

Hello GCBC Club Members,

I hope this message finds you all well!

The Big Foot Gravel Time Trial #1 will be the first GCBC event of the year. You don't have to participate to enjoy an event T-shirt and represent the club wherever you go. Kids' sizes will also be available for families. Duncan is not charging for this event or any TriHard Sports sponsored gravel or road time trial this year. Whether you're participating or not, you'll go to the Race Roster link, found inside the description of the RWGPS event, and select the option to add a T-shirt so we can include you in the bulk order.

In case you haven't checked the club RWGPS event schedule lately, here are all our events for the year, so you can go ahead and get registered! The only ride we have confirmed routes for at the moment is the Big Level Ride, but the rest will be firmed up and communicated soon.

1. Big Level Ride/March 22- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/343882-big-level-ride-three-route-distance-opti>
2. Mid-Year Party Ride at Buccaneer State Park/June 22- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/344065-mid-year-party-ride-at-buccaneer-state-p>
3. Flint Creek Ride/July 12- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/344066-flint-creek-ride-31-mi-50k-62-mi-100k-an>
4. Bikes and Beaches Time Trial/July 26 (capped at 75 participants and sells out in minutes once registration opens on Sunday, May 25 at 6pm!)- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/344070-bikes-and-beaches-time-trial>
5. Tour de Burger/October 4- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/344067-tour-de-burger-ride-31-mi-50k-62-mi-100k>
6. Southern Magnolia/October 18 (the only club century ride of the year, all other rides are building up to this)- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/344069-southern-magnolia-ride-31-mi-50k-62-mi-1>
7. President's Birthday Ride at Buccaneer State Park/November 22- <https://ridewithgps.com/events/347908-president-s-birthday-ride-at-buccaneer-s>

Additionally, we hope to add a 4 Spokes ride this year. We will keep you updated, of course.

Just a friendly reminder that if you haven't already, please click this link so you can automatically be added to the club RWGPS account:

<https://ridewithgps.com/organizations/14742-gulf-coast-bicycle-club/join>

You'll gain free access to the app's premium features, have all the club routes at your fingertips, and be able to access the club's calendar, including event details, anytime, from

your computer, tablet, or phone. We currently have 54 official RWGPS club members, although we know we have a lot more than that!

Our first work-skipper/retiree ride went well and had a great turnout! Dave Ricker credits the success to the great group who showed up that day. The next one will take place on Wednesday, April 2, and will be from Jed's Perfect Endurance Bikes' new shop, right on the Longleaf Trace! Jed shares that you can even shower with a towel for \$10 at his shop! Plus, he's got great coffee and food in-house. Please click on the link below- and click Yes, I'm going! We look forward to seeing you there! The official route for the event will be released soon!

<https://ridewithgps.com/events/344008-work-skipper-retiree-ride>

In a few weeks, group rides will officially kick off. Tuesday night will remain from Success, Thursday night will remain from Woolmarket, and Saturday morning will remain from Latimer. Our plan is to post multiple options from each start location on the club RWGPS event calendar, and we can all decide what we want to do during the pre-ride talk. As always, rides are weather permitting and at your own risk and liability. Besides that, we look forward to seeing you there!

We cannot wait to see the mileage our members turn in during the year and for some special and exciting contests we have planned, to be announced soon! Be careful that you don't turn in duplicate miles from two different modes of measuring. Top performers may even be asked to turn in a printout of their rides.

We are so grateful to the board members who served with Eddie over the past decade, but at this point Eddie and Angie have kicked us out of our comfy nest, and we must learn to fly without them. And that means we need help, lots of help. What would you be willing to do to help our club survive and thrive? If you or someone you know would like to volunteer in a small way as a committee chair or a larger way as a board member, please let us know! We want to hear from you.

<https://www.thegulfcoastbicycleclub.com/volunteers.html>

Over the years, the idea of GCBC being a tax-exempt non-profit has been looked at several times, and the officers along with the help of accountants and attorneys did yet another look and decided that a tax-exempt entity is not the best fit for an organization like GCBC, but a verified non-profit entity is. We are working through those steps and should have final authority in 10-15 days to request funds, donations, and contributions. As soon as the updated bylaws are confirmed, we will have them available for all the members to view. The officers are hard at work on developing their best outline for this year's budget and will release that as soon as possible also.

As always, education and safety are two of our club's prime goals. Whether you're a seasoned rider or it's your first year on the bike, it's worth taking a fresh look at bike etiquette and MS bike laws. See attached and below!

<https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart/rules-of-the-road/>

If you know anyone who can sponsor/financially contribute to the club's efforts, don't hesitate to get in contact with us. We'd love to collaborate with you.

Finally, enjoy pictures from Eddie and Angie's first adventure since departing from the club's leadership role, attached. No doubt, we are all very happy for them!

Till the next Ride & Repeat, ride and repeat, and stay healthy out there!

Best Regards,



Apryl E. Handy

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