

November 2021



Peyton's Wednesday Night Ride Photo by Justin Harrison



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND OFFICER ELECTION FOR 2022

Who: All PBBA members

What: In person meeting (you may email a vote instead)

When: Monday, November 15

Where: Mission Fitness, Rooms A and B

8050 Highway 191 Frontage, Odessa

Nominations can be emailed to : pbbasec@gmail.com



There are four elected officers: **President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.** Please refer to the October newsletter if you need clarification on the duties of each office and the by-laws. These four offices create the executive board which will be elected on November 15th.

The PBBA is governed by the board of directors comprised of the executive board and the committee chairpersons. There are five committees; thus, **five committee chairpersons** which are appointed by the president with the approval of the executive committee. The five committees are: tour, race, publicity, mountain bike, and Cyclefest which can have an indefinite number of members.

These nine people present all proposed major activities to the membership for ratification.



Marfa 100 photo by Sarah Vasquez

The Marfa 100 by PJ Woolston

Thank goodness we're getting back to live events and rides like pre-covid! They held the 11th annual Marfa 100 (kilometers, that is) on October 16, and I was very excited about the chance not only to do a great ride, but see part of Texas that I've heard so much about. At three hours away I wanted to spend the night before in town, but since I signed up so late I had to stay in Alpine about half an hour away, which turned out to be a bonus for me because I got to see two of our great West Texas towns! Plus I got to see Fort Stockton and the McDonald Observatory on the way home. I missed the West Texas Alps this year so this was my first time seeing those. Now I know what I'm in for when I do finally get to ride the route!

They did a really great job in Marfa at check-in the night before with a really fun vibe and everything we needed to get ready to ride the next morning. I ran into several Midlanders a few times, not just at check-in, but later on too at the official Marfa Lights Viewing Area. I enjoyed a picnic dinner there while waiting almost two hours... but no luck for me. The internet is split on the Lights actually, with many commenters declaring them to be breathtakingly beautiful and just as many commenters saying how unlikely you are to actually see anything. I was part of the latter group. There was a lady there who got so frustrated that she took a picture of the blinking red radio towers on the horizon and said she was going to tell everyone that THAT was the Marfa Lights. Eventually it got so cold that I turned in for the night.

And the cold was the big fear for the next morning, with temperatures predicted to be in the upper 30s! We did end up getting lucky on that front though, with 43 degrees at dawn—there's a really big difference between 39 and 43! Since I'm from Indiana and rode through the winter there, I actually have all the gear so I was pretty decked out. I was pretty amazed at most of the other riders at the start who were braving the ride without warmer gear, and I knew in my head that pretty quickly I'd be warm enough from riding that I wouldn't need it all, but I keep forgetting these things! I was overdressed within the first few miles, but had come prepared to shed and carry gear as I went. Plus it was sunny and beautiful, which makes a big difference. We went about 31 miles southwest on 2810, a simple out and back. The whole road is a simple two-lane with practically no shoulder, so each of the rest stops were literally tents in the brush on the side of the road, and the turnaround itself was a big chalk line... stop here, turn around, and go back! With no car traffic at all though it was pretty perfect. They had rest stops every 10 miles and each stop was well stocked and an easy place to hop off for a few minutes if you needed to. The route was rolling hills and that was a lot of fun especially coming from flat Midland where we pretend that the wind is our hills. It was nice to be on a different terrain!

Toward the end of the “out” portion there was a series of steep drops. I hit my max speed there at 41.1 mph which was thrilling for several reasons. I wasn’t in the front group so there were people already coming back up the hill as many as two abreast; plus I was passing others going down who weren’t comfortable going quite as fast. Throw in a pretty heavy crosswind and it felt a tiny bit dicey! I was thinking: This would be an inopportune time to wipe out... (Because there are “opportune” other times to wipe out I guess...) Of course all I could really think about was how in just a few minutes I’d be climbing back UP. I should have paid more attention to what the crosswind would mean though!

I was a little nervous about the climb back up, especially after hearing folks at the start of the race talk about how they’d driven the route the day before and noticed how steep the route got. This turned out to be the most fun part of the race for me though! I’m a climber and I used to do a lot of that, but Indianapolis was flat and Midland is even FLATTER, so all my climbing now is on Zwift. I’ve missed this so much! I forgot to count the drops coming down though so by the end, cresting one hill and seeing another steep one ahead I was like everyone else going, “Another one?!” Once over the hills and back on the rolling route, that crosswind from before turned into a pretty stiff headwind. That was a lot less fun, but at least we’ve been training in it here in Midland!

The party afterward was fantastic. That burger! One of the best I’ve ever had. Plus great entertainment, a local masseuse, and a great hang with all of the riders post workout. Midland was really well represented too with some of our riders posting great times. I would very highly recommend this ride, especially now that they’ve added a 50 kilometer event too—riders have options! Thanks to the Marfa 100 crew for a really great ride and a really fun time!





Trail Warriors Bikepacking Trip by Odis Franklin

Photos by Marissa Wright

Our first official Ruidoso bikepacking trip was a modification of the "Billy the Kid" route on bikepacking.com. We modified it due to some private property issues we read about online with land owners. We had 6 riders attend with 3 veterans including Mick and myself. Me and Mick arrived a day early to cache water and scout the route. During the day, the riders started trickling into the hotel and we made sure their gear was good to go with a final check and had a relaxing evening hanging out and eating pizza at the hotel while discussing the game plan for the weekend trip.

Saturday morning we rolled out of town feeling like superheroes with a bunch of tailwind to bolster our confidence. By the time we hit the little town of Glencoe and turned on forest road, we had an 18 mph average with loaded bikes and a lot of climbing behind us, I knew what was before us on the next stretch, a LOT of climbing with switchbacks and no tailwind. It lived up to the hype with a lot of bike pushing and some riding. A few of us made the climb without pushing, but it was hot and it got real tough. When bikepacking, people learn that it is ok to walk up a hill and not ride. A loaded bike is no joke on a 10% or better grade. We made a sightseeing trip to Ft. Stanton and learned about it's rich history and after a much deserved break, headed for camp about 2 miles away. We had an amazing night with clear skies and got the opportunity to see a partial meteor shower.

The next morning we rolled out to beautiful clear skies but a horrible headwind. The forecast called for headwinds the next 2 days. We got to Capitan about time for a late breakfast, ate way too much and about the time we were going to leave, a cold front blew in hard with rain and 40+ MPH winds. We waited it out and rolled out hoping not to get wet. It was cold, windy and there was a lot of climbing. We rode 23 miles after lunch with 40+MPH winds and 2300 feet of climbing. We were all smoked by the time we made camp.



We had a nice night with no wind and below freezing temperatures. The huge campfire we had kept the stories going and everyone up until we ran out of wood.

The next day we rolled out toward the finish of the loop with about 1100 ft of climbing to wake our legs up in the first 3 miles. Finally after 3 more monster road climbs going into town, we were finished. We celebrated with a few cold IPA's and headed home with a great sense of accomplishment.

Anyone wanting to join us next year, watch our website and you are more than welcome to join us for a great time!

See ya on the trail!

Odis



Midlanders attended the Big Sugar Gravel Race in Bentonville Arkansas.

Pictured below are:

Cliff Coleman

Zach Jones -103 miles

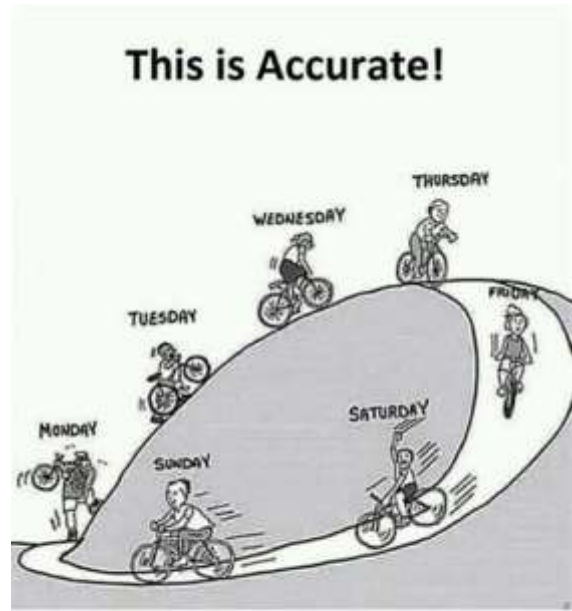
Jacob Jones-age 4- OZ Kids Criterium Race



Congratulations to these Permian Basin athletes. This group traveled to Ironman Waco 70.3 to swim 1.3 miles, bike 56 miles and run 13.1 miles. Pictured are Steven Zarate, Allan Espina, Michael Blanchard, Debbie Colson, Peter Kwayu, Patty Pena and Marla Schneider.



Steve Priest enjoyed a little fishing and riding at the Midland Trails recently. He caught a 1.2 # bass.



Saturday Holy Cross Riders braved the wind Saturday, October 24th for four people to join the century club. First time one hundred mile riders were: Sarah Kate Epperson, Steven Esson, Danette Walker Beals, and Richard Dickson. Repeat century riders included Bob Haskell, Roberta SoloRio and Kathy Hester.



Time & Location

CPL Ray's

Nov 13, 9:00 AM

Odessa, 3111 Faudree Rd A, Odessa, TX 79765, USA

About the Event

Join us for our PBBA Annual Veterans Day Ride - to honor our local Veterans and support their participation in the Trail Warrior Project. - All monies raised will be used to help offset their costs such as equipment, clothing, repairs, etc., necessary for their participation in a new innovative Bikepacking series designed to help Veterans specifically. - For a minimum \$25 donation you will receive a lunch after the ride at the Odessa MTB park and can enjoy a cyclocross race.

If you can't make it to the ride, please consider making a donation to help our Veterans Event schedule: 6:00 a.m. CPL Ray's Opens (for anyone wanting to grab coffee/food before the ride) 7:30 a.m. Signup, Donations, (Cash or checks payable to The Trail Warrior Project) 9:00 a.m. Ride off - Route (17 Miles) 11:00 a.m. Lunch at the MTB Pavilion (lunch is free with \$25 donation or \$10/person) All riders will participate in the 17 mile ride to honor our Veterans. Food at the Mountain Bike Park Pavilion after the main ride.

We are working on a bikepacking clinic at the Odessa MTB bike park and overnighter as well.

You can pay and register online at

trailwarrior.org

Wednesday Night Peyton's Ride Podiums: October 6, 13, 20 and 27th.

 **PEYTON'S**
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

  **JUSTIN WILLOUGHBY**

2  **ERIC BURKHART**

3  **JIM WANER**

 **PEYTON'S**
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

1  **ERIC BURKHART**

2  **SHAWN HARRIS**

3  **JUSTIN WILLOUGHBY**

 **PEYTON'S**
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

1  **ERIC BURKHART**

2  **FIDEL RUVALCABA**

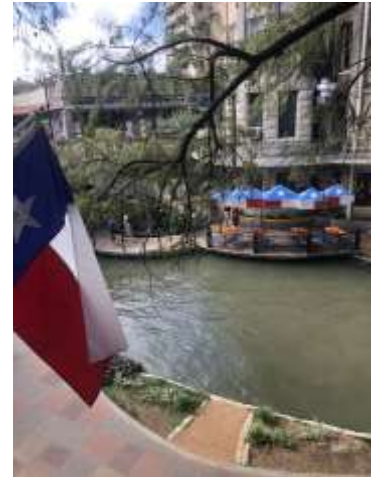
3  **ZACK BELEW**

 **PEYTON'S**
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

1  **ZACK BELEW**

2  **ERIC BURKHART**

3  **FIDEL RUVALCABA**



San Antonio: A Destination for Tour Riders

The San Antonio River Walk has about 15 miles of trail along the river. There are two sections of the river walk: Museum Reach and Mission Reach. We stayed in Yanawana RV park located at the southern end of the Mission Reach near Mission Espada. The paved trail goes north passing by Mission San Juan, Mission San Jose, Mission Concepcion and ends at the Alamo. The River Walk in the downtown/ Alamo area is pedestrian only, but there are bike lanes and streets with signage that says that cyclists may take the full lane. We had a beautiful overcast, cool morning to bike to the Alamo. Mike and I enjoyed lunch along the river walk and then made the decision to ride further north on the Museum Reach. Navigating to the hike/bike start of the Museum Reach was challenging, but we made it to the northern point- Brackenridge park. I had never seen a traffic signal like the one pictured above with a lighted bike on the signal which reinforced how bike friendly the area is. The sun came out and the humidity became more intense so we rode back stopping for a beverage on the River Walk. We also stopped at Mission San Jose to enjoy the beautiful setting. I would recommend riding this route in the fall as the summer heat and humidity in this area can be harsh. There was construction along a portion of the Mission Reach that gave no clear directions on exiting and re-entering the trail. Another consideration is that there are side trails to missions and parks that the rider will encounter. A wrong turn is easy to make if not paying close attention to signage and I am not convinced clear signage was at every trail option. We had a printed tourist map in our pocket, but riding with a three foot long map out is impractical—it's impractical until you are confused and then can help a bit. My best advice is to look for some turn by turn navigation on a cycling computer to navigate by downloading a continuous south to north route. I will certainly check for one before I ride it again. We totaled 40 miles at the end of our out and back by the time we took a couple of required detours and wrong turns, but it was all enjoyable.

Next stop, Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe, Texas. There were some nice gravel trails throughout the park on the Brazos River pictured below. We walked a few trails. There was a park road and nearby paved county roads that looked like they had potential for road riders, but the weather was not cooperating with 25 m.p.h. winds with 45 m.p.h. gusts during our visit.

As I post this newsletter, we have made a stop at my sister's house in Spring Texas. She lives off the Wimbelon Hike and Bike Trail; therefore, I rode that and continued on Cypresswood Drive. Cypresswood must be a favorable place to ride as I saw two different large bike groups riding the opposite direction Saturday morning. I hope to find a couple of more good places to ride on this trip, but the newsletter is due to be posted so that's my report on my trip rides for now.

