

SKY VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

For Homeowners, Property Owners and Residents

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To those planning the 2013 Tour de Palm Springs:

The *Sky Valley Homeowners Association* is a group of over 100 homeowners, property owners, and residents of the unincorporated community of Sky Valley. The members have directed me, as secretary, to present to you their concerns regarding the 2013 *Tour de Palm Springs* as it passes through this community on Dillon Road.

Please be assured that we believe that the Tour is a good thing. It benefits many worthwhile causes right here in our Desert, and its organizers have nothing but the good of the community in mind. Our concern is that individual riders may not be urged enough to share those good intentions, and that a few of them compromise the safety of the entire Tour, and of those Sky Valley citizens who must share the roads with them.

When you all sit down to discuss this at the January 8 meeting of the *Sky Valley Community Council*, we urge you to consider these points, and to look for a way to communicate them *strongly to each rider* in the 2013 Tour.

1. Most citizens are well aware of the Tour, and avoid interacting with it. Any vehicles that riders encounter are probably there because they have no other choice. There are often no "alternative routes" for rural roads, so vehicles don't always have that option.
2. The normal "rules of the road" aren't enough to cover a large rally; courtesy and common sense are important too. Thank you for already emphasizing this, especially the advice not to ride two or more abreast.
3. It's also important for a rider to leave space ahead, so a passing vehicle has a place to return safely to its lane. Motorists are understandably nervous about moving into a lane already occupied by a bicycle, even just one.
4. Since the problems tend to be caused by a few riders between checkpoints, we believe that the Tour needs to extend its contract with law-enforcement to include roving patrols that actually interact with the Tour riders on critical roads like Dillon Road and Thousand Palms Canyon Road. We hope that a visible presence of authority figures will settle down rogue riders.
5. For the short time that the Tour passes through Sky Valley, our citizens are willing to sacrifice convenience, but not safety. If we believe that the 2013 Tour has seriously compromised public safety, we may be less inclined to support the Tour's use of Dillon Road in the future. *Riders need to be warned that their actions can threaten the Tour itself.*

On behalf of the *Sky Valley Homeowners Association*, let me reiterate that we only want to make the *Tour de Palm Springs* a safer, better, and more successful rally.

Sincerely,

Neil Ludlam, Secretary