

Dave Thompson

From: Dave Thompson [thompsw@pobox.com]
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Subject: Sunshine 1200k Update # 1

I'm sending this, the first update to the Sunshine 1200k "interested list", as much as to test out all the email addresses that I've recorded as to provide a quick status report.

Our interested list is now up to 113. If everyone on the list actually wants to do the ride, that's already more than our capacity, however, I know that some of you might be interested but won't book. Our main limitations will be bike transport from Fort Myers Beach to the starting point at Key West and hotel capacity in Key West. Key West doesn't have a large number of hotel rooms to start with and apparently there are five hotels out of action right now due to renovations. That also affects the price of these rooms ...

We have a website now, www.fl1200k.com, and it contains a link to the interested list. The Randonneurs USA (RUSA) website also has our logo and a link to the site.

I have contracts signed with hotels in Jupiter (1st overnight), Daytona Beach (2nd overnight) and Lake Wales (3rd overnight). I've also signed a contract with the start/finish hotel in Fort Myers Beach. I've held off signing anything with Key West at the moment because they want a significant amount of money up front. The representative at the hotel that I'm working with will keep an eye on bookings for May 13th and let me know if I need to "put up or shut up", so to speak. There's capacity right now but I need to ensure that it doesn't disappear on me.

With hotels booked, I'm working on the budget. The base ride fee will include bike transport, shared hotel rooms at the three overnights (two per room), food at the overnights and volunteer support during the ride. We may also provide some limited food/hydration between overnights but that gets increasingly difficult as the days wear on and the riders spread out in arrival times. The good news is that the ride goes through populated areas and you're never too far from a 24/7 convenience store.

In addition to the base fee, you will have to choose among some options – Ferry to Key West, shared room in Key West, Rooms pre & post ride in Fort Myers Beach. I'm keeping these out of the base fee because I know that some riders will make their own arrangements. Bike Transport stays in the base fee because we will have a fixed cost in that regard for truck rental.

Questions are always welcome. If you have a question, someone else likely has the same question and I can address it in the next update.

Thanks for your interest in our ride !

Dave Thompson.