

September 2021



# WINDBUSTERS

Photo by Allan Espina



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Letter from the Editor:

Each newsletter I try to find a striking photo for what I call my page one banner. This month Alan Espina 's photo depicts riders at sunrise. Summertime temperatures influence many riders to get in early rides to beat the heat. I am looking forward to cooler temperatures with the possibility of afternoon rides.

Last month the photo featured (shown again above) included Billy Spruill riding past some oil rigs during the MS Ride. I did not suspect when posting that issue that we would not ride with Billy again. His death from Covid has been shocking and saddening to me. Billy was so loved by his fellow cyclists especially the Saturday Holy Cross Riders. He will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Eric Burkhart for his podium finish in Fayetteville , Arkansas in the Joe Martin Stage race! (See picture below)

There is a new bike lane in Midland on Anetta near Beall Park. The new markings are from Midland Drive to the loop. This makes me happy as this can be incorporated into what I call my southern loop ride which goes through Grasslands, stadium area, out Tradewinds and over to Beall Park. Thank you to the City of Midland for another bike lane!

Cyclefest is coming up soon. I hope you have found a way to help out. All PBBA members can help on the ride by being kind ambassadors to our guests and volunteers. Help guests navigate the course, help someone change a flat, and express gratitude to volunteers as most of them are missing a great ride so that you can ride. There may be some Covid related procedures like distancing and hand sanitizers that bother you, but the experience of other ride events has to influence our behavior and decisions. Please be patient. Fort Davis is a great bike ride !

See you at Cyclefest!

Kathy Hester





Are you coming to Cyclefest?

Have you registered for the ride?

Have you found a way to contribute and/or volunteer?

Bob Haskell, Cyclefest Director, is working hard to insure Cyclefest endures for the 44th year after last year's cancellation due to Covid.

Many people have stepped up to help make this event a success. Readers will see them at the event and read about the volunteers in the October issue.

We still need the following:

-persons to arrive about 1:00 to stuff the goodie bag /backpacks

-person to set up and run the raffle table Friday evening at registration

Please text Kathy Hester 432-638-7038 to volunteer

# MOUNTAIN BIKING – Stephen Mitchell

It has been a relatively mild and very wet summer in the Permian Basin. As discussed in previous newsletters, it has required a lot of effort to repair and maintain the trails. However, the trails at the OMBP and Midland Trail Park are generally 80 – 90% open. Please consider going out to either of our two parks and cleaning a section of the trail. Whether it is pulling rocks off the trail or cutting back weeds, every little bit helps.

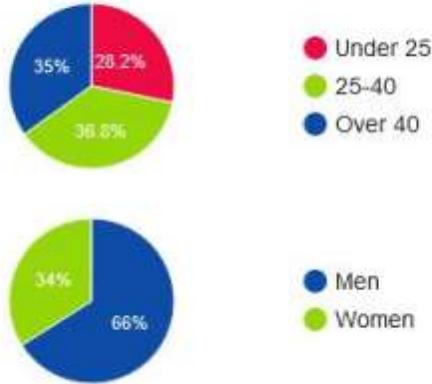
Signs are continuing to be installed at our new Midland Trail Park. Park rules, warning and hazard signs, and the remaining trail route signs should all be erected within the next two weeks. As previously stated, please be safe crossing any roads within the interior of the park. Also be aware that there are trail hazards that are not marked. Be alert for snakes and bees.

We experienced some minor vandalism at the Midland Trail Park. Someone was doing donuts in the parking lot with their car or truck and managed to cut some significant grooves into the compacted asphalt surface. Although this may seem minimal, it is very frustrating and will seriously shorten the life of our parking lot.

The PBBA membership is continuing to grow every year. Our most significant growth was from 2019 to 2020, likely due to so many people looking for outdoor activity during the initial Covid outbreak. Most of the growth in the last few years has been mountain biking. Presently we have 1308 members signed up in 2021 which is just 12 less than last year. At the present rate, we will surpass 2020 sometime next week. Please see the included graphs and charts shown on the next page for a breakdown of the PBBA's demographics and cycling preferences.



## Demographics



QUESTION	QUANTITY SELECTED	QUANTITY REMAINING
<b>Question: Type of Riding I Enjoy</b>	1123	
Answer: Weekly Road Rides	353	
Answer: Touring	125	
Answer: Racing	87	
Answer: Triathlon	68	
Answer: Gravel	168	
Answer: Mountain Biking	1010	
Answer: BMX	63	
Answer: Randonneur	23	
<b>Question: Enter date for one day license</b>	111	

124

Days Left To Register

\$0

Merchandise Sold

**PledgeRing**

Fundraising Not Enabled

### Registration Progress



Compare to event:

11/5/2019 - Permian Basin Bicycle Assoc Membership - 2020



Billy Spruill's Celebration of Life was held August 14 at Antioch Christian Church. Fellow friend and cyclist, Roberta SoloRio spoke on behalf of the cycling community. Pictured at left: Billy and Mikala

Hello everyone. First, the entire Midland/Odessa bicycling community offer our sincere condolences to Mikala, Major, Drake, Gabriella, Abbey and the rest of the Reznick and Spruill families.

My name is Roberta and I am here to talk about bicycle Billy.

I met Billy maybe 3-4 years ago. It was pre-shoulder surgery and his amazing Keto weight loss. He rode the same speed as me then... I won't call him slow... but I could keep up with him.

Before I continue, what is amazing about Billy is how multi-faceted he was. I didn't learn much of this until after his shoulder surgery... when he got super-fast, and I could no longer keep up with him. But he was always so warm and gracious. I learned about his law enforcement background and love of law enforcement. I learned about his Ph.D. pursuits. I heard about y'all's visits to Brownwood. And I heard about his family. Major – you getting your driver's license was a big deal.

And it was a real cool deal for us cyclists. We'd say, "Gee Billy, can we get pictures of that?" And Billy would proudly say, "Major will be there, and he can video us or Major can bring me an extra bike if I need..." (Mikala told me Major was Billy's personal SAG.)

Anyway, back to bicycle Billy.

So, he got faster than me. But he always showed up. In fact, he was so committed to helping and growing cycling in Midland and Odessa that he started attending multiple rides. Our Saturday ride – the Holy Cross ride. The Monday West Texas Gazelle rides. The Wednesday Peyton's ride. And more. He didn't say it, but he was quietly covering as much as he could to encourage others to come out and ride.

Then... well first. I am a Bike Law Ambassador. Bike Law is a national consortium of bike advocates and attorneys who support those who are injured by drivers and continues to support legislation that promotes bike safety – really safety for all vulnerable road users. I was the only West Texas representative for 2 years. And that is challenging – like swimming upstream to drive change.



On February 11 of this year, I saw a FB post from Billy that he had become a Bike Law Ambassador. And then there were 2. Well Mr. I know everybody and have lots of energy quickly took a few of things I'd been struggling to achieve and moved us forward a bit. And I met Mikala in person for the first time. We had a wonderful dinner together and I felt a kindred spirit in Mikala... and she liked wine too. We've been in touch since then, and sadly more, because of this tragedy that she has graciously and bravely turned into a celebration.

Mikala, I am going to take what Billy started and work very hard to finish what he helped with. (Yes everyone, I'll be asking for y'all's help.)

As we celebrate Billy, a couple of final thoughts come to mind.

**How much we all love Billy.** Mikala asked me for help with ideas for something to carry on Billy's memory. And #BillysHelmets was born. With the Haislips at Peyton's, we planned for Peyton's to give a helmet to every child who buys a bike or scooter. We are going to make some stickers for the helmets that say #BillysHelmets. The kiddo helmets are about \$50 each and the plan was to give helmets until the donated money donated was gone. I figured maybe 25 helmets, or if we were lucky 50 helmets. With very little push on social media, you have showed your love for Billy, Mikala and the kids by already donating enough money for 100 helmets. We will keep this going as long as donations continue. And Jason, you better order more kids helmets.

**Another thing we loved about Billy. How funny he was:** I must share my favorite Facebook post ever.

Billy posted: Being married to a Physical Therapist is amazing especially after having two major surgeries in the last 8 months. But I'm noticing a trend...

Billy: hey babe, my shoulder is a little stiff.

Mikala: pull your belly tight.

Major: hey mom, I have a cut on my toe.

Mikala: pull your belly tight.

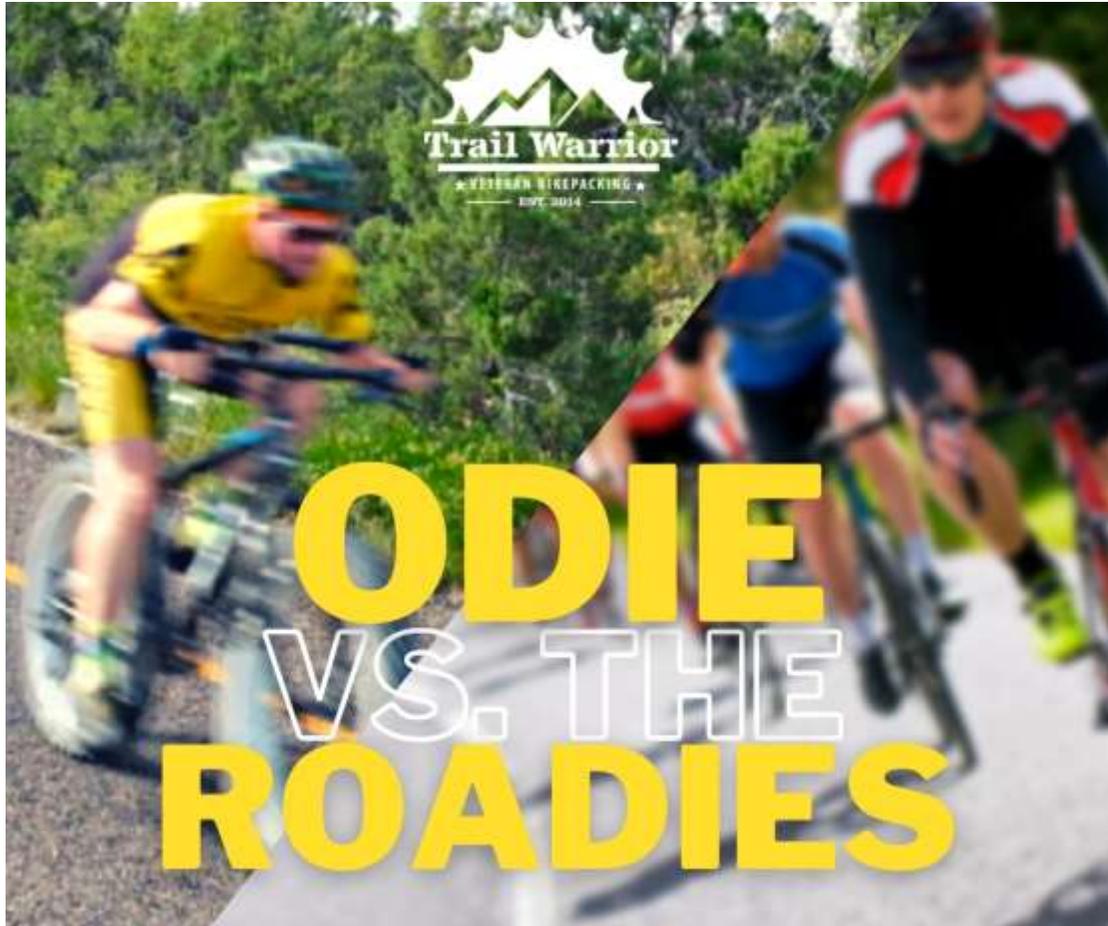
Drake: mom, I chipped my tooth.

Mikala: pull your belly tight.

Me: babe, can you get the tweezers? I have a splinter.

Mikala: ok, pull your belly tight.

In closing, a comment from one of the #BillysHelmets donors sums up what I know we will all remember: "What an example to men throughout the world...BILLY."



Each year in September at a tradition called Cyclefest, hundreds of people descend on the little town of Ft Davis for a grueling 75 mile ride around the beautiful scenic loop. This year, as a fundraiser for the Trail Warrior Project, one of the founding members, Odis Franklin is challenging the lead group to a race around the scenic loop, but instead of a super light carbon road bike, he will be riding a FAT BIKE!

The rules are simple.

1. The roadies must leave at ride start time and Odis gets a head start to try to get to the finish line about the same time.

Road bikes weigh less than 20 lbs and the front group will average about 24 miles an hour.

Odis will do the whole loop on his 2014 Salsa Mukluk with 4" tires. The tires are similar to a motorcycle tire and the bike weighs about 30 lbs. He'll be lucky to average 9 mph.

Your bet raises money to help veterans go on adventure cycling trips with the The Trail Warrior Project.

Place your bets at [trailwarrior.org](http://trailwarrior.org)

# HOTTER'N HELL HUNDRED



# Wee WINDBUSTERS



It's great to see little cyclists. Zach and Jacob Jones take a spin in the parking lot before a Peyton's Wednesday night ride. Tom and TJ Elliot take advantage of Midland Trails.



 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

- 1  ERIC BURKHART
- 2  JUSTIN WILLOUGHBY
- 3  MANNY PENA

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

- 1  ERIC BURKHART
- 2  ZACK BELEW
- 3  FIDEL RUVALCABA



Rain , Rain go away...

Peyton's Wednesday Podium results beginning upper left to right: August 5th, 11th, 18th and 25th.

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

- 1  RANDAL MORGAN
- 2  JUSTIN WILLOUGHBY
- 3  JUSTIN HARRISON

 **PEYTON'S**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT PODIUM

- 1  ERIC BURKHART
- 2  SHAWN HARRIS
- 3  CLIF COLEMAN