Hello all,

Writing to give you an update on our planning for our 2021 community bicycle activities in the Islands and solicit any feedback you may have for us.

Because of COVID, we are still not in a position to attract as many cyclists to the Islands as we did in 2019 and 2018, but we are making plans for smaller events over the July 16-18, 2021 weekend, and hope the smaller size can give us the opportunity to adequately address safety and traffic concerns so that we can continue to have a safe annual event in your community. I spoke with Sheriff Allen earlier this spring and he is supportive of these plans. Grand Isle Select Board has approved our plans as well.

I am writing to share with you a general description of our planned activities and safety guidelines for the weekend and to welcome any feedback or additional guidance you all may have, with the hope to gain your support as well. We’re very thankful and appreciative of the collaboration we have received from the Grand Isle County Select Boards as we have grown our event, so we want to make sure we hear and incorporate your feedback to ensure any activities we organize this year will positively benefit your communities. Any issues that arose in 2019 will be mitigated greatly with the much reduced participant numbers, but we are also planning to implement the key measures we had planned to address those concerns, as outlined below.

On **Friday July 16, 2021**, we are planning to organize one Small Group Bike Tour of approximately 25 participants. On **Saturday July 17 2021**, we are planning to organize 3 Small Group Bike Tours, consisting of up to 25 riders each departing from Snow Farm in 1hr intervals. Total participants expected ~75. We were able to run Tours like this last year for a similar number of riders with no safety issues, traffic violations, or complaints from law enforcement or the community that we are aware of.

On **Sunday July 18, 2021** we are aiming to organize a smaller version of our previous Fondo format, with approximately 200-250 participants expected. To alleviate traffic and safety issues from previous years, we are planning the following measures:

* Instead of a mass start, we will release participants in waves departing from Snow Farm from 7:30 to 11am.
* All participants will be required to wear large bib numbers on their backs so that they can be clearly identified to create more accountability for obeying local traffic laws.
* We will inform all participants (and Sheriff Ray has been invited to do this as well) that they are required to follow all rules of the road (including not exceeding two-abreast) and that Grand Isle Sheriff Dept may issue tickets and the general public may be able to make complaints based on that bib number for any violations of traffic laws.
* We will run an advertisement in The Islander to inform the local community of the event, and, upon request, we can provide information to you to publish on the local Front Porch Forum.

On all three days we will follow any applicable COVID-19 rules from the state. All riders will be supported by follow vehicles and visit local farms and businesses along the way.

Thank you for consideration and input. Please let us know if you are supportive of these plans and/or if you have any town guidelines that may apply.

Sincerely,

Tyler Wren