

LWA Eastern Shore Weekend May 2 May5 2023

Welcome to the annual LWA Eastern Shore Weekend. Here are the plans for the weekend.

There are rides planned for Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday morning. Here is the link to the GPS routes [LWA Eastern Shore Weekend](#).

More details are below.

Our lodging for the weekend is the **Comfort Inn**, 8523 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD, 410-820-8333.

Friday Itinerary : Check in at the hotel. Check in is officially at 4:00pm but my bet is you will be able to check in early if the rooms are ready.

Approximately 2:00 PM: RIDES FROM THE HOTEL There are three options for rides this afternoon.

Rob Smith will take a group on the St Michaels 26 mile ride with a likely extension because Rob has some insider knowledge. He has the ride posted on Meetup so please RSVP there if you plan on doing this ride. The town is home to the [Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum](#) which is worth a visit if riding isn't an option due to weather. It's also a point of interest for non-riding guests. There are several places to get drinks and food as well. The route also goes through downtown Easton. There will be some traffic on this route but there is a good shoulder much of the way.

Dick McCreight will lead Farm Country 32 mile loop. This takes you on a loop through the farm country that surrounds Easton. Dick has the ride posted on Meetup so you can RSVP and let him know who to expect.

The third option is a 26 mile route that takes you to the very pretty town of Oxford (where the ferry stop is). It's right on the Tred Avon River. There are places to get beverages and food. You will then ride the ferry to Bellevue and return through Easton. This is basically a reverse route of the Sun; Bellevue Oxford Loop. If you don't plan on riding Sunday morning, I recommend this as a great option for Friday. I don't have a leader for this route. If someone is willing to act as host please let me know so I can pass the info along.

Suggestion: If the weather precludes riding, I can highly recommend a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St Michaels.

Dinner is on your own Friday. I recommend getting a reservation.

There are numerous good local places to eat in downtown Easton and several national chains along the highway. There are also great options in St Michaels and Oxford

Here are some links:

Easton options. [Dining – Discover Easton, Maryland](#)

St Michaels Options: [Eat - St. Michaels Maryland Business Association, MD](#)

Oxford options: [THE 5 BEST Restaurants in Oxford - Updated April 2023 - Tripadvisor](#)

If someone wants to organize a group outing that would be great, but with over 40 people signed up getting everyone together is pretty hard.

8:30 – 9:00 PM: For those of you who are new to the event and anyone else who wants info, I'll be in the lobby area to go over the plans for Saturday.

Saturday: There are two routes planned for Saturday (37 miles and 53 miles). All the routes start and end at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The 37 miles route goes through the refuge wildlife drive. The 53 miles route goes through the vast marsh lands on the refuge.

All the routes go to Hooper's Island. This year the lunch/rest stop is being hosted by the Hooper's Island Volunteer Fire Company (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057115974454>). I'm very excited to have made this local contact and they are excited to have us there. They are not charging a specific per person price and are asking for donations. **I'd like to suggest everyone make a minimum per person donation of \$20.00 which you can do at lunch in cash.** The LWA will contribute \$100 from the club. Let's show the volunteers how much we appreciate them.

NOTE: Old Salty's where we have traditionally stopped is still open. If you were at the event last year you know how that went. I tried to organize something there but it simply wasn't going to work out to come as a group. I'm delighted that the fire company agreed to provide a lunch/rest stop. Of course, you can choose to stop at Old Salt's but be aware they prepare everything from scratch so it won't be fast and there is no way of knowing how busy they will be. I'd still ask that you drop by the fire company in any case and show your support.

NOTE. Both routes pass Gootie's Marina. We have traditionally stopped there briefly but there are really no services for cyclists and I don't think they were well pleased we stopped. **If you do stop there DO NOT LEAN YOUR BIKE ON ANY OF THE BOATS!** They will admonish you sternly

Here is the itinerary for Saturday.

6:30am – 7:45 am: Breakfast in the hotel (*included in the room rate*).

8:00 -8:15: Leave for the remote starts at visitor's center at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Directions are in the set of maps.

9:00am (ish) : Ride start from Blackwater NWR. The 36 mile ride goes through the refuge. There is a nominal fee to enter the refuge wildlife drive.

Lunch the Hooper's Island Fire Company : All routes pass here. You'll pass it on the way out and back, so the best idea is to plan on lunch on the return trip.

NOTE: The routes all go out the Hooper's Island peninsula. This is an out and back with the lunch in the middle. Therefore, any route can be shortened by simply turning around before the end of the peninsula. A good place to do so is at the second bridge where there is a great view. There is a pavilion near the end of the road where we have traditionally stopped. Honestly, there is no good reason to go beyond that, there is no "There, There" if you know what I mean

For non-riders: The [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Museum](#) is adjacent to Blackwater NWR. There is a wonderful wildlife drive through the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge as well. The 56 mile route is also worth driving as it takes you through the marsh. You are welcome to join us at for lunch with the locals

5:00 (ish) pm. Get together outdoors (hopefully the weather will cooperate) to share the stories of the day and have whatever snacks and beverages you bring. I suggest you bring along a chair.

Dinner is own your own this evening. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Sunday: Breakfast when you feel like it.

There are three options for rides today: 20, 30 and 40 miles. Typically, folks get together and decide what to do, so there is no “official” ride leader.

The 30 and 40 mile routes both cross the Tred Avon River on a very cool small ferry (the 20 mile route does not). The crossing takes about 10 minutes.

The 20 and 40 miles routes both go through Unionville (the 30 mile route does not). It’s a neat piece of American history. For more information about Unionville go to [Unionville, Talbot County, Maryland - Wikipedia](#).

Check Sunday out is 11am. You can ask individually at the front desk for a late checkout, they have been very accommodating in the past. Typically most rides return by at least noon or 1PM.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

My cell if you need to call me is 570-460-2523