

Tour de Emerald Coast (5 Saturdays in June-July)
Presented by Emerald Coast Cyclists for Emerald Coast Cyclists Members

ELIGIBILITY: The Tour de Emerald coast is a club event for club members. Non club member's participation will be limited to the club weekly ride taking place in conjunction with the tour stages. If you are not currently an ECC member and would like to participate in the TDEC, contact John Stamp to become a member. John's contact information is available with the membership form on the ECC web site. This event has been established to get our club members, of all levels to engage in a little friendly competition. The handicap system has been established to even the playing field for riders of different levels, allowing them to equally compete against each other. The sole purpose of this event is to have fun, be safe and see who will have bragging rights for the first ever Tour de Emerald Coast.

STAGES and HANDICAP TIMES:

Stage 1 <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/34395844>

June 25th, 6:30am CAT4, 6:38/CAT3, 6:50 /CAT2, 7:03 CAT1:

Defuniak Springs/Knox Hill: 44 miles . Start Location: Walton Middle School, Bruce Ave.

Stage 2 <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/3349227>

July 9th, CAT4/6:30, CAT3/6:51, CAT2/7:02 & CAT1/7:15

Holt Blackwater Forest Loop: 50 miles . Start Location: Holt Post Office on Rt90 just as you enter Holt it will be on the N side of the road.

Stage 3 <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/34392752>

July 16th, CAT4/6:30, CAT3/6:53, CAT2/7:05 & CAT1/7:15 (Subject to change)

Mossy Head/Big Mary's Loop 53Miles. Start Location: Mossy Head Community Center (from the top of Rt285 go E on 90, 2 miles, located on S side of 90)

Stage 4 <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/34388928>

July 23rd, CAT4/6:30, CAT3/6:53, CAT2/7:05 & CAT1/7:15 (Subject to change)

Munson/North Blackwater Forest Loop 53 miles. Start Location: Munson Elementary School on Munson Hwy. Take Rt4 west out of Baker. Turn left (south) on the Munson Hwy the school is approximately .5 mile on your left.

Stage 5 <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/22889244>

July 30th, 7:00am CAT4/-10 Min, CAT3/-8 Min, CAT2/-4 Min, CAT1/Actual Time: (Subject to change)

Knox Hill Time trial 15 miles (1 Lap of the Knox Hill Loop, Start/Finish at the ball fields on Knox Hill Rd) Awards presentation to Follow upon completion of the Time Trial.

Timing: A stop watch will be started and hung in plain view in my van. A clipboard available to riders will be used to log finish times. Each rider will go immediately to the van to retrieve and record their finishing time. Exception: The Time Trial will have an official timer. Riders who finish in a group will receive the same finishing time, alleviating a sprint finish, enhancing overall safety for riders.

AGE GROUPS: Men/Women 18-59, Men/Women 60+

HANDICAP CATEGORIES: The TDEC committee will assign riders to the appropriate categories based on knowledge of the rider's abilities. There will be Cat 1, 2, 3 & 4 riders within each age group and those Categories determine the personal handicap.

AWARDS: Men and Women Overall, Age groups & Individual Stage winners.

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A WEEK: Missing one week will not get you eliminated from the TDEC, but you will receive a time penalty. For missing a week you will get the slowest time of the day for your CAT group plus a time penalty of 5 min

SEVERE WEATHER: If we wake up to severe weather, thunder storms with lightning, an email will be sent to all participants cancelling the stage. If it is raining with no thunder storm, a decision will be made based on safety and an email will be sent out informing riders of cancelation or that the stage will go on as scheduled. When you sign up to participate please include your valid email address to ensure notification of severe weather cancelation.

Support: No personal support. All riders will use convenience stores, Camel Bac, or carry extra bottles and food, to self support. In case of the Knox Hill ride, the ball fields will be used.

HANDICAP SYSTEM: Riders will be placed in one of the 4 different categories, CAT 1, 2, 3 or 4. The handicap system will pre-establish break-away at the start of each stage by establishing head start times for the CAT 2, 3 & 4. (Note: Handicapping system will be open for adjustment as needed after week one results)

MECHANICAL FAILURES and FLATS: Since we don't have team cars to drive up and hand us a wheel or new bike to continue the following will be in effect. Groups or individuals can make alliances agreeing to help each other and work together to continue. If you flat and are left on your own and cannot rejoin your group or get picked up by a following group, leaving you to ride on your own, your time for that stage will be equal to the slowest time of the Day for your CAT group. Lessoned learned from last year, tubular tires not recommended.

Non Racer/Club Riders: Riders not participating in the TDEC cannot help racers with support or drafting unless it is to help them regain contact with racers after a flat or mechanical problem.

SAFETY: Even though this is being called a stage race it is for FUN and nothing more!!! If anyone is hurt that will dampen the fun factor. So with that in mind, safety has to be the NUMBER 1 CONCERN at all times!!!! All traffic control devices will be obeyed without exception. Do not hog the road and become a hazard. Pass with care when over taking another rider. As always helmets will be worn and no headphones will be used. Riders will not use aero bars in the paceline. It is advised you carry a cell phone so if you need a ride you can call Dan Steighner or any of the other members participating and we can come get you as soon as we get back to our vehicles.