

WINDBUSTERS



December 2022

Important Dates

December 21– Christmas Light Ride

March 24-26- Rattlesnake Gravel Grind
in Sweetwater

President-Eric Burkhart

Vice President-Jason Haislip

Mountain Bike Director – Stephen Mitchell

Secretary – Cameron Hamer

Treasurer – Kye King

Ride Director– Open

Newsletter – Kathy Hester -

khester4205@gmail.com

Cyclefest Chairman – Bob Haskell

Webmaster – Jessica Godinez



21
DECEMBER



SAVE THE DATE!!

PBBA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RIDE

Join us for a fun, free, family friendly holiday bike ride! Get in the holiday spirit by decorating yourself and bike.

Helmets & bike lights required

Prize for most festive rider/bike

Depart from Stonegate * 6:45 p.m.

6000 W. Wadley / look for all the bicyclists in the parking lot

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Midland Baptist Crisis Center

Donate new or gently used mens clothing – jeans, coats or other winter clothing

Will collect after the ride

A big thank you to John Kerrigan for scheduling and leading this ride. Thank you to Roberta Solorio for the flyer.

Reminder:

I have seen the temperature for the Christmas Light ride vary greatly over the years. Please be aware of the cold temperatures that drop quickly after sundown. Gloves, hats and coats are usually a minimum of what is needed to stay warm. Hand and toe warmers can make for a more comfortable ride too. We usually have children there too, so please make sure they are prepared for whatever the weather conditions may be.

The Dangerbird

by Bradley Benavides

As I walked across the parking lot, I noticed familiar bikes. There is Eric's El Mar with the custom Doom Bars and Odis's rocket ship Trek. As I got closer to the market in front of Outdoor Adventures, I began to see some familiar faces.

While the Dangerbird officially started the day before, with a Thursday night 11-mile fun ride through the ditches of Las Cruces, NM the annual Maker's Market on Friday morning was the start of my Dangerbird weekend. There were bikes leaned in stacks all around the strip mall and tables lined the sidewalk. They ranged from local conservation groups to riding groups from Wisconsin to my friends with the Trail Warriors and custom bike builder Cjell Mone. Over my hours there I seemed to keep opening my wallet to buy a stack of stickers from Nightbird (Collette is one of the event organizers and creator of the logo and free bandanas) and a new stem cap from Send it Safely (Sendy McSaferson sells cool bike stuff from Albuquerque, NM). I even won a free fork bag from Nuke Sunrise (Dave Wilson, another local builder). Getting to see Dillen and Jenn Maurer (of Taos-based Baphomet Bicycles) out with their friends and having fun after a recent accident really made it a great experience.

Everyone was all smiles, sipping coffee and catching up with each other. "Which loop are you doing?" seemed to be the question heard most. The Dangerbird is an event that takes place on a 258-mile figure eight route starting and ending in Las Cruces, NM called the Monumental Loop 2.0 (the old loop is much longer and has much more sand). It is very much not self-supported and definitely NOT a race. Mascot and organizer, Matt Mason, instructs people not to try to push themselves and to take care of each other. Being the 6th year of the Dangerbird, the new setup was that all the riders would depart together, and half of the riders would follow the route through the Northern Loop and the other half of us would take a short bike path to the start of the Southern Loop. I am getting ahead of myself.

As the Maker's Market wrapped up, a group of us rode over to Habanero's for some Welcome Soup and a Relleno plate. It was a perfect time to talk to like-minded bike people about bikes and the outdoors. From this long lunch we rode over to Klein Park for the Bikepacking Summit. Bikepacking Roots and Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks had some great informational tables set up. The emcee of the Summit was NM House Representative Angelica Rubio (her claim to fame is riding her bike 300 miles from Las Cruces to Santa Fe for legislative sessions). The first speaker was Diego Medina, a tribe historian for the Piro-Mansa-Tiwa Tribe and local artist. He gave a beautiful history of the area that is essential to appreciate riding in the area. Then Annijke Wade told the story of her 2021 biking accident at Angel Fire that took the use of her legs and how she has come back to be an adaptive athlete with her new Bowhead bike. It was both chilling and inspiring and I think she got all our eyes a little damp and legs a tingling to ride. Lastly, local Andres Esparza, from Bikepacking Roots talked specifically about bikepacking's history and evolution. He emphasized how big a role we can play in the future of bikepacking by being good stewards of the land and promoting inclusivity in the sport. A quick break saw us all scatter on our bikes for more delicious Mexican food (the enchilada plate at La Nueva Casita Café really hit the spot) and reconvene for the rider's meeting. We received some informal instructions on riding in Wilderness Areas and a thank you from a City Council member who helped make this event possible. Then we got what we really wanted, our locally made bandanas from Collette that happened to be wrapped around a surprise baguette from a local bakery!

The next morning, we met up at Plaza De Las Cruces for a brief safety meeting and briefing and word from the local BLM officer (and fellow rider) then, as has become tradition, we were led out by Grace Holguin and her friend Jacob on their adaptive cycles.

A few miles into the ride the bike path split (left to the north and right to the south). I went right and on into new territory (I rode the North Loop in 2021). Not far into the bike path we turned uphill away from the highway and the pavement quickly turned to sand as people stopped to shed layers in the rising sun. As we approached Tortugas Mountain, we went south on the Sierra Vista Trail and settled into a 20+ miles of fun singletrack. This is very much a “ride your ride” event so we rode along together and spread out and came back together to stop for snacks very naturally the first half of the day*. At one point I stopped to put a couple bacon strip in Jim’s tire as he got a pinch flat in an arroyo. After 10-20 minutes working on it, we got the tire to hold air and on I rode. We road past an old shed that my band in grad school used to practice in and eventually hit a long downhill paved run to Vado and our first resupply around 3 PM. At about 33 miles into a 70+ mile day, we realized that this was going to be a long day. Luckily it was all roads (mostly unpaved) from here to the first rest station, so I settled into a nice cruise with my new friends from Tucson. We got to Vinton just after Emiliano’s Pizza and Mexican Food closed so ice cream sandwiches from Family Dollar made a nice dinner. From there, it wasn’t far to the end of the pavement (we decided to pass up La Vina Winery in La Union so we could get put some miles behind us before sunset).



Left: Snack break with Tortugas Mountain in the distance, Right: Riding in the Ocotillo and sand

As we finished most of our climbing for the night we were treated to a sunset view of a series of volcanic cones in the distance. Having driven this route for geologic field trips in the past and having had a nice little wreck (don’t worry my knee broke my fall), it was slow going on my bike. Just before sunset we met and rode with a young local named Andrew who works at the new climbing gym in El Paso. I eventually found myself alone in the dark (aside from the odd bull in the road) and I was getting tired, so I mentally broke the miles down into smaller segments and stopped often to top off my caloric and hydratory tank. I caught my Tusconian friends setting up camp about 5 miles from the rest stop because they were beat after the long day. I pushed on into the night and around 8:38 PM saw some party lights growing in the distance. Being too tired to socialize, I rolled off the road at the edge of camp to find myself on the edge of a volcanic crater. My camp consisted of a Tyvek tarp, an inflatable pad, and a sleeping bag that wasn’t nearly warm enough for the night. Within five minutes a string of lights rolled up the hill and the camp lit up with cheers. After a couple tortillas and almond butter, I was out like a light.



My cozy home on the edge of a volcanic crater

I was one of the first to stir before sunrise and before long we were all up and admiring the beauty of Kilbourne Hole. Kilbourne Hole is a volcanic maar formed when magma rose to the surface so fast it hit the water table and flashed it to steam instantly. This caused a huge explosion and left us with a beautiful crater and some (more on the north side) beautiful green rocks to collect. We stood around catching up with everyone we'd ridden with the day before. People all had different ideas and plans. Some would have a lazy morning and enjoy extra coffee and pop tarts and some would head out fast because they knew the closest camp sight was 60+ miles away. A stinging pain in my right big toe told me that the 50 miles back to town would probably be the last of my trip so I hung around camp a little longer and found the friendly Dachshund that kept the coyotes away at night.



Sunrise at Kilbourne Hole with a big party (camp on left)

I took off alone on a sandy two track for a very relaxing morning ride. There was more sand today but my 4-inch Maxxis Minions eat sand like its Halloween candy. I crossed into a wilderness area (no bikes allowed offroad here) and before long I heard Matt Mason roll up beside me astride his giant custom Mone Klunker and was greeted by his army of hairy singlespeed party boys I'd followed all the previous day. We grouped up at the next gate and I watched them all roll off like a band of merry pranksters on steel bikes. After finding a hidden gate to cross the railroad tracks, I found myself on a 15 mile stretch of wide dirt road. Somewhere in the middle of yelling the chorus of Would by Alice in Chains, I heard "Hey Bradley! The tire held great!" It was Jim! He just had to pump it up every 90 minutes or so and it would take him safely to the terminus of his trip. He thanked me profusely then rode along with some new friends from Albuquerque. They grew larger on the horizon as I realized they were walking through deep sand. My tires came in handy as I cruised on through. I knew I should be dropping down into town soon and the faint sound of gunshots grew as I crested the hill to find a few carloads of people shooting across an arroyo at targets. Just like that, I was back in civilization. I said my last goodbyes to Jim as he pulled away on his Cutthroat and I made my way to the flat bike path and back to the Plaza De Las Cruces. I thought my journey was over as I pedaled back to my car where I found those selfsame friends from Albuquerque who'd taken a detour to Spotted Dog Brewery in Mesilla and then taken a shortcut back to their car. We said our goodbyes as I headed for the prize that awaits all who finish the Dangerbird, Andele's Doghouse. I walked in and immediately saw multiple groups I'd ridden with and gotten to know over the past few days. I ordered the required Christmas Tree (red and green relleno plate with an over easy egg on top) and a Santa Fe Brewing Oktoberfest and started planning for the Dangerbird in 2023.

My trusty rig

* As an event where most people just roll and have fun, this route is perfect for a sleepless fast effort too. Josh Propfe just set the FKT at 23:48 on 10/22/22





Trek Bicycle Midland is your destination for the latest products from Trek and Bontrager, service and tune-ups for bikes of any brand, and a great place to gear up for your next two-wheeled adventure. We're conveniently located in Midland where we're proud to service the surrounding communities in west Texas and New Mexico. We're also lucky to be located near some awesome places to ride, like Midland Trail Park, Odessa MTB Park, and Big Spring State Park, and we're happy to provide advice if you're looking to explore the area.

1976, in a Wisconsin barn a pair of visionaries set out to make a business of building bikes.



Today Trek Bikes Midland is located in the former Peyton's Bikes Building. While we have kept some familiar faces, we have also added some new ones. Trek Bikes Midland looks to continue involvement with the local community, provided great hospitality, and get more people on bikes!

Whatever your experience level and however you like to ride, we welcome you to stop in, meet our team, and see what we have to offer. We can't wait to ride with you!

Trek Bikes Midland store hours
Monday through Saturday
10:00AM-6:00PM





The first ever Veterans Gravel Grinder was held in Coahoma on November 12th. This epic event was put on by VIM racing to raise money for the Trail Warrior Project. There were over 100 racers and volunteers signed up and much more than that showed up to support the veteran community.

VIM approached the Trail Warrior Project with the fundraiser idea since they believed in what the Trail Warrior Project stood for in helping veterans heal through adventure cycling and bikepacking.

"VIM was amazing. They took care of everything. They did all of the fundraising, event promotion and set up. We really can't thank them enough!" said Odus Franklin of the Trail Warrior Project.

There was a 100k, 50k, and 25k competitive and non-competitive route distance, so the event could be for racers or casual riders. There were several families that showed up and did the short ,fun ride. The local West Texas community really showed up to help out the veterans, but there were also people from other parts of the state here.



Editor's note: PBBA contributed \$1000 to the Veteran's Gravel Grind.

LATITUDE *JUNIORS*

YOUNG RIDERS!

- ARE YOU READY TO GROW IN THE SPORT OF CYCLING ?
- DO YOU WANT TO TRAIN AND APPLY THOSE SKILLS IN A TEAM ATMOSPHERE?



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SESSION**

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PEYTON'S

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

2022 Season Results

1st Eric Burkhart



2nd Fidel Ruvalcaba



3rd Zac Belew

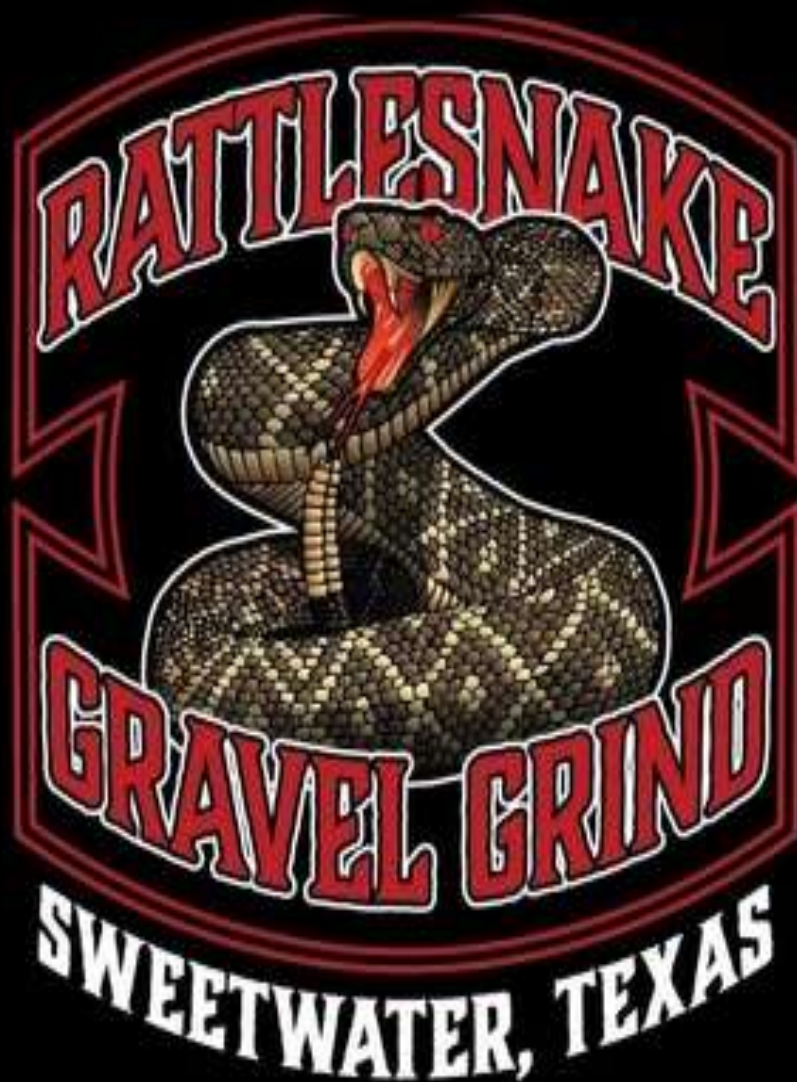


2022 Series Points:

Eric Burkhart – 96
Fidel Ruvalcaba - 74
Zack Belew – 68
Clif Coleman – 45
Shawn Harris – 33
Oscar Salazar – 26
Carlos Traslosheros – 22
Tom Harrison – 14
Kenneth Priebe – 13
Zack Risher – 11
Brian Younger – 11
Jason Haislip – 11
Conor Steward – 7
Casey Hausenfluke – 7
Randal Morgan – 6
Justin Willoughby – 5
Walter Durrer – 5
Manny Pena – 3
John Cornejo – 3
Russell Potter – 3
Spencer Shotts – 1

B Race Breakout Riders (3 Wins)

Phil Padilla
Alex MacLennan
B-Series
Katie Briscoe – 56
Justin Fletcher – 37
PJ Woolston – 25
Matt Rodriguez - 24
Mike McEnaney – 18
Bayler Boydston – 17
Isaac Trujillo -17
Toby Keel - 16
Ron Brem - 14
Von Doria – 13
Ross Van Horn -10
Doug Pyles – 9
Joaquin Traslosheros – 8
Oscar Gomez – 7
Ben Spinks - 7
Angie Kayastha – 6
Alec Lyle – 5
Stephanie Ledford – 5
Jeff Brammer -3
Beau Jones – 3
Petey Lozano – 2
Seth Cunneen – 1
Tyler Putnam – 1
Doug Randel -1



March 24 - 26th 2023

REGISTRATION OPENS

Sunday October 30th, 3 pm CST

rattlesnakegravelgrind.bike