



FROGG

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Friends of the River of Grass Greenway

Volume VII Issue 1

website: www.evergladesROGG.org

FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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Fall 2021

Everglades Bike Tours Schedule

Saturdays, 9:30 am

October 9

Everglades City /
Chokoloskee

November 13

Janes Scenic Drive in the
Fakahatchee

December 4

Everglades City to Port of
the Islands

January 8

Loop Road / Big Cypress

February 5

Shark Valley in the
Everglades National Park

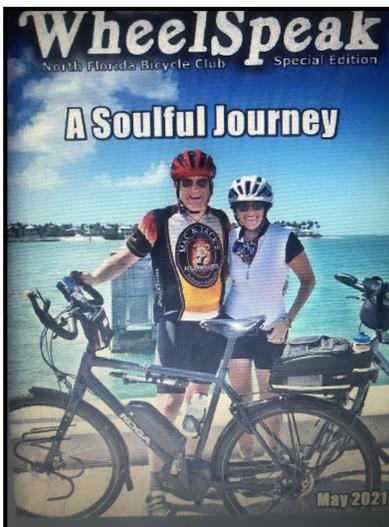
March 12

Bear Island / Big Cypress

We look forward to seeing you again in the Everglades! Email snookcity@gmail.com if you are interested in any of the guided tours. There is no fee but reservations are required.

Tribute to Paul Wood

by Patty Huff



Paul Wood wrote an article in the North Florida Bicycle Club (NFBC) Wheel Speak Special Edition, reminiscing about his February 2021 bike tour. A shortened version was published in the *FROGG Summer Newsletter* in May. Just a month later I received word of Paul's sudden heart attack and passing on June 22, the day he was to give a talk about his bike tour around Florida to the NFBC; he was only 61. Paul and his wife Michelle moved to Jacksonville from Washington to be closer to their new grandchild in 2020.

Paul and I emailed each other after an online Adventure Cycling Teams' meeting; he was interested in helping with a new USBRS route in Florida. He then told me of his tour around Florida with his wife and graciously agreed to have it published in our FROGG newsletter. Recently, I re-read his full story which included so many wonderful photos and tips for cycling in our State. Paul said he was looking forward to biking the Panhandle, and I invited him to come to the Everglades which was a section of south Florida he had missed. He said he definitely would! I wish he could have. If you didn't read the longer referenced article from our last issue, click on this link:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/WHEELSPEAKTEST/2021-may-nfbc-wheelspeak-special-edition.html>

From his article I learned how much Paul appreciated life, his family and bike touring. At the end of his story, he said: "Michelle and I have much to be thankful for in our lives, including this memorable bicycle tour. This trip reinforced that something special about bicycle touring, and the moniker rings true 'four wheels move the body, but two wheels move the soul'! We are looking forward to our next 'soulful' journey."

Be sure to take each moment as it comes. Enjoy the Ride! Life is Fleeting!

FROGG is committed to establishing the safe use by the general public of US41 across the Everglades between Naples and Miami, focusing on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, and cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.

Newsletter © 2021 Friends of the River of Grass Greenway

Cycling the Tamiami Trail

US41 – West End

In regard to the Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs) between SR92 (entrance to Marco Island) and Port of the Islands, we have received this update from FDOT: *“The plan is to remove the RPM's in the shoulder and as a tradeoff for some type of warning for the narrow bridges will be a profiled thermoplastic edge line for the travel lane, so where there is currently the white stripe at the edge of the lane there will be a white stripe with audible vibratory "bumps". The reason the RPM's were originally placed on the shoulders here is because that is what was standard for narrow bridge warning treatment so we wanted to supplement with something else if we're removing that treatment.”* Stay tuned for more information....

US41 – Central

The Welcome Center in Carnestown (corner of US41 and SR29) has been closed since Hurricane Irma in 2019. The Everglades Area Visitor Center/Trail Town Headquarters is located at 207 West Broadway in Everglades City which also has lodging, restaurants, a bike repair station and much more. The Everglades City to Shark Valley section is beautiful with many vistas to observe birds and alligators. This is the longest section of cycling along the Tamiami Trail with many interesting places to visit: Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center, the historic Ochopee Post Office, Joanie's Blue Crab Café, Trail Lakes Campground (Skunk Ape Headquarters), H. P. Williams Roadside Park, Kirby Storter Roadside Park, Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center, and Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery. **Note:** At MM37 the Miccosukee Information Center is temporarily closed and Miccosukee Restaurant is permanently closed.

US41 – East End

FDOT asks motorists and bicyclists to use caution when traveling through construction zones during the next several weeks (early September) when traffic is expected to be fully shifted onto the newly paved section of the north side of Tamiami Trail between Frog City and the S-334 control structure. The contractor will begin work along the south side of the road in this area after traffic has been shifted.

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES: Monday, Aug. 30 through September 3: Preparing the work zone along Tamiami Trail from east of the ValuJet Memorial to just east of S-334 control structure (about 1.5 miles west of Krome Avenue). **Construction Activity:** Beginning to clear material within the work zone along the south side of Tamiami Trail between Airboat Association of Florida and the S-334 control structure. Constructing the temporary widening along the north side of Tamiami Trail between Airboat Association of Florida and the S-334 control structure for the upcoming traffic shift. A flagging operation will be maintained to help direct traffic. Installing barrier wall to separate the new work zone along Tamiami Trail between Frog City and the S-334 control structure.

Lane Closures/Detours: Lane closure hours have been extended. Operations will take place between 9 am and 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri. Motorists/cyclists should be prepared to stop for up to 15 minutes at a time during the flagging operations. Please use caution while driving through the area. Work will be done in stages to minimize construction-related impacts.

Please note that this schedule may change due to weather or unexpected conditions. Additional information is available on <http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/current-projects/south-miami-dade/sr-90us-41sw-8-sttamiami-trl-next-steps-phase-2-project-1.html>. You may also contact Senior Community Outreach Specialist Heather M. Leslie at 305-905-5876 or email her at Heather@hmlpublicoutreach.com. Drivers are encouraged to log onto www.fl511.com to get real-time traffic and lane closure information.

FROGG Board Members:

Dayna Fendrick (Naples) Patty Huff (Everglades City) Scott Shook (Marco Island) Oscar Rattenborg (Ft. Myers)

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Summer Cycling Trip

by Patty Huff

Sometimes the best-laid plans just don't turn out the way you want. But, through it all, you learn something that, hopefully, will help in the future. This summer Steve and I planned our 3rd cross-country bike trip: San Diego to Everglades City! It was mid-June when we set off early in the morning from our hotel in downtown San Diego heading north along the San Diego River, Father Junipero Serra Trail, through Lakeside, cycling historic Highway 80 as we climbed up to Alpine. We were feeling great after 44 miles.



The following day was 42 miles to Boulevard and another day of climbing, reaching an altitude of 4,239 ft. Beautiful scenery and, despite the heat, we were still feeling good, especially on our third day as we enjoyed a long descent to Jacumba (where we saw the first of many miles of the border wall) and then mostly flat terrain to El Centro to complete a 62-mile day. The road conditions were not good and at times the interstate was our only choice with no shade. Then, on our fourth day, the 116 degrees heat along with 15-20 mph headwinds for most of the 63 miles finally got the best of me. We were careful to take plenty of extra water and food; however, nothing could beat the heat.



Arriving at our beautiful hotel in Yuma, AZ, and after resting for a few hours, disorientation, nausea, and severe cramping sent me to the emergency room. I didn't even realize my body was under attack. I was admitted to the hospital and watched carefully throughout the night, providing blood samples every four hours with IVs continuing for 20 hours. The amazing thing was that I didn't really feel ill, just somewhat confused and a little weak; the lesson being that you really don't know how serious this condition can be; several people died that week during this extreme heat wave. In any case, we realized that we were survivors, as well as victims of the heat. I'm not sure that our ages (75) made a difference in attempting another cross-country bike tour. I really don't want to think that age could be a problem; "you're only as old as you feel"!

So, what to do? The doctors said it would take a few weeks for my levels to get back to normal and that I should **not** get back on the bike! Thus, Plan B: we rented a SUV, packed our bicycles in the car and took off for Tucson, visiting Saguaro National Park before driving to Las Cruces, New Mexico. We were disappointed that our bike trip was prematurely terminated, but we would make the best of it. I kept looking out the window for wind and road conditions, imagining what it would be like on my bike. However, we continued to appreciate the small towns and learn about places we had never seen before: Van Horn, Texas (site of the Blue Origin launch) and the historic towns of Fort Stockton and Fredricksburg.



In Austin we spent a full day walking along the river trail and exploring the State Capitol. From Galveston we took a ferry ride to Port Bolivar and continued east through Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and finally home to FLORIDA. It was so wonderful to see GREEN, GREEN Florida after so many miles of sandy-brown desert in the southwest. All in all, it was a great trip and I'm back on my bike, looking forward to another adventure!

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The Florida Bicycle Association is now offering a Florida Bicycle Safety Quiz for motorists and for adult and child cyclists

Test your knowledge about the laws of our State whether you are a visitor, a new resident or a native. It's a great way to review the rules of the road!

There are three quiz levels – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. For each question, just click the best choice and then click Next. When you get a question wrong, you'll learn why. You will have three chances to get the right answer.

When you successfully complete at least one level, you may create and e-mail a "certificate of completion" to yourself or someone else. If needed, you may exit the quiz at any time but will need to restart the quiz at the beginning.

To take the quiz, just click on this link: <https://flbikesafetyquiz.com/> or visit FBA website www.floridabicycle.org.

Good luck!

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T-Shirts

Long-sleeve bright green t-shirts are available for \$25 for FROGG members (free with \$100 or more donation) and \$35 for non-members).

Front:

FROGG

*Friends of the River of
Grass Greenway*



Back:

Across

the Everglades For All

This is a good time to renew your membership!

Annual membership levels:

Individual	\$25	Family	\$ 35
Business	\$50	Donor	\$100
Partner	\$250	Sponsor	\$500
Life Member		\$1000	

Please send check payable to FROGG
and mail to P.O. Box 5031,
Everglades City, FL 34139

or pay online with credit/debit at:

www.evergladesROGG.org/memberships/

Please call 239-719-0020 or email snookcity@gmail.com if you have any questions about your membership or t-shirts!

***“Happiness is my Bicycle and
a Sunny Day!”***

- Author unknown -

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