West Texas Cycling

November 2019

Next Monthly Meeting
Date: Nov 11th
Where:
Remax
4703 S Loop 289
Meeting @ 7pm

Save the Date:
December 6
WTCA Christmas Party
The event flier immediately perked our interest by leading off with a question that every West Texas gravel racer wants to hear, “Tired of the sand of other gravel rides?” YES, we would love the chance to have a weekend away with friends and dodge the sand. The flier continued, “Then the Hell Hole Gravel Grind is the race for you! Only the repentant rider shall survive!” The picture in the center of the flier features a rendering of a demon reaching between two rocky bluffs in an effort to seize a rider who is racing away from his fiery clutches. Who wouldn’t be intrigued enough by all of this to hand over a hard-earned $40? That’s precisely what happened to the unsuspecting group of four WTCA members who arrived in San Angelo for a little taste of hell!

We all registered to conquer the 100k distance, and the morning of the event looked to hold great conditions to do just that: calm, clear and just the right amount of cool in the air. Mike Ivins, Daren Lynn and I had come down to stay the night before, and Tonya Marshall set her alarm clock for zero dark thirty to join us the day of. Just less than fifty riders had pre-registered, and another fifteen or so showed up for race-day registration. As we anxiously awaited the gun (figuratively speaking) at the start line, I couldn’t help but thinking how pristine the caliche road appeared to be under our knobby tires. This is going to be a breeze, I thought to myself. All this imagery of hellfire, brimstone and impassable roads had generated a lot of good conversation, but these roads were Immaculate. We were truly in for a treat!

The first eleven miles of pedaling were glorious, and the roads were wide and smooth. I happened to strike up a conversation with Bill Cullins, one of the active and definitely animated members of the San Angelo Bicycle Association, and he assured me that the conditions would be a little more challenging once we took a right-hand turn onto Hell Hole Road somewhere after mile 11. His assessment would prove to be both accurate and an incredible understatement all rolled into one!

The really challenging (and tons of fun I might add) portion of the grind, which lasted from mile 11 to approximately 30, involved a decent amount of climbing, a bunch of rocky sections and several two-track ranch roads that required riders to be on their toes. Whether they were climbing or descending. Several riders had opted for a mountain bike on this grind, and I don’t think they regretted their decision as the roads were testing the bike-handling skills of the riders running from Satan’s grasp! As I passed a rider here or there on an uphill or downhill section, I could hear a curse word or two (or three) being muttered under their breath about the perils they were facing…possibly vowing to never return if they were fortunate enough to finish. Several riders experienced misfortune during this hair-raising campaign: tires slashed by hefty rocks, riders being
bucked off on a nasty downhill section, and broom weed ripping derailleurs from frames. You can’t normally ride the entire route, as the middle portion crosses a private ranch that won’t allow passage outside of this approved event. As we approached mile 30 and the road conditions began to look up, we encountered an example of this limited access first-hand in the form of a ranch gate being locked. Apparently, some hunters had been on the land and were being diligent about their gate-closing duties upon exiting...leaving gravel racers with no option but to throw their bike over the tall gate and jump across to the other side. Luckily, the Hell Hole volunteers had done an excellent job of marking the route, and it was crystal clear that we had to press on over in order to escape eternal damnation.

Just beyond the gate, the road split for the 75k and 100k routes. The water station located at the fork was a welcomed site, as our stores had been depleted while escaping the demons on Hell Hole Road. The remainder of the race was smooth sailing by comparison, and the miles (or kilometers if you’re so inclined) began to tick by like clockwork.

The finish line was a welcomed sight; legs were exhausted and sore from a hard-days work. There were magnificent smells emanating from the cook tent where fresh burgers were being grilled...my body was yearning to be replenished from too many calories spent! As riders began to rehydrate and recover, they each told their own tale of woes to a willing listener...proud to be done, and proud to have conquered hell! The adventure was grand, and although I can’t speak for everyone (because they don’t all share my opinion), I’d love to go back for another round if they’ll allow it!
Call to order by Justin Houser at 7:00 pm

Old Business

1. Officer Nominations are still open for each position.
   a. People should spread the word, post to Facebook, tell other people who were not at the meeting, etc.
   b. Advocacy Director: Paul Friener and Britt Smith have volunteered to do Advocacy, so a co-chaired Advocacy Committee was formed.
   c. With no statements otherwise, all officers intend to retain their positions with the exception of the President.

2. Ride Leaders for 2020:
   a. Justin Houser will continue to lead LP&L.
   b. Chism will still have multiple leader options.
   c. The goal for next year is to bring back a Saturday ride.
   d. There was discussion regarding social rides and other more permanent rides on the weekends.
   e. These rides create the opportunity for new people to join the club and for newer member/newer cyclist to ride with people.
   f. The LP&L Ride will end for the year after October 17th.
   g. Chism will continue to move its start time earlier.

3. WTCA Holiday Party
   a. At the September meeting there was discussion to move the party to January
      i. This would allow more time to get the awards finished
      ii. It would be easier to find a location
      iii. Catering options could be better since it isn’t as busy of a time
      iv. Could allow more people to attend since other year-end parties will not be in the way.
   b. Discussion during the October Meeting:
      i. This issue returns every year, and there is always a good turn out.
      ii. Last year worked fine.
      iii. This has been a long-standing tradition for LBC and people don’t want it to be lost.
      iv. A party in a different month would just be attended as another meeting.
      v. Caterers are more prepared to cater events during the holiday season.
      vi. Lori can work with Susan Alger to find a specific date for the party.
      vii. The same caterers will handle catering as last year.
   c. Jürgen makes a motion to vote whether the party should be held in December.
      i. 2nd by Pat C.
      ii. Motion passes
      iii. Lori will arrange the party
      iv. Dates should be announced as soon as possible, but no less than two weeks prior to the event.
   d. We will need to get the traveling awards back by the November meeting.
   e. Awards nominations and Officer nominations will be voted on at the November meeting to give Jürgen everything to get the awards completed by the party.
4. Prior and Future Rides:
   a. There is a ride in San Angelo on October 19th.
   b. Cyclocross Season has begun and a few of our riders are racing in events around the state.
   c. Hale on Wheels was a good ride and had a large turnout from Lubbock.
   d. The Caprock Escarpment ride is still in the works, more information should be coming out soon.
   e. Big Bend ride:
      i. A specific date has not been set
      ii. Usually in the first week in March.
   f. Grape Day Ride:
      i. Llano Estacado Winery will hold their annual Grape Days even on October 26th beginning at 11:00 am. Individual fee is $15 per person.
      ii. It was suggested that we revive the Grape Day ride as a cruising to moderate speed
      iii. Roby Thrasher will be coordinating this ride.
      iv. Likely meet between 7 and 8 on that morning for a 30 mile medium paced ride
      v. Riders are encouraged to bring snack (that pair with wine) and hold a tailgate after the ride.
   g. Post to Gail Ride
      i. Has not been held recently
      ii. Normally occurs in the spring
      iii. Typically runs 60 miles but is an out-and-back making it easy to turn around earlier.
      iv. Robby Thrasher has expressed interest in leading this ride as well.
      v. Additional information can/will be posted to the Facebook page.
   h. Questions arose regarding the Christmas Ride, but nothing was finalized.

5. There is continued discussion regarding more casual social rides
   a. Connecting to the Social Cycling Lubbock might be a way to engage more people

6. Ride safety and other interests
   a. WTCA does not promote riding after sunset
      i. With the exception of planned night rides where headlights and taillights are mandatory.
   b. There is interest in beginner bicycle maintenance meetings
      i. Focus can be changing a tire, basic tuning of derailleurs, cleaning, etc.
        1. We have held these in the past and should make sure we announce any coming up.
        2. NICA holds an annual training for their members during the winter months at Velocity. WTCA Members are welcome to attend that as well.
      ii. The newly formed Advocacy Committee can help put these together as well.

7. Online Presence
   a. WTCA Website is markedly out of date.
   b. Facebook is the best way to announce rides which are not part of the normal riding schedule
   c. Facebook can also be utilized for anyone seeking other riders.
      i. Please list expected distance and pace.
New Business:
1. Jürgen has spoken with other individuals in USA Cycling regarding WTCA’s Safesport Training.
   a. This training is required for all officers of clubs with junior members.
   b. WTCA does not have junior racers and junior members mainly ride with their parents.
   c. With this information being as it is, we have been marked as “Does not have junior racers”
   d. Full information from original Minutes: “Jurg: Safesport Training, Bobby called Jurg about Safesport via USA Cycling, coaches get certified as official, recently, Congress mandated that Clubs who have Junior members, certain members of the Club must be certified, Kelsey Ericsson in Winterpark, CO, helping spearhead the movement. Not every club is alike was told to her as these rules change. There are no Junior racers in this club, but just riders of group rides. What we usually is that Club does not have Junior racers, which was stated officially to USA Cycling vis Safesport. The point is that we don’t feel we need to certify people since we have no Junior racers. There are some families where the Junior riders are riding with their parents.”
2. We should discuss the renewal of the club membership with USA Cycling at the November meeting.
   a. We currently have 4 members who are actively racing
   b. USA Cycling membership allows racers in our organization to wear LBC/Chaparral jerseys during races.

Next meeting will be on November 11th at 7:00 pm and will be at Remax.
A reminder, meetings are held on the second Monday of the month.

Motion to adjourn by Pat C. Second by Jürgen and others.
Motion passes.
**Things to Know**

- Bike and equipment must be in good, working condition. If in doubt have it serviced by a pro before showing up.
- Helmets are required on all rides.
- Make sure your WTCA membership is current.
- Sign the waiver so we know who is on the ride.
- Stay out of your aero bars if riding in a group.
- Bring your own flat kit, tools, fluids and nutrition.
- Some rides are no-drop, but if you have a ride-ending mechanical issue, be prepared to call for a ride.
- Leave the ear buds at home.
- Guest get 1 free ride EVER but must follow the club rules and sign a Waiver of Liability.

**Local Upcoming Events**
See Events on WTCA Website for Details

**Weekly Ride Schedule**

**Watch the WTCA Facebook Page**

*For Other Rides*

**Tuesday/Thursday Chisum**
Ride will resume in the March

**Tuesday/Thursday LP&L**
Ride will resume in April

**Saturday Rides**
Any Saturday rides will be posted on Facebook

We need Ride Leaders for these rides.  
Until we have one, Saturday Rides posted on the website are considered unofficial rides.
Check out Bikewtca.Org

**Club Rides**
Found under Events

**Club Officers**
Found under Membership

**Join/Renew Club Membership**
Found under Membership

**2019 Mileage Goals**
Found under Membership

Club Monthly Minutes are found under Membership at Bikewtca.org
Updated Mileage Goals
http://bikewtca.org
(Look under Membership)