

# WINDBUSTERS



Photo by Kyle Shortes

## July 2021



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Please exercise caution riding in the Avalon loop area. A couple of residents have voiced concern over the safety of cyclists riding there on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please avoid turning in front of vehicles. The residents are not complaining, but do not want to see anyone get hurt.

# 44th Fort Davis Cyclefest Tour

Fort Davis, Texas  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Promoted by the  
Permian Basin Bicycle Association  
Come Ride the "Texas Alps"!

Cyclefest is arguably the best and most scenic bike tour in the state of Texas with beautiful vistas, easy novice routes and challenging hills. Cyclefest is a "must do" for every cyclist.

The Cyclefest Bike Tour and Hill Climb is held in the Scenic "Texas Alps" in Fort Davis, Texas. The Tour provides three distance routes: 25, 55, and 75 miles.

The event is staged annually at the historic Prude Ranch in Fort Davis and is held the third weekend of September.

For Ride Information: call 1-432-212-0901 or visit  
<https://www.pbbatx.com/cyclefest>

Registration on bike Reg at  
<http://www.bikereg.com/cyclefest-2021>  
local information, [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com)



# CYCLEFEST UPDATE

Cyclefest is starting to shape up! We currently have 84 riders registered thru Bike Reg. All registrations will be online. If you need to make other arrangements, please email me directly at [Bob.Haskell@championx.com](mailto:Bob.Haskell@championx.com). Please consider registering as soon as possible to help us plan for the correct number of riders!

**Here is the information provided in the confirmation email when you sign up:**

**Saturday Morning:** The 44th Annual Cyclefest Tour kicks off from the Prude Ranch at 8.00 A.M. Ride at your own pace through terrain and distances to match your ability.

## Tour routes

**CPSC, SNELL OR ATSM HELMETS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.**

**10 miles** (Not Supported) - Into Fort Davis, enjoy the town, and return when ready. Some hills.

**27 mile** - Out and back along the Loop Route, rolling hills.

**55 mile** - Out and back along the Loop Route. Mostly rolling hills with a few climbs.

**76 mile** - Ride the Scenic Loop. Some VERY hard climbs.

**Rest stops** will be stationed along the routes with plenty of fruit, water, and ice. The last rest stop will close at 4:00 P.M. Please carry water bottles and personal items with you.

Limited **SAG Service** will be provided until 4:00 PM. Please observe the start time to ensure you have plenty of time to enjoy your ride.

**Finish Line** - Burgers and the fixings right after the ride. Must have your ticket for an adult beverage.

**Saturday afternoon:** join us for a party at the finish line. Music, drink, hamburgers, door prizes, and a raffle for one grand prize!

Massages will be available for purchase after the tour

**Saturday evening:** The McDonald Observatory Visitor Center is open for Star Parties on Friday and Saturday evening. Or take a trip to Marfa to see the Marfa lights. Or explore Alpine or the old fort in Fort Davis. Have ice cream at the Fort Davis Drug Store. For more information visit [www.mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://www.mcdonaldobservatory.org) or call 1-877-984-7827 <http://www.alpinetexas.com/> [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com)



**Sunday morning;** The infamous MT LOCKE HILLCLIMB to the McDonald Observatory. Choose from:

**1.5 miles:** 9:30 A.M. start at the McDonald Observatory Visitors Center, 8 miles NW of Prude Ranch. Register at the Visitors Center from 8:00-8:45 A.M. Special prizes will be given for anyone making it to the top under their own power.

**6 miles:** For more of a challenge, start at the Limpia Valley floor and climb 6 miles to the Observatory. Register at the Solar panels 8:00-8:45 A.M., ride at 9:00. All riders who cross the finish line under their own power with their bicycles will receive a special prize.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Lots of rooms at Prude, but make your reservations early. \*There is an Ultra Marathon the same weekend in the State Park, so book your stay early.

### Host Hotel

**Prude Guest Ranch:** Motel Rooms, Family Cabins, Bunkhouse - Meals. P.O. Box 1431, Ft. Davis, Texas 79734. 1-800-458-6232

**Hotel Limpia:** Historic hotel with 39 rooms, suites on the square, and historic guest houses. 1-800-662-5517 or (432) 426-3237

The State Park also has camping options just three miles from the start of the ride at Prude Ranch!

\*Packet Pick-up will be available Friday night from 5:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. and again on Saturday morning from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.

If you have any questions please call Bob Haskell at 432-212-0901 or email [bob.haskell@championx.com](mailto:bob.haskell@championx.com).

Thanks again for signing up to ride Cyclefest!

Sincerely,

Bob Haskell - Ride Director

## Volunteers

I will be needing volunteers for registration, set up and teardown (Friday-Sunday). We will also need SAG drivers. I am looking for 10-12 drivers who can help stranded cyclist with minor repairs or just a ride back to Prude Ranch. Please email me if you will be available to be a SAG driver.

## Sponsors

We are looking for sponsors for this year's ride! If you would like to sponsor or your company might be interested in sponsoring, please email me. I am looking for someone to take the lead on looking for Sponsors.

If you have any questions, you can email me directly or go thru the Cyclefest link on the PBBA website!

Bob Haskell



Pictured on this page are photos of flood damage at Midland Trails . The following two pages depict damage at the Odessa MTB Park from heavy rains during June. OMTB photos are by Dan Saxton and Stephen Mitchell.



## MOUNTAIN BIKING – Steve Mitchell

The recent rains caused significant flooding at the local mountain parks. The amount of water that collected in the pits at the **Odessa Mountain Bike Park** is unprecedented in the 11 years that the trails have existed. It was really discouraging to walk through the park and see that all the trails in both pits were underwater. Nearly all the bridges floated. Unfortunately, all the water from the surrounding area is funneled into the pits as part of flood control for the City of Odessa. Combine this with saturated ground and then 6 inches of rain in two days and the pits turn into lakes. The water levels in the pits will eventually recede and we will again repair the damage. We may have to wait several weeks before most of the park is accessible. Although it seems like a long time to wait, flooding and trail closures are quite common and long lasting in wetter climates. I remember Cedar Hill State Park south of Dallas had to close for over a year due to a torrential rainstorm several years ago. Please be patient and we will get the park rideable as soon as possible.

Fortunately, we have additional options for MTB riders in the Permian Basin. The Midland trails were recently completed, and they dry out faster than the OMBP trails. Generally, within about 4-5 days after a major rainstorm, the trails are dry enough to ride and the lake has receded. The water flows through Scharbauer Draw and within a couple days the water flow is done. Then the lake drains for another day or two. After that, the trails dry quickly due to the sandy soil profile, and then they are ready to ride.

Additionally, Big Spring State Park trails handle the rain even better. The water runs off quickly and the soil is sandy and rocky enough that it only gets muddy at few places on top. The recent rains did create some new ruts, exposed more rocks and generated some plant overgrowth, but overall, the trail escaped unscathed. While you are waiting for the trails in Midland and Odessa to dry up and reopen, the Big Spring State Park trails are a great option.

The parks will be reopened as soon as possible but several areas may remain muddy or even underwater. Please do not damage the trail and berms by riding through these areas. Once the trails do dry out, expect more sand, some rutted areas, and some new hazards. There will be some scheduled workdays for all the parks. Please come help us fix the damage and get the trails back in shape. We have had good turnouts at the last couple of workdays but the damage from this last storm is going to require extra effort. As workdays are scheduled, they will be posted on our Facebook page and PBBA website, and members will be emailed.

I've included some pics I took at the Odessa Mountain Bike Park the day after the big flood. There are also a couple pics of the erosional damage at the Midland Trail park where the lake backs up and then starts flowing over the dirt road.

Flooding pictures of Odessa MTB park by Dan Saxton





Odessa MTB park pictures by Stephen Mitchell



# Tour de Agua, Dublin, TX by Berry Simpson

My brother, Carroll, was instrumental in my return to cycling after taking twenty or so gap years. I'd even sold my bike, which was so old David Hamm used to ask, when I brought it in for a tune-up, "Did you want us to replace the black tape holding your water bottle cage in place?"

I was ripe to return because my arthritic knees continue to get worse, meaning my favorite activity, distance running, was winding down. Carroll, and Mark, Todd, David, and Bryan, talked up cycling and gave me plenty of reasons to make a comeback.

And then Cyndi's sister and her six-year-old son moved to Midland to live with us. I was out of practice entertaining youngsters, but I remembered long epic bicycle rides with my own to kids twenty years earlier. So, Carroll sold me my first modern-era bike, a Fuji hybrid. I soon realized how much I enjoyed riding, added a Specialized Tarmac Elite to my collection, and took to the roads.

Carroll and I should have been riding together all those succeeding years, but our bodies fell apart in different places and at different times, leaving us out of phase with each other. And then finally, twelve years later, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we rode the Tour de Agua, in Dublin, Texas. It was thirty-eight miles of beautiful green countryside with lots of short but steep hills. The weather was surprisingly cooperative for a June morning in North Texas, a bit windy but overcast all morning. The temperature at the end of our ride was only 78\*. I was expecting 100\* with full sun.



We rode together the entire ride, well, except for the normal back-and-forth on the long hill climbs. No two-man pace lines, though; we weren't in that much of a hurry. The best part was we rode side-by-side most of the way, telling stories, thanks to the minimal Saturday morning traffic.

The TDA began and ended at Dublin High School and featured an *open start*, meaning riders could start any time between 7:00 am and 8:30 am. The course remained open and supported until 2:00 pm, so there was the possibility of riding it multiple times.

We rode the course once.

Several of the aid station volunteers asked if we enjoyed the relaxed start since we didn't have to arrive before 7:00 and got to sleep in a little longer. (Carroll and I were wheels-down at 8:11.) I told them the relaxed atmosphere was nice, but we missed the adrenaline buzz of a mass start, and the camaraderie of riding with lots of cyclists.

The open start was a change from previous years to accommodate Covid concerns, and it certainly reduced crowds at the aid stations, but I hope it isn't a permanent feature.

We had a great morning. Well, except for almost losing my bike off the carrier rack while driving from Granbury to Dublin, fixing one flat tire before mile seven of the ride, and locking the keys in the car before our ride got started - besides all of that, it was a fun day.



# Tour de Agua continued

This was our first ride together since the Roll for The Cure in Hobbs, August 2010, where we joined our dad who was 83 years old at the time. Carroll and I are twelve years apart in age, which makes little difference nowadays in our current seasons of life but made a huge difference our first thirty years. I grew up wearing bellbottomed jeans during the 1970s and Carroll grew up in zippered parachute pants during the 1980s. We didn't have much in common other than family DNA until we were both adults and had families of our own. However, through all those years, the one thing we did have in common was cycling. My bicycle roots were riding all over town in youthful freedom and escape, while Carroll's were riding BMX and doing tricks on a ramp in our driveway, in youthful courage and reckless abandon.

We first started talking about doing a ride together last December, the day of my son Byron's wedding to Angela, which was only nineteen days after Carroll underwent hip replacement. He wanted a reason to jumpstart his physical therapy and get back on a bike, which he no longer owned because his bad hip had made it too painful to ride. We picked the ride in Dublin, knowing we could use our Granbury house as a staging point, and the route length seemed reasonable after a few months of training. Carroll spent the next six months rebuilding his arsenal of bikes - he's always been the bigger gearhead - and doing increasing longer training rides.

The Tour de Agua was a good ride and I recommend it. It had it's share of difficult hills but nothing punishing, and all the volunteers were friendly and happy to see us. There were four well-stocked aid stations, including the finish line, and all of them featured an ice-filled tub of Dublin Bottling Company soft drinks. The route had plenty of beautiful country scenery, rolling through several tiny communities on lightly traveled country roads. I hope to do it again.



Before the weekend was finished Carroll and I agreed to meet again in October at the Paluxy Pedal in Glen Rose, Texas, and take on The Wall. Maybe you can join us?



Congratulations to Team Peyton's riders at 24 Hours in the Canyon.

Editor's note:

Please send event results and pictures to [khester4205@gmail.com](mailto:khester4205@gmail.com)

I would love to recognize and archive everyone's accomplishments in the PBBA newsletter. Please designate a PBBA participant to act as reporter at tours and races so that everyone can be included.





On July 30th, the Trail Warrior Project will host an overnigher. It is a S240, which means it is an overnigher that is less than 24 hours total time out on the trail. It is a great beginner ride for someone interested in bikepacking or a nice getaway for an experienced bikepacker. It is approximately 17 miles each day and the campsite is on a private ranch at a stock tank. It is a beautiful location for West Texas. We will leave Coahoma about 7 -7:30 to beat the heat and set up camp before dark and head back the next morning early. You can either bring food to cook, just bring snacks or eat before you ride and eat a bar for breakfast. This makes it really easy to deal with food since it is such a short trip. I will have a few adult beverages at the campsite in a cooler. If interested, please sign up at [trailwarrior.org](http://trailwarrior.org) as space is limited, but everyone is welcome to sign up.

Odis





**Tuesday , June 29, 2021 11:53 AM**

FB page for HB554 and SB1290 - Texas Safe Passage

"If you have any videos let's post them here for the next session. Not just cyclists, but walkers, runners and unsafe passing of wreckers too. We have a year and a half to get ready for the next session."

While we pray that no one ever experiences the injustices, danger, injuries or death from unsafe vehicular passing, we still have work to do to get such a law passed in Texas. The next window of opportunity is a year and a half away. To help, if you experience this, please send any videos to Roberta SoloRio or Billy Spruill. We will get them posted on the Facebook page "HB554 and SB1290 - Texas Safe Passage 2021. You can like this page too.



**Three more rides/ concerts available  
Ride leaders needed for July 11th and 18th  
Meet at 6 p.m. at the Windlands parking lot and  
ride off at 6:15.  
All ages and abilities welcome!**

July 4 - No concert

July 11  
Weatherstone  
Classic Rock  
Hosted by Classic Rock 102

July 18 - Tall City Night  
Tall City Band  
Americana, and Pop Rock.  
Sponsored by Tall City Brewing Co.  
Hosted by Newstalk 550 KCRS

July 25  
Angel and the Badmen  
Americana  
Sponsored by House of Printing





**TOUR DE GAP**  
BENEFITING **2021** CELEBRATING 38 YEARS  
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

JOIN US AT THE OLD REUNION SETTLERS GROUNDS IN  
BUFFALO GAP, TX FOR THE 38TH ANNUAL TOUR DE GAP BIKE  
RACE BENEFITING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ABILENE

SATURDAY | JULY 24, 2021 | BUFFALO GAP, TX

**11 MILE / 50K / 100K**

REGISTRATION - 6:30 AM / RACE TIME - 7:30 AM  
ADULTS - \$45 IN ADVANCE / \$55 EVENT WEEKEND  
KIDS UNDER 14 ARE FREE

SUNDAY | JULY 25, 2021 | BUFFALO GAP, TX

**20K TIME TRIAL**

REGISTRATION - 7:30 AM / RACE TIME - 8:30 AM  
ADULTS - \$25 IN ADVANCE

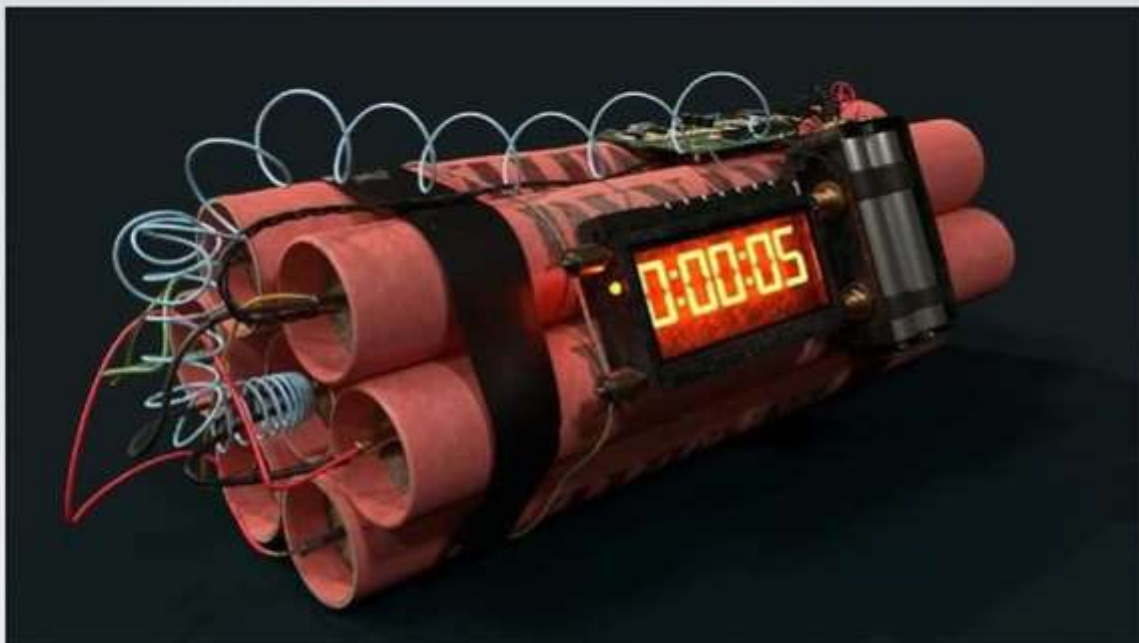
*REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FOR \$60*

**MORE INFO: [WWW.TOURDEGAP.COM](http://WWW.TOURDEGAP.COM)**

**REGISTRATION: [BIKereg.COM/TOUR-DE-GAP](http://BIKereg.COM/TOUR-DE-GAP)**



 **Big Brothers Big Sisters.**  
LONE STAR • ABILENE



TNT (THURSDAY NIGHT THRASHER)

**6:00 p.m. ride-off**

**Valley View Church**



Podiums for June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th from left to right.

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

-  SHANE MENTER
-  ZACK BELEW
-  JIM WANER

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

-  ZACK BELEW
-  FIDEL RUVALCABA
-  JIM WANER

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

-  ERIC BURKHART
-  JIM WANER
-  OSCAR SALAZAR

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

-  SHANE MENTER
-  ZACK BELEW
-  JIM WANER

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

-  ERIC BURKHART
-  ZACK BELEW
-  JUSTIN WILLOUGHBY

Current standings:

Zack Belew 60

Eric Burkhart 46

Jim Waner 38

Oscar Salazar 33

Shane Menter 16

Clif Coleman 12

Fidel Ruvalcaba 11

Justin Willoughby 10

James Struble 5

Jordan Hester 4

Justin Harrison 3

Randal Morgan 2