

General:

The Fort Hood Challenge VIII has now been sanctioned. Very soon the BikeReg will be up so you can register. Same price as the last two years - same discount if you register early for both days. We have new custom made trophies from Re-Gear'd and have secured a special low price option for winners to personalize their trophy!

Please read:

1 - the only real change is that the Cat 3 women - Yes, you have your OWN race. But, it has been shortened to ONE lap. Several of the riders were in Bataan Death March mode last year and I don't want that to happen again this year.

2 - We will be offering a discount for out of state Cat 1s and Cat 2s ... these races don't fill to capacity and it would be great to have some extra riders in these events.

3 - We are continuing to offer FREE entry to active duty serving military. Last year we had somewhere around 75 serving military (who came from all over the map) out of a total ridership of around 950 for both days (that's a hefty give-away) BUT please, if you know some serving ACTIVE DUTY serving military - send them our way. Even if they are not "competitive" we have the Military Open on Saturday for the more casual rider/racer.

4) The "OPEN" race on Saturday - one lap - trophies, etc. If you don't feel up to "Racing" your age or cat and want to experience this incredible venue ... come and race that one.

We will have lots of Race Merch including jerseys, cups, etc. so check back from time to time AND of course, we have selected new Charities for Race Proceeds to help. We are focused on those who provide help to Service People (in and out) who are in desperate straits - Focused on Suicide, Divorce, Substance Abuse and Homelessness. So if you have a few extra bucks, there will be a bucket at BikeReg. Just remember.

Race Day and Pre-Ride Entrance

The Race Venue was "almost lost" this year due to the military concerns over "Terrorist" or "Anti-Military" activity. For a variety of reasons they are on pins and needles.

1) ON Race Day or to Pre-ride YOU MUST enter the course from the Elijah Road Entrance off of RT 116 coming North out of Copperas Cove. Period. IF you come any other way you will probably be stopped by Military Police and subjected to a Security Scan. Not that this should bother anyone, but it will take time and is a hassle. JUST, please do it the right way.

2) Race day - we park as usual. Pre-Riding - park safely NOT on Tank Roads - a good place is "our parking area" by the Start location of Elijah and Old George Road .. off to the side or something NOT in the first 30 feet from the roadway (tank trails) ... lock your car, leave a note on the dash saying "Bicyclist Riding the Race Course" or something to that affect. ALWAYS carry some picture ID ... Stay on the FRICKEN road ... don't go exploring. Live Fire exercises happen all the time - Get USED to it. Assume any military vehicle CAN NOT see you.

NOTE: On Race Day there is no need of Picture ID ...

3) You should not be hassled by any Military People ... if you are stopped, please put on your "NICE" face and personality. Please ride in, at least, pairs - if not more. There are poachers out there a lone cyclist makes a good target to hassle. Obviously carry your cell phone - I have service across the entire course.

4) Pre-Riding - be aware that the civilian traffic takes those roads at 50+ MPH ... they are used to taking the road at speed.

5) I have Pre-Ridden the course and the pavement is better than ever - it is carbon wheel friendly, no chip seal and only the expansion joints on bridges will provide some bumps. Some of the extreme edges have been broken due to Tank Crossings ... so at intersections just watch a bit and know that the Fort Hood Mud is like no other.

Make plans to be there ... this could be the best yet ...

Volunteers:

I need volunteers -

1 - lead cars and follow trucks. I will trade a comped race entry for one or the other's work for the entire day - meaning both waves - I will provide lunch.

2 - Pre-Race venue cleaning ... Friday work, sweep, mark and place signs ... I will provide a motel room Friday night (you may have roomates) and a comped entry.

3 - Race Day Help ... I will need a total of 3 adults that have a clean criminal and driving record to help with "Duties as Assigned." This will NOT be physical labor but stuff like going out on the course to get stranded riders - stocking the emergency water location on the "back side" or other stuff like that.

4 - Junior Parents on Sunday Morning - lead, follow and sag ... ODark 30 to help keep Juniors together at the start and make sure they get across the line 20k later ...

Drop me a line about any of this .. I will contact you closer to the event to give you an answer about if or what I will need your help in.

OTHER STUFF:

I understand about legalities and Gun Laws. While on Fort Hood, please don't. Just don't. Lock them in the trunk before you get on base - please ... Trust me on this.