email: buri@bellsouth.net.

February 19-20 Brooksville
SWAMP Romp ’00
Croom Mountain Bike Trails. 2-nights camping, pancake breakfast Sat & Sun, hot lunch & BBQ dinner Sat. Entertainment Sat night, deli lunch on Sun. rides Fri. night, Sat. day and night, and Sun for all skill levels, canoing Sun. afternoon. Price about $60. Reservations required, Email: CdaleKid@GTE.net. www.SWAMPClub.org.

February 27 (Sun) Miami
Snowbird Century
25/62/100 mile routes through rural Redlands and Homestead areas of southern Dade County. Rest stops. Everglades Bicycling Club. Registration forms/info: Fifi or George Derby, email: Everglades Bicycling Club, PO Box 430282, South Miami FL 33243. Email: GFDerby163@aol.com.

March 4-5 West Palm Beach

March 12 (Sun) Weirsdale
Lake Weir Kiwanis Tri-County Tour
20/40/60/100 mile route through hills of Marion, Lake, and Sumter counties. (100 mile route includes a loop through the Ocala Nat. Forest.) Start/end at Kiwanis Beach, Lake Weir in Weirsdale. Early registration $15 (or $10 for Mar. 3) includes T-shirt. Well-stocked rest stops, SAG support. Late-day of ride: $20 (T-shirt if available). An optional post-ride chicken dinner served 11am-1:30pm ($5 ea). As a last resort call Glen (352-821-4653) or Julie (352-624-9237). Email: IDT7TriTour@aol.com or www.afabinc.com/kiwanis-tour.htm

Mar 12 (Sun) Boca Raton
Tour of Boca
See Feb. 13 listing.

March 18-19 Vero Beach
Breast Cancer Ride for Life
135 mi. to Daytona Beach with a stop in Cocoa Beach. Hotel Rooms Provided. $500 minimum funds raised. Breast Cancer Ride For Life, PO Box 442, Goldenrod FL 32733. (407)677-4728. Email: cancer@estefan.org or www.rideforlife.org

March 19 (Sun) Fort Myers
Royal Palm Classic
100/62/45/15 miles. $20 includes T-shirt, rest stops, SAG. Start 8 AM from Buckingham Park. L-75 Extreme #23 to signs. Ride beautiful country roads and benefit breast cancer awareness. Calosoa Riders, PO Box 870, Fort Myers, FL 33902. (941)549-1366. Email: Bipsycho@peganet.com

March 31 - April 2 Orlando
Walgreens Green Ride
A 3-day, 275 mile journey from Orlando to South Florida to support the Florida AIDS Consortium. Fundraising goal for each rider is $1250. 888-658-2453 www.redribbonride.org/. April 1-6 Gainesville FL
Bike Florida 2000 “Springs Training” 40-65 miles/day/day with longer options available 4 or 6 miles fully-supported. Overnight in Gainesville, Branford, Chiefland. Late fee after March 15. BIKE FLORIDA, Box 451514, Kissimmee, FL 34745. (407)343-1992. Email: info@bikeflorida.org or www.bikeflorida.org

April 2 (Sun) Palmetto
12th Annual Spring Classic
19/32/62/100 miles thru Manatee County. FAIR. Apr 29-30 Miami
Breakaway Key Largo 150 $30.00 registration (before 2/25). min. pledge $200.00. A 2 day ride to benefit MS from Miami to Key Largo and back. Rest stops, sag wagons, more. Camping available. Contact Monica, S. Fla Chapter. National MS Society, South Florida Chapter, 7933 NW 53 St., Miami, FL 33166. Phone (305)599-0299 fax (305)592-6674. Email: MS150PUB@aol.com.

April 3 (Sat) Brooksville
Clean Air Bike Ride
Benefits American Lung Assoc. Biking along the Withlacoochee State Trail. Ridge Manor Trail Head, one mi. east along the Withlacoochee State Trail. Bicycle Across Magnificent Alabama
Six states. See page 16.

April 8 (Sat) Brooksville
Clean Air Bike Ride
Benefits American Lung Assoc. Biking along the Withlacoochee State Trail. Ridge Manor Trail Head, one mi. east of I-75 at SR 50 (exit 61). 12/20/48/100 miles in two days from Weirsdale. Early registration $15 (by Mar. 3) includes T-shirt. Well stocked rest stops, SAG support. Late-day of ride: $20 (T-shirt if available). An optional post-ride chicken dinner served 11am-1:30pm ($5 ea). As a last resort call Glen (352-821-4653) or Julie (352-624-9237). Email: IDT7TriTour@aol.com or www.afabinc.com/kiwanis-tour.htm

May 13-14 West Palm Beach

May 20 (Sat) Spartanburg SC
Assault on Mt Mitchell
102 miles, extremely challenging. Shorter Assault on Marion ride is an option. Spartanburg Freewheelers, PO Box 6171, Spartanburg SC 29304. http://members.aol.com/TheAssault/ or www.scstatebike.org/mitch/assault.html

June 2-7 Tallahassee
Bike South 2000
Six states. See page 16.

June 8 Tallahassee
Bike Florida 2000 Florida Panhandle Florida leg of Bike South 2000. Tallahassee to Florida, AL. 55-70 mi/day. (407) 343-1992 or email info@bikeflorida.org or www.bikeflorida.org for info and registration form.

June 9-15 Florida AL
Bicycle Across Magnificent Alabama (BAMA)
BAMA leg of Bike South 2000. To Eufaula, AL. P.O. Box 2286, Anniston, AL 36202-2286. Email: bigoli@traveller.com. www.bikebama.com.

June 11 (Sun) Carrolton GA
West Georgia 100

June 12-16 Eufaula AL
Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG)
Seven day ride to Savannah. Third leg of Bike South 2000. BRAG, PO Box 87111, Stone Mtn. GA 30087-0028. Phone (770)921-6166, fax (770)935-1918. Email: bragHQ@aol.com or www.brag.org

June 23-30 Savannah GA
Cycle South Carolina and North Carolina

Aug 4-6 Live Oak
Dog Days Pedal & Paddle
Suwannee River State Park 9 miles west of Live Oak. Combines both on and off road cycling in the cool(er) morning hours with water-based activities in the afternoon. Registration incl. event administration, group camping, maps, good services, sags, ride staff, evening entertainment, and unlimited tubing during the weekend. Optional meal plan for the weekend. Limit: 200. Suwannee Bicycle Association, PO Box 247, White Springs FL 32096. 904-397-2347. Email: WPburden@aol.com. www.suwanneebike.org.

Sep 22-24 Kissimee
2nd Annual Ride Florida “Share The Road” Rally & Expo (in cooperation with FBA) in historic downtown Kissimee at Lake Toho. Recreational rides, bike expo booths, film festival, demonstrations, FBA’s annual meeting. Rides from 10-100 miles. Email: info@bikeflorida.org www.bikeflorida.org

2000 Gainesville Cycling Festival
Two centuries in two days (see below)! (Or enjoy the shorter options for a weekend of bicycle touring.) Send your snail mail address to RCPBIKE@aol.com; we will send you our brochure and an entry application in August.

Sep 30 (Sat) Gainesville
8th Annual Saturn Santa Fe Century
A tour through the lush forest and pasture land north of Gainesville up through the Santa Fe River valley. $15 until Sep 23 then $20. T-shirts are $10. A pancake breakfast will be served before the ride for $5.

Oct 1 (Sun) Gainesville
20th Annual Horse Farm Hundred
The Gainesville Cycling Club’s tour through the picturesque horse farms of northern Marion county. We have the best stocked rest stops in Florida! 102/45/30/25 mi. $15 until Sep 23 then $20.

Nov 10-12 White Springs
Florida Fat-Tire Festival
"Florida's Largest Fat-Tire Festival." Suwannee Bicycle Association, PO Box 247, White Springs FL 32096. 904-454-2768. Email: beckerda@yahoo.com www.suwanneebike.org
Not Just T-shirts

By Bill Boyd

Over the years, I’ve collected drawers full of T-shirts from bike tours I’ve taken. For some reason, my wife thinks I should discard those I no longer wear.

When I took a crack at this, she saw what I was doing and gave me one of those “It’s about time,” looks. Spying the stack of Florida Bike Safari shirts, she said: “Surely, you don’t need five of those!”

Sorting through the T-shirts brought back memories. Six years ago I went to my first Safari as a means of getting in some spring miles and seeing a friend I met on a tour the year before. (Yes, there are six T-shirts and no, I didn’t bring that to my wife’s attention.)

The Safari has become a staple of each subsequent year and I’m looking forward to my seventh one in April 2000. In my opinion, it is one of the best tour values available.

Looking back over the years, I’m amazed at how much the Safari has changed.

That first ride, for me, went to a different location each day. This changed to moving every day except the two days that had 100 mile options. The current format stays in two locations for three nights each. With two to three distance options each day, all riders can find a suitable distance option.

This format provides more time for socializing and takes less time for tenting activities while still providing adequate variation in the daily rides.

Looking at the T-shirts laid out before me, I think of all the people I’ve met at the Safari. This is, perhaps, the main reason I go back each year. In fact, I’ve talked many friends from other rides into attending the Safari. This has given me the best of two worlds, making new friends and seeing old friends from the Safari and other rides.

Three of my Safari T-shirts represent years that one of my sons joined me. Rare moments when I’ve been able to spend a lot of time with him since he grew up and started his own family.

I found it’s harder to throw my Safari T-shirts away than I thought it would be. Looking them over, I realized they’re not just T-shirts, but fond memories too.

Florida Bicycle Maps

By Dwight Kingsbury

The Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council released its new 4-map series of northeastern cycling routes.

These maps are among the most beautiful and useful for bicycle touring I have seen. These maps include a scale for evaluation of distances and indicate shared use paths and off-road trail areas. Images are sharp and color-coding is reader-friendly. Detail maps highlight towns and popular cycling areas; sidebars describe points of interest.

Here is the complete Florida bicycle map catalog, Holiday 1999 edition:

Northeast Florida series
1. Baker, Nassau & Duval, with detail maps of Macclenny/Glen St. Mary and Amelia Island.
3. Flagler and St. Johns, with detail maps of Palm Coast and St. Augustine.
4. Duval, with detail of downtown Jacksonville.

Florida Bicycle Messenger

2000 Florida Trails and Greenways Conference
May 18-20, 2000
At The
BELLEVUE BILTMORE
RESORT AND SPA
Clearwater, Florida

Creating a New Landscape for Florida

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Florida Field Office, in partnership with Office of Greenways & Trails, Pinellas County, & The National Park Service, is excited to offer this opportunity to help you connect with new ideas and new forces in the trails, greenways, bicycle/pedestrian, transportation, parks planning, design, health, eco-tourism, and community development arenas.

Come to Pinellas County and see what trails can bring to your area.

To receive early registration materials and more conference information please contact us at (850) 942-2379 or e-mail: rtcflorida@transact.org

Exhibitor space will be available at the conference, call the number listed above for exhibitor information.
Frank Bostwick reported in the July West Palm Beach Bicycle Club Cycletter:

“Lou [Satterlee] was struck by a motorist and knocked unconscious... while he was training alone. His bike was totalled and he suffered extensive road rash and bruises...

“An eyewitness...stated he was riding to the left of the ‘fog line.’

“In [316.2065, F.S., we read]: ‘A bicyclist who is not traveling at the same speed as other traffic must ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.’

“Does that ‘roadway’ edge mean where the white line lies or where the grass meets the roadway?”

The driver of the car which knocked Lou off the road and demolished his bike was not ticketed. The investigating trooper at the scene told Lou he was supposed to be to the right of the fog line. That’s the reason the motorist was not at fault, the trooper claimed...”

[Sound of Ped/Bike error buzzer]

Actually, the fog line marks the legal edge of an uncurbed roadway in Florida. “Roadway” is defined in F.S. Chapter 316 as: “That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.”

You can read this at www.leg.state.fl.us/citizen/documents/statutes/1998/ch0316/SEC003.HTM#0316.003

Since the shoulder is not part of the roadway, there is no statutory basis for requiring cyclists to ride to the right of the fog line.

Other Laws on Books Should Protect Cyclists’ Rights

By Theo Petritsch, P.E., Florida Ped/Bike Coordinator

There are two other statutes which absolve the cyclist:

“The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.” F.S. 316.083 (1) and

“Special hazards.—The fact that the speed of a vehicle is lower than the prescribed limits shall not relieve the driver from the duty to decrease speed when approaching and crossing an intersection, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, or when special hazards exist or may exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or other roadway conditions, and speed shall be decreased as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle, or other conveyance on or entering the street or otherwise comply with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.” F.S. 316.185

We have made tremendous progress in the last few years. More American adults are riding bikes and walking. But we must continually focus on our number one priority — safety — while at the same time creating an environment that encourages bicycling and walking.

Our goal is to double the percentage of trips made by bicycle and foot while reducing the absolute number of fatalities and injuries involving bicyclists and pedestrians by 10 percent. We have found that more than one-fourth of all travel is one mile or less and 53 percent of all people live within two miles of a public transit route. These short trips hold tremendous potential for increasing the amount of bicycling.

To reach our goal, we will be reaching out to the state and local officials who are responsible for making most transportation decisions under our program. We will be encouraging them to consider bicycling when they write their plans and we will be developing procedures that will require that consideration in a systematic way.

Today, at FHWA, we are approaching transportation with a new perspective that will produce more consideration and more access for bicyclists.

For more information, visit our website: www. fhwa.dot.gov.
Correction

On page 10 of the Fall/Winter 1999 edition of the Messenger, we mistakenly identified the trademark logo of the Friendship Trail Corp. with an activity of the Bay World Public Trust, Inc. The two organizations are entirely separate and any implication of endorsement or cosponsorship through our erroneous juxtaposition of the Friendship Trail logo with the Bay World Public Trust, Inc., was unintentional.

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Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department Offers

**EFFECTIVE CYCLING COURSES**

Bicycling for recreation and transportation is more popular now than it has been for several decades. With this growing participation in cycling, comes the risk of increased accidents and injuries. The League of American Bicyclists is responding with a bicycling education program, Effective Cycling. The instructor, Crystal Allred, ECI #571 is a certified Effective Cycling Instructor by the League of American Bicyclists.

**Effective Cycling - ROAD I**

Foundational course and prerequisite to all other Effective Cycling courses. Principles of vehicular cycling, bicycle selection and fit, helmet use, basic bike handling skills, traffic rules and responsibilities, and minor maintenance skills are included. Fee includes workbook and handouts. You are responsible for bringing a bicycle in good working order and a helmet.

Lunch is on your own (bring your lunch). Preregistration is required. For more information call 941-574-0801.

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Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Building

**Effective Cycling - ROAD II**

For intermediate riders who want to enhance their riding skills and become more proficient with bicycle maintenance. Fee includes workbook and handouts. You are responsible for bringing a bicycle in good working order and a helmet.

Lunch is on your own (bring your lunch). Preregistration is required. For more information call 941-574-0801.

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Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Building

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**Add your voice for the future of bicycling in Florida.**

**JOIN FBA TODAY**

Membership includes the Florida Bicycle Messenger!

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**Florida Bicycle Association**

P.O. Box 1547
Orlando, FL 32802

**Florida Bicycle Messenger**

P.O. Box 1547
Orlando, FL 32802

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Please make checks payable and mail to:

Florida Bicycle Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1547, Orlando, FL 32802