

# FROGG



## *Friends of the River of Grass Greenway*

Volume VIII Issue 1

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

Fall/Winter 2022

website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

email: [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com)

### *Upcoming Bike Rides through the Everglades*

Free monthly bike tours will begin in early December on Saturdays at 9:30 am followed by lunch at one of our local restaurants. Email [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com) or call Patty Huff at (239) 719-0020 for more information.


**December 10** – Ride through the Fakahatchee – off-road bikes recommended

**January 14** – Tour historic Everglades City and Chokoloskee – on-road/bike path followed by Music Festival at the Rod & Gun Club (visit website [www.save-boe.org](http://www.save-boe.org) and click on Events).

**February 11** – Loop Road off-road bikes recommended

**March 11** – Bear Island Tour in the Big Cypress

Visit our website at [www.evergladesrogg.org/events](http://www.evergladesrogg.org/events) to see which trails you are interested in biking.

2023  
Everglades City  
Triathlon/ Duathlon  
**Paddle, Ride, Run  
or Ride, Run**  
January 28, 2023  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/EvergladesCity/TriathlonandDuathlon>  
Benefiting the Everglades Lions Club  
  
For more information please contact: Tony Pernas (305) 815-8849

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Everglades City Triathlon and Duathlon**

Paddle, Ride and Run - or Run, Bike, Run your way through Historic Everglades City. Designated a Florida Trail Town in 2019 Everglades City is home to some of southwest Florida's best seafood, and your participation will benefit the youth of the Everglades. The Triathlon includes a half mile paddle (Kayak or SUP), 10 Mile Bike and 3.1 Mile Run. The Duathlon includes a 1 Mile Run, 10 Mile Bike and 3.1 Mile Run. Categories include Open, Individual Age Group and Team Competitions. The race is timed by Gulf Coast Runners. All participants receive a limited-edition race t-shirt and finisher medal.

Visit the following website for information and to register:  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/EvergladesCity/TriathlonandDuathlon>

FROGG Board Members:

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

website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

email: [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com)

## *Along the Tamiami Trail*

### US41 – West End

Construction work continues on US41 west of SR92. The road curves south and has barriers separating the road from the construction to install culverts under US41 and restore water flow to the Everglades. Fortunately, the barriers have a protected bike path on the south side of the road so cyclists are able to ride safely through this area. Target date to complete the project is the end of 2024. Continuing east, the RPMs (Raised Pavement Markers) **have been removed** from the shoulders along US41 between SR92 (Marco Island entrance) and Port of the Islands! For safety, there is new white striping with the audible/vibratory markings along the edge of the shoulder.

### US41 – Central

Conditions for cycling through the Big Cypress National Preserve in the central section between Naples and Miami are good except bicyclists must continue to take care around the narrow bridges. At the intersection of SR29 & US41 in Carnestown, the only open facility is the Marathon Gas Station which offers Subway sandwiches and snacks/drinks. Take extra water and supplies along this segment since this is the longest section with limited services. It is beautiful ride with native trees, birds, and alligators. You will find amenities at several locations: the 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. Visit our website for a detailed map/brochure: <https://evergladesrogg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/FROGG-Brochure.pdf>. **Note:** The Miccosukee Indian Village is now open showcasing Miccosukee tribal arts & culture, with crafts, airboat rides & alligators on Wednesday – Sunday from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Visit website <https://www.miccosukee.com/> for updates and more information.

### US41 – East End

FDOT asks motorists and bicyclists to use caution when traveling through construction zones along the east end of US41. In addition to lane closures, cyclists must take caution since barriers line both sides of the road and there are no shoulders for protection in this section. Ten-foot shoulders are on the bridges.

Ongoing construction work includes Monday, December 5, through Saturday, December 10, 2022:

***Preparing the work zone along SW 8 Street/Tamiami Trail from east of the ValuJet Memorial to just east of S-334 control structure (about 1.5 miles west of Krome Avenue),*** clearing the existing work zones, rebuilding sections of roadway within the work zones, and performing bridge work.

**Lane Closures:** Lane closure hours have been extended. Operations will take place between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Motorists should be prepared to stop for up to 10 minutes at a time between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and up to 15 minutes at a time after 9 a.m. Please use caution while driving through the area. Lane closures will be posted on the department's project page. Work will be done in stages to minimize construction-related impacts. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER OR UNEXPECTED CONDITIONS.** For more project information, click [here](#) or contact Construction Senior Community Outreach Specialist Heather M. Leslie at 305-905-5876 or at [Heather@hmlpublicoutreach.com](mailto:Heather@hmlpublicoutreach.com). Drivers are encouraged to log onto [www.fl511.com](http://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)

website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

email: [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com)

## *Bicycling Iberia – France - Italy*

by Tom DeMarco

The greatest invention since the bicycle, the covid vaccine has served to calm the mass hysteria regarding a rather over-rated pandemic. So, after 27 consecutive months on-call for my busy family practice in British Columbia (I work remotely when in Florida), this spring it was finally time to leave everything behind...work, phone, computer, English, girlfriend, etc... and get back on my bike in Europe, my other “career”, one that dates back 5 decades. Bicycle, bins (binoculars, for birdwatching), pen, maps, dictionaries, camera, and trains...it’s so refreshing to re-immense in a low-tech Victorian existence where you awake in the morning with no idea where you will be sleeping that night, unencumbered by tent, sleeping bag or even a name.

This time I’ll fly to Lisbon, Portugal with a return flight 23 days later to Canada from Milan, Italy. Nothing is booked between the 2 cities. As usual, the plan is to find some interesting postage stamps, to find an empty hotel room every evening, to find a few bird species to add to my life list, speak something other English (this time Spanish, French and Italian), board several trains (which serve as my rolling “post-cardiology” office...safer than writing postcards while cycling), and most important of all, bike as many kilometres as possible.

Of the 7 countries that I’ll ride, Portugal will remain my favourite...quiet, pretty, and cheap. Daytime, it seems like every snack or drink costs a mere euro, and night-time I can’t spend more than 50 euros for a 3-star hotel, including breakfast. May 2022 will unfortunately end up the hottest ever recorded in the Iberian peninsula. It’s never too warm to ride a bicycle but it can be too warm to ride a loaded bicycle up mountains. Every day of this trip will hit 30°C. Besides, I have an arthritic hip overdue for replacement surgery that is most symptomatic on long ascents. To avoid big climbs in Spain, I must stay near the sea, hoping to catch refreshing breezes, often manifest as vicious headwinds. But the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Spain have 1/4 the charm and 4 times the traffic of the interior. One modern resort after another, I could almost be back in Florida, except here the big pink birds really are flamingoes rather than our Roseate Spoonbills, often mistaken for the former species.

When I was younger, I often took siestas to escape the afternoon heat, but I’m richer now so I can afford unlimited quantities of Coca-Cola (on ice, of course), cold beer and ice cream. I also used to ride bareback on the warmest days, but now appreciate the thermo-regulating benefit of a wet jersey...I soak mine at every opportunity en route. Despite the heat, the hip and a dozen train trips, I will pedal 2759 km over the 23 days.

I add Gibraltar to my list of European Countries cycled, now at 44. But is Gibraltar a bona fide nation, you ask? Well, as a philatelist I define a sovereign state as any political entity that issues its own stamps. I am pleased to find 2 new bike stamps here to add to my collection, ideal souvenirs for a bike tourist, as they weigh virtually nothing. Monaco also makes for a good philatelic destination. I don’t spend long in France as the warm weather is more suitable for gelato than for eclairs. Italy is the domain of my favourite food and my favourite language. It is also the most beautiful country in the world, but this time it’s not just the landscapes and architecture that I find appealing. There seems to be a lot more attractive women than I recall. Historically, I’ve always noticed many handsome Italian

FROGG Board Members:

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

website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

email: [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com)

men, especially the participants in the annual Giro d'Italia bike race, with which I cross paths again this spring. But I never really paid attention to the girls here. It must be my ornithological perspective, as most female birds are quite drab. I suspect nothing has actually changed here in Italy, except me. This is my first visit since turning 60...evidently, I've become a dirty old man. Hopefully none of my young female patients will be reading this.

Approaching the station in Lodi, Lombardy, where I'll board the train to Milan airport, something very extraordinary occurs...it begins to rain for the very first time this entire journey, the final 15 minutes of cycling! A pity I can't stay longer to enjoy the refreshing change in weather, but it is time to return to my Clark Kent persona, as I discard the bike jersey that I've worn for 23 days in a row (don't worry, I did hand-wash it every evening), and resume regular exposure to electronic gadgets and to the English language. Luckily, it will remain cool and wet for the whole month of June back home in Whistler, a classic "January". No need to soak my shirt and tie before biking to the clinic. Everyone is complaining but not me. The weather is not only invigorating, but it also provides effective immunity versus wildfires, now ravaging Spain. With Runaway Global Warming firmly established, I'm sure we'll be burning again soon enough here on the West Coast. I'll take rain over smoke any day, and keep on cycling daily regardless of the weather, to minimize my personal contribution to Greenhouse Gases.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Miccosukee Indian Arts Crafts Festival 2022

Native American culture comes alive in a three-day gathering of music, arts, and entertainment December 29 – 31, from 10 am to 5 pm at the historic Miccosukee Indian Village. The Miccosukee Indian Arts & Crafts Festival returns for its 48th year with a showcase highlighting the culture and diversity of American First Nations, featuring live music and dance performances. Visitors will also enjoy authentic food, a native crafts market, alligator demonstrations, artisan exhibitions, and more surprises!

Visit [Miccosukee.com](http://Miccosukee.com) for more information/tickets.



### BIKE BRUNCH

Online registration is now open for the [17th Annual TD Bank Naples Bike Brunch](#) on Sunday, March 5, 2023. Sign up now for the best price. (It makes a great gift too!) The festivities will begin and end at Cambier Park in downtown Naples. There will have 80, 62, 40, 20, 10, and 5-mile routes, plus a walking option!

**[SIGN UP NOW!](#)**

*"Be grateful for all the beauty around you as you cycle through life"*

FROGG Board Members:

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

website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

email: [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com)