



Touring Notes

The Newsletter of the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club
A Recreational Club for Central Texas

<http://members.aol.com/hcbtc/home.html> - hcbtc@texas.net

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Club Officers

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(210) 509-8619
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League of American Bicyclists

This club is affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists - Founded in 1880 as the League of American Wheelmen.

New Members

Sidney Nation
Lawrence Miller
Vinton Scholl
John McManus
Brenda Cole
Jason English
Sharon Willis
Bob & Kay Wilson
Ann Fields
David & Kimberly Rybak
Welcome!

Club News

Volunteers Needed

Anyone who wants to volunteer for any club position should contact the chair of the Volunteer committee Vern Jeys (210) 675-0538 <v.jeys@worldnet.att.net> or Pam Tucker (830) 990-9261 <ptucker@ctesc.net>. We will have elections of new officers at the New Years Day club meeting and party.

Expanded Newsletter

As our club expands (72 members!), we are expanding the newsletter. This issue is six pages with more articles. Next year I hope to have an eight page newsletter with advertising. Please feel free to submit articles to be via email cmarsh@texas.net or you can send them to me at 9835 addersley, San Antonio, TX 78254.

- Editor, Chris Marsh

Member Discounts

The following Bicycle Shops offer members of the HCBTC a 10% discount:

B & J Bicycles, 8800 Broadway, 826-0177

BikeWorld, 5911 Broadway, 828-5558 and Blanco at Lockhill Selma 344-2303

Britton's Cycles, 4109 Naco Perrin, 656-1655 and 803 E. Blanco, Boerne, 830 816-2305

Pit Stop Bike Shop, 6501 Bandera Rd, 521-2453

Ride Away Bicycles, 8830 Huebner, 696-9925

A big thanks for their support to our club.

New Jersey Order

We sold out all the club jerseys but if we can make a new order with as few as six. If anyone wants a club jersey please contact Chris Marsh. We need \$46 and your size to get in this order. It takes around two months to get the jerseys made. For those of you who haven't picked up your jersey yet give Chris or Jan a call at 210 681-5768.

Century Challenge

The club held it's first century on Saturday, October 14th. This was the only century in the San Antonio area for 2000! We had perfect weather and 15 riders. Eight riders finished the 100 mile ride in a little over five hours to as much as eleven hours. For five of the riders it was their first century. A big thanks to everyone who helped out with the ride including Silvia Padilla, Murray and Donna Warner, Micky Love, Jackie Jeys, Jan Marsh, and Martha Espinoza & her friends.

The First Fredericksburg Fall Foliage Frolic

The club hosted the Frolic on Friday - Sunday, November 10th - 12th. We had around 25 different people ride over the three days. A big thanks to Pam Tucker for helping organizing the event.

Club Meetings

The next club meetings will be December 10th and January 1st. See the event listing on page two for details.

Club Events

Sunday, December 3rd, Rudy's Ride. Meet at Leon Springs at the carpool parking lot at 9:00 AM for a slow paced 30 mile ride. Lunch at Rudy's after the ride. Ride leader Vern Jeys 675-0538.

Saturday, December 9th, Castroville Ride. Meet 9:00 AM at the Park & Ride across from Sammy's on US 90 in Castroville for a 40 mile ride. Lunch spot to be determined. Ride leaders are Chris & Jan Marsh. 681-5768.

Sunday, December 10th. In-town ride, December meeting & potluck brunch. Meet at 208 Canterbury hill; (near Austin Hi-way, New Braunfels intersection) at 10 am. 20 mile in town ride to salivate over some of the prettier neighborhoods. Brunch and meeting round the pool afterwards (about noon or so). Bring your favorite brunch dish & something to drink. We will have ice chests, fridge & microwave available. William Hudson 210-824-7058

Saturday, December 16th, North by Northwest Ride. Meet at Helotes on old Bandera road across from Hickory Hut & bike shop at 9:00 am

for rides of 12, 26 or 58 miles. This is a joint ride with the San Antonio Wheelmen. Ride starter is Al Young 647-1503.

Sunday, December 17th, Paul Bryan Memorial Ride. Meet at the Taft High School parking lot, located 1 mile west of loop 1604 on 471 (Culebra) at 9:00 AM for a 27 mile ride. Lunch at Bill Millers on Potranco & 1604 after the ride. Ride leader is Vern Jeys 675-0538.

Thursday - Sunday, December 21st - 24th, Goliad Camp Out. See the town of Goliad and the mission decorated for the Holidays. Cycle out of Goliad State Historic Park campground on the 21st at 1:00 PM and 9:00 AM on the 22nd - 24th. Distances will be 30-35 miles. Longer options available. The campground is filling up with a few tent campsites left. Contact Melinda Wasson (830) 895-2521, melindaw@ktc.com for more information

Saturday, December 30th, River Road Ride. Meet at 10:00 AM in Gruene across from Gruene Hall for a 30 mile ride down River Road to the Canyon Lake Dam. We will eat at the Grist Mill after the ride. Ride leaders Chris & Jan Marsh.

cmarsh@texas.net or 210-681-5768.

Monday, January 1st, New Years Day Ride. Meet in Eisenhower park at 10:00 am. This is a multi-club ride. There will be various distances. Eisenhower park is located 2 miles north of loop 1604 on military hiway.

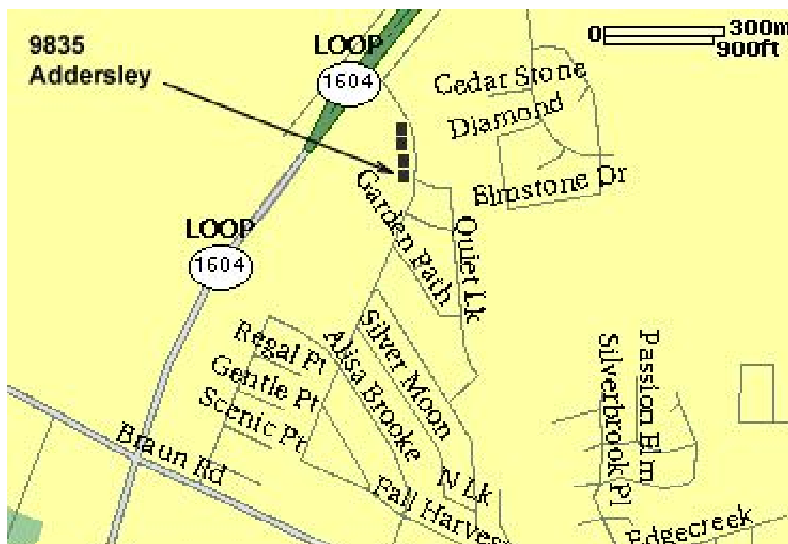
Monday, Jan 1st, New Years Day Meeting & Party. Meet at 9835 Addersley at 6:00 PM for a meeting/party. Bring your favorite snack & something to drink. Celebrate our club's 1st birthday and vote for the new club officers. Call Chris & Jan Marsh. cmarsh@texas.net or 210-681-5768.

Saturday, January 13th, Comfort Ride. Meet at the Park 'n Ride in Comfort on TX 27 at 10:00 AM for a 30 mile scenic ride in the Texas Hill Country. Ride leader is Tommy McMillan (210) 674-1210.

Sunday, January 21st, Jackie's Birthday Ride. (We can't tell you her age, maybe she will). Ride starts at the Spaghetti Warehouse downtown at 10:00 am. Ride will be 20 plus miles and tour the Missions. Lunch at (you guessed it) Spaghetti Warehouse. Ride leader is Jackie Jeys 675-0538.

Feb. 25th-March 3rd, Big bend Desert Bash. Hurry: limited space. Spend a week touring the beautiful Big Bend area. \$85 tour fee plus hotels. Contact George Canon canlaw@getus.com 281-363-2514.

Coming in March, Bicycling Basics Class. This adult education course is conducted by knowledgeable instructors and experienced bicyclists. You will enjoy Saturday morning on-road classes and evening classroom sessions. Learn how to fix a flat and lots more. Call Stan (210) 824-6983 for more information.



Map to the New Years Day Meeting and Party

Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club
A Recreational Bicycle Club for Central Texas

<http://members.aol.com/hcbtc/home.html>

Membership Application

Come Join Us

This is not a racing club. This is a recreational club for all abilities. Most of our rides are leader led where we stay together in groups. Maps may be available for riders who want to ride at their own pace. In addition to rides, we have meetings, parties, picnics, overnight events, an on-line newsletter and email notices of the latest news and information. For more information, call Chris or Jan Marsh at (210) 681-5768 or email hcbtc@texas.net



Yes, sign me up today!

In submitting this application, I hereby make known that I will hold blameless in the case of accident, injury or damage of any kind, the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club, its officers, members and volunteers. I recognize that bicycling is potentially dangerous, and I represent that I am a competent cyclist with safe equipment. I understand that all rides are on public roads and that I ride at my own risk. I further recognize that safety is a personal responsibility, and I agree to participate in keeping all Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club rides safe. Although bicyclists are not required by law to wear helmets, I understand that the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club encourage the use of ANSI/SNELL approved helmets and that wearing such a helmet can greatly reduce my risk of serious and/or permanent injury.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I want to help. I can _____

[Lead a ride, host a meeting or party, be an officer, etc.]

Membership is only \$5 per household. Send checks to: Chris Marsh, 9835 Addersley, San Antonio, TX 78254. Make checks payable to Chris Marsh.



Bikecentennial Portraits

In 1976, the greatest thing ever to happen for bicycle touring took place. It was called Bikecentennial. This was originally going to be a single mass ride across the United States for the Bicentennial. It ended up being a series of many small groups. Thousands of cyclists rode across the country that year and Bikecentennial (now called the Adventure Cycling Association) still runs trips across the US. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of Bikecentennial.

Club member Lawrence Walker graduated from High School that year, and he spent his summer vacation on one of those trips. His trip made a big impression on him. A few years after he made his trip, Lawrence wrote about them for the Richardson Bicycle Touring Club. Reprinted below is the first installment of his "Bikecentennial Portraits" about the people on his tour across the country. Lawrence currently lives in Kerrville and leads bike tours for a living as the owner of Coyote Bicycle Tours. For information on his tours see his web site at <http://www.cyoteguy.com> or call him at 1-800-984-BIKE.



A Bikecentennial Portrait: Jo Ann Mulenbeck

by Lawrence C. Walker

The woman driving the Reedsport school bus wrestled bicycle boxes into the rear door like she would rather have been home over a hot stove. For two weeks she had been making at least one round trip a day from Reedsport to Eugene and

back, 70 miles each way. I gripped the seat back as the bus lurched around the corners from the Eugene airport to the bus depot to the Amtrak station to receive more passengers and more boxes. The bus whined south on the Interstate, and I turned to look at the evening Oregon scenery thinking how much it looked like Vermont.

I dreaded the thought that Jo Ann Mulenbeck might be in my group. She sat two seats back, but her mouth was in my ear. I didn't miss a word when my mind wasn't lost in the forest beyond the window. . . There seemed to be so much for everyone else to talk about just as my adrenaline began its decline in those after hours (I had already traveled 2300 miles that day). Such a voice, sharp, nasal, provincial, something--I hadn't heard before but immediately felt. . . The bus was glowing orange outside but shadowed industrial aqua inside, not nearly so shadowed as the surrounding forest, so green you could smell it, so deep. . . She was 39, from Kenosha, Wisconsin, just north of Chicago, worked in a grocery store, had a large family. Mat, her 14-year-old son, sat beside her, a real pain in our backsides between her threats; during them he was worse. . . Going down the Smith River toward the coast, the shadows deepened. The colors were a mile long. The sun flashed out of the trees. . . The Mulenbecks' bicycle Jerseys were being homemade; she worked on them as she talked. We saw the intricate embroidery. . . The bus kept its speed and we leaned farther and farther into the turns. . . This woman's hair was tied back in pony tails and her glasses slipped down her nose. . . The sun flickered in the trees. I didn't need a mother telling me how and saying when and why not--she was going to mother us all to death. . . Jo Ann put the jerseys away and sat back. . . Beyond the window, the forest was a continuous shadow, and in Reedsport, the bus left us in the dark.

Jo Ann volunteered to cook the first night. Though the group was organized to rotate pairs of cooks each day, she probably cooked more than anyone else. She approached the cooking buckets and spoons as she approached any encoun-

ter: It was not to release those who wouldn't cook from their responsibility; it was her own personal love for what must be done everyday. She showed a superior aptitude and a realistic attitude in moving from day to day, from person to person, town to town. She did not make us children, and she never forced the role of mother even though its need was sometimes obvious. Jo Ann's third turn to cook came the 13th day out. All afternoon we climbed out of Hell's Canyon on the Snake River. My skin knew the percentages of sun and shade; it cringed at the light and reddened in anger. As we dragged ourselves into Cambridge, Idaho, it was at least 99 degrees, and this was the night Jo Ann said she would cook chili. Wisconsin is a long way from the Rio Grande, a long way from Jalapenos' homes. I couldn't even give her chili one alarm. . . Extinguished chili is so fine for us pedaling paisanos just out of Hell's fire.

"Jo Ann's at the hospital. . . She took a spill on the pass and they think she might have broken her arm. Some of the group is over there waiting to see," Ken called out. Near the summit of White Bird Hill, a 13 mile, 4% grade ascent south of Grangeville, Idaho, Jo Ann stopped to look at the view and, straddling her bicycle, reached for her water bottle. Something happened. The gravel under her tires gave way, and she went down on her elbow. Several hours later, x-rays revealed a sprain but no broken bones. She rode on with us after lunch, but the pain returned for months.

In Sheridan, Montana, Larry Keller, English teacher at the local high school, pulled our group out of an ocean of rain across a sea of mud into his warm and dry home. Jo Ann, Bob, and I sat around the family's dining table discussing whether we would rather kill an anonymous Chinaman or a neighboring eagle. I let the eagle live much to the horror of the other two. Bob, my tent partner, never thought of me the same again. Jo Ann's reaction was disbelief. I had to be lying or crazy, dangerous or young. We talked more after that storming night. We wanted to understand vast differences in the days we rode together in vast spaces. Jo Ann, in her job and family, felt she

was wronged by surrounding ineptitude. I, in school and society, felt wronged by hate. We helped each other uncross some signs.

Jo Ann's problems with Mat worsened in Missouri. He was becoming extremely irritable and bored by the length of the tour (then eight weeks over with four to go). Her piercing voice returned to scold, stop, mock and otherwise battle her belligerent responsibility. Jo Ann made arrangements to meet her husband in Carbondale, Illinois, but when she rode ahead to meet him, she rode alone, leaving Mat for us.

The separation did both good. Jo Ann won her rest with Mat in check. Her husband drove with the group for a few days in Illinois, helping with campsites and meals. He made a calming and welcome addition to the regulars. We experienced a short rebirth of campfire harmony.

To commemorate the end of our trials and tribulations in Williamsburg, the group wanted to have a feast around a huge table in a hearty restaurant, but we missed the mark. We sat scrunched around three booths in a Chinese cafe not able to hear ourselves reminisce or see each other looking sadly (or gladly) about. Jo Ann had a gift for every member in the group, and she scrambled through the extraneous crowd to present them. Mine was a poster that looked so much like that forest on Smith River 4300 miles ago, shadows a mile long, the sun flashing out of the trees. The inscription said I should not follow the trails left by others but make a path for myself. She had been thinking about those signs we had crossed, perhaps the continent we had crossed, and surely the signs we would meet apart.

NEXT MONTH: A Bikecentennial Portrait: Jamey Stillings.

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Bicycling Second Only to Driving

According to the recently released results of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) October 2000 Omnibus Household Survey, 41.3 million Americans (20.0%) have used a bicycle for transportation in the last 30 days. Bicycling is the second most preferred form of transportation after travel by automobile, ahead of all other modes of transportation, including public transportation. Over 9.2 million (22.3%) of the 41.3 million people who bicycled did so more than ten of the 30 days measured in the survey.

The study indicates a growing concern among Americans with the impact of transportation choices on quality of life. Certain figures indicate that, given the proper facilities, more and more Americans would choose to bicycle or walk instead of driving. Some 79.1 million (38%) of all Americans feel that the availability of bikeways, walking paths, and sidewalks for getting to work, shopping, and recreation is very important in choosing where to live. Half of all Americans (99.0 million people) believe that cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans are the primary cause of air pollution in their communities and 65% (135.4 million) are concerned about the level of traffic congestion on the roads in their communities.

BTS is the federal statistical agency for the Department of Transportation charged with improving the knowledge base for public decision making on transportation issues. BTS gathers data each month on a random basis from 1,000 households to determine the general public's satisfaction with the nation's transportation system and to prioritize improvements to the transportation system.

Support Over 130 Years of American Bicycling history

The U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame is the primary source of bicycling information and artifacts in the United States. It recognizes those that have contributed to the long history of bicycling and has inducted more than 50 of bicycling's greatest including Marshall "Major" Taylor, Alf Goulett, Greg LeMond, Connie-Carpenter Phinney, Frank Kramer, Jack Simes, and Eric Heiden. The Hall of Fame also manages America's oldest continuously run bicycle race, the Tour of Somerville.

The U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history of cycling by collecting, preserving and exhibiting memorabilia and artifacts relating to competitive and recreational bicycling in its 3,000 sq. ft. facility in Somerville, NJ facing the world famous Tour of Somerville racecourse. Through an annual induction ceremony, the Hall recognizes significant contributors, competitors and events in the sport of bicycling. It also produces educational programs to promote the safety and fitness aspects of cycling. To learn more about the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame or to support it, visit <http://www.usbhof.org>.

New Club email Address

The club has a new email address. From now on, many club emails will come from hbtc@texas.net.

December Newsletter

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Chris Marsh
9835 Addersley
San Antonio, TX 78254

