

2024 Tour de Picayune Event Update #3

7/16/2024

The delayed and rescheduled date for TdP cycling event for this **Saturday June 22, 2024** has been rescheduled again and will now be **NOVEMBER 2, 2024**.

"Come Hell or high Water, the 2024 TdP Champion will be determined." Claims Wes Wilkins. Race Director. *"One way or another, Nov. 2 will be a day of absolute no matter how cold it could be!"*. Also proclaimed.

Event strategy and courses have been determined, tested and documented; trophies and cash is on hand; All other associated hardware such the canopies and chairs and coolers and tables and all that stuff have been accounted and tested plus disclaimers printed and maps and Forestry informed and on notice. Working timetable is prepared including Snake Pit and The Edge mowing and cutting back including bathrooms and showers cleaned and set to go. Two reliable and capable volunteers have been acquired and glad to assist.

NOTE:

(The TdP 2025 Tour date has been set as well and intended to happen at the end of next spring on **Saturday, MAY 31, 2025**).

And intended to be in the same form as TdP 2024 as currently planned and slated.

(To Continue-)

Things were still looking possible a couple of weeks ago but the dismal swamp has asserted its will. The place that many love, but fear. Where we as a mammalian terrestrial species, is not supposed to be. This world known as the Everglades by man could be on first glance interplanetary and may as well be, and a main reason why Picayune strand was a last frontier. Going by the aspects and natural requirements of the myriad of eco systems contained, it's obvious the place was never intended for human habitation. Yet loved and yearned for by many. However, protected by few beyond the ravages of nature itself. But here we are anyway and the TdP is a very logical outgrowth of that.

This cusp of nature, also known as the 10,000 islands national estuary and just "the swamp" locally, is an existential part of that chain of systems and has to win. So it wins here too, again. I'm actually proud to say that the Tour will and must adapt. The soil is totally saturated. Zero absorption. More coming daily.

So first off. It does not take much of a cloud burst or squall to flood a spot out.

Kind of a flash flood but not as fast or big but if you're somewhere way out where it's seems all dry, it may come up a foot plus in just an hour or less and may hang

around for a while. Not terrible but along with that, the lower zones can get much deeper out on stage 2. Or 3. And if more than a few miles away, very concerning.

Plus it's cloudy a lot here now and kind of drizzly at least half the time. The sort of weather more like in September. Tropical and much less semi-tropical. A biology where the tiny things all emerge on a grand scale and envelope you entirely into another dimension.

There are several spots scattered with deep puddles and holes too soggy to comfortably go through so many will go around creating deeper and wider rutty and muddy zones and just not at all appealing on a more intense level.

Especially out on the new forestry built and maintained bicycle trails. Those are typically soft with low areas and the gravelly high spots don't need the impact either when in a mushy condition. The ground and the woods and high ground is much like a giant hydroponic grow house. Steamy and watery and much like sponges and soaking wet. The bugs are numerous too. Not so much when on a bike though and not a show stopper by itself, especially if you're somebody that can ride the tour. But might paint the PNC as just some sadistic outfit perhaps. Why salt the wound? Just because some perspectives see the mosquito as our friend; It shouldn't result in torture for others. But given the whole picture- bikes can defeat bugs for the most part and another reason to ride a bike in Picayune strand. But given the stagnant pools, thick wet grasses and leafy weeds can harbor untold thousands and need to be expected and seriously addressed by every person. Especially now as the shallow level keep fluctuating thereby greatly increasing the densities of the blood sucking clouds emanating from the dank zones. But figure keeping off the soft trails will help keep them flatter and less likely to become water retention mini canals. Now the very last places to dry out so others track around and confuse the course. Ruts can really mess up a single track, especially from the machines that often use them at their leisure.

Sabal Palm road is impassable for most cars and not recommended for any personal vehicles really, especially since one can't see down there and know the depth or of the big chunks of lime rock I know are there, So, unless you want to get out and walk into the puddles, don't go that way right now.

Best to let things settle for a while also over on the Miller Blvd. road job work under way, too. Kind of a mess right now. Very soft as the roadbed was removed and replaced with a more natural substitute and lowered. Still needs some compaction and grading as the rains have disrupted those efforts at this time.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate in November. But we will adapt. Might even need a jacket? Things should be much dryer but by how much? It won't matter next time but instead the question will be: "Which tires?"

In closing, the 2024 Tour De Picayune is now:

Saturday Nov. 2, 2024. 830AM.

Please check back again sooner than later. I will be creating a blog here for the next update and maybe other news. Maybe. I hope.

I am very Sorry for the delay and I hope all understand. Any further changes shall NOT be happening again-

Thank you -Wes