



February 2007
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Touring Notes

The Newsletter of the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club A Recreational Club for Central Texas <http://www.hcbtc.org>

President's Message

Wow, as I write this, we remain ice-bound out here in the northern reaches of Bexar County. What an ice storm for this old South Texas boy! I continue to monitor the weather reports, and it looks like conditions not very conducive to cycling will be with us for another few days.

However, it has not been all bad weather this winter, as HCBTC has gotten in some great special rides with outstanding attendance. This, of course, is in addition to our local regularly scheduled and recurring rides.

We had about 35 riders on the annual Windcrest Christmas Lighting Ride led by Vern Jeys. What a fun ride! Those Windcrest folks go all out with their decorations. If you haven't made that ride (or, even if you have), do so! It's really neat to view the lights from the perspective of a bicycle.

The New Years Ride had even greater attendance, with roughly 45 riders. Was it the fact that no one partied that much the night before, or was it the fact that the noon start made it more convenient? I was out of town for New Years (partying hard), so I wasn't able to ride that one, but it's now on my schedule!

I see from the photos that Heidi sent that there was a group that enjoyed the Aransas National Wildlife

Refuge/Corpus Christi trip. Congrats to Randy in putting the weekend together. I don't know the number in the group, but I wish I had been with you. I was finishing a major painting project with rented scaffolding, so you know where my priorities had to be. I will be clearing my calendar, so you can be assured that I will be one of the first ones on the bike when the weather clears.

Meanwhile, I hope all HCBTC Members will give some serious thought to taking a little time to write a letter protesting the fund reduction by TxDOT that severely impacts funding for bicycle-related facilities. Details for responding are as outlined in email attachment sent by Sandy Barsun to HCBTC Members. This impact is serious; it will be felt not only immediately, but far into the future. As a club, and individually, we need to take an active stance on this

See you on the road, and hopefully, at one of our meetings.....

- Nolan Kuehn

p.s. Guests are always welcome at HCBTC meetings. Come out and meet some fellow cyclists!

Welcome New Members

Stefanie Hunt

Club Activities

Recurring Rides

Monday Morning Helotes/ 211 Loop. Ride starts at 7:30 a.m. across from the Helotes Bike Shop and Floore's Country Store in Helotes. Join us for an early morning workout of 26 miles. This ride takes us to Loop 211 with rolling hills and a beautiful view in the Texas hill country. Directions to Helotes: Take Bandera Road west to Helotes; travel through the Helotes shopping area. 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: Manuel Pena, phone: (210) 435-9237, email: Manuel_Pena@sbcglobal.net

Monday Evening Brauning Lake Ride. Meet 4:30 p.m. at Tom's Burgers for a 16-mile leisurely paced ride with rest stops. Some slight hills, but mostly gently rolling. Dinner at Tom's Burgers after the ride. Take IH-37 Hwy South to Southton. Go left on Southton to Donop (about 1 block) Left on Donop to Tom's Burgers (about 400 ft) on the right. Ride leaders are Vern Jeys and Sandy Barsun (210) 635-8777 barsun@sbcglobal.net.

Wednesday Morning Stinson Airport Ride. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Stinson Airport for an 18 to 30-mile leisurely paced ride with rest stops. 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. Ride leader is Vern Jeys (210) 675-0538 vjeys@satx.rr.com.

Friday Morning Castroville Ride. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the carpool parking area across from Sammy's in Castroville for a 30-mile ride. Ride leader is Vern Jeys (210) 675-0538 vjeys@satx.rr.com.

Weekend Activities

Saturday, February 3rd, "Poteet Ride" Ride starts at 9:00 a.m. from the VFW in Poteet. Join me for a 50 or optional 30-mile ride with gently rolling and some hilly terrain. Directions: Take Hwy 16 South to Carpool parking area, located just beyond VFW Bldg, as you enter Poteet, on the right hand side. Pace is 10 to 12 mph. Lunch at Don Juan's in Poteet after the ride. Ride Leader: Frances Santos Phone: 830-276-3891 or 210-213-3050

Sunday, February 4th, You can sleep in; the ride will not start until **12 NOON** from Bill Miller's (Phone # is 372-0760) in Helotes, located on 12705 Bandera, corner of Leslie & Bandera. Distance is 27 miles, combination of flat & hilly terrain. Route will go to Exxon Station on 471 & the 211 loop. Optional shorter route of 22 miles to 471 & Exxon Station and back is available. Ride Leader: Ken & Mouse Kanagaki, ph: (210) 341-6883, email: kw2405@earthlink.net

Saturday, February 10th, Ride to Boerne. Ride starts at 9:00 a.m. from behind the What-a-Burger on Loop 1604 and TX16 (Bandera Rd). This will be a 40-mile brisk-paced (13 - 15 mph) ride to Boerne and back. Ride Leader: Chris Marsh, phone (210) 681-5768, email chrismarsh@satx.rr.com.

Saturday, February 10th, Bear Moon Bakery Ride. Meet at Leon Springs Park and Ride lot at 9 a.m. for a 23-mile ride that is flat to gently rolling. This is an easy-paced group ride of 10-12 mph. As always, we will stay together and leave no one behind. We will have two optional rest stops for regrouping en-route. It is a suitable ride for beginners who have done at least a couple of 5-8 mile rides, or for "mature" tandem bike riders, or for anyone else who wants a leisurely outing with the group and a turnaround snack at Bear Moon Bakery. (Note: They ask you not to enter if your shoes have cleats that can scar their wooden floors; remove shoes, thanks.). Directions: Take IH-10 West to Leon Springs/Boerne Stage Road exit (Exit 551). Take a left onto the service road and continue to a 4-way stop. Make a left at the stop and go one block to the parking lot on the left. Ride Leaders: Mac and Evelyn McCormick email: eemac2@satx.rr.com or eemac2@earthlink.net, phone: (210) 614-5514.

Sunday, February 11th, Lourdes Memorial Ride. Ride starts at 10 a.m. from the Carpool parking area in Leon Springs. Distance about 16 miles, no maps. Ride will be mostly flat; however, we will have a 2-mile hill. Directions: Take I-10 west to Leon Springs, and exit left on service road to light. Left at light to carpool parking area on left, by I-10 underpass. Lunch at Rudy's. Ride Leader: Vern Jeys, phone: 210-675-0538, email: vjeys@satx.rr.com

Saturday/Sunday, February 17th – 18th, Presidents Day, Garner State Park "Camp &

Ride” weekend. Join us for a weekend getaway close to home. We will camp in the OLD section of Garner; they have cabins that are close to the tent sites/shelters and RV area. There is ample space for hiking, canoeing, basket ball, softball and football. We will have Chili for Saturday p.m.; bring a side dish to share. Bike rides start at 10 a.m. Saturday & Sunday from the entrance of the park, with various distance, scenery and terrain. Garner State Park is located in the Northern part of Uvalde County, Texas, thirty miles north of Uvalde and seven miles north of Concan, Texas. Directions: Go US-90 W, right on TX-127 to Concan, slight right onto US-83, right onto CR-350/Old Leakey Rd. For Park information & RV reservations go to www.garnerstatepark.com. Ride Leader: Vanessa Leal, phone: 210-496-3221, email: vness.leal@yahoo.com Please contact Vanessa to let her know if you need a tenting spot.

Friday, February 23rd, February Club Meeting. Meet at the Fire Mountain Grill, 7200 Bandera Rd.(ph. 210-684-9416). 6:30 PM, social and dinner. 7:15 PM, club business meeting. Guests are always welcome at the club meeting.

Saturday, February 24th, “ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY” Clean Up Day. OUR Club believes in giving back to the community, and we have decided to adopt a highway along one of our popular riding routes. We have been assigned 2 miles of Galm Road by Canyon State Park. Bring the family and friends, and meet at Jim’s on 1604 & Bandera Road at 8 a.m. for breakfast. A short safety

briefing will be given. After breakfast, we will proceed to the entrance of Canyon State Park on Galm Road for our litter pick-up. Remember to wear long pants, sturdy shoes and your yellow HCBTC T-shirt. Don’t forget gloves, sun block & insect repellent. Safety vests and trash bags will be provided to you. For planning purposes, please contact Bob or Ann to let them know you of your availability. Last minute change of heart/time: Just show up. Team Leaders: Bob & Ann Caldwell, phone: (210) 521-2887, email: dcnbob01@yahoo.com

Sunday, February 25th, Bear Moon Bakery ride. Meet at the Leon Springs Park and Ride parking lot (IH-10 and Boerne Stage Road) at 9:00 a.m. for a group ride of 30 miles over rolling terrain. We will stop at the Bear Moon Bakery in Boerne for a break. Directions to Leon Springs: Take I-10 West to the Leon Springs exit and go left on the service road to a 4-way stop. Take a left at the stop for one block to the parking lot on the left. Ride Leader: Dana Gonzales phone: 210-682-3539, email: Godivadsg@yahoo.com

Upcoming Club Events

Mark your calendar for the following Out-of-Town Bike, Camp & Hotel trips, or just come out and ride for the day!!! More information will follow as we get closer to the event date. Please check our website for regular updates at www.hcbtc.org for local & out-of-town events.

Saturday & Sunday, February 17th – 18th, Garner State Park, Camping/hotel Weekend. Ride Leader: Vanessa Leal, phone:

210-496-3221, email: vness.leal@yahoo.com

Saturday & Sunday, March 10th – 11th, Bastrop State Park, Camping/hotel Weekend. Ride Leader: Randy Frazier, phone: (210) 237-8740, email: papaastronomer@yahoo.com

Saturday & Sunday, April 14th – 15th, Kerrville Camping/hotel Weekend. Ride Leader: Chris Marsh, phone (210) 681-5768, email chrismarsh@satx.rr.com

Sunday, April 22nd, Llano “Wild Flower Ride” Ride Leader: Vern Jeys ph: 210-675-0538, email: vjeys@satx.rr.com

Saturday & Sunday, May 19th – 20th, Tour DeCure. Team Captain: Sandy Barsun, phone: 210-635-877, cell 210-913-3815, email barsun@sbcglobal.net

Saturday & Sunday, October 27th – 28th, Eighth Annual Fredericksburg Fall Foliage Frolic

Saturday & Sunday, November 10th – 11th, Goliad, Camping Weekend

Other Cycling Events

February 17th, Jalapeno 100. Harlingen, Texas. See <http://www.harlingen.com/jalapeno.asp> for more information.

March 10th - 17th, Texas Hell Week XVII. Texas Hell Week is as common to Spring as are daffodils and wildflowers. Nicknamed "The Rides of March," HWTX features 8 days of incredible riding and stunning scenery in Texas Hill

Country. For 2007 we're mixing up the routes again and coming up with some more new daily rides. Entry is \$129. See <http://www.hellweek.com/texas.html> for more information.

March 17th, Cycle LaGrange Ride benefiting Habitat for Humanity. Routes of 20 – 76 miles. www.cyclelagrange.org

April 6th – 8th, 2007 Easter Hill Country Tour. Ride is centered in Kerrville, Texas. Hosted by The Houston Bicycle Club. See <http://www.ehct.com> for more information.

April 14th, Cuero Wildflower Ride Enjoy the beautiful wildflowers and hospitality of Dewitt County. Routes of 10 – 60 miles. www.cueroisd.org/anchorclub/bikeeide.htm

April 14th, Pedal Power Wildflower. 9:00 am. Stonewall, Texas. 12, 23, 36, 62 miles. \$30 for T-shirt and lunch. Call (512) 756-2607 for more information.

April 14th – 20th, Adventure Cycling Association - Texas Hill Country Event. Seven day event starts and ends in Austin. Fully supported with Catered meals and camping. Cost is \$849. For more information, see the Adventure Cycling Association website at <http://www.advcycling.org/tours/2007texashillcountry.cfm>

April 27th – 29th, Southwest Tandem Rally. LaGrange Texas.

May 19th - 20th, 2007 Tour de Cure. Email Sandy Barsun, Team Captain for additional information, barsun@sbcglobal.net.

June 10th – 16th, Oklahoma FreeWheel. Join 1000 riders for the 29th ride across Oklahoma. See <http://www.okfreewheel.com/default.asp> for more information.

Member Discounts

The following Bicycle Shops offer members of the HCBTC a 10% discount. Be sure to ask what the discount applies to and show them your membership card.

BikeWorld, 5911 Broadway, 210-828-5558, 7148 Blanco Road 210-344-2303 and 418 N. Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Tx 78232, 210-892-0123

Britton's Cycles, 16636 Hwy 281N, 656-1655 and 802 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 153, 210-682-2050

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

Bicycle Shack, 31007 IH10 West, Ste 105, Boerne, TX 78006, 830-755-5369

Gotta Ride Bikes, 28604 IH 10 W #5, Boerne, Tx, 830-755-8039

The Bike Platz, 1312 Common St, Ste 402-402, New Braunfels, TX 78130, 830-626-2453

Charles A. James Bicycle Co., 329 N. Main Ave. (Downtown) San Antonio, TX 78205, 210-226-7812 and 1203 S. W. Military Dr. (Southside), San Antonio, TX 78221, 210-923-3010

Bicycle Heaven, 20323 Huebner Road, Suite 108, San Antonio, TX 78258, 210-494-0035

Also, the Southwoods Bed and breakfast in Fredericksburg offers a 10% discount to members. 632 Southwoods Drive, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, 877-816-9100, <http://632southwoods.com>

Big thanks for their support to our club.

Club Volunteers

Club Officers

President: Nolan Kuehn (830) 755-8761, nolank@gvtc.com

Vice President: Ken Kanagaki, (210) 341-6883, kw2405@earthlink.net.

Ride Chair: Heidi Lynn, (210) 682-8107, bikentx@satx.rr.com

Treasurer: Jackie Jeys, (210) 675-0538, jackiejeys@satx.rr.com

Secretary: Diana Valdez (210) 535-3373, valdez-d@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Amanda McCoy, (210) 614-4475, amccoy@cfhp.com

Website Editor: Chris Marsh, (210) 681-5768, chrismarsh@satx.rr.com

Publicity: Ethel Pedraza, (210) 414-8559, azardepe@hotmail.com

Tour Director: Vern Jeys, (210) 675-0538, vjeys@satx.rr.com

Beginner Rides: Lillian LaFave, (210) 385-0381, lalylafave@hotmail.com

Club Historian: Mouse Kanagaki, (210) 341-6883, kw2405@earthlink.net

Other Club Volunteers

Adopt-a-highway: Bob & Ann Caldwell, phone: (210) 521-2887, email: dcnbob01@yahoo.com

Backup Website Editor: Mike Thompson, snorebox@satx.rr.com

Tour de Cure Team Captain: Sandy Barsun, (210) 635-8777, barsun@sbcglobal.net