

# Tour de Picayune Bicycle Event Update

From Race Director Wes Wilkins

Hello welcome to the TdP website.

This last week we were hit with a very big and slow moving “tropical wave” that dumped a great amount of rain in SW Florida and the swamp in particular. Like Picayune Strand gets to collect much of the rain as part of what swamps are about; retaining rainwater and filtering as sheet flows of water move to the south through to the 10,000 islands just down the road from here. Like here in Picayune. Casual water is everywhere right now and plenty deep in some spots so we’ve decided to wait til next month until July 20, as our new race date.

Riding conditions were excellent right up until the first rain bands. Even the cattails were sitting in dry land. The sand was fast and not too hot but still tough as hell though, so don’t worry. It’ll take some grit to hang on until the bitter end of these 68 grueling miles, even under the best of circumstances. But miles like none other. So, it should flow well if you’re prepared. Sure, hot. Maybe even super at times. But not that hot for a Floridian. However, If not ready for our climate, don’t kill yourself sweating without effect in our gigantic sauna, just take it easy and maybe consider just riding the 25 and maybe even the 12 also if the pain is not enough. Just let the humidity take you in like the wet blanket it is. Except one that doesn’t block the bugs. They don’t fly here but rather swim through the air. It’ll be a challenge for sure. But again, nothing else like it. Cross country riding in Florida scrub in the summer is a global experience. My favorite. Riding with a family of people experiencing of being there holding on for dear life and then it’s over. A bonding with friends and even stronger bond with nature. Our nature here in Collier County Florida, Part of the Big Cypress basin all flowing through and past us into the Gulf and beyond, sharing a space with our keystone species; the Florida Panther.

Okay so we’re optimistic we may get a dry July as sometimes happens and a decent dry to continue our venture later I July in excellent environmental conditions. So please check back again soon and in maybe a week or two we have a better picture of how things are progressing on our reschedule of our bike event. Thank you for your interest and sure hope you’ll come out here for an experience in an environment few ever experience this deeply.