

Rider Comments

Comment #1

Burma both ways? Hard way only? Easy way only? Neither way ☺? EASY WAY ONLY

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue? YES, but the last one should have been placed closer to the last check point. After 80+ miles that was a tease

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it? NA

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience? Yes, we stayed both Friday and Saturday, it was great

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while. Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier? I think it would make for a late ride finish time. I prefer to start early

Other comments:

We took a detour (followed the arrows for 80 miles) and ended up doing 88 miles with 10,400 elevation gain. Better signage for next year please

No rain next year please 😊. Roads were slick and dangerous especially on those steep downhills.

Thanks for organizing

Comment #2

Great job !

Only comment is the jersey this year had a weird rubber like material....different from prior years...like the prior better

No Burma

Comment #3

Awesome event. Loved the aid stations. I would recommend a 9 am start time, or an 8 am start time beginning and ending near the North end ferry terminal. At least for those coming from off the island to the North, that would make it a lot easier to participate.

Comment #4

I was on-island, so much of the experience was smooth and easy. I started the 30-mile ride right before the end of check-in, and had no troubles at all. I liked the limerick I saw. I would be pleased to subsidize the off-island riders with shuttle service from the ferry;

I'd pitch into a jar for that happily.

I think the food has started later than the printed schedule every year I've ridden, and I sort of paced my ride around the schedule.

I'm hoping to learn next time to just plan to be late for lunch, since that will be on-time.

As always, the rest stop staff was fun and helpful, and a big part of what makes the ride great. Tacos remain yummy.

Comment #5

It was my 1st ride.

1. Great course. Very challenging. Locally, I've done RAMROD (both ways), STP 1-day, Whistler Gran Fondo (regular and the 100m version) and RCC's Edge. I would rate this equally with RAMROD in terms of challenge. While P2P is shorter in length, so many of its short climbs have the challenging grades. Reminds me of a shorter version of RCC Edge.

2. Really enjoyed the vibe. Even though there were 19 stops to make, I like the fact that the stops were hosted by friendly people, plenty of food/snacks to keep my tummy happy while I ingested my gels. I wish that I had known that my P2P passport needed a plastic bag because I finished the ride and my passport was nearly in shreds (had to piece it all back together).

3. Didn't use the shuttle nor stay overnight. Just drove and ferried my car here. At first I thought this was wasteful but glad I did it because it rained and I was shivering. Glad to have dry clothes in the car to change into and warm up. Can't imagine doing it with shuttle option or ride to ferry (I saw people do it, but one guy in the ferry was trying to stay warm.)

4. Some climbs were technical. I have gravel raced so understand how to descend and manage traction ascending the steeper climbs, especially the ones that were wet from light rain. Burma was a challenge because I thought I saw sealant in sections, which meant no traction at all. My advice on Burma: the section between the stop and the intersection is ok, the undulating section is the toughest and requires participants to use technical skills on ascent/descent.

5. I took both ferries. Came via the south and returned the north. Yeah, the north really sucks, glad I came South. If you made the start time later, it would help but it means that your event could run though 6 pm, maybe sunset for the slower riders (I finished around 3:45 in 7:48 overall in the Idiot course and I started at 7:30am).

6. P2P has the best post ride meal ever. Never expected to feast on tacos made by a Mexican owned/run restaurant and served with actual plates, utensils and napkins. I probably should have had a beer but didn't but that was cool that you had it at the end. Overall, your event was a fun one. If there is one more thought: I never got any merchandise. If your window of online sales re-opens, please let me know.

Comment #6

Thank you for all of your and the numerous volunteers' hard work. This was my second P2P.

I have two thoughts on the ride. I realize that the event requires a great deal of human power to make all of the many details work. That said I think Safety is always the highest need and I wished there was more of a presence at some of the busier intersections to assist getting riders through. I can't recall the exact intersection but there was a pretty steep downhill that emptied onto Dockton Road. It would have been great to have a volunteer wave riders through, or have them stop if traffic was approaching. There were several riders that came to a sliding halt.

So, in essence more volunteer presence at key intersections similar to the Arts Center parking lot.

The next item also pertains to safety as well and to be honest I am not sure what the organizers could do but there were a fair number of riders that IMO were just riding too fast for conditions. I saw two accidents, one on the Gold Hill descent at the bottom where the road turns and one close to Dockton where an ambulance was required.

I am an older rider at 75 so naturally more conservative, but the speed of many riders was a comment that I heard from many younger riders as well. I am not sure what the organizers could do, but I have to say that if I elect not to ride again it will be out of concern for riders not riding in a responsible manner.

But overall it continues to be a good ride.....maybe just not my cup of tea in the future.

Again, thanks for all of your hard work!!

Comment #7

We did stay on the island Friday night, and thoroughly enjoyed the event, but a 9 am start time would be awesome!

Also, I'm not sure what the point of having bib numbers is if there isn't any tracking of the riders, or announcement of riders at the finish line. There didn't seem to be a noticeable purpose for them, but maybe I'm missing something.

That said, looking forward to next year!

Comment #8

Overall a fun miserable time!

Burma was a little tricky having two-way traffic, I saw some close calls with folks bombing down the steep parts and wobbly swerving riders coming up, I'd argue for hard way only. I will say that this year felt harder than last year, which felt easier than the year before (for whatever that's worth).

Limericks were fun, but I think I missed a lot of them due to the rain and pain. If they were a lot of work, probably not worth it for me.

The uncontrolled start was problematic, it led to more chaos on the road and jams at the checkpoints. Sending out groups some minutes apart worked well in the past. This was not a problem past checkpoint 6, most noticeable on Maury.

Thanks so much for putting this thing on, it's a high point of the year for me for sure. I managed to cramp in both legs at the same time on top of the second Burma hill.

Comment #9

Such a fun ride and event and thanks for all the work that went into it!

Hoping to do it again next year and main pieces of feedback are:

- Would really love a 9am start time. The early ferry is brutal.
- I thought the route was great and was entertained by doing Burma in both directions.
- I wouldn't mind paying for a shuttle and definitely understand there is a lot of work involved in providing that service.

Comment #10

There was a lot of confusion on the route to the first stop. We ended up going in circles. The road had an arrow with 80 and straight, but the route was to turn left.

Burma both ways? Hard way only? Easy way only? Neither way ☺? Burma is a bit of enigma, I love to tell everyone that I have done a 25% grade, but it was not good this year. The wet road made it almost impossible to peddle up without your tire slipping. I notice at least half the folks walking up. I would say only do the easy way going forward.

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue? Yes, continue

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it? Did not use or plan to use the shuttle

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience? This is something we talk about every year, but have not made it happen. Seems to be very expensive.

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while. Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier? Agree the ferry is not always reliable and the schedule is not good to support the start time. I would not recommend changing the start time to 9am though.

Comment #11

I know you didn't invite more comments on registration, but I think a large part of the problem was an apparent lack of adult supervision. The young people who staffed registration meant well but didn't seem to know where to send us, who was doing what, etc.

If the possibility of rain is in the forecast, consider some canopies so riders don't have to eat/drink in the rain after a long ride.

We stayed with friends on the island who live about 4 miles from the start. So, we just added a few miles to our ride and it worked out great.

Good call ending the ride when heavy rain made the course dangerous. Some of the descents are pretty tricky when wet. Most of our crew opted for the Weasel when the rain started. The one who went for it agreed that ending the ride was a good thing.

Kudos to all of the volunteers, especially the support stations, meal servers and flaggers who kept us from following the unofficial course markings. Every single volunteer I encountered was upbeat, even when conditions were challenging.

Thanks again
Hope to see you next year

Comment #12

Burma both ways? Hard way only? Easy way only? Neither way ☺?

This was my first year so I can't compare to the other ways, but I found the slick ground to be the biggest issue; my 28mm road tires just couldn't gain traction. So I might change my tires for the next ride or do an anti-rain dance, but it's not a challenge if there isn't something so hard you couldn't master it the first time. Happy to try it again just like this next year.

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue?

The limericks were fun but not a big part of the experience. If someone loves doing them, I wouldn't get in the way.

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it?

See next answer.

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience?

I stayed over at an Airbnb. I brought three family members who roamed the island while I was riding. We stayed over Saturday night as well. Dealing with a ferry super early in the morning just seemed like extra stress, and being a soaking wet mess at the end, it was nice to have some place close to go home to. Everyone had a great time, and likely we will do it all over again next year.

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while. Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier?

The route took me longer than I expected, nine hours (though it is true I did seven extra miles thanks to the sabotage), and I much prefer to start at the earlier time so that the end time doesn't get pushed out too far. This being my first time, I don't know if my time was fast, average or slow, and I don't know how much had to do with walking up a bit of two wet hills and my low spirits toward the final most drenched hours, but I would rather keep the start time early in an event.

I had a great time. Though I was cursing the sight of the last few hills and spent the last two fully soaked hours debating giving up, I know that I will not hesitate to do it again next year. If I'm a stronger rider and if it is kind enough to not rain, all the better. Thanks to all the volunteers at all the checkpoints for being kind, joyful and encouraging. Thanks to everyone involved in putting this on. I loved it.

Comment #13

I couldn't make it up Burma the first direction because my rear tire kept slipping out on a couple of the hills. It was just too steep with the wet road conditions and my tires being a little old. I was also a little cautious on the downhills after falling pretty hard right before checkpoint 2 so I wasn't able to get up as much speed from the downhill. My preference would be to not have quite such steep terrain if possible. Way back was fine.

I think the weather played a pretty big role.

Comment #14

It would be delightful to have a pre-function somewhere on-island for a Thursday or Friday night packet pickup ahead of the event, which would also relieve pressure on day-of-event lines.

I love the limericks and actually stopped mid-climb to get a picture of one :D

I'm not quite sure how to guard against it, but the route-marking sabotage at the start of Maury was just mean.

Thanks for another great/miserable year!

Comment #15

<I am a first time P2P rider>

Get a map on Ride with GPS for each course. This would help with navigation.

While certainly verbally warning rider of the road hazards were given at the start, there were a couple of tight turns (on the descent) that could have used visual warning signs. This would help reduce accidents.

I did the idiot, loved the well support stops, but did not need that many. This would shorten the overall ride time.

Package pickup seems overly complex with two lines, one for number the other for passport/number. Not sure why we really needed numbers.

Reduce complexity, smooth the start process.

Burma both ways? Hard way only? Easy way only? Neither way ☺?

Cannot comment as it's the only way I have ever ridden it. That said I was VERY happy I had a bike with low gearing.

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue?

Continue.

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it?

I did not need this so cannot comment

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience?

Yes, and LOVE the island...

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while.

Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier?

I would not like to start such a long ride that late in the morning but would understand if that needed to happen to accommodate the (dam) ferry logistics.

Comment #16

Thanks for organizing the event!

I'd say to keep Burma road in the route (both ways) it's a bit of a signature at this point it seems.

The limericks were fun; I appreciated those.

Not sure what the medical coverage for the event is currently, but I'd say if there isn't already, make sure there is a first aid kit on hand at each station and maybe have a doctor or nurse working the event to render help in case of a crash etc. If there was a doctor / nurse on staff, maybe have them follow along the course progression to try and be close to the bulk of the riders. For the crash on Manzanita road, there was luckily a nurse biking up the hill shortly after the incident, and she was able to render some help. If she hadn't been there and able to assist, I'm not sure if there was a medical professional around (besides 911) that could have responded promptly.

That's all I've got for comments.

Thanks again for organizing, it was a lot of fun!

Comment #17

Good stuff! My thoughts:

Burma

Keep both ways. It's insanity. (Can't believe I'm saying keep it – and I will totally forget pain in two weeks).

Limericks

Keep and add 1 or 2 more in the opening 20 miles. A key part of the ride's heritage.

Shuttle

Keep but expand to have two crews at each end. Increase price of ride for all riders to cover cost to encourage best behavior and reduce traffic on island.

Start Time

No Change.

Themes & Costumes at Checkpoint

Return these back to full glory. Make it a requirement for checkpoint hosts. A key part of the ride's fun and heritage.

Safety

Install traffic monitors on the descents (mid-way, prior to the critical danger points) to wave riders to slow down.

Install them on the first three descents to get safety into the heads of cyclists so they survive and have the right mindset for the rest of the day.

Finish Food

Keep. Fantastic this year.

Start

Consider grouping by course category and send off in small waves to allow the announcer to celebrate the categories more in the morning.

The categories are brilliant and part of the ride's heritage, people enjoy being part of one, enjoy seeing the others, etc.

Devil

Keep but make a deal with him and give him a raise. Key part of the ride's heritage.

Comment #18

1. Burma road was kinda brutal when it was wet. Definitely had to stay seated and was in survival mode for both of the climbs on the first pass. Was pushing 500 watts and had to get as low as I could get over the pedals to keep the front wheel down, and

backwheel from sliding out. The way back down Burma was okay. Saw a dozen people with scrapes that said they hit the deck at that area. Can't complain about the rain this year as the overcast and moisture kept it cool. Wouldn't want to do this course in the sun. I say keep Burma as Burma for next year.

2. Limericks were good.

3. Caught the shuttle on the way in from Pt. Defiance. Easy and was glad there was one at that time of morning. After the race around 3:30 pm, kept hearing that it was last call for southend shuttle, but couldn't locate who/where that was located. Ended up pedaling back and just made the 4:00 ferry. Would like to see a couple of school buses, or at least maybe a clearer meeting area if the shuttle was somebody's truck, etc. I'd pay recovery cost for increased shuttle services.

4. Did not stay on island but will next year.

Had a great time. Hope the event was a success for the organizing team.

Comment #19

You guys put on one hell of a great ride! I have done rides all over the world and this one is a top 3 fav already. While I was a newbie to your course, the passport and 19 fun filled stops made this challenging, grueling ride a fun filled event. I traveled from California and stayed on the island and eagerly look forward to doing it again next year. I can't think of anything I would ask you to change....the start time was perfect otherwise it ends up being very late in the day upon finish, the course support was beyond anything I have ever experienced, with 19 food and drink, plus a lunch sandwich stop, 4 clothing drops, a well-marked course with people posted as well for safety....it was perfection! Next year I will skip bringing 2 bottles and 10 gu packs and trust in course rest stops!!! The post ride food and beverage were top notch. (even though I was turned away for no ID at the beer tent, totally my fault, but after Burma, Satan and rain I was dreaming of double fisting those beers). Just a great class act the whole way.

Comment #20

Start time at 7:00 was fine IMO - that allows enough time to finish at a reasonable time.

Not a fan of Burma both ways. It's too narrow. There were cyclists pedaling up the steep parts both ways while cyclists had also dismounted and pushing their bikes up the steepest parts. Just wasn't enough room for safety for 3 users at the same time.

Not breaking news here but Burma north bound kinda sucks whereas Burma south bound can be a lot of fun.

The hairpin turn at the bottom of the hill going to Gold Beach would benefit from additional signs warning riders to slow down. I witnessed the aftermath of a crash due to excessive speed.

I would appreciate a current ridew gps link to follow in addition to the yellow route arrows.

Comment #21
Another solid year!

We stay on the island Friday night with friends and leave Sunday.

Would prefer if the Idiots could ride with the Weasels longer...split up our group after ~30 miles (?)

Start time...we leave late anyway because we ride to the start
9 seems too late. Maybe 8 tho...

I'm a Weasel. Still like starting with Maury Island, but also miss the Burma Hill...(or so I? Not really)

Comment #22

Great event! My second year doing it (last year was first). I did Idiot last year and Weasel this year. See quick comments below:

Burma both ways? Hard way only? Easy way only? Neither way ☺? Both ways

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue? **Continue!**

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it? Did not use.

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience? VRBO Friday and Saturday. Great experience.

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while. Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier? N/A for us but 9 AM start time would be great.

Comment #23

First-time rider, had a great time! Thank you for all the work you and the volunteers put into this.

Coming over from Seattle - after realizing what ferry we needed to take - ended up getting a last-minute Airbnb near the start line. This time of year it is a little hard for me to take off a Friday, so we got in late, but much better than a 5:10am ferry. Our stay was pleasant, and would certainly do it again if I could make it work.

I would certainly be willing to pay for a shuttle if the ferry time was closer to the start time or the start time was pushed back. I also totally understand the strain a later start would put on volunteers!

The limericks as well as the themed stops were great - keep it up.

I rode the Weasel route, and it is certainly the hardest day of riding I've had (completed numerous RSVPs, the STP, etc) - but that's the point. Can't really speak to route options, having this be my first time riding the P2P, although I have ridden unorganized rides on Vashon plenty of times, I found the route challenging but not past the point of it being enjoyable. It was fun to see new corners of Vashon and Maury that I had not seen before.

Comment #24

The route is perfect. I wouldn't change it. I vote for Burma both ways. The roadway was slick this year, which wasn't fun at all and even dangerous in places, but on a dry year, Burma is the challenge I look forward to. I've done P2P five or six times and I prefer the current counter-clockwise route, especially on a hot day.

Thank you SO much for the shuttle. I VERY much appreciated the shuttle to the south end that avoided a rainy 6-mile ride to the ferry. Even though I loved it, next year I could ride without the shuttle and be fine. In years past I've been completely exhausted after riding but my fitness is getting better and I could do the six miles. I took the shuttle mostly to avoid paying to bring my car to the island.

P2P is probably my favorite ride of the year because of all the energy from the volunteers, plenty of good food, and the challenge of riding hills. I appreciated the variety of food options. My favorite items were chocolate milk, green grapes at stop #5, potato chips, BLT from Windermere at the midpoint, potato chunks and the banana/chocolate sauce at the pool. And, of course, the lunch at the end is better than any lunch at any ride ever! I wish

The limericks are fun -- a great way to keep your mind on something besides pain. I miss the "favorite song" playing on one of the hills in years past.

You do an amazing job on signage. I know there was a hiccup this year (or sabotage?) with the paint on the road in Dockton. Luckily one of the course setters was on hand to tell us which way to go.

Keep up the good work and I'll see you next year. I'm still trying to convince my cycling friends in Olympia to join me. The hills are intimidating.

Comment #25

I love 7 am it's a long ride and I not fast but I can finish. I avoided double Burma for safety reasons. I think the road is too steep and narrow to do a double. Personally I prefer the easier way from the north end. There is still plenty of hills and miles and I

wanted to finish at 5 pm which I did. I would highly recommend more fluids at the stations That was a major problem. Water is fine but if it was hot I know I would have blown up. Would recommend people carry electrolyte additives to mix with water. That keeps your expenses down and you can afford a lot more water .Thanks for your concerns.

Comment #26

I know it's a big ask but if you could keep it from raining next year it would be great! Jokes aside, really I enjoyed this year's edition!

Regarding your questions:

- Burma both ways is fine as long as not too many people are on it. I think if it was busy chances of having a collision would be very real but don't really know since I only passed one other person when I rode it. If you keep it one way keep the "hard" way.
- Limericks were solid, always fun to read.
- Did not use the shuttle, rode to and from start.
- stayed on island, always a good time
- I don't know the logistics but if you had a rolling start time where people could start between say 7-9 or 9:30am it could help alleviate the mass of people arriving at the same time and people having to deal with ferry schedule. I know you expressed some concern about people finishing in a timely manner at this year's start so maybe have a hard cutoff for the starting time and a published closing time for all checkpoints close at 4:30 so everyone and the volunteers can enjoy the tacos (the food was really good).

Other thoughts:

- More pickle juice/electrolyte/similar drinks in the latter checkpoints
- Maybe I missed it but a water bottle filling station at finish would be appreciated!

Thank you to you and everyone who helps put on this great event!

Comment #27

Thank you so much for your organization of this event. I enjoyed it as my first bike event on Vashon.

For context- I did the Tourist ride. My partner did the Weasel version. This was the first time either of us did any of the P2P. We stayed at an airbnb for the weekend.

I'll just speak for my experience. For not knowing what to expect I enjoyed myself. However I think the timing and/or the route for the tourist could be better. Specifically with the 7ish start time, the tourist didn't really allow for the experience of P2P. The stations you did pass for your passport were not open as they are later on in the ride for everyone else. I ended up exploring a bit of the Maury Island route and was so thankful I did. Experiencing the pit stops was so much fun and have a ton of energy.

It would be great to have all the routes hit at least the first passport stop or to have a later start time (maybe staggered by type of ride you are doing) so that the stops are up and running.

I appreciated the signage and communication the day of. I was surprised there wasn't a bib pick up available the night before but it sounds like you've already gotten feedback about the check in and bibs.

Overall, it was a great intro to Vashon Island and I hope you were able to raise a lot for the Rowing Club! Thank you for hosting/organizing this event!

Thank you

Comment #28

1) The P2P is a great event all around, no real complaints. The volunteers are amazing especially having the youth at the finish / boathouse

2) Maybe consider having a bicycle maintenance stand available at the first 3 or 4 checkpoints? I saw plenty of riders adjusting stuff or fixing flats early in the ride. That might be a nice convenience.

3) I always stay the night before ,so we do not have to deal with AM logistics. I'd consider taking the AM ferry if you moved the start to 9AM though and would pay a fee for a shuttle (although I'd rather you just build in the cost of the shuttle into everyone's registration, that way you're covered)

4) tacos / drink were great

5) I did get hoodwinked by the vandalized road markings and added 2-3 miles and a hill to my day which was just one more bonus that I appreciated. Having said that: Maybe double down on the stick-on road markings and P2P signage rather than -any- spray paint?

Comment #29

Thanks again for the awesome event. Total blast again in 2024.

Loved the volunteers and stamp stations.

Registration wasn't too bad, getting there early.

Ride would have been better with less rain, ha!

Burma both ways was no joke. Nearly crushed me, but memorable in the end. I'd be ok with the easy-way only next year.

I heard a couple of people crashed/got hurt, leading to closing down stop 19 & ending early; would be great for other riders to be able to share "get well soon" messages with those folks, anonymously.

Comment #30

1. Thanks, that was fun.
2. Burma uphill ***** sucked, and half of riders had to walk. If your goal is to break us, it was a good call. But I would rather do it one way as a reward, rather than both ways. Also, it was really detracted from the downhill having to worry about uphill walkers.
3. Signage wasn't very good, especially on Maury, and I had to stop and consult the map a number of times and turns. Also, I missed one checkpoint because the signage was really weak (I had to backtrack). On the really long stretches, put a regular P2P every half mile at a minimum. They painted arrows were confusing, were they for us or others? Maybe change colors each year for the road arrows. Give earlier warning for turns, when our heads are down, those turns sneak up on us. At least two signs before a turn spaced 50 yards apart is a good rule, not one sign 20 yards before and a few road arrows. . The flaggers were critical, thank you (and thanks to them).
4. Limericks were great, we needed more. Actually, they were less clever than last year.
5. Some roads were really busy, and it would be great to minimize those. The triplets had tons of traffic.
6. There was a lot of gravel at the ends of some of the western hills on vashon. Maybe if a dude could take an industrial blower and minimize the gravel, esp on turns. There were some near disasters.
7. More rest points (folding chairs, stretching areas)
8. Love the snacks, encourage creativity. It makes it fun. real food helps when the gu sticks in our throat and cliff bars make us nauseous. Pickle juice a+. hard boiled eggs.

Great job and thank you to the P2P team and family. This is a very special event and I look forward to it every year now.

NO don't make the start time any later, but let people start from 7-8 am window to accommodate stragglers and ferry anxiety. I stayed on the island at a friend's place, that's the only way to do the ride. Don't make a 9 am start because we have to finish the ride and get off the island, and if it's later, it's much harder to leave the island - especially for riders. More shuttles a+, and charge people for them, there's no problem.

Comment #31

This was my first P2P. I came from Southworth and used the shuttle which was great. I would use it even if it cost money. I was ok with the early start and think a later start would make it more difficult to finish for some of us.

Tacos were good even in the rain.

I need the pain to fade from memory before I ride again but I am hoping to do the ride again in a future year.

Comment #32

Wasn't really impressed with the meal at the end, however. The rest stops were fantastic!

Comment #33

Thanks for asking!

My husband and I loved the Limericks! They were so fun to read! And the streamers!

We also liked a more staggered start time. We were thinking it could be ordered by length, having the Idiots take off first, then the weasels, then the weenies and finally the tourists.

We like the 7:00 start time, especially for those of us with kids, we don't want to be gone the whole day (just most of it 😊)

I miss the song being played especially for me, and was hoping that could return.

Also, I know they are volunteers, but there wasn't as much good snacks at some of the checkpoints as in the past. There were only oranges at one stop, and another had tiny, baby size bites of some kind of nutty granola. And no Bacon! Previously, there were more than one stop with bacon. I still appreciate what they had and their willingness to sit out in the rain!

We are from Vashon, so know idea on the rest.

We love the event and will keep coming back regardless, and we appreciate all that you do!!! Just our two cents, since you asked.

Oh and limericks being placed on the uphill to get our mind off the pain would be fun!

Thanks again!

Comment #34

Thanks for organizing; the ride was great. Coming from Seattle, would love a later start. We actually missed the 5:05 ferry and took the 6:40 and started late and still completed on time but would have been great to start with everyone.

And loved the limericks. Keep 'em going.

Comment #35

My wife and I had a great time, really enjoyed the ride and thought the logistics were just fine. We stayed over with friends on island both Fri and Sat eves, so logistics were fine getting back and forth from Seattle.

Only challenges were completely unrelated to your group:

- the vandalism the night before the ride painting false directional arrows to redirect riders down the wrong direction was annoying. It's amazing how much chaos a single disgruntled person can cause. The P2P staff jumped on it right away to respond and clarify arrows wherever they could, missed a couple but we sorted it out. Perhaps consider how to screen for that in the future and have cans of black paint to mark out the false leads at the ready and drive the route just before the first group hits the trail. Our buddy was one of the Idiot 80-milers and was re-routed in a way that added 6 miles on top of his base 80. He was good-spirited about it, and pretty tired.

- most drivers were fine and accommodating. One cream-colored big diesel dual-tire long-bed pickup loaded with hay came so close to a group of us on a wide open straightaway that two of us were nearly hit with the big side mirrors. it's clear that was on purpose, especially since he accelerated to belch black smoke at us the same time. Nothing you can do about that, really. Just sucks that there are people that think such behavior is acceptable. Happens all the time on the mainland, especially when riding in E WA.

This is one of the most organized and fun rides that I've been on. We did the 30-mile leg and look forward to riding with you again next year!

Comment #36

Great event!

1. Loved limericks! Keep!
2. Grateful for coffee and muffins at start! May we please add oatmilk next time — and keep coffee around for post ride dessert table? Soy milk is for deviants. (Just kidding about the deviant thing)
3. I stayed over Friday night at small Airbnb. It was cheap and great. Might be an opportunity to sponsor spaghetti feed. I would have paid money to pick up my stuff early and eat pasta with other cyclists.
4. Burma one-way would be my vote. Or add a devil... Two devils!!!

Comment #37

I really enjoyed the P2P this year – and wanted to provide some ideas for next year.

First the stops were much better in terms of food this year than last. Last year, I felt like there were many stops that didn't have what the body really needed – though the people were super wonderful! And I liked the new stop at the arts center (indoor toilets a big bonus!)

Next year, I'm hoping that those of us who have to come onto the island for the day could take a saner ferry. (I was on the 5:10) I'm not sure if that will be possible because, well, the ferry system, but having to get up in the 3AM hour took its toll! I deal with the ferry situation all the time, so I know it's a pain.

I also was not comfortable with having two way traffic on Burma road -it's shaded, the road bed is awful and there are blind corners to boot. And in this case it was also wet. The idea of going back over those steeps knowing people might be bombing down toward me, was incredibly nerve – wracking. I would advocate for just having people take the highway instead of creating two-way bike traffic – I'm not quite sure why the course was changed but wanted to put my 2 cents in that I would love to just have one way on Burma in the future!

Thanks for this great event!

Comment #38

I just wanted to give a huge thanks to Brian who was volunteering at the beer booth. My bike had a total failure with the electronic shifting and he gave me a ride to the local bike shop, and was so friendly the whole time. I felt like I had to quit at that point, but he gave me a boost of confidence that things would be okay. I felt so happy to finish the Idiot route for my first time and couldn't have done it without his help.

Comment #39

First, I would like to thank you for a great event. If it hadn't been pouring rain, it would have been PERFECT in my opinion.

Here are some of the main highlights of the day:

- The fact that you are not using disposable plates/cups/silverware. Kudos to you all!
- The community really came together for us riders! So many treats at the end of the day and all along the ride. And, everything was so delicious
- The route was extremely well marked. I had downloaded the RidewithGPS app, but honestly, it was not necessary. At no point did I feel insecure about where to go.
- We spent the night at Jensen Point (slept in our car). It was great, quiet, and safe. We didn't dare open the portapotty, but if we had done that, it would have been absolutely perfect :)

Now, for the few things that I wish had been different:

- The rain made the roads slippery and I didn't feel safe riding downhill, which led me to give up 10 miles before the end. Those mossy dead ends on the West Side of the island were way too steep for me to feel comfortable riding them down. I had to get off of my bike and walk... Riding them up was hard, but at least it felt safe. I would rather get the elevation gain on bigger/safer roads. If I were to participate again, I would skip those short dead ends and get the mileage in a different way (even if that means skipping passport stamps).
- well actually, that's all I can "complain" about... again, it was such a great event! Maybe if it hadn't been raining, I would have felt more comfortable riding downhill, but I am not 100% sure.

To answer your questions:

- Burma: I didn't realize there was an easy way :) I did it both ways and had to get off of my bike going downhill on the way back. I didn't like that. But that road is beautiful... so maybe doing only half of it might be an option.
- We didn't use the shuttle and will most likely not use it next year since spending the night in our car worked great. If we wanted to use it and had to pay a fee, that wouldn't be a problem. It makes sense that you would want to cover your expenses.
- Regarding the ferry schedule, my first intuition would have been to start the event earlier, rather than later. If people take the ferry at 5 am, we could get going at 6:15 am or so... Maybe it would be too dark? Maybe holding the event a little earlier in the season would help? It would also help with the rain, but I guess you have very good reasons to have it on that specific day. For sure, I would not push the starting time to 9 am. That would make idiots finish way too late, and when the weather is bad, it gets really cold.
- Shame on me, I didn't really pay attention to the limericks... I was so focused on the road that I always missed the first couple of signs and then it didn't make sense anymore :(

Again, thank you for a great event and thank you to the whole Vashon community. We felt very welcomed!

Comment #40

The limericks were fantastic! The volunteers were great and the rest stops were friendly, fun, and the food/drink options were great. I didn't use the shuttle, stayed at an AirBnb on the island and it was super easy, and pizza the night before at Lunetta to carb load was great. If there was a shuttle option, I may use it.

I wish there was more advance info about the clothes drops, as I definitely would have bundled up more in the morning and shed those options after a few hours. Good to know for next time. The start time was great for me, but again, didn't have to deal with a morning ferry. The course was great, other than the sabotage at the beginning (darn kids!).

When I finished P2P, it didn't seem like there was really anywhere to "check-in" to say I was done other than grabbing some food and drink (which were delicious after that ride!). So, if there was a Lunatic Prize from doing the P2P and Ramrod, I suppose I never found it. What was/is the prize, and is it something that can be mailed to me?

Thanks! Will definitely be doing P2P again next year (though probably not Ramrod).

Comment #41

Suggested topics: 1- better picnic food. The desserts were great. Not so the taco bar; 2- love the limericks; 3- Stop # 2 and Stop #5 didn't dress up in costumes. Really look forward to the costumes; 4- have jerseys available to purchase during early registration.

Had a great time and look forward to next year.

Comment #42

I had a thoroughly memorable ride last Saturday. Though I've lived on Vashon for seven years and ridden these roads/hills hundreds of times, it remains remarkable to have an altered state experience of my home island. I will definitely be coming back next year for another dose of celebration and suffering.

I think Burma has to stay. When wet it's even harder, but that climb is an icon. I don't mind whether the easy way stays for next year, but the hard way should definitely remain.

Loved the Limericks. Keep them!!

Even though it's a short bike ride to the start for me, starting at 9 would be my preference. Getting a bit more sleep the night before would be welcome. The main downside I see for a later start is if the weather turns hot and then more of the ride is in the hotter hours.

Thanks for helping to organize this great event!

Comment #43

>>> I did the Weasel

Did you like the Limericks this year? Continue?

>>> LOVED THEM

We expanded the shuttle this year, but it still wasn't enough. Would you use the shuttle next year? If we charged our recovery cost, would you still use it?

>>> Did not use. Found parking to be quite plentiful.

Did you stay over on the island on Friday evening? How was your experience?

>>> I live near Engels gas station. We started a bit later, because we did the Weasel and wanted to let all the IDIOTS get out first, given their longer day. Would be good to have a 30-45min staggered start.

The north end ferry schedule sucks and probably won't change for a while. Should we move the start time to 9 am to make the morning a little easier?

>>> I think that 9AM is too late as temps usually rise quickly. I'd start around 8-8:15AM.

Please let us know your thoughts on this and any other topic that is top of mind.

>>> Fantastic event. Beer garden was new and they required ID... did not know that. Might be good to give them a list of bib numbers and ages 😊

Comment #44

Hi.....1st P2P, new islander (part time here and part time in UT) and did the big ride. I loved seeing and being amidst the large number of cyclists for the day. Personally, I needed to chop up the ride as simultaneously a new granddaughter was being born in Tacoma--so I was checking in frequently and managing our 2 large dogs stuck at the house as my wife was at the hospital. I ride quite a bit on the island so enjoyed knocking off the climbs.

My \$0.02 re: your prompts/queries:

*I felt like several riders I saw on Burma walking - many were mostly smiling-- but am not sure if an all-pavement ride should have "walk sections" on an out and back segment....seems like it could be a safety issue.

*Love the Limericks

*Anything to help off island folks getting here safely, with minimal, stress I am in favor of. I like the idea of a later start.

*I heard that for the first time there was some route signage sabotage occurring. If a growing number of islanders are increasingly annoyed and feel a desire to mess with P2P perhaps some open dialogue with the community many months ahead of the event might expose issues (some that can be addressed and some that cannot) and be of value?

*I do enjoy the mixed terrain (pavement and dirt) riding here and wonder if a "dirty idiot" option might be feasible?

Overall, the vibe and attitude at the checkpoints (and the adorable passport stamp culture) is fantastic and should be preserved at all costs. Thanks so much for the huge huge effort to make this event a yearly treat for PNW cyclists.

Comment #45

Once again, the P2P delivered all the hills and chills as advertised! It was epic. I think this was #8 for me, but I lost count. My only complaint is the 2.5 hours of rain. But I survived and did the complete idiot. I also recruited an Iron Man competitor who flew up from Sacramento to do it with me, and he inspired me.

Burma Road: The Devil is a fixture. Gotta keep him and the hard way in the ride. It's the steepest pitch (measured 23% at one point) on the island, and it gives us idiots bragging rights. Doing it both ways is okay with me, but I did encounter a downhill rider while I was going up, and I had to stop for him and unclip to be safe, because I was zigzagging to ease the pitch. It was totally my responsibility to hop off the road and stay out of his way, which I did.

Limericks: I like 'em. But I missed several lines because I was watching out for potholes and other road hazards.

Shuttle: I don't use it, because I'm on island (11840 Cedarhurst Rd)

Start time: 9 a.m. is too late for me, but that's probably a moot point because I'm on island and will start early. I expected to start 7-ish, but by the time we worked through the line, it was 7:37. It takes me a long time to do the complete idiot :/ so we didn't finish until 4:30.

Other topics: We were fortunate that Bruce stood at the intersection to point out the misdirection spray painted by vandals, and he told us how to detect the counterfeits. Checkpoint 19 closed a minute before we reached it. I don't blame them for not wanting to spend more time in the rain, but there was no signage to show us where to turn, or else we missed it. We sailed past and had to back track to get back on route.

The P2P continues to be the signature bike event of the year for me. I'm always telling people about it, and like this year, recruiting new participants at every opportunity. The community support is key to the culture of the ride and the island. My newest riding partner (young competitive iron man from California who married my niece) has never experienced anything like it and is already looking forward to returning next year. Thank you and the rest of the volunteers for putting on such a great event!

Comment #46

We (3 of us) stayed in an Airbnb on island the night before, and that worked well. But I imagine there aren't enough places to do that for all that might want to. I'm not sure how to solve the ferry challenge.

Other than that I think I just have two suggestions:

- Provide a .gpx file of the current year's (up-to-date) route. That way we can always know we are on course (even if someone sabotages signs). We did follow one of the incorrect signs and did an extra 4 miles.
- Let us get the riders packets ahead of time (mail or pickup? I'm not sure which would work better). To pin your number on, you pretty much have to undress and it takes quite a while. So being able to do that the night before (not in the dark) would save time and hassle.

Thanks for putting on a great event.

Comment #47

Thank you for a fun and well-organized day with a lot of nice people.

From the perspective of a second-time weenie-course rider who lives on the island, everything was great.

I look forward to seeing you next year.

Comment #48

First, let me congratulate you on creating a monumental event. Start to finish, soup to nuts, this was a tremendously enjoyable event, and every last person I encountered was just wonderful, generous, fun, and on island to have a great time.

This was my first Passport, although I've lived on the island for eight years, but I've been training on the P2P route for at least the past three years.

So, my feedback should be interpreted as all positive, and with an eye to make something great even better.

1. I don't know how your participation numbers have been trending, but I could see you gaining another 10-20% of riders next year. You may want to consider an early "crazies and lazies" (jokes and pokes? boldies and oldies? ... you get the idea) launch for people who are attempting to exceed the idiot course, and for the old and injured who could use an extra two hours on the course, especially if you are weighing options including a later start time, this would probably equalize the additional enrollment you get.
2. I live on the Burton loop, and one of the great pleasures I had this year was hosting a couple in their Westy on my Pad; we didn't know each other very well, but we ate dinner Friday night together, and then had an early breakfast before coming over to the start, and this experience really elevated the event for me. It may be worth offering some website space to help coordinate sleepovers/carpools. P2P Pajama party!
3. Burma is the mischief, isn't it? I do think that where Burma lands on the 13/14 "reverse course" is really ideal; it's that iconic hill right at the arrival of the third act! One way or both ways, I just think it's in the right place over-all. That being said, I'll weigh in on the side that Burma is crazy on any day. Literally, during the ride, someone was trying to back a boat from the road up their driveway... If you are only going to do it one way, I do think that South to North, with the stamp where it was this year, then out to the highway... Maybe you could station someone at the South end, and they could give a second Burma stamp for the 2xers?
4. The volunteers were nothing short of fantastic, they were all friendly, and accommodating, but... As a former events producer, I could feel them getting a bit over-exerted. My personal bet would be that from the volunteer side, you are receiving some, "Is there any way we can..." messages.

My sense is that you may be experiencing the year-over-year burnout. Not knowing what your process is, I assume you've got key individuals who are in charge of the check points, and they put on the theming, and coordinate their volunteers.

At the risk of creating even BS for you, I would recommend incentivizing the stops: Make it a voting thing, where riders get to give a 3rd, 2nd, 1st rating for the stops, and then reward the stop with something really desirable. I -personally - haven't found augmenting volunteers with paid personnel any better than a highly enthused volunteer. But paid or volunteer once the burnout threshold has been reached, it's always diminishing returns.

I genuinely hope that feedback helps I am looking forward to 15! The Quinceañera!!!!