

*Rouge Roubaix*

**XXIII**

*Presented by Dynamic*

**TECHNICAL GUIDE**

# Welcome!

On behalf of the race staff, we'd like to welcome you to the twenty-third 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. Rouge Roubaix **will** challenge your fitness, your equipment, your skill, and your spirit. Over its twenty-six year history, Rouge Roubaix has been recognized as one of the most challenging bike races in America. This year features more gravel, more on-course amenities, and a return to our classic downtown uphill finish on Ferdinand St. that was last used in 2017. We hope you enjoy your time racing through toughest race course Louisiana has to offer!

Best of Luck,

The Rouge Roubaix Team



# Schedule of Events

## Friday, March 7th, 2025

4:00p-7:00p: Packet Pickup at Big River Pizza  
Merchandise Tent open

## Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

7:30a: Race-Day Packet Pickup\*

Merchandise Tent Open

8:40a: Long & Short Course Staging

8:50a: Rider Briefing

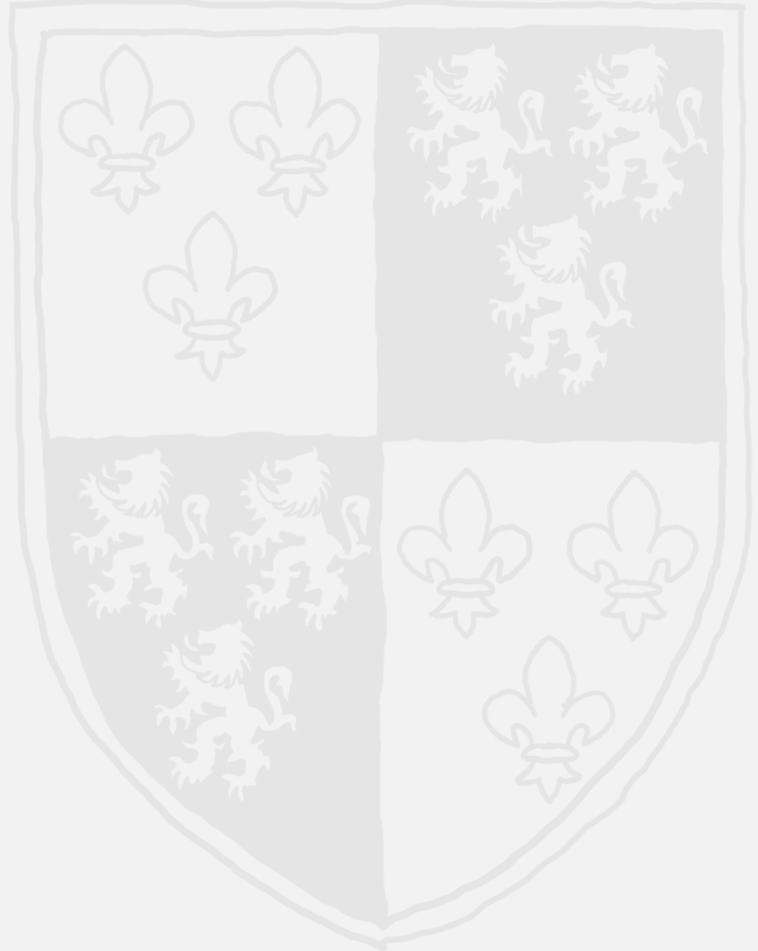
9:00a: Long Course Start

9:10a: Short Course Start

2:00p: Post Race Party

3:30p: Awards

5:00p: Course Closed



## **Locations**

Friday Packet Pickup:

[Big River Pizza Company](#)

5725 Commerce St, St Francisville, LA 70775

Saturday Packet Pickup, Staging, Start/Finish, Post Race Party

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

## **Parking**

Main Race Parking: along Ferdinand St

Overflow parking: Big field on Feliciana St (0.6mi from race staging) [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.*

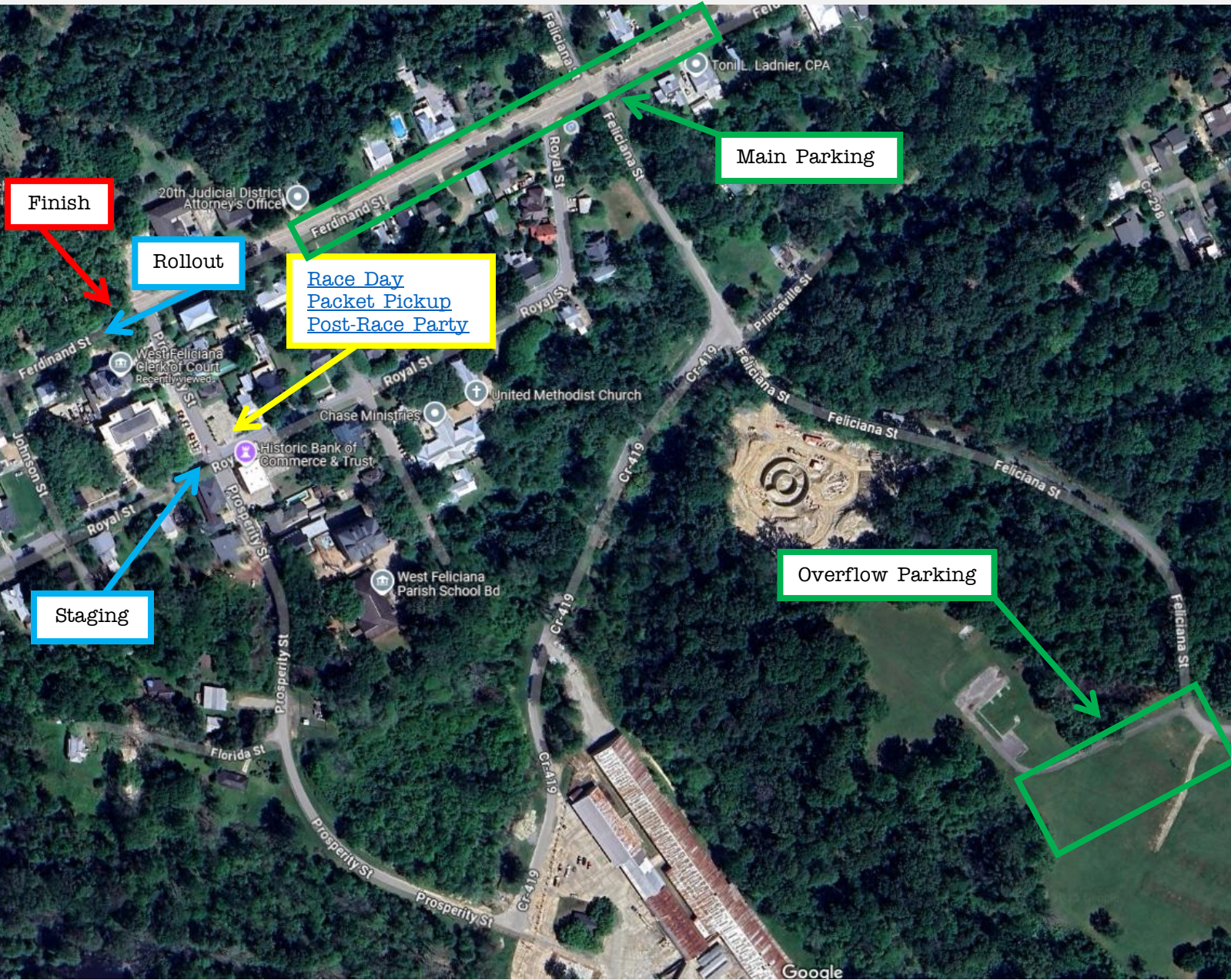
## Rollout

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

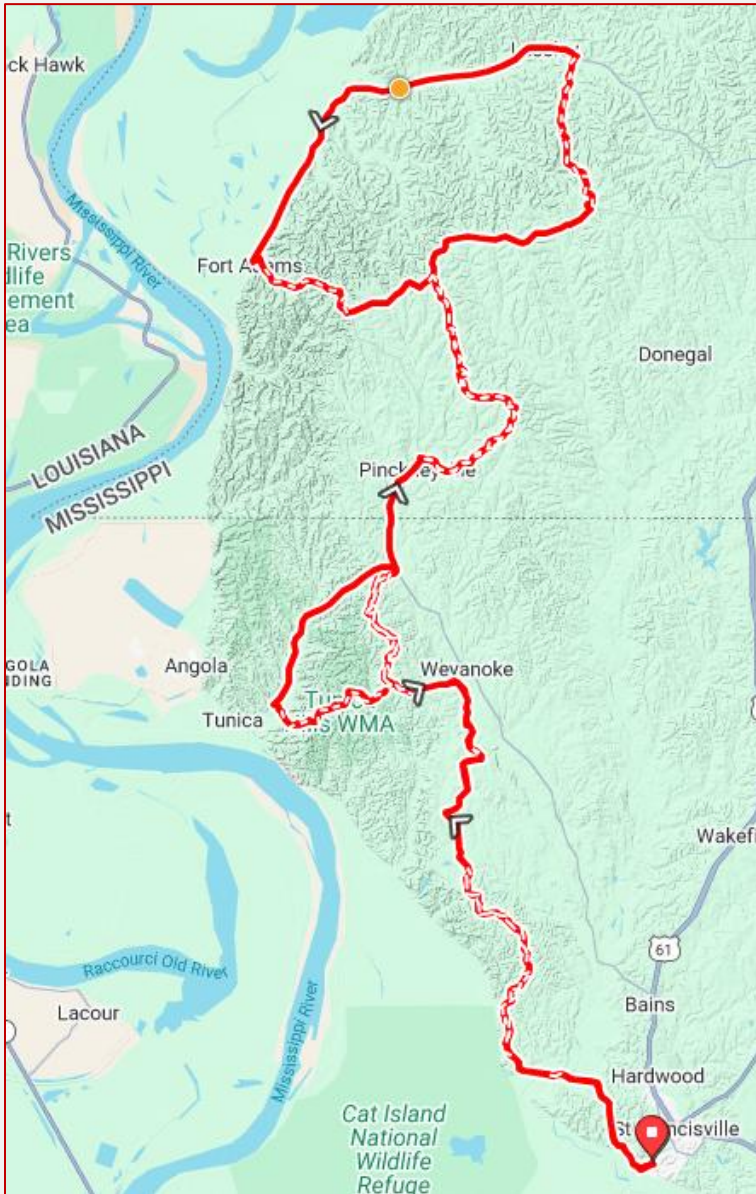
- i. The course is open to traffic; follow all rules of the road including stopping at intersections
- ii. Helmets are required
- iii. DO NO LITTER OUTSIDE OF FEEDZONE or urinate in public view
- iv. Drafting of any vehicle is prohibited
- v. Do not cross the center line when there is one clearly marked in the road
- vi. Only drop bars (Road) and straight (MTB) bars are allowed. Aerobars of any kind are strictly forbidden.
- vii. All riders must carry a cell phone. Notify race staff if you abandon the race
- viii. Feeding outside of Woodstock SAG stop is prohibited
- ix. Personal follow vehicles are not allowed
- x. E-Bikes are allowed in short course only. Riders on e-bikes will not be eligible for awards and are not allowed to assist other riders.
- xi. You are responsible for knowing the route. Download course maps to your bike computer.

## Helpful Tips

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

*Riders are expected to be self-reliant. Due to the large scale of the race course, the race cannot provide full mechanical support and may not reach riders in a timely manner. In some remote parts of the course, cell service is unreliable. If you are not confident in your ability to be self-reliant, consider switching to the short course. All riders are expected to look out for each other and help each other where possible.*

# Long Course Map



**Total Distance:** 105.4 miles

**Total elevation gain:** 4,198 ft

**Gravel/Dirt:** 10 Sectors, 47.7 mi total

**Pave:** 2 Sectors, 5.8 mi total

[LINK TO COURSE MAP](#)

[\(RIDEWITHGPS\)](#)

## **SAG Stops**

### Old Tunica at Parker

Miles: 18.7, 31.6, 86.6

Location: Intersection of Old Tunica Rd and Parker Rd

[LINK to Google Pin](#)

### Woodstock

Miles: 46.3, 71.9

Location: North end of Woodstock Rd

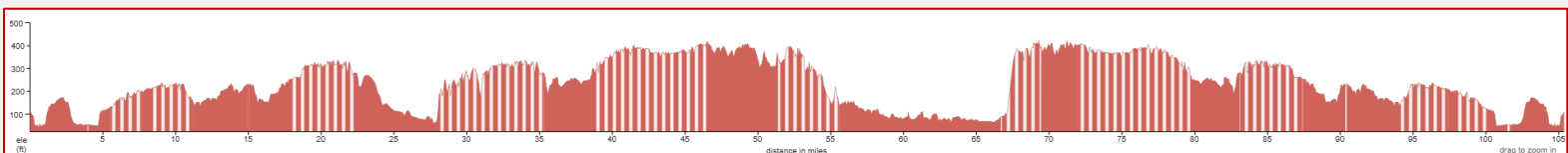
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### Bathroom:

*Clark Creek Park Bathroom located at Mile 69.3*

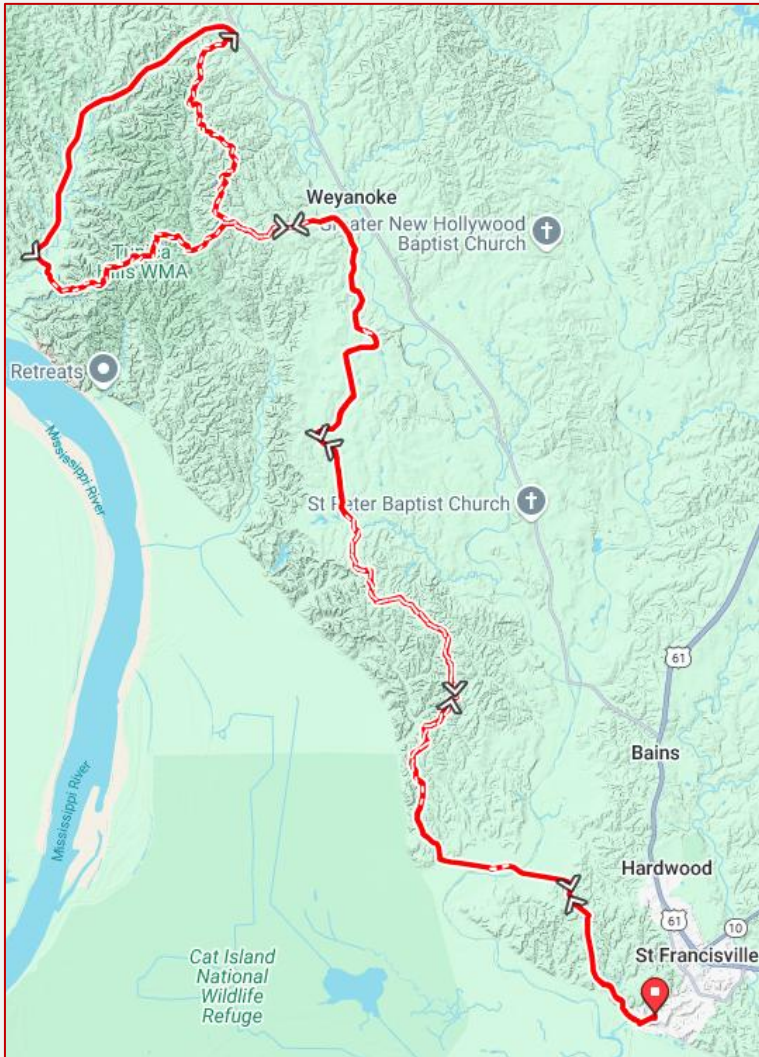
\*\*\*The route is subject to change due to the course being held in an extremely geologically active area. Make sure to check latest emails for any last-minute course changes. Historically, these changes can/have been made as late as the night before the race due to mother nature.

## Course Profile



\*Striped sections mark dirt/gravel sectors

# Short Course Map



**Total Distance:** 50.2 miles

**Total elevation gain:** 2,247 ft

**Gravel/Dirt:** 4 Sectors, 17.2 mi total

**Pave:** 2 Sectors, 5.8 mi total

[LINK TO COURSE MAP](#)

[\(RIDEWITHGPS\)](#)

## SAG Stop

### Old Tunica at Parker

**Miles:** 18.6, 31.5

**Location:** Intersection of Old Tunica Rd and Parker Rd

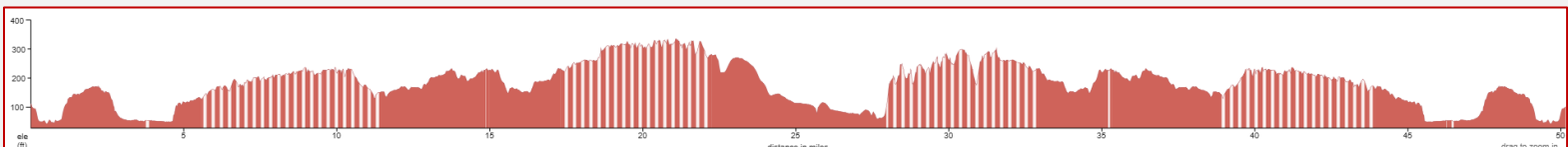
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*Personal feeds are not allowed in the short course*

**\*NEW FOR 2025:** The short course will loop Old Tunica-Parker counter-clockwise

**\*\*\***The route is subject to change due to the course being held in an extremely geologically active area. Make sure to check latest emails for any last-minute course changes. Historically, these changes can/have been made as late as the night before the race due to mother nature.

## Course Profile



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



# Sectors

	Mile	Segment Distance	Max Gradient	Star Rating	Hazards
Low Water Bridge	-3.6 -101.8	200ft	0%	★☆☆☆☆	-Sandy spots -Don't fall off -Crack in middle
Metz Pave	-4.0 -97.7	2.9mi	6.5%	★★★★☆	-Bumpy -Pot holes
Greenwood Gravel	-7.9 -93.9	4.8mi	2.3%	★★★★☆	-Wooden Bridges
Parker Gravel	-18.7 -31.6 -83.1	3.9mi	4.7%	★★★★☆	-Speed bumps
Old Tunica (Big Bertha) Gravel	-27.9	3.7mi	13.6%	★★★★★	-Steep descents -Watch for cars -Blind sharp turns
Woodstock Gravel	-38.5 -71.8	7.8mi	2.3%	★★★★☆	-Watch for horses
Raccoon Gravel	-51.2	4.3mi	3.4%	★★★★★	-Steep, technical descent -Active logging roads
Blockhouse Hill Gravel	-67.1	2.8mi	10%	★★★★☆	-Sand pit

*\*Segment star rating is based on overall difficulty with 5 stars representing the most difficult. This rating is based on a combination of a segment's length, road condition, technical features, and gradient. Some segments are ridden multiple times which factor into their star rating.*

*\*\*Short course will ride Low Water bridge, Metz, Greenwood, Parker, and Old Tunica*

# Finish Line

For 2025 we return to our traditional finish line up the hill on Ferdinand St. in front of the courthouse. This makes the finish line roughly 500 meters from the last left hand turn on Ferdinand St. This is the finish line that was last used In 2017 and features an uphill sprint back into downtown St. Francisville. This particular hill features two distinct pitches. Don't forget about the last kick!



## SAG Stops

Our SAG stops will provide water, drink mix, and an assortment of food. Each SAG stop will provide neutral water bottle hand-ups for those not wanting to stop. Personal race feeds are allowed **only** at the Woodstock SAG. It is advised that you bring all the calories that you'd need to complete the route on your bike and use the SAG stops as a backup. The race will provide as much as we can, however it is not advisable to rely solely on aid station calories to get through a ride of this length. SAG stops will be packed up after the designated time for course cutoff (see takedown times). There will also be a pizza stop in the last few miles of the race. This oasis of bread and cheese will help you find the spirit to get up the last few hills!

### Long Course

There will be 2 supported SAG stops and 1 late-race pizza station. These two SAG stops will be reached at multiple points in the race at miles 18.7, 31.6, 86.6

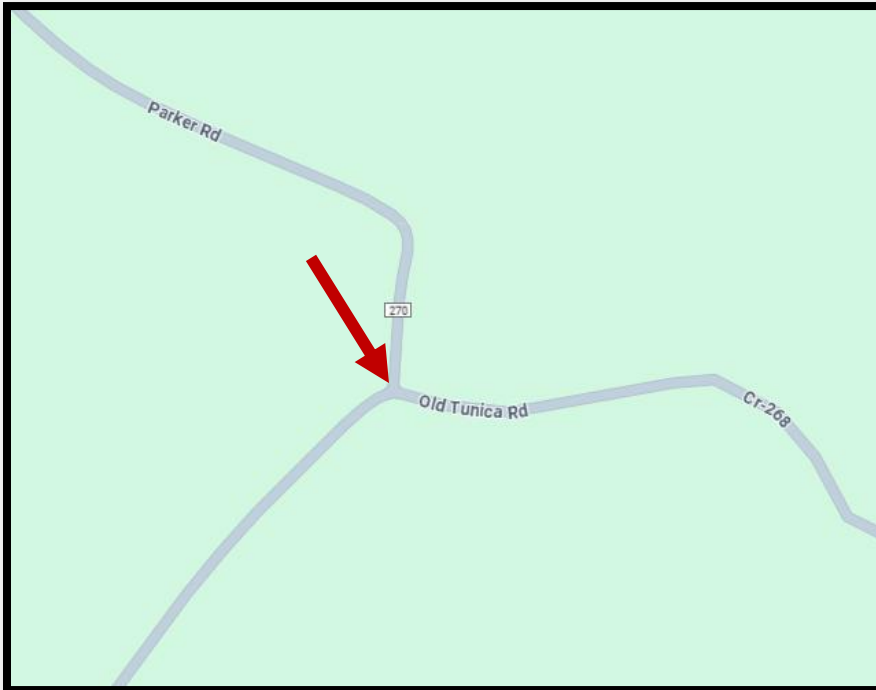
There will be 2 supported SAG stops and 1 late-race pizza stop. For the long course, the SAGs will be located at miles 18.7, 31.6, 46.3, 71.9 and 86.6. The Pizza station will be at mile 101.6

### Short Course

There will be 1 supported SAG stop and 1 late-race pizza station. The one SAG stop will be reached at multiple points in the race. The short course SAG stops will be reached at miles 18.6 and 31.5. The pizza station will be reached at mile 46.5.



# SAG Stop Locations



Old Tunica Rd. and Parker Rd.

*Located at the intersection of Old Tunica Rd. and Parker Rd.*

*\*Personal feeds not allowed\**

[LINK to Google Pin](#)

**Takedown time: 3:30pm**



North End of Woodstock Road

*Located at the northern intersection of Woodstock Rd and Pinckneyville Rd.*

*Personal feeds allowed*

[LINK to Google Pin](#)

**Takedown time: 2:30p**



# Support Personnel Movement on Course

Directions to [Woodstock SAG](#) from downtown

\*35min Drive time

Follow Ferdinand St then take a left on Commerce St. Travel 1.5mi then turn left onto US-61. Travel 2.5mi then turn left onto LA-66. Travel 12.5mi then turn right onto LA-969/Pinckneyville Rd. Travel 9.2mi then turn right onto Woodstock Road.

## 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 call or text Dustin at 504-613-7662 or Will at 225-278-0145 with a pin location and the issue.



# Equipment Recommendations

## Bike

Road or Gravel bike? The answer: 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 above 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 32-35mm tire is the optimal tire. For riders seeking more comfort and control on the gravel, then widths between 38-45mm will work better. This course has 47 miles on gravel!

## 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 an 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

To ensure the safety of our participants, Rouge Roubaix will have an 8.0-hour cutoff (13.18 mph average). **Riders must reach a cutoff checkpoint at the end of Woodstock (Mile 46.4) by 12:30pm.** Riders not reaching this cutoff checkpoint in time will be turned around to bypass the north loop and complete the rest of the course. Riders not reaching the checkpoint in time will be marked DNF and will still complete 80 miles of the long course total. The finish line will be packed up at 5:00 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.** If riders are picked up by their own people, we request that someone notify the race staff so that all riders are accounted for.

# 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 male and female rider there.



# Post-Race Party

There will be post-race food and drinks waiting for you at the finish of the event. Pastalaya, beer, water, and soft drinks. We encourage you to stay and hang out 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 5:00pm



# 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, credit cards or Venmo

# Contact Info

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

Will Jones, CEO: 225-278-0145

Jessica Jones, Executive VP: 318-560-2297

Brian Lejune, Course Director: 225-354-5502

# Special Thanks to our Sponsors!



## Final Thoughts

*Thanks again for your support of Rouge Roubaix. For over 25 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 keep 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.*