Dave Thompson

From:	Dave Thompson [thompsw@pobox.com]
Sent:	Sunday, November 23, 2014 9:39 AM
To:	Dave Thompson
Subject:	Sunshine 1200k update # 2

Since my last update to the "interested list", we have done a lot of work on the route, accommodation in Key West, logistics, budget and registration setup.   We have a medal designed and we're working on the jersey .

Registration opens December 1st, 12:01 a.m. EST I will put more communication as well as a reminder to the interested list prior to that date. If we sell out quickly, we'll try and find a way to accommodate more riders. At this point we do not anticipate having to do a lottery.

There are a few things that you must understand before signing up:

1) **Initial registration is $50** to hold a spot. The balance of the registration fee -- $400 – is due by January 31st.
2) **The registration fee covers** the three overnight motels during the ride, food at the overnights, a pre-ride mixer in Key West and possibly some mid-day snacks at some Controls (TBD). It also covers bike transport from Fort Myers Beach to Key West, rider transport to and from the ferry and volunteer support.
3) **The Route – very important** -- read the ride description below very carefully if you are thinking about the ride.
4) **If you plan to stay with us in Key West** it's important that you add a hotel room into your "cart". The Key West hotels will only hold rooms for us with money in hand. Rooms may be available later but we cannot make any guarantees.
5) **The refund policy** will be posted on the registration website. The $50 initial registration fee and the Key West hotel rooms are non refundable. The $400 registration balance, pre and post ride hotels, the ferry and the jersey can be purchased later and have a different refund policy.
6) **Qualification** – 1000k/1200k in any prior year OR SR Series in any prior year OR Organizer Approval

I will send out more communication regarding Hotels, Logistics, Refund Policy and Bike Transport prior to opening registration and all of this will soon be available on our website.

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The Route

Make no mistake, the first day is an urban ride. It's "Cyclo-Tourist", not fast riding. You should plan to enjoy the sights and scenery, not make "good time". We want to ensure that expectations are set appropriately. We don't want people saying afterwards that they wouldn't have signed up for the ride, had they known … etc. etc. Feel free to ask questions.

The ride starts in Key West and ends in Fort Myers Beach with the logistics of dealing with a point-to-point ride as part of the package.

1) The Key West start and riding through the Keys provides a unique riding experience.   In my opinion, it's a beautiful ride.   Riding through Miami, sometimes called "The Capital of the Caribbean", and

Miami Beach, only add to that experience, but the combination does make for a long day. The first overnight is Jupiter FL, roughly a 430km day.

2) Days 2, 3 and 4 of the route cover territory used in many existing brevets. There is still some urban riding, but much less.

3) On Day 2, from Jupiter to the Oceanside Inn in Daytona Beach, you will see a lot of water – ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. Both South Florida and Central Florida Randonneurs use these roads extensively. Most people will arrive in Daytona Beach in good time to perhaps dip their toes in the ocean on the "World's Most Famous Beach". Many cyclists ride up and down the beach, it's that hard packed and flat … no, we don't actually have beach riding on the cue sheet, but it was tempting. Who knows, we could change our mind … have to check out the tides for that day ☺.

4) Day 3, from Daytona Beach to the Hampton Inn, Lake Wales, takes you inland. You will actually have some climbing on the hills around Orlando.

5) Day 4 takes you back to Fort Myers Beach, the starting point for most riders who took the ferry over to Key West.