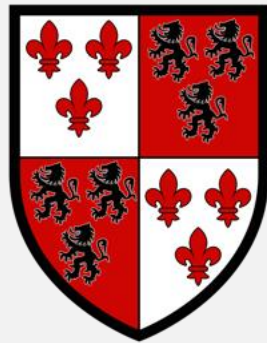


# Rouge Roubaix



XXII

TECHNICAL GUIDE

# Welcome!

On behalf of the race staff, we'd like to welcome you to the twenty-second edition of the Rouge Roubaix. Whether you are racing for the first time or a hardened veteran, this year's courses will be a challenge to all. Inspired by the cobbled classics of France and Belgium, Rouge Roubaix will take you over a variety of terrain including smooth pavement, dirt, gravel, and southern pavé. Over its twenty-two year history, Rouge Roubaix has been recognized as one of the most challenging bike races in America. This year features a new start and finish area in downtown St. Francisville which will make for a great pre- and post- race experience.

Best of Luck,

The Rouge Roubaix Team



# Schedule of Events

Friday, March 8th, 2024

4:00pm-7:00pm: Packet Pickup

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6:45am: Packet Pickup\*

7:00am: Merchandise Tent Open

7:40am: Full & Short Course Staging

7:50am: Rider Briefing

8:00am: Rouge Roubaix Long Course Start

8:10am: Short Course Start

2:30pm: Course closed

\*Note: There is no race day registration. Online Reg closes on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:59p



## Location

Packet Pickup, Staging, Start & Finish Area

[9814 Royal St, St Francisville, LA 70775](#)

## Parking

Main Race Parking: [11429 Ferdinand St, St Francisville, LA 70775](#)

\*This is ~0.5mi from the Start/Finish/Packet Pickup Area

Alternate Parking: along Ferdinand St - [PIN](#)



# Staging Procedure

The staging procedure for the long course will include 4 corrals along Prosperity St next to the packet pickup tent. While a USA Cycling license is not required to race, riders are encouraged to stage according to their respective current or former USAC Road Category. If you are unsure which Corral you should be in, please reach out to us! The short course will line up behind the long course and start 10 minutes after the long course rollout.

Corral I: USAC Pro / Category 1 / Category 2

Corral II: USAC Category 3 / Category 4

Corral III: Category 5 / Novice

*For riders who are looking to be competitive and have limited race experience.*

Corral IV: Recreational “Gran Fondo” Riders

*Riding for completion. Formerly the Gran Fondo group, these riders are prepared for a long day in the saddle. While riding at your own pace, these riders should be mindful of the time cut procedures and adjust their pacing accordingly.*



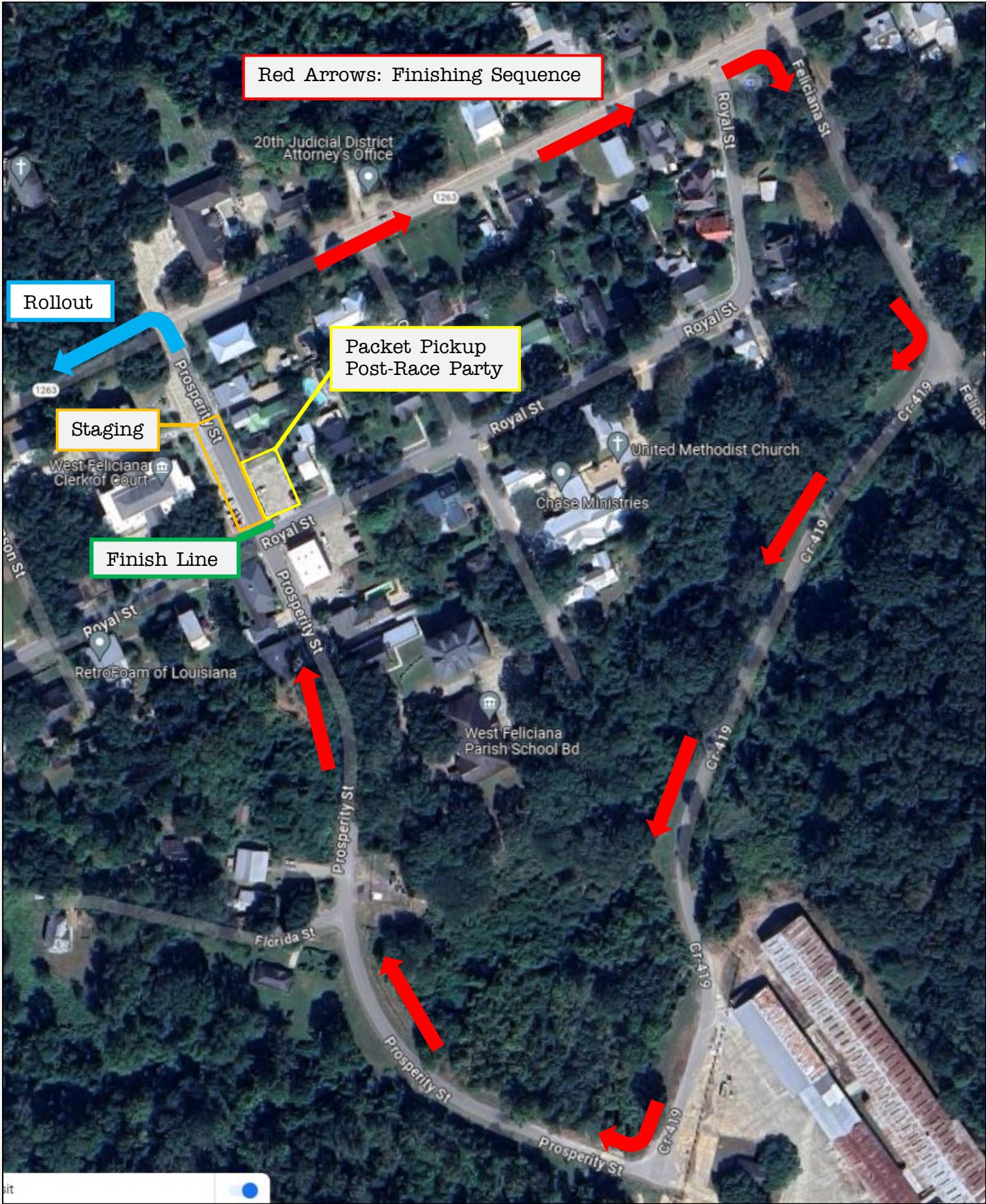
## Rollout

The race will have a neutral rollout for the first 1 mile until after the narrow creek crossing bridge\* on Tunica St.

*\*Note this is not the same low water bridge across Bayou Sara which is at mile 4.*



# Downtown Map



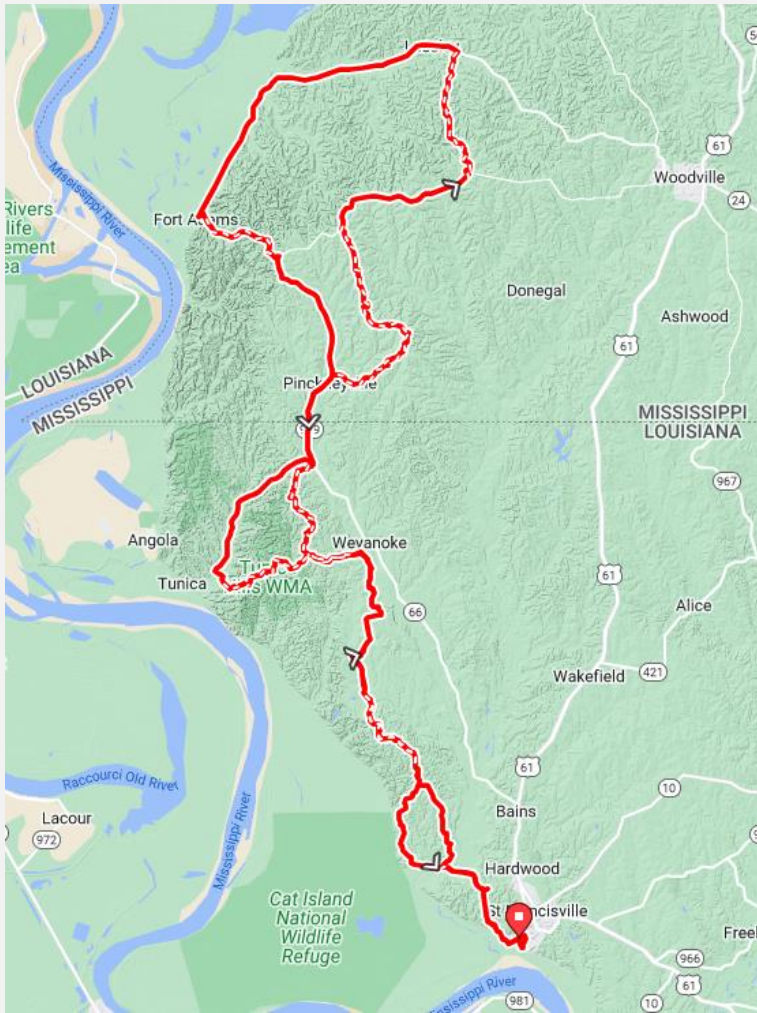
# The Rules

- i. The course is open to traffic; follow all rules and laws of the road
- ii. Helmets are required
- iii. DO NO LITTER OUTSIDE OF FEEDZONE or urinate in public view
- iv. Drafting of any vehicle is prohibited
- v. Do not cross the center line when there is one clearly marked in the road
- vi. Aerobars of any kind are strictly forbidden.
- vii. Notify race staff if you abandon the race
- viii. Feeding outside of designated SAG stops and feedzones is prohibited
- ix. Look out for your own safety, Look out for your fellow riders
- x. Though the course will be well-marked, you are responsible for knowing the route

## Helpful Tips

- i. Avoid riding through standing water
- ii. Carry equipment & knowledge to fix at least two flat tires
- iii. Mind the potholes
- iv. If it rains, we are racing, adjust accordingly
- v. Bring enough of your own calories for a long, difficult ride

# Full Course Map



**Total Distance:** 91.9 miles

**Total elevation gain:** 3,539 ft

**Gravel/Dirt:** 7 Sectors, 28.8 mi total

**Pave:** 1 Sector, 3.5 mi total

## SAG Stops & Feedzones

### SAG 1

Mile 32.8 End of Woodstock Rd Gravel

### Unsupported Feedzone

Mile 55.7 Unsupported Feed zone, Park Bathrooms, Water bottles

### SAG 2

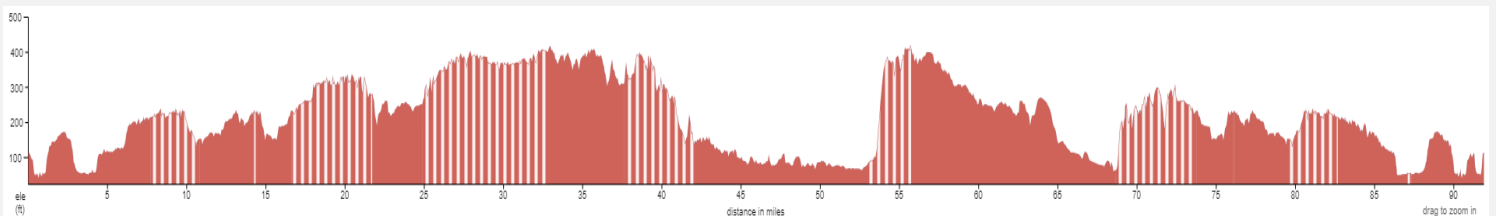
Mile 72.4 Old Tunica & Parker

## [LINK TO COURSE MAP](#)

## [\(RIDEWITHGPS\)](#)

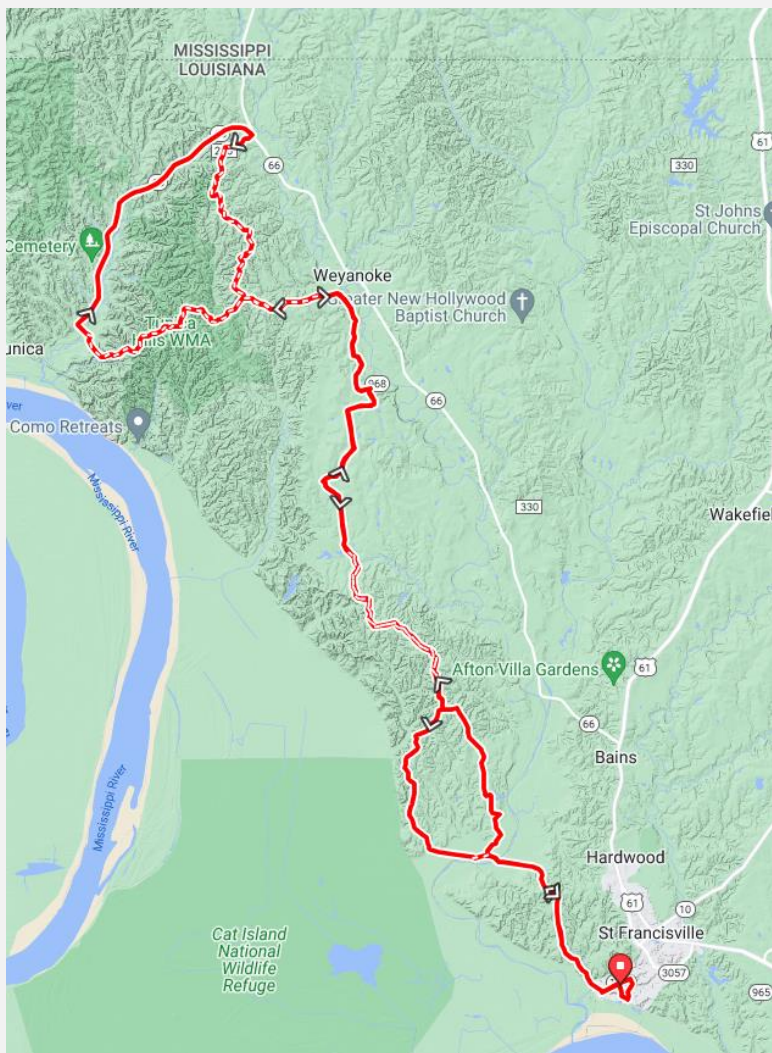
\*\*\*The route is subject to change due to unforeseen weather. Make sure to check latest emails

# Course Profile



\*Striped sections mark dirt/gravel sectors

# Short Course Map



**Total Distance: 50.6 miles**

**Total elevation gain: 2,222 ft**

**Gravel/Dirt: 4 Sectors, 13.6 mi total**

**Pave: 1 Sectors, 3.5 mi total**

## SAG Stop

Mile 18.0 Old Tunica & Parker

Mile 30.9 Old Tunica & Parker

[LINK TO COURSE MAP](#)

[\(RIDEWITHGPS\)](#)

**\*NEW FOR 2024:** The short course will loop Old Tunica-Parker clockwise

**\*\*The route is subject to change due to unforeseen weather. Make sure to check latest emails**

# Course Profile



**\*Striped sections mark dirt/gravel sectors**



# Course Elements

## Low Water Bridge

*Use caution when crossing the low water bridge*

LONG COURSE: Crossings at Miles 3.6 & 87.4

SHORT COURSE: Crossings at Miles 3.6 & 46.0



## Pave Sector

There is one distinct Pavé sector: Metz Road. 3.5mi in length

LONG COURSE: Mile 83.5

SHORT COURSE: Mile 41.9



## Gravel and Dirt Sectors

### LONG COURSE:

MILE 7.7: GREENWOOD	LENGTH: 3.0 mi
MILE 18.0: PARKER	LENGTH: 3.9 mi
MILE 24.9: WOODSTOCK	LENGTH: 7.9 mi
MILE 37.6: RACoon	LENGTH: 4.5 mi
MILE 53.0: FT. ADAMS ft. Blockhouse Hill	LENGTH: 2.8 mi
MILE 68.7: OLD TUNICA ft. Big Bertha	LENGTH: 3.7 mi
MILE 79.6 GREENWOOD	LENGTH: 3.0 mi

### SHORT COURSE:

MILE 7.7: GREENWOOD	LENGTH: 3.0 mi
MILE 18.0: OLD TUNICA	LENGTH 3.7 mi
MILE 27.0: PARKER	LENGTH 3.9 mi
MILE 38.2: GREENWOOD	LENGTH: 3.0 mi





## Finish Line

New for 2024, the finishing sequence of the race will begin just under 1km out with a right turn onto Feliciana St with an immediate bombing downhill followed a hard right onto CR-419. Another ~500m there will be another tight right hand turn through a narrow bridge onto Prosperity St which begins the finishing climb. From the last turn, the finish line is 300m out



## SAG Stops

There will be 2 supported SAG stops and 1 unsupported feedzone. For the long course, the SAGs will be located at miles 32.8 and 72.4. The unsupported feedzone will be located at mile 55.7. For the short course, the same SAG location will be reached twice at miles 18.0 and 30.9. SAG stops will be providing water, sports drink mix, and a variety of foods. The SAG stops will also have limited technical and medical support. Each SAG will also provide as much volunteer neutral water hand-ups as possible for those not wanting to stop. Personal feeds are allowed at SAG stops. The feedzone at mile 55.7 may require paying the park ranger to park at the trailhead. All riders are encouraged to bring their own calories and have a nutrition plan. While we will provide as much as we can, it is never advisable to rely solely on aid stations for calories in a race of this length and difficulty.

SAG 1 (Woodstock) will become self-serve at 10:30a

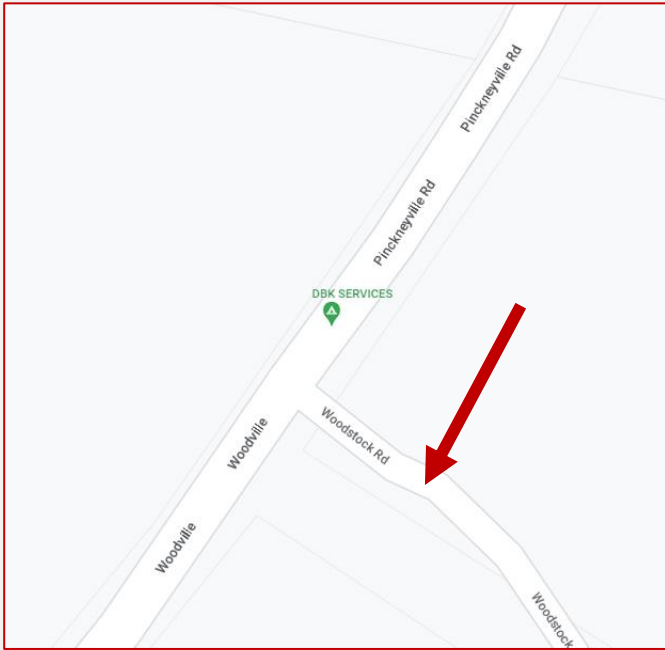
SAG 2 (Parker & Old Tunica) will become self-serve at 1:00pm.

# SAG Stop Locations

## SAG 1

Woodstock Road from Pinckneyville Road

[Google Maps Pin](#)



Mile 32.8, Long Course

## SAG 2

Old Tunica Rd. and Parker Rd.

[Google Maps Pin](#)



Mile 72.4 Long Course

Miles 18.0, 32.9 Short Course

## Unsupported Feedzone Location

Clark Creek  
Natural Area  
Trailhead

*Ft. Adams Pond  
Road*

[Google Maps Link](#)



\*Personal feeds only. Bathrooms and water fountains are available, no race staff will be present

# Support Personnel Movement on Course

Directions to SAG 1 from Downtown: Travel North on US-61. Turn left onto LA-66. Travel 12.5 mi then turn right onto LA-969 / Pinckneyville Rd. Travel 9.2 mi then turn right onto Woodstock Rd. SAG will be located ~100ft from the end of Woodstock road. Estimated travel time: 35 min.

Directions to Feedzone from SAG 1: Head left onto Pinckneyville Rd, travel 1.9 miles then turn right onto Ft. Adams Pond Rd. Travel 0.5 mi to reach Clark Creek Natural Area. Parking may require paying a fee to the park ranger. Estimated travel time: 5 min.

Directions to SAG 2 from Feedzone: Head southeast on Ft Adams Pond Rd. then take a right onto Pinckneyville Rd. Travel 7.3 miles then cross straight over LA-66 to Parker Rd. Travel 3.9 miles on Parker Rd, arrive to intersection of Parker Rd and Old Tunica Rd. (Expected travel time: 26 min). Caution: Parker Rd is a gravel/dirt section.

Directions to Finish from SAG 2: Follow the direction of the race down Old Tunica Road. Travel 3.7 mi then turn left onto LA-968. Travel 0.8 mi then turn right onto LA-66. Travel 7.9 mi then turn right onto US-61. Travel 2.5 mi then turn right onto Commerce St. Travel 1.6 mi then turn right onto Ferdinand St. Proceed to main race parking area or seek street parking outside of the race course. **Do not attempt to park near the finish line!**

## Bike Support

All riders are expected to be **self-supported**. There will be limited on-course technical support. It is recommended that each rider be equipped to fix their own flat tires and carry basic multi-tools. Due to the new remote features of the course and current industry variation in wheel specifications, it is no longer feasible for the race to provide neutral wheels. The 2 SAG stops will each have a technical support crew that will be able to provide basic support for riders who have major mechanical breakdowns. There will be zone coverage of bike support from each SAG location once the last rider is clear of a SAG area bike support from this area will follow the course. IF you need to notify race staff of your location for assistance, please text 225-278-0145 with a pin location and the issue.



# Equipment Recommendations

## Bike Road or CX or

Gravel bike? The answer to that is: it depends. What kind of experience are you hoping to have? If you're hoping to ride to a top placing and achieve legendary Rouge Roubaix glory, then a bike that is fast on the road with gearing to hold steady at speeds >25mph is a must. If you're hoping to give your body a break, then a gravel bike with more dampening and comfortable geometry for a long day in the saddle would be a good pick. The last factor to consider is weather and potential course changes. Riders should pay close attention to the course conditions and announcements that may change which bike they may choose to ride. Generally, the wetter the course, the more tire width, tread, & clearance you will want.



## Tires We believe a fast but durable 30-32mm tire is the optimal tire.

Historically, the race has been ridden between 21-38 mm tires leading to a wide variety of rider experience! The weather plays a major factor in tire choice. Pay attention to how much rain the course will get in the days leading up to the race.

**Shoes** It is HIGHLY recommended that riders wear CX/MTB shoes and run off road pedals or road pedals that won't malfunction with dirt or mud should you have to dismount. 1 step into mud with road cleats can make and already difficult day become that much harder!

# Chip Timing and Cutoff

Each rider will be given a number that must be pinned to the jersey pockets. Full course riders get 2 white and black numbers, short course riders get a single yellow and black number for the center jersey pocket. Each rider will also receive a bike sticker number that contains the timing chip that must be affixed to the seat-post of your bike. Full details of the number pinning and timing chip will be covered at packet pick up. We are assigning numbers based on USAC category if you declared one at registration. Corral 1 will be 1- and 2-digit white numbers for P,1,2

## Number and Chip Placement



## Cutoff Rules

Rouge Roubaix will have a 6.5-hour cutoff (14.13 mph elapsed time). The finish line will be packed up at 2:30 PM. Riders still out on course after this point will have the option to complete the route **self-supported** or get picked up in the sweep vehicle. **IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY OUT ON COURSE AFTER CUTOFF YOU ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF.** All riders are instructed to carry a charged cell phone with race staff numbers that are provided in this guide. If riders are picked up by their own people, we request that someone notify the race staff so that all riders are accounted for.

### Long Course mandatory turn off spots & times

Mile 18: Old Tunica Road/Parker Rd, must be reached by 9:30a

*-All riders will be directed to turn left to complete the short course route*

Mile 63.4: Pinckneyville Rd at Tunica Trace, must be reached by 12:30p

*-All riders will be directed to proceed straight onto Parker Rd and pick up the rest of the course from Old Tunica/Parker*

# Awards

The 1<sup>st</sup> place male and female and masters 45+ long course finishers will receive a champions Jersey. Podium awards will go to the top 3 male and female and masters 45+ long course finishers. The top 3 Male and Female short course finishers will receive an award. There will be the traditional \$100 cash prize at the top of Blockhouse hill to the first rider there.



# Post-Race Food

There will be post-race food and drinks waiting for you at the finish of the event. Pastalaya and beer, water, and soft drinks. We encourage you to stay and hangout as you recover and wait on your friends to finish. The post race food will be available until the finish area is packed up at 2:30pm



# Merchandise

We will have an assortment of RR items for sale at packet pickup and during the race. Stickers, Hats, T-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, musette bags, etc. We will be accepting cash or Venmo

# Contact Info

Will Jones, Race Director: 225-278-0145

Dustin Drewes, Assistant Race Director: 504-613-7662

Brian Lejune: Course Director: 225-354-5502

# Final Thoughts

Thanks again for your support of Rouge Roubaix. For over 20 years, this event has been special to the Louisiana & Mississippi cycling community. From its early beginnings as a crazy idea of a big weekend group ride to the organized event that you see today, we are committed to making your experience a memorable one. For those who have been with us over the years, you know how wildly different the course and conditions can be. This means that no two Rouge Roubaix's have ever been quite the same. It is the passion that people have for this event and the folks that have supported it and work to make it happen that really motivate us to keeping it alive. As always, we will do our best to give you a day that you will hopefully talk about for a long, long, time.

