On the night of September 10, 2017, Florida was subjected to a CAT 5 hurricane that nearly covered the state – Hurricane Irma. Irma was the most intense Atlantic hurricane to strike the United States since Katrina in 2005, and the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005. Irma caused widespread and catastrophic damage throughout its long lifetime, particularly in parts of the northeastern Caribbean and the Florida Keys. Directly after the hit concerns grew across the state regarding trails – both paved and natural surfaces. The devastation was widespread, but the recovery efforts were up to the challenge. The Ocala Mountain Bike Association graciously provided a report on their recovery efforts within weeks of the strike, demonstrating the volunteerism of off-road riders across the state. The report from the Florida Keys comes from the BubbaFest bicycle tour; a tour that took place at the beginning of November and assisted with recovery in its own way.

The Florida Bicycle Association remains supportive to recovery efforts and applauds the work of our members and of all volunteers across the state. Hurricane Irma Blows, OMBA Volunteers Rock

by Rob Ern, VP, Ocala Mountain Bike Association (submitted September 28, 2017)

H

urricane Irma blew into Central Florida the night of September 10, 2017, dumping a foot of rain, subjecting us to tropical storm winds or higher for over 30 straight hours, and causing power outages, flooding, and general mayhem. Overall, we were lucky in our part of the state, especially compared to coastal areas. The following few days were spent assessing damage, cleaning up yards and taking down plywood. Then, thoughts turned to our trails. Based on the past, we expected that they would be a complete mess, unrideable, and covered with downed trees. Boy, were we right! But, in typical mountain biker fashion, riders stepped up to help clear and re-open our trails. Volunteerism has exceeded our greatest expectations with hours to date exceeding 800, and expected to far exceed 1,000. Ocala Mountain Bike Association (OMBA) volunteers rock!

OMBA cares for the maintenance of three trail systems: the Santos Trails located on the Cross Florida Greenway, the Mount Dora Trail and the Paisley Woods Trail in the Ocala National Forest. In the short time since the storm, OMBA has conducted three organized workdays at Santos (not to mention additional hours worked outside of official workdays), attended by over 175 volunteers. Approximately 75% of the trails have been cleared as of this writing.

The support from the mountain biking community has been outstanding. Local shops have stepped up to provide food and swag for volunteers; State Parks has treated volunteers to dinner; and OMBA even received generous cash donations from the IMBA chapter in Roanoke, Virginia, and the Florida Freewheelers. In true, pay-it-forward fashion, the OMBA Board of Directors voted (continued on page 5)
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Jack the Bikeman
North Florida Bicycle Club
Ocala Mountain Bike Association
Orange Cycle
Space Coast Free Wheelers Bicycle Club

New Businesses/Clubs/Organizations
Pedego Naples (2 locations)
Road and Mountain Bikes
The Bartram Inn
Trek Bicycles Stores of Florida (8 locations)

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Team Florida
National Bike Summit
The premier bike advocacy event of the year, uniting the voices of bicyclists from across the nation. As the 3rd largest state in the union, Florida needs representation – WE NEED YOU! Be a part of Team Florida – together we make our local, regional and national work a unified force of unstoppable change.
The 2018 National Bike Summit is happening March 5-7, 2018 in Washington, DC.
More information @ bikeleague.org/summit, or contact becky@floridabicycle.org, your National Bike Summit state coordinator

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City names denote board and program staff member distribution. Is your area represented? Contact a board member today!

Coming to our website this January –
FBA goes OFF ROAD in 2018!

FLORIDA BICYCLE ASSOCIATION
www.floridabicycle.org • e-mail: becky@floridabicycle.org • Phone: 813-748-1513

Working Together to Build a Bicycle-friendly Florida

OUR MISSION:
For Florida bicycling to network and share best practices, to educate and advocate and to build awareness as a unified voice.

OUR VISION:
For Florida to be a state where bicycling is safe, respected and encouraged as a means of transportation and recreation.

OUR PURPOSE:
• To educate bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists about safely sharing roadways and paths
• To be a powerful, influential voice that protects and advances the interests of bicyclists
• To encourage the creation of great on-road and off-road places to ride
• To provide a statewide communications network for bicyclists
• To encourage more people to bicycle more often

Help Us Grow the Base! Give to FBA

The Florida Bicycle Association was founded by people like you who want to make Florida a better place to ride a bicycle. Our projects and programs that benefit bicyclists are made possible primarily through membership and sponsorship to our organization. Simply put, without membership, sponsorship and donations, the Florida Bicycle Association would not exist. Keep bicycle enjoyment alive in Florida and help us in the fight against bicycle fatalities, Join FBA!

Did you know your membership donation to FBA is tax-deductible?

FBA is a 501(c)(3) education and charitable nonprofit corporation. You can join FBA online or download and mail an application from our website, www.floridabicycle.org. You can request an application to be mailed to you by contacting Becky Afonso at 813-748-1513.

Does your place of employment offer matching gifts to non-profits? Think FBA!

Bicycling is one of life’s simple pleasures to enjoy, not fear. Join or donate to the Florida Bicycle Association and let’s ride together for Florida bicycling excellence. Contact Becky Afonso at becky@floridabicycle.org for more information on ways to donate to FBA.

The Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) was incorporated in 1997 for educational and charitable purposes. FBA is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations, including membership dues, are tax deductible. A copy of the current financial statements may be obtained by contacting FBA.

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Ask Learn Go
Child Education and Therapy Resources

Nearly a year ago, an organization called A Group Therapy contacted Florida Bicycle Association for information and guidance to develop an idea to teach kids how to ride a bicycle. A Group Therapy is now known as Ask Learn and is on the verge of offering a national bicycle education program through collaboration with Toys R Us.

The selling point is simple: Toys R Us, the world’s largest toy seller, won’t be outsmarted by Amazon’s online offerings. Toys R Us has begun to offer free hands-on classes and activities; something that online retailers like Amazon cannot offer. One of the free classes offered by Toys R Us in South Florida is a bicycle-riding lesson. These lessons are what Ask Learn Go, a company run by teachers and therapists, developed to teach all kids (even special needs) how to ride a bicycle.

One other point to mention: There’s no need to transport a bicycle in your car; Toys R Us allows parents free use of the bicycles and safety gear in the store. Participants learn how to pick the best size bike, fit appropriate safety gear and get over the fear of falling in minutes.

“We find that 75% of the kids who take our bicycle riding class learn to ride without training wheels in just one lesson,” said Alex Minevich, a school occupational therapist with Ask Learn Go. “We also pair with kids organizations like the Girl Scouts who will receive a Toys R Us bicycle riding patch.”

Susan Miller, Manager of Miami Toys R Us, said, “The Ask Learn Go bicycle program is a great program set up to teach kids of all ages to learn to ride a bicycle. The team is very professional and patient and has demonstrated the skills needed to train kids.”

To see when the free bicycle-riding program will be at your local Toys R Us visit www.asklearngo.com. Keep up the good work, Alex!

I am honored to have been elected President of the Florida Bicycle Association, an organization I joined in 2004 because of FBA’s commitment to promoting safe cycling in Florida and for being a voice for the needs of cyclists. The Florida Bicycle Association is dedicated to ensuring that “Florida be a state where cycling is safe, respected and encouraged as a means of transportation and recreation.” Part of its purpose is to educate bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists about safely sharing roadways and paths.

As a resident of Everglades City, I have always been interested in the history of our town which was developed in the 1920s by the advertising magnate Barron Gift Collier. He owned most of the County that bears his name but lived in New York City where he was appointed Special Police Deputy in 1922 with responsibility for the Bureau of Public Safety. At that time automobiles were competing not only with horse-drawn carriages but also with pedestrians (and cyclists) crossing the street wherever they wanted. Laws were enacted requiring pedestrians to use the crosswalks at the intersections and center lines were drawn for motorists to stay in their lanes. Collier wrote a booklet “Stopping Street Accidents” and posted signs with Aunty J. Walker educating the public about the new safety regulations. Motorists even signed an Auto Driver’s Safety Pledge. Collier noted in his booklet that “the motorist has a double responsibility – that of his own safety and that of the safety of all others using the streets.” He stressed the importance of an “educational campaign which has as its object the instruction of the motorist in the ways of safety; in an appreciation of his dual obligation.” With this educational program and a commitment by the motorists, fatalities and injuries decreased substantially on New York streets.

Being responsible is as relevant today as it was nearly a hundred years ago. Both motorized and non-motorized vehicles have the right to use our roads. FBA’s mission for “Florida bicycling is to network and share best practices, to educate and advocate and to build awareness as a unified voice.” This is why I am proud to be a member of the Florida Bicycle Association; and, as President, will work together with our Board and our Executive Director Becky Afonso and her dedicated staff to see that we continue to be the voice of all cyclists in Florida. As a member, I hope you will share our vision to make Florida the best state in the nation for safe cycling. All of us should have a “safe” option on our roads; this includes those for whom a bicycle is their own means of transportation and for others who choose to cycle for exercise and recreation.

**President’s Message...**

**Bicycling for Mind, Body & Spirit**

by Patty Huff, President

Every time I have the opportunity to take a long bicycle ride, I feel truly alive and one with the world. Bicycling has opened up so many opportunities for me and my husband to learn about our own country as well as cultures overseas. We have met wonderful people and have enjoyed so many experiences.

SUPPORT OUR SHOPS / SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

Florida Bicycle Association is proud to have the support of our bicycle shop members. We encourage our members to support the shops that support FBA. Check out the FDOT District listings on page 15 to find the FBA bicycle shop near you.

PURCHASE WITH PURPOSE!

To show our appreciation of bicycle shop members, FBA will extend all 2018 bike shop memberships until March 2019 to celebrate Florida Bicycle Month!

Not a shop member and want in on the deal?

Join FBA by March 31, 2018!

floridabicycle.org/membership-and-sponsorship
Hurricane Irma

(continued from page 1)
to donate $200 to the SORBA Orlando Chapter, as well as sending volunteers to assist with the cleanup of their trails.

The Mount Dora trail system saw a great workday of approximately 30 volunteers, who worked the better part of a day to get that trail system opened. Despite heat, humidity, and swarms of hungry mosquitos, OMBA volunteers successfully reopened the trails enjoyed by so many, prompting this response from City of Mount Dora Mayor Nick Girone, “It’s heartwarming to know there are so many great people out there who volunteer without having to be asked.”

Last, but not least, OMBA conducted a workday on the 22-mile Paisley Woods Trail in coordination with the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Trail cleanup efforts have been largely coordinated by the following OMBA Board Members: Jared Hartman and Todd Horvath (Santos), Mike Simmons (Mount Dora), and Trail Boss Mike Stephens (Paisley Woods). We couldn’t have done it without the cooperation of our land managers, including State Parks, the City of Mount Dora and the USFS. Local shops who stepped up to support the effort include Santos Bike Shop, Brick City Bicycles and Ocala Bicycle Center. Local youth development club Florida Devox also put in substantial time to assist with the cleanup. The response to our call for action has been overwhelming, reminding me once again why I’m so proud to call myself a mountain biker!

The Keys need BubbaFest

BubbaFest has invaded the Florida Keys every November for the past 12 years. For those not familiar with BubbaFest, this is an annual 7-day bicycle tour of 125 cyclists traveling from Key Largo to Key West and back. The tour is known by some as ‘a PARTY in Paradise with a bicycle ride thrown in.’

For year 13, Hurricane Irma visited the Keys two months prior to the tour, nearly jeopardizing the annual event. Nearly. A BubbaFest scouting crew visited the Keys one month after Irma to verify if the tour would be available. The bridges and roads were intact, but the camping facilities would be a challenge. The tour normally would utilize camping at Fiesta Key, but that location was hit hard and did not have running water or electric. Another camping spot, Camp Jackson Sawyer at the Edward B. Knight Scout Reservation, a nine-acre Boy Scout of America campsite located on Scout Key, needed the Boy Scouts of America South Florida Council’s approval to stay for one night. Camp manager and Eagle Scout Taylor Hunt defended the use of the campsite for BubbaFest by stating, “this year more than ever before, the Keys need BubbaFest.”

Yes, the Keys need BubbaFest. Not only was the tour possible, but it would also provide an opportunity to help with the recovery. The logistical changes for overnights went from Key Largo – Fiesta Key – Scout Key – Key West (and back) to a ride of Key Largo – Scout Key – Key West and a return of Key West - Marathon (staying at a hotel courtesy of the tour) – Key Largo. Approximately 75% of BubbaFest participants were new to the tour and first-time visitors to the Keys. Numerous communications went out prior to the tour with regards to what to expect: roadside debris, blocked trails and closed businesses. This did not stop the 125 participants arriving from various parts of the country to ride their bikes and enjoy Paradise.

BubbaFest participants were able to enjoy breathtaking sunsets and sunrises, exceptional weather (low humidity thanks to a high pressure system), spectacular Bay side or Ocean side views and volunteer at a workday during their four-night stay in Key West.

Volunteer? Yes. 12 staff members arrived a week before the tour to check the routes, clear what debris they could from the trails and make sure the participants knew what was or was not open for business. While in Key West, over 50 BubbaFest participants volunteered to rake, trim and otherwise take out debris at the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden on one of the layover days. The efforts of these volunteers were more than what was anticipated by staff at the Gardens. Gratitude and tears of joy were expressed by the time the volunteers left after four hours of non-stop efforts. The volunteers were treated by the tour with lunch and adult beverages.

The Keys have always been there for BubbaFest and this year BubbaFest returned the favor. The tour brought in much needed tourism dollars to the area, in addition to much needed clean up assistance.

Bubba Barron, owner of Bubba’s Pampered Pedalers and tour director stated, “I have no regrets coming down this year with the tour and losing money due to a few logistical changes such as covering hotel costs for a night. It would have been easy to skip this year, but after talking with my contacts in the Keys and overhearing a conversation at a restaurant by two locals stating, ‘we’re OK, we lost the house and everything but we’re going to come back,’ I knew the tour had to happen. Not for myself, but for the livelihood of the Keys. It was the right thing to do.”

The BubbaFest website states, “It’s not just a bike tour, it’s a Keys experience.” 2017 has provided a BubbaFest Keys experience like no other. For those who know Bubba or have been on one of his tours or purchased his bicycle tour pampering services, you may be asking yourself, “How does he do it?” As the BubbaFest ‘Coffee Lady’ for the 13 years the tour has been open to the public, I can say with certainty that the ‘how’ of the magic isn’t important because now we know the why. I agree with Bubba wholeheartedly, the tour this year, in spite of challenges, was the right thing to do.
Meet Eddie Mingus

Florida Department of Transportation’s policy is to provide a bicycle facility on every state roadway except in locations where their establishment would be contrary to public safety. A bicycle facility is most often either a bike lane on curbed roadways or a flush shoulder in rural areas. In addition, the Department has been looking at innovative intersection bicycle facilities.

One emerging bicycle facility type is the Separated Bike Lane. The first separated bike lane on a Florida state roadway is coming soon to downtown Tampa’s Jackson Street. One block south of the congested Kennedy Boulevard, this new parallel facility will provide an east-west alternative for cyclists. The Department will be evaluating the operations of the new Jackson Street separated bike lane as interest in these facilities is expected in other areas of the state.

Every new bicycle facility type has benefits and drawbacks and must be introduced on the state system with caution. Understanding emerging facilities is part of how FDOT embraces innovation to help put the right facility in the right location. At the upcoming FDOT District Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Specialists and Coordinators meeting, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will provide training on the Design and Operations of Separated Bike Lanes and Protected Intersections. The training will complement the FHWA’s Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide. Department staff will learn about guidelines for determining the type of bicycle facilities to include in road design projects; tools available for safety analysis of separated bicycle lanes; designing separated bicycle lanes around features such as bus stops and driveways; general intersection design and operations; and protected intersection design and operations.

Introducing new or improved bicycle facilities that may reduce the risk of crashes is a top priority at FDOT!

Meet Eddie Mingus, FBA’s newest board member that was installed at the 10/21/17 board meeting. Eddie has been an avid cyclist for nearly 20 years. He began his cycling hobby after being told that he was working toward having a heart attack around the age of 40. After that he began what is now his passion. In those 20+ years he has participated in many charity rides and smaller events including the American Lung Association ride, Horrible 100, Horse Farm 100 and the Tour de Tow to name a few. Eventually, he graduated in longer events like RAGBRAI (Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) and the Police Unity Tour, a 3-day event to help bring awareness to the in the line of duty deaths of law enforcement officers.

He is a semi retired police detective with the Lakeland Police Department, a US Army veteran serving from 1984-89 and a member of the SWAMP club, IMBA, Polk Area Bicycling Association, League of American Bicyclists and now the Florida Bicycle Association. He does his best to keep up with cycling issues in his hometown of Lakeland and Polk County and can typically be found riding with friends on the roads and trails. Eddie and his wife have a grown daughter and a boxer named Buster.

He was drawn to FBA to be a part of the organization and ultimately part of a larger solution to the issues that cyclists face when riding on Florida roadways. He wants to help make cycling safer for recreational cyclists as well as commuters and feels it is his duty as a cyclist to be involved and to help find solutions that will work with cyclists and motorists.

Join us in welcoming Eddie to the FBA Board of Directors. His energy, passion and law enforcement experience will be a tremendous asset to the Association.
Whether you’re cycling along side the horses and carriages near Nazareth, PA...

...or strolling along the ancient roadways in Jerusalem, Israel...

...it’s a small world when it comes to the common courtesy of SHARE THE ROAD.

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Whether you’re cycling along side the horses and carriages near Nazareth, PA...
FBA Annual Awards
Nominations are now being accepted for those worthy individuals and organizations to acknowledge their significant service and contributions to bicycling in Florida during 2017.

Categories include but are not limited to: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Bicycle Club, Off-Road Club or Advocate, Enforcement Officer or Agency, Educator or Regional Trainer, Trail Manager or Promoter, Bicycle Friendly Community or Business, Supporting Agency, Program or Event, Bicycle Business or Store Advocate, Bicycle Professional, Citizen Bike Advocate, Developer, Elected Official Champion, Volunteer, Special Recognition.

Please go to our website, www.floridabicycle.org, to submit your nomination online or mail your nomination to FBA, PO Box 2452, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (please include your contact information with mailed nominations).

Recipients announced March 1, 2018 to kick off Florida Bike Month!

Polk County News, Lake to Lake Bicycle Route

Perhaps you’ve had enough of long, winding trails without easily accessible amenities. Or maybe you feel like mixing in a light lunch at a café or a cup of gourmet coffee on your bike ride. Or heck — you just want a leisurely pedal through a mix of hip urban core and lakeside trail.

No matter the reason, the Lake to Lake Bicycle Route, a 26 mile network of paved multi-use paths that traverses between numerous lakes in Lakeland, is worth the visit. While not the most physically challenging ride, this journey is a feast for the eyes and, if you choose, the palate.

From the shores of oft-forgotten Lake John, the trail circles Lake Hollingsworth, runs by Florida Southern College, travels west through downtown Lakeland and by Lakes Hunter, Beulah, Wire, Mirror, Morton, and Bonny. There it passes Southeastern University and winds up along Lake Parker.

LAKE HOLLINGSWORTH

To say the ZIP Codes that encompass Lake Hollingsworth are exclusive might be an understatement — this is prime real estate. Homes along Hollingsworth usually sell for well into seven figures. Many of the homes mirror the look of the area’s most influential architect.

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Still considered one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country, if not the world, Florida Southern College’s unique look belongs to legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Tasked with creating a modern campus on the 100-acre plot, the project started before the United States entered into World War II and was completed in the late 1950s. Known today as his “Children of the Sun” collection, it is both the largest and the Southern-most example of Wright's work.

DOWNTOWN LAKELAND

Unlike other downtowns in the state, Lakeland’s is thriving. Full of artisanal shops, high-end clothes and places for a quick drink or fine dining, you’ll find it all circling Munn Park. If you’ve worked up an appetite, Posto 9 is a must-do for the culinary adventurer. With a name inspired by the beach where “The Girl From Ipanema” walked, the food here is a smash-up of Southern standards, like cheesy grits, mixed with Brazilian favorites, such as sofrito sauce. For more traditional fare try Harry’s in downtown, serving up a taste of New Orleans. There are also plenty of quick bites, including Black & Brew Coffee House, Palace Pizza and Silver Ring Café for Cuban food or Taco Bus.

LAKE MIRROR

Just a few short pedals from downtown is Lake Mirror, considered by many to be the crown jewel of downtown. Circled with a promenade reminiscent of a Roman arena, the area includes Hollis Garden, a 1.2 neo-classical architectural environment complete with fountains, public art and flower beds; Lakeland Brewing Company, a microbrewery in a refurbished warehouse that features food and a patio area; and 801 E. Main, a cluster of buildings featuring everything from beignets, cold brew coffee and t-shirts during the day to live music, beer and wine at night. It is open Thursdays through Sundays.

BUT THAT’S NOT ALL

Of course, these aren’t all the sights to see in Lakeland. For example, the Florida United Methodist Foundation building along Lake Wire is a magnificent modern structure that features cobalt-blue windows. Other options include the Polk Museum of Art at Florida Southern University, just a few feet from Lake Morton, or The Red Door, also just feet from Lake Morton, featuring craft food and beverages.

Visit visitcentralflorida.com. For a map of the trail, visit lakelandgov.net, click the link for Bicycling in Lakeland on the left.

www.AlertTodayFlorida.com
www.FloridaHealth.gov
I was born on January 2, 2002 in the small country of Ecuador (South America) or more specifically Quito, the capital of Ecuador. From that moment to this day, I had no idea what plans destiny had prepared for me. It turns out I lived a life full of ups and downs.

The very first thought from my childhood that pops into my head is my obsession with bicycles. Probably since I was about three years old, I remember watching videos with my older sister about these exciting events sponsored by Red Bull with iconic characters like Chris Doyle and Ryan Nyquist. They were big characters at the time, and there were feelings inside my body that I needed to convey. Of course, I was a child and was not really sure what that feeling was, therefore, I expressed it with tears and sometimes excitement. I had a lot of energy inside of me and didn't know how to show it or how to spend it. And even if I knew I was not going to tell anyone. I was really reserved and my mother Rosa was worried about me so she took me to a psychologist and in a brief summary he told my mother that I had a hyperactivity disorder. It was not as bad as it sounds since I was just more active than the rest of the kids.

Time passed, exactly a year, and I still had that disorder, I somehow figured out how to control myself but not quite enough. Still, I was really reserved, but soon something happened that gave my life a turn of 360 degrees. On December 31, 2006 I saw right below the tree a gift, a big box with a sticker on top that said “For my beloved son, Mateo.” It was wrapped in red paper, so perfect and precise for the moment, and once I opened it, a bicycle, such an insignificant thing for many, but not for me. It was a key that would open the lock that made me so reserved, a lock that opened my heart to everyone and a key to a new world full of anecdotes and experiences. It was a pure moment of destiny, the type that you just can't fabricate.

**The Beginning**

by Mateo, a high school junior, earning Florida Bright Futures credits through his contributions to FBA. After witnessing first-hand his enthusiasm for cycling, Mateo was asked to tell his story. The following is Mateo’s first chapter in describing what the bicycle means to him.

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**FBA and VeloSport Events are working together in 2018 to showcase quality riding with our Ride Leader / Ride Marshal Program**

**Tour de Reef**
January 21, 2018
Homestead Sports Complex
1601 SE 28th Ave • Homestead, FL 33035
http://velosportevents.com/tour-de-reef/

**Tour de Coast**
April 15, 2018
Snyder Park
3299 SW 4th Ave • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
http://velosportevents.com/tour-de-coast/

Get your New Year off to a great start!
Saddle up for safety and have fun!

Visit www.floridabicycle.org to learn more about our Ride Leader / Ride Marshal program

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**Join Bike FL for Sand & Stars Tour**

**March 17-23**

2 Camps: Edgewater & Titusville
Supported Routes | Live Music | Great People

BikeFlorida.org

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**Get the Plate!**

Show your support for Bike Florida and the Florida Bicycle Association by purchasing the Share the Road specialty license plate.

SharetheRoad.org
Palatka Bicycle Weekend

By Linda Crider and Christen Mitchell

Palatka, Florida, located halfway between St. Augustine Beach and Gainesville, is a small town loaded with charm and history! Memorial Bridge (complete with a separated bicycle/pedestrian path) crosses the St. Johns River, the only safe crossing for cyclists 40 miles to the north or south, making it a “Hub” for northeast Florida bicycle routes.

The 3rd annual Palatka Bicycle Weekend will be held Saturday–Sunday, April 14-15, 2018, offering an assortment of great cycling routes both days. Saturday’s highlights include the “Share The Road” Century, The Lake Broward Metric, and a shorter Buckman Lock ride, all of which wind through canopied roads and across creeks that feed the mighty St. Johns River.

This year’s Palatka Bicycle Weekend will feature the “Road and River tour” on Sunday giving riders the option to bicycle to or from Welaka and spend the other leg of their journey aboard the “Pride of Palatka” riverboat, which will wind its way along the St. Johns River. The St. Johns River is part of our heritage and Palatka’s playground. The riverboat is a new addition to our city and we are proud to showcase it. The 2 ½ hour boat ride will offer stunning views of flora and fauna and the participants will be treated to live narration of Putnam county’s history. Space is limited, however, so the first 70 participants to sign up will secure a spot.

The riverboat will also be available Saturday evening. After a long day in the saddle you can relax with a sunset wine cruise and be regaled with songs and stories about the River when naturalist William Bartram traveled it. Space for this tour is limited to 35 participants so early registration is a must! We look forward to seeing you at the Palatka Bicycle Weekend.

Bicycle Putnam County, Florida – where nature and history meet!

April 14 & 15, 2018

Visit PutnamBluewaysandTrails.org
I am often approached by folks asking, "Why don't vehicles pass me with 3 feet?"

Not to belabor the point of why the 3-Foot Law in Florida Statutes 316.083(1) is not enforced (we know it's not to any meaningful degree) but let's just review what the statute says:

316.083 Overtaking and passing a vehicle. The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those limitations, exceptions, and special rules hereinafter stated:

1. The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall give an appropriate signal as provided for in s. 316.156, 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. The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle must pass the bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle at a safe distance of not less than 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle.

Why is that important? If a vehicle has to pass a bicycle at a safe distance, no less than 3 feet, then the 3 feet of space to the left of you is 3 feet you can occupy. This is the law since 1971.

Some cyclists are unhappy with the constant violation of their safe space and are taking steps to change this. Take a look at the device in the picture. My friend Robert built this device. Now, imagine you are driving your car and see his bicycle on the road with this thing. Sighting this, a driver's attention is laser-like focused with the thought of: "What damage will that thing do to my car?" His space saver makes sure he gets his three feet. He hasn't gotten a ticket yet and likely he won't get one. That is his three feet.

So why doesn't that attention from a passing motorist get the laser like focus when there's a vulnerable human body without the device? As a more traditional bicycling advocate, you may try the following:

1. Speak to every police officer you can and ask him/her how many times they've written a ticket for violating the "Safe Distance/Three Foot Rule?"

2. Go to your city council and ask them why law enforcement is not enforcing "Safe Distance/Three Foot Rule" with tickets.

3. Schedule a visit with your police chief, county sheriff or Highway Patrol station and ask: "What can be done to write more tickets for violating the "Safe Distance/Three Foot Rule"?

4. Write letters to your newspaper and call the local action news team and ask: "Why aren't tickets written for this very easy to understand law?"

If those questions seem too hard to ask or the answers are not satisfactory, consider this one simple request: Move Over.

It's Time to Ditch the 3 Foot Rule by Jim Dodson

Let's face it, the 3 foot rule is a mess. First, who decided 3 feet was enough room? It isn't. When drivers miss it by being too close they can be 12 to 18 inches or less off our left handlebar at 35 or 45 MPH or higher. To make matters worse, it is unenforceable and unenforced. Most police have no way to measure or prove a violation absent actual contact. As a result, it is rare to see it cited.

There is a better solution. Florida already has a very easily understood and well known "Move Over" law which requires drivers to move over when they approach an emergency, sanitation or utility service vehicle. Bills have been filed in both the House and the Senate to also require drivers to move over for "vulnerable road users." This is a simple but critical amendment to the statute because under current law "vulnerable road users" already include cyclists, pedestrians, and several other similar vulnerable users.

Every motorist can grasp what it means to "move over." The Move Over law would require motorists on a four lane road to "vacate the lane closest to the vulnerable road user," meaning move over into the adjoining lane. When passing a vulnerable road user on a road with only one lane in each direction the law forces drivers to slow to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit" even on roads with speed limits as low as 25 mph. In addition, in that situation the proposed amendment also requires that these drivers "shall pass at a distance not less than 4 feet from the vulnerable road user."

The next legislative session begins in January. The bills to amend the Move Over law are supported by the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) as well as law enforcement and many others. Senate Bill 116 was filed by Senator Balser, District 12 and co-sponsored by Senator Kathleen Passidomo, District 28 and Senator Lauren Book, District 32. The companion House Bill 117 was filed by Representative Charlie Stone, District 22 and co-sponsored by Representative Don Hahnfeldt, District 33. Work is being done to secure additional sponsors to each of them in order to get them passed this next session.

Every road user should get behind supporting these amendments to ensure they are signed into law, especially Florida's cycling community. The FBA is focused on their successful passage. If you have any relationship with a legislator or their staff let them know you support this law and why you believe he or she should support them as well.

Jim Dodson is an experienced bike accident lawyer, cyclist and bicycle safety advocate who has been representing accident victims for over twenty-five years. He represents injury victims throughout Florida. He is the author of the Florida Bicycle Accident Handbook, relied upon by hundreds of cyclists across the state. If you have a question about a cycling accident, contact Jim at www.jimdodsonlaw.com. There is never any charge to discuss your case.

In Memory of our Friend and Fellow FBA Member - Michael Schwaid by Julie Bond, Senior Researcher, Center for Urban Transportation Research/University of South Florida

Michael Schwaid, known by his friends and fellow bicyclists as "Michael on Bicycle," passed away suddenly of natural causes on September 27, 2017. Michael was a local Tampa Bay hero and an inspiration to bicyclists everywhere. He always had a smile to share and a passionate word to say about bicycle safety and his experience in the saddle. Michael was an active member of the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA). In 2013, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Michael for his astounding 20,000-plus bicycle commuter miles; each day he rode his bicycle to work from his home in Odessa to the Clearwater Courthouse, where he worked as an information technology professional.

More recently, Bike/Walk Tampa Bay presented Michael with the 2017 Bicyclist of the Year Award for his extraordinary courage and resilience, and for being a role model to other bicyclists. Many know that Michael endured a long recovery after a drunk driver crashed into him on March 30, 2016 while he was commuting on his bike. Lesser known is that it was his great determination to reclaim his place on the road that drove his recovery—and with the help of his family, he got there. He just kept riding.

Michael's mind worked in tandem with his bicycle. He structured his travel plans so he could watch professional cycling events around the country and participate in amateur events. He spoke of opening up a bike shop one day. His family had no trouble buying him birthday gifts—all things bicycle. Michael's son, Dr. Greg Schwaid, reflected: "He would fix up my bike to have all the available safety measures. He always tried to get me to cycle with him." Growing up, the family even had an inside joke that Penny, Michael's Pinarello brand bicycle, was his mistress.

Michael's family has donated his bicycle to Vision Zero Hillsborough for their public education efforts. Bike/Walk Tampa Bay will soon announce the inaugural presentation of what the coalition has now named the "Michael Schwaid Bicyclist of the Year Award," given each year to an exemplary citizen and bicyclist. A charitable fund has been set up by the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida to support the award and local bicycle safety education efforts. Charitable donations may be made to the fund in memory of Michael Schwaid at https://www.cutr.usf.edu/giving/
Another Brick in the Wall
by Migk Wilson
Reprinted by permission from The Savvy Cyclist, blog of the American Bicycling Education Association.

Here at The Savvy Cyclist we prefer to stay away from political matters and stick with the practical. Don’t we all get way too much politics in our lives as it is? A basic appeal of cycling is how it can free us – at least for a while – from the frustrations of everyday life.

Health and adventure were the key benefits we saw in cycling as kids; the ability to travel well beyond walking distance from home without the help or supervision of our parents. Growing up, cycling was simple. Hop on, wander, explore, discover. In the 1970s – when I grew up – no one was telling me how horribly dangerous cycling was. That’s because it wasn’t. It still isn’t.

Based on data from the American Community Survey and the National Highway & Traffic Safety Administration, American bicyclists travel about 9 billion miles per year. About 40,000 suffer injury crashes with motorists, and about 750 per year are killed. This means the average bicyclist will travel 225,000 miles between injury crashes, and 12 million miles before a fatal crash. Be a safer-than-average cyclist and those dis-tances increase a great deal.

At least half of those deaths involve bicyclists behaving in a very risky manner, such as cycling at night without lights, bicycling while intoxicated, or darting out mid-block on-to a high-speed road. Less than half of the injury crashes involve a law-abiding cyclist traveling along a roadway. Far fewer crashes involve cyclists who have received formal training. So if you’re a trained, law-abiding cyclist, you can confidently bump up those mileages to at least a million miles between motorcycle-caused serious injury and 30 million miles per death. I’ll leave it to you to figure out how long it would take you to ride a million miles. Yet, to listen to the news, you’d think such personal catastrophes are imminent and inevitable. This myth received an unfortunate boost last week when a terrorist chose a New York City bikeway and the innocent people using it as his target. And so the political realm has imposed upon us once again. The culture expects us to choose sides and stake out our political turf.

In the aftermath of this event, some voices have called for still more “protection” for cyclists, by beefing up separation barriers alongside bikeways, and adding posts at path/street intersections. Others are likening the everyday actions of regular motorists – our friends and neighbors – with those of the terrorist. I’d provide links as ex-ample, but I don’t want to expand their audience. I’m not having it. The whole “bikes-versus-cars” meme deserves to die a quick and painless death. To say cyclists and motorists are at war in our streets, and that the government must side with cyclists, will only increase conflict. I wrote about this at length in an essay titled I Am Not a Bicyclist.

People who misunderstand Darwin think our primary survival strategy is competition. Eminent biologist E.O. Wilson (no relation) insists it’s really cooperation.

Cooperation has made the human race the dominant species on this planet. Cooperation is the fundamental feature of our traffic system, at least when it’s working properly. Cooperation is what we teach in CyclingSavvy. It’s what we experience in a routine basis as we bike around our communities. We need more of it – much more – not less. But barriers inhibit cooperation. And at times they become a hazard in and of themselves.

I live in Orlando. Last year we suffered the worst (at the time) mass shooting in modern U.S. history. I was so proud to see how our community came together – gay and straight, all races and ethnicities, all faiths, and those with no faith, all political parties – law enforcement, everyone – to say we will not give in to fear. The commu-nity conversation was how do we work together to address the underlying cause of this tragedy, not treat symptoms or point fingers. Cooperation.

Not a wall along the border. Not steel posts at path crossings. Just...I’m a human on a bicycle. Are you a human in an automobile? We share an essential need: To understand what the other will do so we can cooperate and make both our journeys better.

Migk Wilson is volunteer Executive Director for the American Bicycling Education Association, co-developer of the CyclingSavvy program, and a former FBA board member.

Florida Bicycle Best Practices Workshop - Great Discussion Around Ride Leader Training
by Mary Beth Garcia, Program Manager, Ride Leader/Ride Marshal program

The Florida Freewheelers were great hosts for FBAs annual Bicycle Best Practices Workshop in Clermont, FL on Saturday, November 18th. The meeting coincided with the Florida Freewheelers Annual Horrible Hundred ride – and from someone who participated in the ride on Sunday, there is a reason it is called Horrible! As in many hills with such encouraging names as Buck Hill, The Wall and Sugarloaf...don’t let the cute names fool you! All kidding and thigh burning aside, it was a beautiful ride and a very well organized event. Kudo’s for the awesome job Donna Lyons, President and the Florida Freewheelers club and team of volunteers and sponsors did in coordinating and executing this wonderful 2-day ride and bike expo. The roads were clearly marked, rest stops well stocked and the lunch and expo festival were fantastic and great fun.

Saturday’s Florida Bicycle Association’s Bicycle Best Practices Workshop was a great opportunity to share and discuss topics that are important to cycling clubs and organizations across Florida. Thank you to all that attended, especially Court Nederveld, President of Peace River Riders Bicycle Club—who presented his clubs efforts to pass the Idaho law—treat every stop sign like a yield and every red light like a stop sign-- in Punta Gorda. The state of Delaware just passed the same law for cyclists, so the law is no longer just an Idaho thing and could be available in more states soon!

Florida Bicycle Association

Where My Ride Takes Me – Mike Rubin
Contributed by Mike’s daughter Michael Rubin

Mike Rubin is an FBA member and Share the Road license plate holder from St. Petersburg. At 89 years young, he has at least 10,000 miles on his current Catrike. He has retired a number of times at 30,000, but keeps them in reserve for guests. Mike has been an Auxiliary Ranger for the Pinellas Trail since this Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg trail system opened in 1990, providing extra eyes and ears for the regular park rangers. He loves to get out and ride and tries to do at least 20 miles a day. He’s down from his former 50 mile days but, hey, you do what you can!

SJR2C Loop Alliance Update by Herb Hiller
Putnam and Flagler counties.

Celebration of the trail opening will focus opportunities for community building, alternative transportation, improvements in personal health and household economy. Central is Alliance commitment to promote locally resourceful development along all 260 miles of the five-county loop. For more information, visit the Facebook page at facebook.com/SJR2C/

Contributed by Herb Hiller with Maggie Arditto of the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance.

Page 12 Florida Bicycle Association
Motorized Bicycle

Tony asked: I currently just bought a XB504 e bike it looks like a moped but its set up like an ebike even has pedals it does not go more than 20mph. Do I need to register it? Is it even legal to ride in the road like a bicycle?

A

If your vehicle meets the statutory definition of a bicycle, including one with an electric assist motor, it need not be registered and a driver’s license is not required to be legally operated on the roadway. See this and other posts on this site.

s. 316.003 – Definitions

(3) Bicycle – Every vehicle propelled solely by human power, and every motorized bicycle propelled by a combination of human power and an electric helper motor capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on level ground upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear wheels. The term does not include such a vehicle with a seat height of no more than 25 inches from the ground when the seat is adjusted to its highest position or a scooter or similar device. A person under the age of 16 may not operate or ride upon a motorized bicycle.

Mopeds and motor scooters must be registered and require the operator to have a driver’s license.

Only vehicles operated solely by human power can be operated on sidewalks, with few exceptions.

s. 316.1995 – Driving upon Sidewalk or Bicycle Path

(1) Except as provided in s. 316.008 or s. 316.212(8), a person may not drive any vehicle other than by human power upon a bicycle path, sidewalk, or bicycle area, except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway.

(3) This section does not apply to motorized wheelchairs.

On Your Left

A

Al asked: I ride my bicycle for exercise and wondering if you are going to be passed by another bicycle if they should give some sort of warning. Lately I have been passed by guys in full battle gear but no warning at all. I am 77 years old and I may waiver from time to time. Isn’t this dangerous? If I waiver while someone is passing me we could probably both hit the ground and I know who would be hurt the worst. I know when I was walking and trying to pass another walker I would yell “on your left” so they would know someone was coming behind them. I would think the bikes should do this too.

A

A bicyclist passing a pedestrian on a sidewalk is required to give an audible signal.

s. 316.2065 – Bicycle Regulations

(10) A person propelling a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

It is considered good etiquette for a cyclist to announce “On your left” or a similar notice when overtaking another bicyclist but it is not required. The overtaking cyclist must pass at a safe distance and no less than three feet.

The only mention of an audible signal by a driver relates to the action required by the overtaken driver if an audible signal or flashing lights at night is given by an overtaking driver.

s. 316.083 – Overtaking and Passing a Vehicle

The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those limitations, exceptions, and special rules hereinafter stated:

(1) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall give an appropriate signal as provided for in s. 316.156, (Hand signal or turn indicator light) 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.

The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle must pass the bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle at a safe distance of not less than 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle.

Questions about the laws related to bicycling?

Ask Geo @ FLBikeLaw.org*

by George Martin

As part of the Bicycle Law Enforcement Program, FBA maintains FLBikeLaw.org to provide a place to ask questions about the laws. Questions come direct to FBA via the “Contact FBA” form from floridabicycle.org as well as other sources. Herein is a very limited sample of questions and answers found on the site. Go online for more.

*DISCLAIMER: The purpose of this column is to inform about bicycling laws. The material provided here and through other means is for general informational purposes only and shall in no way constitute or be construed as legal advice by the officers, directors, agents or employees of the Florida Bicycle Association. If your experience in a court of law or on the streets differs from that presented, we want to know about it, but George Martin and FBA are not accountable for a ruling contrary to our interpretation of Florida Law or other consequences of cycling. You should seek legal advice on a particular situation.

Cycling along the Tamiami Trail from Everglades City to Port of the Islands

To begin your bike adventure, park at McLoud Park in the center of Everglades City and cycle 4 miles north on SR29 to Carnestown (named for Barron Collier’s wife Juliet Gordon Carnes and son Samuel Carnes Collier). Take a left at the intersection of US41/SR29 and head west on the Tamiami Trail. Along this route, you will be traveling on shoulders so be cautious, especially around the narrow bridges. As you ride along the canal, look for gators and wildlife.

For the first 1/2 mile you will pass two airboat facilities and in another 5 miles a rest area with picnic tables on the south side. After the next 2 miles you will reach one of the most popular hikes along the Tamiami Trail - the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and an Indian Village with Native American crafts. Please note that cycling is not allowed on the boardwalk but, if possible, take the time to hike through the cypress trees to the alligator pond at the end. You may see wildlife along the way with an eagle’s nest high in the cypress dome. The area is a bird-watcher’s paradise with red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers, catbirds, osprey, red-shouldered hawks, swallow-tailed kites, blue heron, egrets and wood storks. Future plans include an expansion of the boardwalk with a new parking area, an interpretative center, shell pathways and an elevated walkway. For more information visit http://orchidswamp.org/plan-your-visit/the-boardwalk.

(2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle, on audible signal or upon the visible blinking of the headlamps of the overtaking vehicle if such overtaking is being attempted at nighttime, and shall not increase the speed of his or her vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.
Upcoming Bicycle Touring Events in Florida

This printed version is ABRIDGED from promotional material provided by tour organizers. We’re not responsible for accuracy of information or quality of these rides. Use the contact information for more details about each ride. Data is gleaned and summarized from an online calendar database maintained by Roger Pierce and published on the FBA web site. To add an event to his (and our) calendar, e-mail to Btc@piercepokes.com or go online to post your own entry. See complete calendar, including many out-of-state rides we don’t have room to print here, at www.floridabicycle.org/touring.

**JANUARY**

Jan 7 (Sun)  Venice FL  
Piggie’s Revenge Endurance Challenge  

Jan 7 (Sun)  Spring Hill FL  
Spring Hill Cycling Mania  
Starts 7am at Anderson Snow Park, 1360 Anderson Snow Rd., Spring Hill, FL 34609  

Jan 14 (Sun)  Punta Gorda FL  
Hamster Wheel 200  
Peace River Riders present 12.5/50/62/100/200. peacecrridersbicycleclub.com

Jan 19-20 (Sat-Sun)  Coral Gables FL  
The SMART Ride  
Starts 7:19 am (sunrise) at University of Miami’s Watsco Center, 1245 Dauer Dr, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Day 1- Century, Miami’s Watsco Center, 1245 Dauer Dr, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Day 2- 200 miles.  https://thestartride.org

Jan 20 (Sat)  Naples FL  
TD Bank Naples Bike Brunch  

Jan 21 (Sun)  Homestead FL  
Tour de Reef Key Largo  
Starts 7:30 am at Homestead Sports Complex, 1601 SE 28th Ave, Homestead FL 33035. 37 & 81 mile options. https://tickets.velosportevents.com/event/Tour-de-Reef

Jan 27 (Sat)  Punta Gorda FL  
Hands Across the Harbor Run, Walk, Bike  
Starts 7:30 am at Bayshore Live Oak Park, 23157 Bayshore Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33980 13, 20 & 30 mile options. www.caamevents.com/event/hands-across-the-harbor-run-walk-bike/?instance_id=1481

**FEBRUARY**

Feb 10 (Sat)  Miami Gardens FL  
Dolphins Cancer Challenge  
Starts 7am at Hard Rock Stadium, 347 Don Shula Dr, Miami Gardens FL 33056. Multiple mile options & start locations.  http://dolphinscancerchallenge.com

Feb 10-11 (Sat-Sun)  Bradenton FL  
St. Petersburg Bicycle Club Classic  
30th Annual SPBC Classic offers four rides (20, 36, 60 and 100 miles) through the rural areas of Manatee County. https://spbc.clexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=87&chub_id=405757&item_id=687183

Feb 11 (Sun)  White Springs FL  
Suwannee Sweetheart Ride  

Feb 11 (Sun)  Palmetto FL  
SPBC Spring Classic  
Starts 7am at Palmetto’s Manatee County Fairgrounds, 130 17th St W; Palmetto, FL 34221. 20, 36, 60 & 100 mile options. www.caamevents.com/event/SPBC-spring-classic/?instance_id=1605

Feb 17 (Sat)  Boca Raton FL  
Ride 4 Orphans  
Starts 7:30 am at Spanish River Church, 2400 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431. 32 & 65 mile options. https://events.bahiaqueen.com/ride-4-orphans

Feb 18 (Sun)  Jupiter FL  
2018 Giro di Zeppli (Tour de Donut)  
Starts at Ocean Cay Park, 2188 Marcinski Rd, Jupiter, FL 33477. 25 & 50 mile options. https://events.hakuapp.com/ride-4-orphans

Feb 25 (Sun)  Havana Hills Ride  
Havana Hills Ride  
Starts 8:30 am at Wanderings, 312 1st St NW, Havana, FL 32333. 48 & 88 mile options. https://havanahillsride.weebly.com

Feb 25 (Sun)  Tallahassee FL  
The Champions Ride  
Starts 7am at The Golf Club at Summerbrooke, 7505 Preservation Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312. 12, 28, 64 & 100 mile options. http://www.championsride.org

Feb 25 (Sun)  Miramar FL  
Tour De Broward  
Starts 7am at Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL 33027. 31 & 62 mile options. http://support.mhsfoundation.org/site/TR?fr_id=1070&pg=entry

**MARCH**

Mar 4 (Sun)  Inverness FL  
Rails To Trails Bike Ride  
Starts 7:45 am at Laishley Park, 100 Nesbit St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. 15, 31 & 62 mile options. http://pedalplayinginparadise.com/events/2018/14906/ride-4-the-animals-2018

Mar 10 (Sat)  Dunedin FL  
Pan-Florida Challenge  
Starts 7:30 am at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL 34109. 10, 30, 62, 100 mile options. www.caamevents.com/event/pan-florida-challenge/?instance_id=1540

Mar 10 (Sat)  Dunedin FL  
Ride the Animals 2018  
Starts 7:30am at Highlander Park, 1937 Ed Eckert Dr, Dunedin, FL 34698. 12, 31 & 62 mile options. https://raceroster.com/events/2018/14906/ride-4-the-animals-2018

Mar 10 (Sat)  Eleuthera The Bahamas Bike  
Ride for Hope Gran Fondo Eleuthera  
Just over an hour’s flight from Miami, you’ll pedal past turquoise, crystal clear waters, quaint settlements, and be taken on a journey that combines scenic riding, historical sites with little to no traffic. The route, if riding over 50 miles will even lead you on a venture over the world famous glass window bridge. Before and after the ride, you can experience true freedom and island living as you wander the winding roads and explore off the beaten track trails leading you to seemingly untouched private beach escapes, hidden treasures, caves and lots of outdoor adventure. International flights fly directly into various Eleuthera international airports all throughout the week from major hubs in the USA, along with daily flights direct from the Bahamas? capital city of Nassau. Proceeds from all Ride for Hope participants? fundraising efforts are donated towards the treatment and research of cancer in the Bahamas. Cyclists choose their own participation level (starting with a fundraising minimum of $500; $250 for students) along with their own personal goal of how many miles they intend to ride (an out and back route of up to 100 miles).

Mar 17-23 (Sat-Fri)  Edgewater FL  
Florida’s Sand & Stars Tour  

Mar 18 (Sun)  Delray Beach FL  
Granfondo Garneau Ride  
Starts 7am at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach, FL 33483. 50 mile options in multiple categories. delraygranfondo.com

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**Giving to FBA**

Did you know...?

Your membership donation to FBA is tax-deductible! Florida Bicycle Association, Inc. was incorporated in 1997 for educational and charitable purposes and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Does your place of employment offer matching gifts to non-profits? Think FBA!

Does your place of employment have a United Way campaign? Think FBA! All you need to do is designate Florida Bicycle Association, Inc. as your charitable organization on your pledge form.

These are great ways to stretch your contribution to FBA even farther!

Joining is easy. Just visit www.floridabicycle.org. Click the “Join Us” link at the top of the page, use the online or download a brochure option, or you can request an application to be mailed to you by contacting Becky Afonso at 813-748-1513 or becky@floridabicycle.org.

Bicycling is one of life’s simple pleasures to enjoy, not fear. Join or donate to the Florida Bicycle Association and let’s ride together for Florida bicycling excellence.
FDOT Statewide Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator:
Mary O’Brien, 850-414-4283
Visit floridabicycle.org for more FBA Member club and shop information

FDOT Districts

District 1
Cities: Bradenton, Fort Myers, Naples, Sarasota
Counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, Sarasota
FDOT Bike/Ped coordinator: David Agacinski, 239-225-1959; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: John Kubicki, 863-519-2447; SUN Trail Coordinator: David Agacinski, 239-225-1959
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Caloosa Bicycle Club, Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club, Area Bicycling Association, Sanibel Bicycle Club, Peace River Riders Bicycle Club, Polk Bicycle Club, Highlands Pedalers Bicycle Club, Coastal Cruisers
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Acme Bicycle Shop, Bicycle Center of Port Charlotte, Bike Route (Fort Myers), The Bike Route (Naples), Billy’s Bike Shop, Fort Myers Schwinn Cyclery, Pedelec SQB LLC Electric Bicycles, Bent’s Cycling & Fitness, Road & Trail Bicycles, Pedego Electric Bikes (2 locations, Naples), Road and Mountain Bikes; Trek Bicycle Store (Naples, Cape Coral, Estero, Fort Myers)

District 2
Cities: Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, St. Augustine
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Derek Dixon, 904-360-5653; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Jennifer Graham, 904-360-5636; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Barney Bennett, 386-961-7878
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Gainesville Cycling Club, North Florida Bicycle Club, Suwannee Bicycle Association
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Champion Cycling & Fitness (3 locations), Lake Shore Bicycles & Fitness, Bike Works of Gainesville

District 3
Cities: Destin, Panama City, Pensacola, Tallahassee
Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Andrew White, 850-330-1653; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Capital City Cyclists, Emerald Coast Cyclists
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: The Great Bicycle Shop, Cycle Sports of Pensacola

District 4
Cities: Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Stuart, Vero Beach
Counties: Broward, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Alexander Barr, 954-777-4284; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Tom Miller, 954-777-4073; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Lisa Maack, 954-717-2253
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Boca Raton Bicycle Club, Vero Cycling Club
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Bike America (6 locations), Tri Bike Run, Wheels of Wellington, Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks, Bike Tech, Trek Bicycle Store (Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Sunrise)

District 5
Cities: Cocoa Beach, Daytona Beach, Kissimmee, Melbourne, Ocala, Orlando
Counties: Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Michael Ziarnek, 386-943-5251; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Coordinator: Chad Lingenfelter, 386-943-5336; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Heather Garcia, 386-943-5077
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Florida Free-wheelers, Sunner Landing Bicycle Club
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Village Cycles (2 locations), Greenway Bicycles, Orange Cycle, Full Circle Cycle, Retro City Cycles, Fox Firestone Bicycle Shop, The Ride Xperience

District 6
Cities: Key West, Miami
Counties: Miami-Dade, Monroe
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Elizabeth Stacey, 305-470-5308; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: William Abin, 305-470-5406; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Lisa Colmenares, 305-470-5386
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Everglades Bicycle Club, South Florida Triathletes
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Mack Cycle & Fitness, Elite Cycling & Fitness, Bike Tech (2 locations)

District 7
Cities: Brooksville, Clearwater, Port Richey, St. Petersburg, Tampa
Counties: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Christopher Speese, 813-975-6405; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Alex Henry, 813-975-6256; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Christopher Speese, 813-975-6405
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Florida Panthers Tandem Club, St. Petersburg Bicycle Club, Suncoast Cycling Club
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Bike Sport, Chainwheel Drive (2 locations), Jim’s Bicycle Shop, Trailside.Bike, University Bicycle Center, AJ’s Bikes and Boards, City Bike Tampa

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED WHILE CYCLING?
I have. That’s why I’ll fight so hard for you.
Chris Burns is not your typical personal injury attorney. As an avid rider, he combines his experience on the road with his expertise and insight in the courtroom. This unique perspective provides cyclists across Florida with the representation they deserve.
Your race for compensation begins here.

904-632-2424

Christopher G. Burns
ESQ
JUSTICE FOR CYCLISTS

Florida Bike Month is just around the corner! Get your MARCH 2018 events on our special Florida Bike Month web page listing.
Go to www.floridabicycle.org for details

Florida Bike Month
WE’RE BLAZING TRAILS

COMMUNITY CYCLE FUN DAY
SATURDAY FEB. 24, 2018 | STARTS 9AM | Titusville

Join us in Titusville for a day of family-friendly fun. Come out and blaze trails with Celebrity Ride Leaders. It all starts in Downtown Titusville at the beautiful new Welcome Center (with plenty of parking nearby). Stick around for the After Party at Sand Point Park.

- 5, 10, 20, 30 & 40 mile rides. Ride start times vary.
- Support Crew & Safety Personnel on hand.
- Community Comfort Stops with surprises for riders.
- Cycles and Helmets for Rent at Coast to Coast Bicycles (located in the Welcome Center) or Bring Your Own Gear.
- Don’t miss the After Party with music & food in Sand Point Park.

GO TO Titusville.org/blazingtrails for the BLAZING TRAILS CYCLE ROUTE MAP and to REGISTER for one of the rides. (Get a Free T-shirt with ride registration.)

Converging Trails: The Coast-to-Coast Trail (heading over the new Garden Street bridge and running north along U.S. 1) is part of a 250-mile trail that will link Titusville with St. Petersburg. Titusville is the southern tip of the 260-mile St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop. This merges with the East Coast Greenway that is one-third complete along its 2,900-mile route between Maine and Florida.

LEARN MORE & SHARE YOUR ADVENTURE AT:
LaunchFromHere.com

Launch From Here is a local campaign created by the people who love to live here for the people who will love to visit here.

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