



May 2023

Important Dates

May 4 Wildcatter Trail Meeting

May Wednesday Night Worlds continue with Round 1 through May 7

May 15 PBBA meeting

May 6 Vim Short Track race, Big Spring State Park

May 17 Ride of Silence

May 24 Wednesday Night Worlds Round 2 Begins

September 16-17 Fort Davis Cyclefest





May PBBA Meeting

Who: All PBBA members

What: In person meeting

When: Monday, May 15th at 7 p.m.

Where: Mission Fitness, Classroom A,B
8050 Highway 191 Frontage, Odessa

IMPORTANT! Please attend.

A community event and public meeting about the Wildcatter Trail will be held at the [Bush Convention Center](#) on:

May 4th 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

105 N Main St, Midland, TX 79701

This is a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

[#StrongerTogether](#)



RECOGNIZING A LONG TIME LOCAL CYCLIST

by Steve Mitchell

While I was at the recent “Vim and Vigor” Mountain Bike Race at the Midland Trail Park, I ran into Link Grimes and his son Nelson. They had both just finished the race and were feeling pretty good about their results. After talking about the race, we started talking about Link’s dad (Nelson’s Grandfather) David N Grimes. David has been an avid cyclist all his life and instilled enthusiasm about cycling in his family. In Link’s own words, “my dad, a geologist, moved to Midland in ‘56 and biked from home to and from his office downtown most days for 60 plus years. He went through a number of bikes, some stolen, some just broken down. He was a big bike fan and was pleased when the city started promoting bike lanes.” David Grimes rode his bike until he was 88 years old. He was now 94 and his health was failing. Link and Nelson told me that David wanted to donate to the local cycling community. They were both very appreciative of the new MTB trails in the area. David and his family decided to donate \$5,000 to the WTTA to be used to complete the Midland Trail Park. Sadly, David recently passed away. I hope all of us are also still riding our bikes into our late eighties.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

by Steve Mitchell

Odessa Mountain Bike Park

We had a workday at the OMBP in early April. The volunteers were able to clean up much of the trash that had blown in from Billy Hext and Tres Hermanos Roads. We ended up with about twenty 40-gallon contractor bags filled with mainly plastic and paper debris. It looks much better now. We also did some trail maintenance which included clearing the vegetation in the South Pit and parts of the North pit. Many of the larger rocks were cleared from the trail. We had a small turn out, but a lot was accomplished. The trails are in good shape now, but the weeds and mesquite will soon need to be trimmed again.



MOUNTAIN BIKING – by Steve Mitchell

Midland Trail Park

Pumptrack

Construction of the pump track at the at the Midland Trail Park was completed in Mid-April. The track is 800 feet long and is now completely capped with two inches of Type D asphalt. It is very smooth, fast, with excellent flow. The pump track was built with funds donated through the West Texas Trail Alliance. The City of Midland provided 180 tons of base material for free – not including trucking. Ron Chesnut, a local builder, connected us with Tekton Commercial Group. Tekton provided us with a discounted “Turn-key” price on the asphalt job. The PBBA made a generous contribution towards the track which was very much appreciated and needed. David Grimes contributed \$5,000 to help us finish the pump track and complete the bike park. Diamondback has committed to donating another \$5,000. Since completing the “track”, We have received positive feedback from Mayor Lori Blong and several other Midland City officials. We think the addition of the pump track will enhance family participation and help grow PBBA membership. Our new pump track is exceptional and is the only track of its kind within 300 miles.

Trail Maintenance

The Mesquite bushes have recognized that winter is over and have begun growing again. Apparently, it doesn't need water like most plants. It is beginning to encroach on the trail. Please consider going out to the park and cutting back the mesquite limbs over a portion of the trail. Just working the trail for 30 minutes with loppers can make a big difference. Please contact me if you would like some guidance however feel free to just go out and start clearing the mesquite.





This is my fourth time to attend Beat the Street. My experience has always been warm temperatures with a headwind out on the course and a tailwind coming back in. Participants were surprised with start temperatures in the forties and winds from the northeast this year which meant a tailwind out and headwind back. All the factors that can be controlled in an event were well done by David King and his hard working volunteers to make the 11th Beat the Street a success. The temperatures warmed up nicely and the strong winds joined us the entire event.

I enjoy attending Beat the Street in Sweetwater each year for several reasons. First, it is a well organized ride which offers some hills and a change of scenery. Secondly, Sweetwater is my hometown; therefore, I enjoy being there and seeing people from my early years. There are running events and several ride distances (72, 60, 52 or 33 miles) to choose from. Most racers compete in the longer events as there is some significant prize money on the line. Being a tour rider, I stay with the short 33 mile event and enjoy the scenery. The road around Lake Trammell to Highland is locally known as "Rollercoaster Road" as it has a lot of hills to challenge a flat lander like me.

There was a lot of excitement on the course near the WASP Museum for their fly-in event. I saw planes on the ground and a lot of spectators pointing at the sky in anticipation of the arrival of aircraft. A B-19 was part of the event.

I got to meet with some girls from my high school class of '77 to enjoy the Sunset on the Square concert that evening. There was a big crowd and the weather was perfect. It was nice to see David King presenting funds to the volunteer firefighters raised at the Rattlesnake Gravel Grind. Sweetwater is doing an impressive amount of fundraising through cycling events.

I am proud to call Sweetwater my hometown!

-Kathy Hester



Note: link to results from the Beat the Street Facebook page





2023 Friendship Ride

Thank you to Team Latitude for organizing and leading the 2023 Friendship Ride.



NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

May is National Bike Month, promoted by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to giving biking a try.

In 2023, Bike to Work Week is May 15-21, with Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 19, 2023.

Wildflowers, Hills, and the End of a Cycling Tradition

By Kyle Farmer

The 50th Annual, and final, Easter Hill Country Tour (EHCT) was held in Kerrville from April 7th thru 9th. Riders chose from many courses of varying distances and elevation changes. The three-day event was not chip timed, but cue sheets and digital downloads were available to the riders. The event was presented by the Fort Worth Bicycling Association. In addition to three days of cycling, there was a Sunrise Easter service held by Coming of the King Foundation.

The Hill Country around Kerrville makes for good cycling. The Guadalupe River and its many tributaries have cut a path 500' deep through the Edwards Limestone in the region. A network of valleys and steep hillsides line the lowlands near the river. The EHCT courses are exciting with many steep hills and flat segments along the Guadalupe River. The hills are shorter than you may find in a mountainous area, but the numerous steep hills are challenging to riders of all levels. Elevations ranged from 1,622' to 2,116'.

Texas Wild Flowers made the rides all that much more enjoyable. Bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush, Cardinalflowers, Sage, and Milweed lined the roads and backroads. Live Oaks, Ash Junipers, and many other trees cover the hillsides and valleys.

The weather did not cooperate on Friday. I did not ride Friday, but I spoke with cyclists that described it as a "misty mess" and "cold, wet, and miserable". When I was getting ready for my 42-mile ride on Saturday, I was worried that the weather might ruin my day of cycling. With an extra layer and a good attitude, I took on the day. It was cloudy but dry all day and it warmed up as the day went on. Cyclists began and finished their rides at Schriener University. The festive atmosphere, food trucks, and the Trailhead Beer Garden were a welcome sight after a ride through the Hill Country.

Over the years, several organizations have been involved in planning, staging, and hosting the event. Unfortunately, only the Fort Worth Bicycling Association was still involved. The decision was made to end this cycling tradition. This was the 50th and final Easter Hill Country Tour.





**Wednesday May 17, 2023
(Third Wednesday)**

What:

The Ride of Silence, Permian Basin version. This will be the seventeenth year that the Ride of Silence takes place in the Permian Basin.

When:

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7:00 p.m. rollout. Please arrive by 6:45 to ensure prompt 7:00 rollout

Where:

Mid-Cities Church 8700 TX-191

Why:

To honor and remember the cyclists killed in the Permian Basin

To educate bicyclists and motorists alike of our shared responsibilities when we share the road

How:

Twelve (12) miles starting and ending at the Mid-Cities Church, going no faster than 12 mph on the 191 Access Road and 158. We will stop at the Ghost Bikes along the route to pay respects.



Thank you to West Texas Gazelles Odessa for mowing the ghost bike memorial sites for the 2023 Ride of Silence.

Ride of Silence Memorial

George Hoffman

Born September 5, 1949

Husband, Dad

Handball Player for whom the courts at the Odessa YMCA are named

Killed May 26, 1985 West bound 191 Service Road 1 ¼ miles west of 158

David Werner

Fourteen (14) year old Son and Brother

Family Friend of George Hoffman

Killed May 26, 1985 West bound 191 Service Road 1 ¼ miles west of 158

Yldefonso Gonzalez

Married for 19 years to Francis

Angelo 18; Adina Lea 15

Engineer with Exxon

Killed October 25, 1993 North East Loop 250 in Midland

R. Eugene Goudeau

Born September 16, 1952

Husband

Missionary

Killed September 14, 1995 191 Eastbound Service Road Approximately 2.6 miles east of 1788

Marlana Fowler

I CAME FORTH FROM GOD, AND RETURN UNTO HIM HOLDING FAST TO HIS NAME, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Killed September 1997 Eastbound 191 Service Road approximately ½ mile west of 1788

Bobby Jack Baker

Born April 10, 1961

Veteran

Father, Uncle, Brother, Cousin

August 29, 2007 I-20, Midland, TX

Johnny Carlos Newton

Born August 26, 1954

Married to Judy 28 years

Father to Allison, Lori and Jeremy

FracTech Services West Texas Marketing and Sales Manager

Football player, gentle giant, kind, thoughtful, great mentor and friend, dog lover

Jose Baldera

Born January 1, 1944

Joe

Enjoyed visiting friends over coffee at McDonalds

Picked up aluminum cans

Journeyman Carpenter & Shade Tree Mechanic

Remembered for his friendly smile and wave

Killed December 19, 2008 on Highway 18 near Monahans

Truman Solomon

Born January 17, 1941

Retired from Texaco Oil and Gas in Odessa

Very active member of Northside Baptist Church

Volunteered with the MCH auxiliary

Married to Dolores; Two daughters Delaine and Wesley Rose

Widely regarded as a gentle man, a wonderful husband, father, grandad and friend

Killed June 11, 2010 on Loop 338

Rene Joseph Ulmschneider

Born April 29, 1952

Husband to Emily and Father to Kiri and Bryne

Geologist in Midland since 1978

He loved spending time swimming, hiking, camping, and traveling with his family.

Killed July 20, 2012 near Marathon, TX

Justin Colt Southerland

Born July 14, 1990

Outdoorsman who loved to snowboard, ski, and fish in Colorado

Pump Technician with Ledford Pump Service

A Man of God who was noted for his generosity and compassion

Killed August 20, 2015 Business 20 approximately 2 miles east of Midland

Camron Stotts

Born November 28, 1975

Noted for his enthusiasm and passion for serving others

A former VP of Operations in the oil and gas industry

Staunch advocate of the plant based Food is Medicine

Co-founded Restoration Farm with wife Jami

Father of four

Killed April 25, 2018 on 158 approximately 1 ½ miles north of 191

Mike Mestas

Born April 3, 1971

Married to Rooney for 20 years

Father of two daughters, Lola and Mary

Geosteering Specialist with Cimarex Energy Co

Music lover

Killed April 25, 2018 on 158 approximately 1 ½ miles north of 191

Brandey Ackerman

Born February 6, 1979

Wife to Chris

Mother of three: Peyton, Hudson, and Ellison

Superwoman, bundle of energy.

Instrumental in persuading McDonalds to offer milk as part of Happy Meal

Well-known as a Pediatrician who got up early, stayed late, made house calls, and was up all hours of the night working hard to be the best doctor to her patients and their families

Killed June 7, 2018 on westbound 191 Service Road

Near Misses

Carl Murdock

Jay Kelly

Scott Anderson

Fidel Rubalcada

Myranda Williams

Jason Haislip



Brandey Ackerman



Mike Mestas



Camron Stotts



Rene Ulmschneider



Truman Solomon



Justin Colt Southerland



Hoffman



Marlana Fowler



Yldefonso Gonzalez



The following rides have dates listed at Wheelbrothers.com or on the ride's social media. There are many more rides listed as TBA (to be announced); therefore, check the site for current ride information, links and opportunities. This is just a few of the many rides listed. Check out Wheelbrothers.com to see a more complete list.

Possum Pedal Ride/ June 3/ Graham

Tour de Gap/ July 22-23/ Buffalo Gap

Hotter n Hell Hundred / August 24-27/ Witchita Falls

Fort Davis Cyclefest/ Sept 16-17/ Fort Davis

Marfa 100 Cycling challenge/ Oct 14/ Marfa



Weekly Gravel Rides

6:30 PM Monday & Wednesday

Location: CactusJaX Cycle WorX
Coahoma, Tx

Everyone welcome!
Bring your family!

Starts Monday March 13



432-394-4137 for more info



M&M Ride

Mission Fitness
8050 Highway 191 Frontage, Odessa

Ride off: 6:15 pm Mondays
All paces
One out and back is 12 miles



Please consult their Facebook page: West Texas BMX for information, They are open Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays from 6 - 8 pm. |





PBBA 2023 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Eric Burkhart

Vice President: Clif Coleman

Secretary: Isaac Navarrete

Treasurer: Kye King/ Brent Hoke

Mountain Bike Director: Stephen Mitchell

Committees and Chairpersons:

Tour Committee

Chairperson: Sarah Kate Epperson

Members: Angie Kayastha

Race Committee

Chairperson: Oscar Salazar

Members: Martin Vega

Publicity Committee

Chairperson: Kathy Hester (Newsletter), Tyler Putnam (Webmaster), Texas King

Mountain Bike Committee

Chairperson: Stephen Mitchell

Odessa MTB Park: Jack Henry, Erik Urquidi

Midland Trails: Jeff Ledford, Justin Thompson

Cyclefest Committee

Chairperson: Bob Haskell

Members: Kathy Hester, Eric Burkhart, Ron Appling, Javier Morales



**Have you joined or renewed your membership for
2023?**

Go to www.pbbatx.com/join or hit the “Join PBBA” button
from anywhere on the website

