

Two Weekend Events Impact Traffic in the Keys

This weekend, there are two events taking place in the Florida Keys which will have an impact on traffic. People planning on traveling over the weekend should be aware and should plan accordingly.

On Saturday, April 21 and continuing on Sunday, April 22, an annual bike event is expected to cause traffic delays in the upper Keys. Travelers should plan extra time if they are going to be driving through the Key Largo area on those days.

The Maroone MS 150 Bike Tour raises money for Multiple Sclerosis, and usually causes the most problems with traffic on Saturday afternoon, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. People will begin seeing bicyclists on Card Sound Road and in the Upper Keys between the 105 and the 102 mm around 9 a.m. on that day.

The riders travel from Miami-Dade County on Card Sound Road, then on

Highway U.S. One to John Pennekamp State Park. They leave the Keys the following Sunday morning, beginning at 7 a.m. and travelers can expect delays on that morning as well, until about 9:30 a.m. with heavy bike traffic on Card Sound Road until about 11 a.m.

The event is expected to attract over 2,000 bicyclists to the upper Keys, and last year raised \$750,000 for Multiple Sclerosis. Event organizers pay for officers to work the special duty detail.

Also on Saturday, April 21, impacting traffic further south, the Seven Mile Bridge Run will shut down traffic both north and south for two and a half hours at the Seven Mile Bridge. Travelers should plan to be across the bridge by 6:30 a.m. to avoid being stuck on one side or the other. Traffic flow will resume at 9 a.m., but usually takes at least an hour after that to get back to normal flow.

All Charities Auction Weekend Proceeds Distributed to All Charities Partners

A record \$1.8 million in proceeds from the Ocean Reef community's participation in the 2012 All Charities Auction Weekend was recently distributed at a meeting of the leaders of Ocean Reef's Medical Center, Cultural Center, Community Foundation, Conservation Association, Academy and Art League.

When added to the Ocean Reef Community Check Off proceeds, the All Charities Program resulted in more than \$2.1 million in support to vital local charities this season, distributed as follows:

Ocean Reef Medical Center
\$560,612.75

Ocean Reef Cultural Center
\$456,356.82

Academy at Ocean Reef
\$281,909.03

Ocean Reef Art League
\$173,714.52

Ocean Reef Conservation Association
\$151,874.52

Ocean Reef Community Foundation
\$516,063.37



Leaders of the 2012 Ocean Reef All Charities Partners (left to right) 2012 All Charities Auction Weekend Vice Chair Mike Berman, Academy at Ocean Reef Headmaster Graham Brown, All Charities Partners Chairman Tom Davidson, Ocean Reef Cultural Center Chairman Alan Goldstein, Medical Center at Ocean Reef Chief Executive Officer Keith Young, Ocean Reef Conservation Association President Jack Curlett, Ocean Reef Art League President Gail Noyes and Ocean Reef Community Foundation President Steve Markel.

Additionally, both Ocean Reef Community Foundation and Ocean Reef Conservation Association will donate the majority of their proceeds to worthy causes beyond our gates in the surrounding areas. Look for a complete report of the Ocean Reef Community Grants in the next issue.

The All Charities Auction Weekend continues to distin-

guish the Ocean Reef community each year and is slated for February 8 & 9, 2013. The All Charities program was established in 2008 to enable members to consolidate their support for charities community-wide over a single weekend and has resulted in record setting giving.

For more information, please call 367-5996.