



*The Newsletter of the
The Hill Country Biking Tour Club
A Recreational Club for Central Texas
<http://www.hcbtc.org> [_mail@hcbtc.org](mailto:mail@hcbtc.org)*

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Last Year's FFFF!!!

Thanks to our affiliate associations.....



Presidents Message
By Heidi Lynn

What about Lance Armstrong, our United States Postal Service Team, and our 2004 USA Olympic cyclists? We have many winners; #1 in the Tour De France, and several medals in various cycling events. In my view, all Olympic athletes are winners just for making it to the Olympics!!!

We have been busy as well, not training for the Olympics; however for the MS150. We have had monthly training rides in various lengths and difficulties. You do not have to ride the MS150 to join us on our rides, just show up for the fun of biking. Check out our ride schedule on www.hcbtc.org

Our monthly Club meetings have been attended in great numbers. Besides conducting our club business, the social hour with a pot-luck meal is a great way to meet, and talk biking with fellows cyclist.

One thing I have noticed lately on my bike rides; I see many used Bike Tubes, empty Gue Packets, Power Bar wrappers etc. on the road side. To keep Texas Beautiful and stay in good standing with the communities, let's take those items to the nearest trash container and let's not leave them on the streets.



Summer has gone by leaving the Hill Country Bicycle members and its friends with the following exciting fall events:

Week of October 9th, the 7 day “Katy Trail Tour” in Missouri will take place, there are still some openings for this great tour. For information please contact our Tour Director, Chris Marsh at chrismarsh@satx.rr.com or at 210-681-5768.

November 13th & 14th, plan on cycling with us for our 5th Annual Fredericksburg Fall Frolic Ride. This ride will go on rain or shine. As always you can find all the information, registration forms, and more on our website at www.hcbtc.org

Mark your calendars for this treat; Chris Marsh is planning an 8 day/7 night **Barge & Bike Tour in Holland in June 2005**. Spaces are limited; Chris is your contact person for detailed information. You can reach Chris at chrismarsh@satx.rr.com or at 210-681-5768.

As we are nearing toward the end of Y2004, our Nominating Committee, Amanda McCoy, almccoy30@hotmail.com /210-614-4475 & Vern Jeys, vjeys@satx.rr.com /210-675-0538, are excepting nomination for our 2005 Club Officers. Please contact either Amanda or Vern if you have questions or are interest in serving as a HCBTC Officer in 2005.

At last...Please ride carefully, watch out for puddles, overflowing creeks, pot holes, and uneven pavement, on-coming and passing vehicles. Use front and rear lights as we are starting to loose day light daily by the minute.

Stay Safe At All Times!



NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I think the worst thing that can happen to an individual is to decide to sell a house and buy a new one. For the last 8 months, I have been painting, repairing, cleaning, decorating, and doing all the steps needed to get a house ready to sell. Then, all the planning for the new house comes. I guess it is all worth the agony to be moved in and trying to finish sorting through all the boxes that contain 25 years of collections. Now, if I could just get on my bike again. The great thing about where I have moved is: a right turn gets me to Kyle Seale Road and either the hills or 1604 and a left turn gets me to Hausman and all the great biking rides we do!!! Hope to see all soon.

I have received quite a few emails on stolen biking equipment. It is so unfortunate that someone loses their bikes and misses out on rides. Make sure to keep your bike under a watchful eye, under lock and key, or maybe get the meanest looking dog to patrol the area around. Hopefully, the stolen bikes can be found and returned to their rightful owners.

Summer is in its last gasps. Days are getting shorter. Temperatures are moderating. This time of year is a great time to get out and ride, but be sure to follow the rules and watch out for the traffic. Last year, several bikers lost their lives around this time, and one must always be careful, especially as darkness catches us out on the road.

Bicycling Safety with Horses

Hello

On Saturday, July 3rd, I was riding my horse, along with a friend, in the grass next to the road that I live on in Kerrville, Texas. Many bicyclists come to enjoy the Hill Country and that morning was no exception. Silently, two bicyclists came up behind us, startling our horses. I tried to turn my horse around so that he could see them, and as I did so, I was staring the woman cyclist right in the face and yelling, "STOP!" which did absolutely no good at all, as I assume she thought I was hollering at my horse. She gave me a puzzled look and kept on pedaling, and that was the last thing I remember. My horse slipped on the incline and fell down, taking me with him. My head hit the only rock in the area, cracking my helmet and knocking me unconscious for a few minutes. My horse got up and stood over me and then here came the lady with her bike, pushing it toward him, which frightened him again, sending him running down the road. And then she turned to my friend, who was standing there with her horse and told her to "Get that horse away from me, it is scaring me!" (this, after she scared my horse twice, and also when she was the one who came over to the horses!)

She called 911, after my friend asked her not to, and then they pedaled off. I ended up being transported to a San Antonio hospital via helicopter (normal procedure when a head injury is involved) even though I did not even have a bump. I requested that not to happen, as I knew I was not injured, and I have no medical insurance. I now owe the helicopter company \$8,082.00, and I have not even seen a bill from the ambulance or hospital yet! I need not tell you this is a hardship for me, as I do not make much money right now, working as a live-in ranch manager.

Anyhow, I am not writing to complain. I really want to educate bicyclists, joggers, and anyone who may listen. I can not expect bicyclists to know about horses, but I really did think it was common knowledge not to sneak up behind a horse (I have had the same problem with joggers) Horses, like deer, are flight animals. They run first and find out later what scared them. We do not have that problem with cars, as we can hear them coming.

I am very fortunate; I do not have to ride on a road (and I never will again!) but there are plenty of people who must ride along roads to get to trails.

I do not know if the two bicyclists I met up with that day are in a club or not, and I suppose it does not matter. I would really like to get the word out to as many people as I can about being safe around horses. This little accident could have been so much worse, and I am truly grateful everyone came out ok. But I would really appreciate it if you could spread the word, maybe in your newsletter, if you have one, or some other way.

Just a few things to remember:

* If riding along, you come upon a horse, call out to the rider, before you get right up on them, and ask if it is ok to pass. The rider will turn to let the horse see you and wave you on past.

* If a horse is freaking out as you are zooming past and the rider is yelling "STOP!" most likely the rider is asking YOU to stop so that the horse will stop freaking out.

I very much appreciate any information you could pass on to your club members. Let's do what we can to keep everyone safe!

Thank you very much,

Cynthia McBride

September Meeting

A reminder, we are having our monthly Hill Country Club Bicycle Touring Club meeting/pot luck this Saturday, September 25th after the ride (12 noon) at Canyon Lake. The ride will be down River Road to Gruene Hall and back up River Road (check the website for detailed directions www.hcbtc.org). This is always a beautiful ride.

Phyllis and Bill Terry are hosting the meeting for the 3rd year running at their Lake front property. The Terry's have done a lot of work on their property. They now have a paved country road, a sink and a fan to help combat the heat. For those of you who attended previous club meetings by the lake know how much fun we always have.

Bill and his assistance will burn Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Please contact Phyllis at 210-829-0661 or at tapdnrcr09@aol.com to let her know if you are attending, and what dish you will bring to share.

Hope to see you all at Canyon Lake.

The Llano/Mason weekend.

October has arrived and the big event of the fall is almost upon us. On the weekend of October 23rd - 24th we will be joining the San Antonio Wheelmen and Highland Lakes Chapter for a weekend of riding and camaraderie in the small towns of Llano and Mason.

For those of you those are able to join us you will be in for a real treat as we ride roads that are rarely ridden on and almost as rarely driven on. Imagine riding 50 miles and being passed by a dozen vehicles. That was what our exploratory ride in June was like when we rode from Mason. Llano and Mason are part of the Hill Country, so there are hills, but they are generally of a much milder variety with fewer short, steep climbs and longer, low gradual ascents. The scenery is typical Hill Country, with a few more mesquite trees thrown in as you ride into the far western areas where it is typically much drier than the area around Austin. Instead of the white limestone that is prevalent around Austin, you will see more of the granite outcroppings that dot the further reaches of the Hill Country.

The rides on Saturday will start at noon at Llano High School on SH 71, just before SH 71 intersects SH 16 south of Llano. We will offer short to medium distance rides that day. On Sunday the rides will start at the Mason City Park on US 87, on the south side of Mason. We will offer a full slate of rides that day for riders of all abilities.

For those staying the night on Friday and/or Saturday in Llano or Mason, there are a variety of restaurants to eat at with some of our favorites being Llaneaux Seafood House and Cooper's BBQ in Llano and Willow Creek Cafe, Veranda Cafe and Cooper's BBQ (which Texas Monthly actually said was the better of the two Cooper's, but you didn't hear that from this writer) in Mason. The Veranda Cafe in Mason has opened their arm's to the cyclists that are in Mason on Saturday night and the Willow Creek Cafe in Mason is where we are all planning on doing breakfast Sunday morning before the ride. Both Veranda Cafe and Willow Creek Cafe are located on the square in Mason with the Veranda Cafe being on the southwest corner and Willow Creek Café being on the northeast corner. If you are going to join us at either restaurant, please RSVP Steve Coyle by e-mail at secoyle@bikerider.com or by phone at 512/260-0943 by Monday, October 18th so we can provide a head count to those restaurants.

Since stores and towns are few and far between, we'll even have rest stops set up along the routes when no stores are present, so riders can obtain refreshments along the way. We are even looking for a couple of non-cycling spouses or friends that would be willing to help us out with that endeavor and enjoy undying gratitude from all the cyclists they serve. If you know of anyone that fits the bill, please contact Steve Coyle by e-mail at secoyle@bikerider.com or by phone at 512/260-0943.

If you are planning on staying the weekend, at this point your best bet is probably Llano due to the two motels in Mason already being reserved for the weekend by a wedding party that will be in town. There are several bed and breakfast in Mason if that is more your cup of tea and you can find additional info on them at <http://www.masontxcoc.com/> Llano has several motels to chose from and is only 30 miles from Mason for Sunday's ride start. You can find additional info on the lodging options in Llano at <http://www.llanochamber.org/> If no accommodations can be found in Llano or Mason, another option is Fredericksburg which is about 40 miles from both towns.

Hope to see you there!

Club Rides

HCBTC offers a wide variety of locations, distances, and levels of rides during the week and weekend. If you have questions about the ride, please contact the ride leader for information. If you want to lead a ride, feel free to let us know when and where you would like to do your ride, and we can put it on the Internet



Every Monday Evening

Time: 5:00PM (ATTENTION: The days are getting shorter, so beginning Monday, September 20th, The Stinson airport ride will start at 5:00 pm.)

Place: Stinson Airport.

Ride Length: 16.5 miles

Directions: Take Roosevelt to 99th street. Go east on 99th street to Mission road. Right on Mission Road to Stinson Airport.

Ride Leaders are **Vern Jeys 675-0538** vjeys@satx.rr.com, and **Sandy Barsun 635-8777** barsun@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday Evening Rides - President's Ride

Due to **losing day light**, our Tuesday evening ride will be discontinued as of **October 2004**. Our last Tuesday ride will be **September 28th at 6:30 p.m.** with dinner at Rudy's after the ride. We will continue our Tuesday p.m. rides in April 2005 same place, same time.

Place: Rudy's BBQ, Located at Hwy 151 & Westover Road (by Sea World)

Ride Length: 12 miles

Directions: Take hi-way 151 West from loop 410 to Westover road. Park in the back, away from Rudy's. President's ride will be hilly. Ride will not be Easy, but it is short. Shorter ride available for those who feel less ambitious.

Ride leader is **Heidi 344-0460 bike4fun2@sbcglobal.net**

Every Wednesday Morning - Stinson Airport Ride.

Time: 8:00AM

Place: Stinson Airport.

Ride Length: 27 miles

Directions: Take Roosevelt to 99th street. Go East on 99th to Mission Road. Right on Mission Road to Stinson airport. Ride is flexible. We take various routes. The ride may be as little as 18 miles or as much as 30. Easy paced ride with frequent stops.

Ride Leader **Vern Jeys 675-0538 vjeys@satx.rr.com**.

Every Thursday Evening.

Time: 6:30PM

Place: Taft High School

Ride Length: 16 miles

Directions: We will meet at **6:30 PM** at **Taft high School** on FM 471 outside 1604 for a group ride at a **Moderate (12 - 14 mph) pace**. We will eat at the after the ride.

Ride Leaders: Chris & Jan Marsh will lead the ride, phone **210 681-5768**, email **chrismarsh@satx.rr.com**.

Saturday, September 25th, Canyon Lake Ride (Map #43). Meet at **8 A. M.** across from the Diamond Shamrock station at the intersection of FM 2673 and River Road in Sattler for a **30 mile scenic ride**. **Directions:** Take I-35 North to just past New Braunfels and then take Exit 191 (Canyon Lake/ FM 306). Continue on FM 306 for 11.8 miles (flashing/traffic light) and make a left onto FM 2673. Follow FM 2673 for 1.5 miles to the Diamond Shamrock station at River Road in Sattler. Ride Leader: **Phyllis Terry, phone: (219) 829-0661, email: tapdancr@aol.com**

September 2004 Club Meeting - Saturday, September 25th

Place: At Phyllis & Bill Terry's @ Canyon Lake

Location: Canyon Lake

Phone: Saturday, September 25, 2004

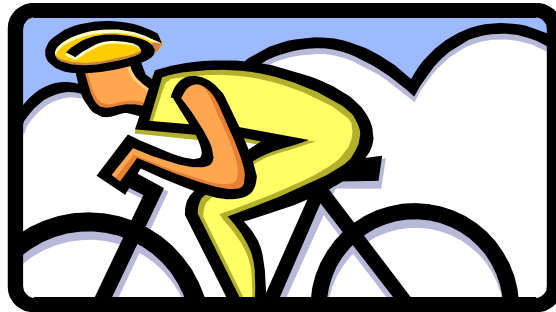
Time: (about 12 noon)

Program: Ph.: 210-829-0661 or at **tapdancr09@aol.com** Bill & his assistant will grill Hamburgers & Hot Dogs bring a side dish to share. The meeting will begin after our Canyon Lake ride. **Please call Phyllis or email for directions & what your pot-luck dish will be.**

<p>Sunday, September 26th, Helotes Ride. Meet at 8 A. M. for a 26 mile group ride at a moderate (12-14 mph) pace. Meet across from the Helotes Bike Shop and Floores Country Store in Helotes. Directions: Take Bandera Road West to Helotes. Travel through the Helotes shopping area and after passing the last traffic light make the 2nd left (opposite a feed store) onto Old Bandera Road and go two blocks to the meeting site. Ride Leader: Vivian Perez, phone: 387-5130, email: artista@satx.rr.com.</p>
<p>Saturday-Sunday, October 2nd-3rd, MS 150 Bike to the Beach Ride.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 9th to Sunday October, 17th, Katy Trail Ride.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 2nd, Harmon's BBQ Ride, Cibolo TX. Meet in the back of the parking lot of Harmon's BBQ at 8 A. M. for a 30 mile ride in rolling countryside at a moderate pace. Directions: Take IH-37 East toward Seguin. Pass Loop 1604 and take Exit 593 (FM2538). Take a left onto FM 2538 and go 1.2 miles where it becomes Weir Road. Continue on Weir Road until it tees into Lower Seguin Road. Turn right onto Lower Seguin Road to Haeckerville Road. Pass up Haeckerville Road on the right and continue for 0.2 miles to where you can make a left (North) onto Haeckerville Road. Take it for 2.2 miles to FM 78. Cross FM 78 and take a left onto Loop 539 to main Street. Make a right onto Main Street and go about a block to Harmon's BBQ on the right It is located in an old bank building across the street from the Police station. If you cross the railroad tracks you have gone too far. Park in the back of the lot. Ride Leader: Amanda McCoy, 614-4475, email: amccoy@chfp.com.</p>
<p>Sunday, October 3rd, Local Ride. OPEN</p>
<p>Saturday, October 9th, Taft High School Ride. Meet on the west side of the Taft High School parking lot at 8 A. M. for an easy paced 37 mile group ride over flat and rolling terrain with a few hills. Directions: Taft High School is located on FM 471 (Culebra Road in the city) about one mile west of Loop 1604 W. Ride Leader: Mac McCormick, phone: 614-5514, email: eemac2@earthlink.net.</p>
<p>Sunday, October 10th, Kirby Ride (Map # 38). Meet at 8 A. M. at Lupita's Mexican Café located at 4950 FM 78 just east of I-410 (on the right hand side just beyond Dairy Queen on FM 78). This ride is mostly flat for 33 miles. Ride Leader: Heidi Lynn, phone: 682-8107, email: bike4fun2@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Saturday, October 16th, Local Ride. OPEN</p>
<p>Sunday, October 17th, Local Ride. OPEN</p>
<p>Saturday, October 23rd, Brauchle Elementary School Bike Rodeo. Brauchle Elementary School Bike Rodeo is located at 8555 Bowens Crossing off W 1604. Meet at the school at 8:00 A.M. to set up and conduct a bicycle safety and training session for students of Brauchle. Directions: Take Bandera Road to New Guilbeau Road. Take New Guilbeau Road to April Bend, make a left on April Bend and go 4 blocks to Bowens Crossing. Make a left onto Bowens Crossing and Brauchle will be on the right. (Note: April Bend is about two blocks from 1604, look for another street, Jean Verte, that crosses New Guilbeau about a quarter of a mile before your turn onto April Bend.). If Northbound on W 1604, make a right onto Bowens Crossing which is about a quarter of a mile before New Guilbeau Road exit. Activity Coordinator: Martha Espinoza, 521-3520, email: mm_espinoza@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Sunday, October 24th, Metric Century Ride. Meet at 7:30 A. M. in the Park and Ride parking lot across from Sammy's in Castroville . This 67-mile ride will take us to Hondo, Divine and return to Castroville. Directions: Take Hwy 90 West from Loop 410 West to Castroville. Sammy's is on the left at the third traffic light just before the river bridge. Ride Leader: Vern Jeys, phone: 675-0538, email: vjeys@satx.rr.com.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 30th, Local Ride. OPEN</p>
<p>Sunday, October 31st, Local Ride. OPEN</p>

Saturday-Sunday, November 13th-14th, Fifth Fredericksburg Fall Foliage Frolic Ride.

On **November 13th – 14th**, the **Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club** will host the **Fifth Fredericksburg Fall Foliage Frolic**. This two day event features rides up to 50 miles in length both days. The ride starts at **9:00 AM Saturday** morning at **Lady Bird Johnson Park** three miles south of Fredericksburg on TX 16. **Registration includes two days of supported rides with maps, rest stops, sag support, Saturday lunch and a ride souvenir**. The event cost is only **\$15 before November 6th - \$20 after**. For more information, see the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club website at www.hcbtc.org, email vjeys@satx.rr.com, phone **Vern Jeys** at **(210) 675-0538** or access additional information and application from this website, available either in [text](#) or [PDF](#) formats. **The Frolic will be held rain or shine.**



Club Discounts - The following Bicycle Shops offer members of the HCBTC a 10% discount.

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

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

Hill Country Bicycle Works, 1412 Broadway, Kerrville, 830 896-6864 and
702 E Main, Fredericksburg, 830 990-2609.

Ride Away Bicycles, Huebner Oaks Shopping Center,
11075 IH-10 West, Suite 305, 696-9925 and
8509 Culebra Road, 520-4789

Cycle Logic, 12319 Wetmore Road, 210-490-8251

Planet Bike, 5819 NW Loop 410, Suite 133, 210-682-2050

Action Bikes 2921 Pat Booker Road, 104 Universal City, TX, 210-657-0155

Big thanks for their support to our club.



Come join the fun! Ride with Hill Country Biking Tour Club!