



January/February 2001

Volume 2, Issue 1

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

New Club Officers

At the January 1st meeting the membership elected the following new officers to the club:

President	Pamela Tucker
Vice President	Jackie Jeys
Ride coordinator	Vernon Jeys
Newsletter Editor	Chris Marsh
Website Editor	Fernando Galdos
Treasurer	Jim Matthews
Secretary & Membership	Jan Marsh

Congratulations to the new officers!

New Jersey Order

We sold out all the club jerseys but 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. If you haven't picked up your jersey yet, give Chris or Jan a call at 210 681-5768.

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.

The Prez Sez ...

Happy Birthday HCBTC! We have completed our first year, and I think all of you will agree that it was a successful one. We held a variety of rides, including a club century ride in October. Chris and Jan deserve a round of applause for a job well done.

I look forward to being your president for the coming year, and will attempt to lead us in continuing the philosophy established. I know that I will have a great group of officers with which to work. I am extremely grateful that Chris has agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

If you have any suggestions for activities or rides, please let me know. Another good way to participate is to attend the monthly meetings, where decisions are made about future club activities.

Volunteers are the heart of this club. If you would like to lead a ride, let Vern know.

I look forward to seeing many of you on club rides. Happy Cycling!!

- Pam Tucker <ptucker@ctesc.net>

Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be February 11th at Pam Tucker's house. See the club ride listing on page two for details.

2001 Milage Goals

At the January 1st meeting we passes around a sheet for members to make milage goals for 2001. At the January 2002 meeting we will go back and see who met ther goal. If you want o make a goal, send it to Chris Marsh <cmarsh@texas.net> and we will keep it for you. In July we will have a mid year check on how members are doing.

Club Rides

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 14th, Bikes, Barbecue and Bluegrass Ride. Meet 11:30 am. at the dental office parking lot at 120 Austin Highway between New Braunfels and Broadway for a ride through Alamo Heights, Olmos Park and Monte Vista for a 20+ mile slow ride. See mansions from the 20s and 30s with magnificent live oaks and the ubiquitous circular drive-ways. We will then drive to Tommy Wilson's Barbecue on Wetmore for some of the best barbecue in town. From 3 to 6 p.m. there is live bluegrass music to accompany your ribs. Phone William Hudson: 824-7058 or 6910 or email at rwsh@att.net.

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.

Saturday, January 27th, Helotes Ride. Meet at Helotes across from the bike shop. Time is 10:00 am. This will be a 27 mile loop. Lunch afterwards at El Chaparrel. Ride leader is Tommy Mc Millan. 674-1210.

Sunday, February 11th, Fredericksburg Ride, Barbeque and Meeting. Meet at Pam Tucker's home, located in Fredericksburg at 605 West Hackberry. Pam will lead a ride with a barbecue at her home afterwards. Start time is 10:30 am.

Pam will supply the meat. Bring your own drinks & side dishes. Vern Jeys will do the barbecueing. There will be a membership meeting following the barbecue. Directions: Take I-10 to Comfort. Take TX 87 east to Fredericksburg. When you get to Fredericksburg, take a left on main street to Milam. Take a right on Milam to Hackberry. Go left on Hackberry to 605 west Hackberry. Pam Tucker 1-830-990-9261.

Sunday, February 25th, Utopia Ride. Meet at 10:00 AM in Utopia by the park across from the Lost Maples Cafe for a scenic ride. There will be the verry hilly 50 or the flat 30. Eat at the cafe after the ride. Call Chris or Jan Marsh 210 681-5768, cmarsh@texas.net for more information.

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.

Saturday, March 3rd, Lockhart Ride. Meet at Lockhart Texas on the north-east corner of the town square at 9:00 am. Ride will be approximately 30 miles. Lunch at Blacks after the ride. "Best BBQ ribs & brisket in Texas." Ride leaders are Jackie & Vern Jeys. 675-0538. Directions: Take I H 10 towards Houston. Get off at the Lulling exit. Take a left to Lulling. Stay on road to Lockhart.

Saturday March 17 - April 14th, Bicycling Basics and Beyond. The class will begin Saturday, March 17, and continue thru Saturday, April 14. There will be five Saturday morning on-the-bike classes at various locations around the city from 8:00am to 12:00 noon. There will be four Tuesday evening classes at Alamo Heights High School on Broadway from

6:30pm to 9:00pm.

The class is intended for beginning and intermediate cyclists. Subjects covered include minor adjustments to the bike; flat fixing; roadside repairs; riding safely in traffic; group riding; emergency maneuvers; fitness development; hill climbing, and more. The course material is based primarily on John Forester's "Effective Cycling" program. Previous students have been very generous in their praise of the course as a fun learning experience.

A half-dozen experienced cyclists, including members of the San Antonio Police Dept. bicycle patrol, are the presenters in the course.

The first class will be at the gazebo at Building 592 at Dickman Rd. and Harry Wurzbach/Old Austin Rd. on Ft. Sam Houston at 8:00am on Saturday, March 17.

Participants may sign up by calling Northeast ISD Community Education at 657-8872 with Mastercard or VISA only; or before the first class on March 17, cash or check only. Fee for the course, course manual, and other materials provided to the students is \$50.00.

Enrollment is limited and space is assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Stan Kuenstler 824-6983 for more information.

Recurring Rides

Every Friday in February (February 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd). Meet at the carpool parking lot in Leon Springs at 5:00 pm on Fridays. Tommy is going to do a short ride on these evenings. Tommy McMillan 674-1210.

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

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

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.



A Bikecentennial Portrait: Jamey Stillings

by Lawrence C. Walker

In Reedsport, the bus left us at dark in an alley behind the Welcome Hotel. A single, bald light bulb lit a storage room filled with bike boxes, discarded equipment (mangled wheels, blow dryers, whatever) and people standing around. The middle-aged Australian from our bus found out his group had left two days ago; that's what he got for forgetting the International Dateline.

In the cool alley air, I wore my baggy blue warm-ups and my Bikecentennial T-shirt and stood looking at the catastrophe that was my bicycle—not hurt, just not a bicycle, still a box of pieces like something offered “AS IS” at a garage sale tires, handlebars, seat, cables, chain and none of them in any understandable order. A man approached me, about my height and build but with a beard like the Coastal Range forest and tinted John Denver horn-rims. He exemplified Oregonian and wore a Bikecentennial T-shirt too: “That’s a unique shirt you’re wearing there. . . You must be Lawrence Walker. Jamey Stillings, hackneyed leader of this fine group. Have you got any problems?”

“Well,” I was dead serious, “my bike’s all in pieces, and I need some tools I don’t have.”

“Great! Now, we’ll see what we can do.” When I rolled out my sleeping bag on the floor of the Welcome between Bob and Henry and Jamey and Debbie and Jim and Carol, my bicycle lay alone outside unfinished, unrideable, and I worried.

We breakfasted as a group, all fourteen of us sitting around two large tables at the local cafe, the last regular breakfast for weeks. Then we squatted in a circle outside the hostel to endure group orientation. Jamey explained in an obviously rehearsed way how we were to perform together, the public relations policies,

emergency procedures, cooking, and how the stoves worked. He couldn’t get one to light, and I knew I’d never get near one of those stoves.

According to his leadership training, Jamey then went around the circle eliciting responses to the question, “So why are you riding your bike across America this summer?” Answers were mandatory (if minimal). . . embarrassing.

“It looks pretty neat, I think, you know,” Bill shuffled even while sitting Indian style.

“Because this is a great country I haven’t seen enough of,” both Bob and Jo Ann agreed.

“I just got out of college and I needed to get away,” Ken muffled, He didn’t really want to answer. What was all of this for, anyway?

My turn. My heart was a high pressure clincher; I felt every pound. “I’ve heard about different parts of this country all my life in second-hand stereotypes. I want to see the real America.” So far, so good.

Jamey’s efforts to consolidate the group were his main concern for weeks to come. At the first night’s camp on the Smith River, after food and frisbee, we learned about Father Abraham. “Father Abraham had seven sons sir, had seven sons sir, had Father Abraham, and none of them laughed, and none of them cried, all they ever did was” (shake your left arm) “with a” (shake your right leg) “and a” (shake it!). You don’t say it or whisper it or get out of it. You participate and sing right out. We gathered in a circle with anticipatory tremors at first but soon made fools of ourselves singing and dancing and cracking up shaking our arms and legs and asses and bodies more African than Bicentennial. Except Bob and Bill: they saw their respective manhood’s at stake and refused to move. We did our Father Abraham many nights, shaken’ off sleep and the dust of the road, but those two guys never did.

So went Jamey’s leader trials and tribulations, mostly trials: trials and hearings,

trials and appeals, trials and more trials. Who cooked, who cooked wrong, who ate white bread, who wouldn’t wash the dishes, who got lost, where was the peanut butter, who got sick, who was lonely, who would volunteer, and where was that peanut butter? I have never in my life met a person who could keep a group of humans consenting with such grace, variety, whimsy, realism and success. Jamey, by natural perception or compelling observation, was a master.

NEXT MONTH: Jamey Stillings - portrait continued.

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[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.]

Other Area Rides

Saturday, February 17, Jalapeno 100, Harlingen, Texas. Routes of 10, 25, 50, and 100 miles. http://www.harlingen.com/visitors/vis_bicycle.htm

Sunday, April 8, Ride for the Roses, Austin, TX. Sponsored by the Lance Armstrong Foundation. <http://www.laf.org/>

Friday - Sunday, April 13-15, Easter Hill Country Tour, Kerrville, TX.

Saturday, April 21, Medina Valley River Ride, Castroville, TX.

Saturday, Sunday, April 28 - 29, Hill Country Ride for AIDS (HCRA), Austin to JBJ Park and back. <http://www.hillcountryride.org> For more information call (512) 965-RIDE or e-mail info@hillcountryride.org.

April - Wildflower 100, San Antonio, TX.

Saturday, May 12, Shiner Bash, Bike from Austin, San Antonio, or Houston to Shiner.

June 3 - 9, Texas Chainring Challenge

A True Story

I was forwarded this story via email recently. It describes a bicycle accident in Hockley, TX (outside Houston) and the resulting court case. - Chris

Accident update

As you recall, on October 28th, a pack of riders that started from CyFair High school on the regular NWC Club ride, had a pile-up caused by dogs running loose at:

David Foster
17725 Badtke
Hockley, TX 77447
(281)256-9596
Case #CR41C1609765

Six riders were down with myself and Rick Raines sustaining injuries equiring medical attention. Subsequently, I underwent surgery to repair torn ligaments and dislocated shoulder.

I filed a report in Judge H.N. McElroy's court at Harris County Precinct 4, 6831 Cypresswood Drive. Charges were brought by state of Texas against David Foster (dog's owner) to wit: allow Dogs and/or Cat to run at large. The case was heard on December 15th.

Case #CR41C1609765

Summary:

The Judge asked David Foster if he knew why he was in court and he claimed ignorance. The Judge allowed me to brief him and then asked David Foster if my story was true. He agreed that this happened but claimed it was the 1st time and that he already spent \$20,000+ on a fence and that he only has one dog. I tried to explain to the judge that I had heard that on the previous week, the same dogs came out and bit or tied to bite a rider. The judge wanted me to provide the name & case # of the incident. I don't know if the incident was even reported so I couldn't prove that this was not the first time the dogs were out.

David Foster informed the judge that our riding style is dangerous (too many people riding too close together, duh..). Then the judge looked at me and said "Do you understand that motorist do not like you people on the road?" I replied sarcastically by saying "I know now." The judge also pointed out that riding in a big pack is dangerous and cyclist should be careful to obey safety rules. By the time he was finished, I thought I was going to be booked for filing the complaint!

In conclusion, the case was dismissed since the judge determined that it was the first offence.

The theme of this email is to make everyone aware that a case has been filed in the event that another incident occurs with the same dogs so Mr.Foster can no longer plead first offense.

It is also my intent to make you aware that there is very little sympathy for cyclists in Judge McElroy's court. If another incident should occur, whether you choose to report it in a different court or Judge McElroy's, be sure to cite this case # as a previous offense for this dog owner.

I would like to suggest regular updates to cyclist regarding incidents and dangers so we can be aware and know what to look for. I would like to suggest also that riders take the responsibility to report incidents to the proper authorities in order to curb careless animal owner behavior and ensure safe and pleasant rides for everyone.

Regards,

Ghassan Gebara

**Comming in the next
issue:
Touring stories by
author Norman Ford!**

Club Officers

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v.jeys@worldnet.att.net

Treasurere: Jim Matthews
(210) 690-3872
jjmtnbkr@att.net

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Ride Coordinator: Vern Jeys
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Newsletter Editor: Chris Marsh
(210) 691-5768
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Web Site Editor: Fernando Galdos
(210) 509-8619
fgaldos@prodigy.net

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

Tamara Black
Alan FitzPatrick
Ellen Singer
Leonard Brown
Kellie Cole

Welcome!

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9835 Addersley
San Antonio, TX 78254

