

MEMO

TO: Tuesday Night West Oak Riders
FROM: John Millsaps (North Atlanta Riding Club)
SUBJECT: Continued Use of West Oak
DATE: 8/9/05

Please take a moment to read the attached email from Stanton Singleton, legal counsel for Pro Brand International. He has raised some serious concerns regarding cyclists on the West Oak course on Tuesday evenings.

Although the Tuesday night training ride is not sanctioned or the "property" of any cycling group or club, the North Atlanta Riding Club has a vested interest in seeing that any activities at West Oak are conducted with appropriate respect for the rules of the road and the tenants and employees of the office park. This vested interest lies in the North Atlanta Riding Club's relationship with the property owner and the permission to host yearly USCF-sanctioned racing on the site.

As a cyclist, this should be your vested interest as well. The property owners and tenants have not approached this issue in an adversarial manner, but rather want to see cyclists continue to be able to use the park as has been done for almost 20 years.

Here is where things stand. Spotters are needed at the two corners and just past the finish line. All riders need to stay in the right lane (no exceptions). Specifically, as riders come through the start/finish line, they must stay in the right lane, including and through the first corner. This is the area of greatest concern and failure to address this concern could lead to the end of organized training at West Oak.

If this goal cannot be accomplished, the next steps could include mandatory coming of the road and the possible hiring of Marietta off-duty officers. Should officers need to be hired, anyone wishing to ride on Tuesdays would need to contribute to the fund to pay for the officers. This can be avoided if the group will just have volunteers as spotters and stay in the right lane.

The main concern of tenants is safety. They do not want to see cyclists forced out of West Oak, but neither do they want to see a serious accident occur because of riders out of the proper lane. One such accident would mean the end of any organized activity at West Oak. But above all, no one wants to see people injured. In this, cyclists and tenants share a common goal.

West Oak is a unique training venue for Atlanta-area cyclists. Please do your part to make sure this continues. Please work with others and tenants to make the park a safe and enjoyable place.

Do not engage in arguments or discussions with tenants or others you see at West Oak. If you have questions and concerns, please contact me (770-952-4285) and I will work with the tenants and property owners to resolve. Obviously, since no person or group owns or controls the Tuesday training event, as a participant, you cannot be forced to adhere to these rules and suggestions. But I strongly encourage you to do so and to cooperate in the efforts to maintain the ability to use West Oak in an organized fashion.

To:
From: John Millsaps <John.Millsaps@usg.edu>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Week Night Riding at West Oak Center
Cc:
Bcc:
Attachments:

From: Stan Singleton [mailto:singles@pbigrp.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2005 9:36 AM
To: dan@freefite.com
Subject: Week Night Riding at West Oak Center

Dan: I am Legal Counsel for one of the companies on West Oak Circle in West Oak Center. For a number of years we have enjoyed watching the cyclist who ride about one night per week in West Oak Center. However, recently the group has become larger and apparently there are some riders who no longer respect the rules of the road and safe practices. One of our employees barely avoided a major accident with a number of riders last week when he exited our parking lot and riders were traveling very fast in the wrong lane of traffic hidden by shrubbery. I have now discovered about five other employees who have had similar near misses. We are taking steps to cut back our shrubbery to give us more visibility, and we don't want anyone to get hurt. We also don't want to have to stop the riders who obey the rules because some do not. However, when it comes to safety of the riders and liability for our company we will have to put a stop to the riding unless the riders can stay in the proper lanes with appropriate look outs.

This past week, at our request, an announcement was made before the ride by one of the senior members of the group; however, I observed first hand that many riders did not stay in the appropriate lanes and when I left the parking lot in my car, several of the riders even then did not choose to get back into the proper lane. In the past, our employees rarely worked so late that we had a problem; however, our company has more people working until later hours now and we are having more of a problem.

We understand that this group that rides in the evening is an informal group with no official leadership and that those who want to obey the rules and keep this site for practice are doing probably all they can. We also are reasonably sure that you and your company have no official relationship with this group. However, if you have any suggestions or can help to establish better discipline among the riders, it will perhaps save someone from serious injury and help preserve this as a good cycling site.

Thank you for your help,
Stan Singleton
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