

# The Caloosa Chronicles

Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club of Southwest Florida since 1988

Thanks veterans!

WWW.CALOOSARIDERS.COM

May/June 2010

## Memorial Day ride and picnic is May 31

### Families encouraged to attend!



Photo by Thomas Pear

Club president Mike Swanson and ride coordinator Bill Garrison have been busily planning for the annual Memorial Day ride and picnic. Families are encouraged to go to the picnic.

**By Thomas Pear**  
Chronicles Editor

We live in a country where you are free to ride your bike—in fact, free to do many things, so thank a veteran.

As part of their Memorial Day activities, the Caloosa riders will have their bike ride and picnic at Camelot Park in southern Cape Coral, 1718 SW 52 Terrace.

Riders will leave at 8 a.m. for a 30-mile through the city. There will also be 25 mile ride.

Riders will return between 10 and 10:30

a.m. for a potluck picnic. Riders are welcome to bring their families to the picnic.

Those attending the picnic are asked to bring a side dish to share. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdog and sodas. Please email: Bill Garrison at:

[bjgarrison11007@aol.com](mailto:bjgarrison11007@aol.com)

If you plan to attend or call him at (239) 275-7615.

**Directions:** Take Cape Coral Parkway to Chiquita Blvd and go south to SW 52 Lane; turn right on SW 16th PL.; go left on SW 52 Ter.; shelter two.

## Caloosa riders honored for saving companion

**By Thomas Pear**  
Chronicles Editor

**MIAMI**—Dutch Van Der Kuyp and Maura Granger were honored on the eve of a charity ride from Miami to Key Largo for rescuing Ken Vega.

The two performed CPR and mouth to mouth resuscitation on Ken who suffered heart distress and lost consciousness during an April 14 ride to Capitva Island.

The local ride was a training ride for the Multi-

ple Sclerosis ride from the Homestead/Miami Speedway to Key Largo held annually to raise money to fight MS.

Ken's co-workers at a Home Depot thanked Maura and Dutch by signing two large greeting cards that Ken presented to them at the Homestead Speedway.

Both Dutch and Maura were gracious and noted that others on the Captiva bike ride also helped with Ken's speedy recovery.



Photo by Thomas Pear

Ken Vega, middle, poses with Dutch Van Der Kuyp, left, and Maura Granger, right, at the Homestead/Miami Speedway.

# Ride Schedule HELMETS REQUIRED!!!!

**Saturday Rides:** Buckingham Community Park on Buckingham Road East of SR 82 Start 8:00 a.m.

## 2010 Buckingham

May 1	Old Milwaukee	Ron Cox 239-334-7580
May 8	Alva Special	JoAnne V. 239-936-1058
May 15	I like Ike	Steve Rodgers 239-839-7926
May 22	Greenbrier	Jeff Brim 239-560-2746
May 29	Airport Special	Peter Ahlgren 239-481-5940
June 5	Wheeler	Bill Garrison 239-275-7615
June 12	Old Milwaukee	Ron Cox 239-334-7580
June 19	Alva Special	JoAnne V. 239-936-1058
June 26	I Like Ike	Steve Rodgers 239-839-7926
July 3	Greenbrier	Jeff Brim 239-560-2746
July 10	Airport Special	Peter Ahlgren 239-481-5940

## Other weekly rides

### Tuesday & Thursday rides

Cay West Parking Lot - Cape Coral Parkway west of Chiquita. 8:00 AM 30 miles. The group rides to Coral Oaks Golf course for a break and then returns. Some of the riders maintain a conversational pace (12 - 15 mph) while others ride much faster.

### Wednesday ride

Rides starts at the Sweet Bay grocery store, located on the corner of Colonial Boulevard and Treeline Avenue. The ride varies from an 18 to 22 mph pace for 35 to 45 miles. The ride includes a stop at Panera Bread in the Coconut Point Mall.

### Cape Coral beginner's ride

Rides will meet at the Shops at Surfside at the northwest corner of Surfside and Veterans, near the Paradise Deli and Starbucks. Distance choices include a 15 miler with a ride leader and a 35 to 45 miler. The pace is 15 to 17 mph. No one will be dropped on any of the rides. Contact Dick Bennett at 239-464-0606 for questions

### President

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David Colver  
VP@caloosariders.com

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Thom Pear  
ThomasAPear@aol.com

### Meetings

May 20 and June 17 at Perkins Restaurant, 12300 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers. Dinner is at 6 p.m.; The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month

### **Caloosa Riders**

**PO Box 870**  
**Fort Myers, 33902**  
Caloosriders.com

### Sunday rides

**Bell Tower** - Daniels and US 41

Meet at 7:30 AM Pace 20 mph for 30 to 60 miles. Not for beginners.

**Pelican/Cape Coral:** Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Pelican Park on Pelican Blvd, north of Cape Coral Parkway. Pace 12 to 20 mph for 26 to 35 miles.

Visit our website, [www.caloosariders.com](http://www.caloosariders.com) for additional ride information



**Mike Swanson**  
*Under the helmet*

## Royal Palm Classic draws 228

When I arrived at Buckingham Park the morning of the Royal Palm Classic, March 7, we had 228 paid riders. Attendance was down from 294 last year, but so was the temperature—36 degrees.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that made the 12th Royal Palm Classic a success. Special thanks to:

Steve Rodgers and David Colver - for organizing the event; Bill Garrison - for organizing the painters, buying the food and serving; Tracy Wells – for handling registration; Thom Pear – for the webpage.

We would also like to thank our sponsors:

Acme Bicycle Shops - Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte; AJ Barnes Bicycle Emporium - Fort Myers; Bayshore Therapy and Massage – North Fort Myers; Bicycle Center – Port Charlotte, Cape Coral Bicycles – Cape Coral; Engel's Bicycles – Bonita Springs; Fort Myers Schwinn – Fort Myers; Naples Cyclery – Naples Paradise Bicycles – Cape Coral and Fort Myers; Publix; The Bagel Factory –

Fort Myers; The Bike Route – Fort Myers and the Trek Bicycles Store – Estero and Naples. Remember to thank our sponsors when you visit them.

### New Membership

A new membership application and renewal form is now up on the website. It can be filled out on your computer and printed.

### Insurance

The club has liability and participant accident insurance through the League of American Bicyclists, and coverage is a benefit of club membership.

Injured cyclists are covered up to \$10,000 for primary medical bills stemming from a bicycle accident or acts as a co-pay policy for cyclists who already have primary health insurance.

Members and first-time guests are covered.

There is also a death and dismemberment benefit up to \$5,000.

If you are involved in an accident during a club ride you need to write down the details of the accident and contact Steve Rodgers or myself.

## Upcoming rides

### **Ride to Remember, May 15**

**Gainesville** — Pick a ride length of your choice of a trail or a road ride into the Ocala horse farm territory of 50, 75 or 100 miles. Ride benefits ElderCare of Alachua County and Al'z Place, providing Alzheimer's Day Care : <http://gccfla.org/rtr/Active.com Online Registration>

### **Bike to Work Day, May 21**

**Lee County** — The League of American Bicyclists is urging local riders to bike to work on May 21, which is part of the league's Bike Month festivities.

The league estimates that half of the United States population lives within five miles of their job yet drive to work. A study by the San Diego Association of Governments revealed that one in five people

See "Upcoming rides" next page



**Bullhorn in hand, Dick Bennett officially started the Royal Palm Classic March 7. Please see the story on Page 7.**



## Ride of Silence is May 19

By Allen Thomas

Caloosa Rider Writer

Caloosa riders are urged to participate in this year's of silence May 19 at 7 p.m. at Centennial Park, W 200 First Street in Fort Myers, just under the Caloosahatchee bridge.

Cyclists will ride in a silent "funeral-style" procession at 12 mph for one hour to honor those who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways.

Riders are requested to wear black arm bands or red if they have been injured in a cycling versus motor vehicle accident.

The Ride of Silence was first organized to commemorate the traffic death of Dallas cyclist Larry Schwartz. Organizers hope to raise cycling safety awareness.

For more information call Bill Garrison at 239-292-8950.

## Upcoming rides (continued)

who participated in previous Bike to Work Day promotions became regular bike commuters.

### Frank Polack Memorial Ride, May 22

**Ocala** — More than 200 cyclists are expected to participate in this ride through the heart of horse country that features a metric century and a 30 mile ride. Participants will receive a ticket to a "post-ride feast." The mass start begins at 8 a.m. at the Hospice Marion County Center for Education. Riders can register through Active.com or call Hospice of Marion County at 352-854-5218 to request a registration form

### BRAG June 5 - 12

**Peachtree City, Ga.**— The 31st Annual Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG) will feature a looped ride that begins and ends in Fayetteville, Ga., with overnight stops in Griffin, Thomaston, Columbus, LaGrange, and Newnan. The week-long tour will average 60 miles daily for a total of 400 miles. For more information visit [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org) or call 770-498-5153.

### Bike South Carolina, June 13—18

**Charleston** — A 450 mile bike tour of South Carolina that starts and ends in Charleston.

Each day's ride is between 70 to 75 miles, Cycling South Carolina (CSC) provides food, lodging and well stocked rest stops. CSC also supplies SAG and bicycle support.

Visit [www.cyclesouthcarolina.org](http://www.cyclesouthcarolina.org) for more information.



Riders enjoyed the Cherry Lake campsite during Bike Safari of North Florida and South Georgia.

# MS Ride a fund-raising success

By Thomas Pear  
Chronicles Editor

A little rain did not dampen the spirits of the Caloosa Riders' MS bike team.

Collectively, they managed to raise \$5,657 that will be used in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

The team raised the money through car shows, garage sales, and online fund-raising efforts.



The two-day ride from Homestead/Miami Speedway to the John Pennekamp in Key Largo, however, did get a little soggy. Organizers were forced to cancel the return trip to Miami because downpours made weather conditions unsafe for cycling.

Dozens of schools busses were brought in to transport riders back to the speedway.

Nevertheless, the Caloosa Riders team did complete the initial trip from Miami to Key Largo, which included a lap on the Homestead/Miami Speedway and stayed overnight in a rented house on Key Largo.

They next day they enjoyed lunch at a Cuban café.



**Sitting at the dock of the bay:** The Caloosa Riders team enjoyed a moment together at the John Pennekamp State Park in Key Largo.



Left, Jeff Bohl and Maura Granger pose at a rest stop while Team Captain Andy Hernandez, right, enjoyed some refreshments at a stop.

## Natchez Part III

By Peter Olsen

Caloosa Rider Writer

*We last left the riders in Tupelo, Miss.*

We awoke the next morning in Tupelo to rain and forecast for more rain for the rest of the week. We all huddled in the hotel lobby looking at the weather channel and a doom and gloom forecast for up coming week.

Some Adventures opted for home and dryer climate and summoned a chariot (rental car) to take them back to sunshine and blue skies.

Another intrepid band decided to continue south on the trace via the sag vehicles and see what tomorrow would bring. So the sag wagons were loaded up to bursting and we headed south along the trace in pouring rain.

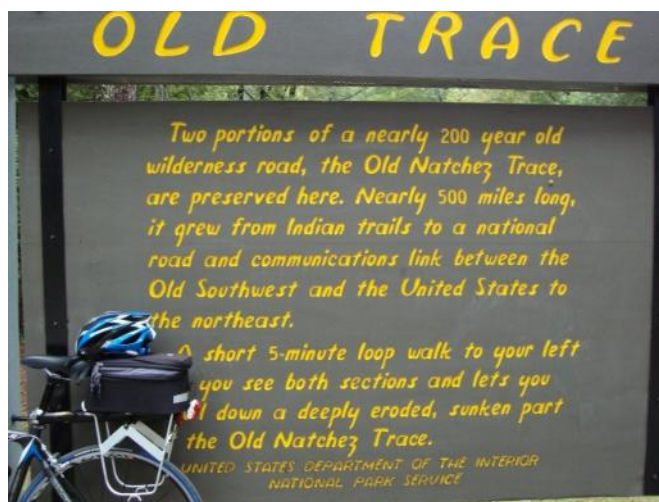
We made several stops along the way, the first at mile 233 the Witch Dance. Legend has it that at this spot, witches dance and where they touch down the grass withers and dies. I think the witches choose not to come out in the rain as none were spotted.

Next at mile 232 we checked the Bynum Mounds - these are six burial mounds from BCE 100 and CE 100. At mile post 203 we took in Pigeon Roost where millions of passenger pigeons once roosted. These pigeons once constituted 25 to 40 percent of the total bird population of the USA, an estimated 3 billion to 5 billion at the time Europeans discovered America, now they are all gone.

We stopped in to look at Jeff Busby Park where we were scheduled to camp for the evening and found it quite underwater.



**Riders enjoyed good vittles as they trekked through the Deep South during their more than 400-mile ride along the Natchez Trace last fall. The Natchez winds through Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. The excursion lasted 12 days .**



Mile post 180 brought us to the French Camp, established in 1812 by Louis LeFleur. A school here for young people from broken homes traces it's origins to a school founded here 1822

The rain had let up a little and while departing the camp, we were treated to a great aerial show by the local humming birds, perhaps as many as eight working the feeders at the camp.

We stopped at the Kosciusko Visitors Center, mile 160. Here we learned of General Kosciusko was very instrumental in the Revolutionary War and help design West Point, NY. We decided to spend the night in Kosciusko at the local America's Best Hotel. That night the rain stopped for awhile and we dined at the El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, for Kosciusko fine dining at it best. *Part IV will be in the next issue.*



Zoom, zoom! Riders completed their 30 to 100 mile routes at full speed as they zipped into Buckingham Park for the finish of the Royal Palm Classic.

## Riders brave cold weather for Royal Palm Classic

By Thomas Pear  
Chronicles Editor

Was it the barbecue?

Because something led 228 riders to don their leggings and arm warmers to brave 36-degree temperatures at the Royal Palm Classic March 7.

Some did the century ride and some of us did the shorter routes. All rides started in Buckingham Park and wound through eastern Lee County.

Perhaps it was Gabriela Gonzalez's cool new RPC logo, which featured palm trees and lettering shaped like a cyclists, that adorned every T-shirt and water bottle.

Or, and let's be honest here, we just like to get on our Schwinns, Giants, Treks and any other carbon-fiber and aluminum monstrosity and zoom along at speeds of more than 20 miles per pedaling hour. We use our core-strength to scoot up bridges and aerodynamically grab our monkey bars to reduce wind resistance.

The next day we can nonchalantly inform our family, friends and co-workers that, "hey, I just biked 100 miles yesterday" in a fashion reminiscent of Charlie Brown trying to impress the little red-headed girl at his elementary school's playground. After all, everyone likes a pat on the back after accomplishing a challenging ride. Right?

Not me, though! I found another satisfying reward - seconds at the barbecue.



Above, riders braved nearly freezing temperatures to enjoy the Royal Palm Classic March 7 that started at Buckingham Park and wound through Lehigh and other parts of East Lee County. The day warmed up nicely enough and shortly after the ride, cyclists enjoyed a picnic lunch. Much of the day's success can be credited to the efforts of volunteers such as those picture on the right.





We love new members! Visit [www.Caloosariders.com/2010memberapp.pdf](http://www.Caloosariders.com/2010memberapp.pdf) for an application!

Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club  
PO BOX 870  
Fort Myers FL 33902

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Stephen & Donna Adams  
Ryan Charmforoush  
Elias & Carol Coelho  
John & Cindy Cossu  
Craig Dearden  
Lis & Tom Heckmann  
Daniel Kinsley  
Cary Kleinfeld  
Robert Olivero  
Scott and Kara Tuttle

**CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE AT THESE FINE STORES**

These businesses offer members a **10%** discount on non-sale items. Bicycles Excluded. Present your membership Card.

**A.J. Barnes Bicycle Emporium**

15248 S. Tamiami Trail; Fort Myers  
239-437-0373

**The BikeRoute**

(Discount only on selected items)  
8595 College Pkwy; Fort Myers  
239-481-3376

**Ft. Myers Schwinn**

3630 Cleveland Ave.; Fort Myers  
239-939-2899

**Paradise Bicycles**

9377 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.;  
Fort Myers  
239-938-9966

**The Run Shoppe**

3512 Del Prado Blvd. S.; Cape Coral  
239-540-9529

**Naples Cyclery**

813 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.; Naples  
239-566-0600

**Cape Coral Bicycles**

2481 Del Prado Blvd N.; Suite 114  
Cape Coral  
239-242-2453

**Engel's Bicycles**

27310 Old 41 Rd.; Bonita Springs  
239-498-9913

**Billy's Bike Shop**

1509 Periwinkle Way; Sanibel  
239-472-3620

**Acme Bike Shop**

1700 Tamiami Trail; Port Charlotte  
239-258-3400

**Tri Authority**

17699 Summerlin Road  
Fort Myers, FL. 33907  
239-281-6778

**Acme Bicycle Shop**

615 Cross Street (US 41)  
Punta Gorda  
941-258-3400

**Paradise Bicycles**

1712 Del Prado Blvd S.; Cape Coral  
239-772-2453

**Trek Bicycle Store of Estero**

8001 Plaza Del Lago Ste 101,  
Estero  
239-390-9909

**Trek Bicycle Store of Naples**

9051 Tamiami Trl  
Naples  
239-591-8735

**Bicycle Center**

3795 Tamiami Trail So.; Port Charlotte  
941-627-6600