



# Florida Cracker Trail Association

## Minutes and Newsletter

January 28, 2014

TO: 2014 Members

Hey you all! It is just 16 days away from the start of the 2014 Annual Cross State Ride! So as you all are getting ready and packing for this exciting event.... I thought it would be helpful for you to review the attached information:

- President's Welcome Letter
- Official Rules
- Night Camp locations and directions
- "What to Bring" checklist.

You also may want to have a little fun and support the FCTA mission by doing this:

- Bring \$cash\$ for our Auction that is held at the beginning of the ride on Saturday, 2/15!
- Bring items to donate for the Auction. We appreciate any new items, can be horse-related or not... bring it on!
- Bring \$cash\$ to purchase items in the Logo Wagon. A lot of new merchandise is available! The FCTA accepts checks and cash for payment, but may or may not have a credit card machine available at this time.
- Bring \$cash\$ for the saddle raffle and beef raffle and the poker hand!
- Bring authentic clothing and gear for "Authentic Day"! Bring your cow whips or buy one on the ride.
- Get ready for the parade across U.S. 27 on Wednesday, 2/19, and the parade in Ft. Pierce on 2/22. Bring red/white/blue clothing and decorations for yourself and your horse.

Look for the magazine called "Heartland, a Way of Life" that can be found at Tractor Supply stores and the local feed stores. The February issue covers the Cracker Trail and is distributed in 10 counties in Central Florida (Lee, Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry and St. Lucie). Don't take them all... but please pick up a few for your friends on the Cracker Trail and bring them to share.

And I'm sad to say that our member, Clarence Polston passed away last weekend. He was a very special man and supporter of the FCTA and will be truly missed. And more sad news, Patrick Smith, author of "A Land Remembered", passed away on Sunday, 1/26. His obituary and information on his services can be found at: [ALandRemembered.com/memorial/](http://ALandRemembered.com/memorial/).

And it looks like this year's ride will be BIG! To date, we have a total of 209 members! 103 members are riders who have paid their ride fees!.... which means that there is the potential for another 106 of you that are planning to ride but have not yet paid your ride fees! Which may put us over the "cap" for this year's ride. Please be reminded that the General Membership voted in to cap the number of full week riders to a total of 175 in 2014 and that it was also voted in that you had to be a 2014 member at least 30 days before the ride to be eligible to ride in 2014. This number was determined to be a manageable number for this event... considering the caterer, the bus, providing horse water, room for rigs in camp, and to move safely across the State, etc.

So we can work on staying within the cap..... If you KNOW you are planning to ride, PLEASE send in your Ride Registrations and Release forms ASAP if you have not already done so. The deadline before paying late fees is 2/5/14. **OR** if you KNOW that you CANNOT make the ride, or decide to be a NON-RIDER/CAMPER, it would be greatly appreciated to let me know by a phone call or e-mail. I don't make the rules.... I'm just doing my community service job...

Susie Randolph  
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**KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE!**