



Havana - A Very Different Florida

March 2024 NEWS AND EVENTS

Havana Hills Spring Classic 8th Annual Better Than Ever



155 cyclists participated in the 8th Annual Havana Hills Spring Classic (HHSC). The ride was dedicated this year as a Remembrance Ride, naming **Jake Bowkin** who rode the HHSC last year and sadly lost his life that same year while training for a national ride in Jefferson County and for all those who had lost their lives or suffered injury due to vehicles while riding their bikes. A memorial statement was read by **Trish Smith**, HHSC committee member, whose husband lost his life while riding State Road 12 and by **Jason Kahn-Hohensee** a close friend of Jake's. Riders this year had their choice of six separate distances on two different surfaces, hard road and off road "gravel". **The Havana Fire Volunteer Fire Truck** driven by volunteer firefighter and HHSC member **John Donahue**, escorted the throng of riders out of town. All aspects of the cyclists were considered. On the toughest part of the hard road ride, a roadside Art Exhibit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Casino Royale a Success

Thanks to the vision and hard work of Havana Main Street Membership Committee and Chair **Katie Gainey** and the many volunteers, **Casino Royale** was a great success. More than 100 guests were given the royal treatment. No detail was overlooked while they were transported to the glamorous world of high stakes gambling.

Guests tried their luck at the roulette table and blackjack, learning the tricks of the game from the experienced dealers. A delicious spread of refreshments met the guests when they entered the Havana Springs Resort and they were entertained with live music from **Anna Wescoat** and **Next Phase**.

Cocktails were served and could be enjoyed outside on the veranda and lawn while taking a break from the heat of the highstakes faux betting.

Thanks to the Havana Main Street Membership committee, volunteers, many generous individuals and businesses who donated and gave wonderful items for the prizes and auction items, funds were raised to promote downtown Havana and help Havana Main Street better serve the community.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by the **AHA Gallery** helped to take their minds off the "Burn". Fresh fruit, supplied by **Harvey's in Havana**, PBJ sandwiches were prepared by **Reva Marshal** and a team of volunteers, protein energy gels were supplied by **Breakaway Energy Gels**. Cyclist safety was also a main concern. Thank you **Bob Carruthers** on his motorcycle, **Ken Skipper and John Donahue** who were on call to help in their pickup trucks, from bandaging the fallen, to retrieving stranded cyclists. All along the ride, the **Tallahassee HAM Radio Operators** were supplying up to date communication making sure no cyclist was left behind.

Epic Bikes hosted a Packet Pick Up at their Market Street location and a mechanic for bike tune-ups at the Havana Registration site. Cyclists received a wristband with a phone number to call in case of emergency and a commemorative gator, sponsored by **Farm Bureau Insurance, Havana Main Street** and **Visit Tallahassee**.

At the end of the ride cyclists was treated to a cool drink and choice of lentil soup, Irish stew, corn bread or Bavarian brown bread and a desert of banana pudding, prepared by the chefs at **Off The Rails Irish Pub**. Refreshments were enjoyed on their beautiful patio. **MADD**, Mothers Against Drunk Driving provided merchandise sharing their mission and promoting an up coming ride.

A special thanks to **John Dunn** who conceived the idea eight years ago, **Joanna Southerland** who set up the social media; etal, **Rick Ashton** for charting the gravel routes, **AHA Gallery Artists** and **Reva Marshal** and **Cindy Rawls** and the team of HMS volunteers and **Jim Barineau** for the gravel parking access;

Thank you all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

WWW.HavanaMainStreet.com
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March 30th
10am to 4pm
Join us for Artists
Demonstrations &
Workshops
Original Art and
Crafts
Vendor space still available



These events are brought to you in part by a generous grant from the Florida Division of Arts and Culture.



Havana Main Street
presents
Honky Tonk'n Havana
A Tribute to Johnny Cash
Featuring Cash Back
Saturday April 27th, 2024
Doors Open at 7p
Show at 7:45p
Location: Havana History Museum
204 NW 2nd Street

Viva Florida: Florida Before Statehood

**A Museum of Florida
History Traveling Exhibit**
Through April 30 - Havana Shade Tobacco Museum
Florida's rich history is captured with the Viva Florida traveling exhibit, Florida Before Statehood. 500 years of Florida History
Contact: havanahistoryheritage.com



Be a part of making it happen!
Volunteers make the events a success.
Contact **Havana Main Street** for details
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