## June 2022



Photo courtesy of Justin Harrison. A dustbusting ride.


## Important Dates:

June 5 Sunday Lawn Concert rides begin

June 11- Rockstacker Race
June 18 Rattlesnake Gravel Grind
July 16 \& 17 Bike MS

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


Sign up for the 2022 Rockstacker Challenge! Please share and sign up if you plan to attend. Signing up early helps the volunteers out and also hel race day go a lot smoother! Big thanks to Dan Saxton for getting this online sign up setup!



> Rattlesnake Gravel Grind will be 6/17-18 /22 . 32 Mile, 66 Mile, and 111 Mile that will begin and end at the Lake Sweetwater Municipal Campground. It will benefit the Volunteer Fire Departments of Nolan County. The Jaycees that put on the World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup, the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce, and Coors are the three main sponsors of the event. We will have free beer, live music, and BBQ at the park after the event for all participants.

Check out Rattlesnake Gravel Grind on FB and IG for more details or go to our website
https://rattlesnakegravelgrind.bike/

June 17th at 9am there will be VIP Shakeout ride with Ted King followed by a lunch for the cyclist at the Lake General Store. From 2-7 there will be the packet pickup for the participants in the event at Argos followed by the Hero Festival dinner concert from 6-midnight.

June 18th will be the main event from 7am-5pm consisting of a 111 mile, 66 mile, or a 32 mile gravel bike race. After the race $B B Q$, Coors beer, and live music by the 419 Swing Band will be provided for the participants. The evening of June 18th is Rock the Block in downtown Sweetwater in which the sponsors of the event will present checks to the volunteer fire departments.

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## New Ride Opportunity: <br> Cruiseday Tuesday <br> Midland Trails <br> 6:15 p.m.



Have you noticed the blue reflective pavement markers being installed on Midland streets? The purpose of these markers is to help emergency personnel locate fire hydrants easily. It is important to be aware as hitting one at the wrong angle or going over a wet one could cause a cyclist to fall.


Thank you to the West Texas Gazelles for leading the memorial site clean ups. Publicity was provided by Roberta SoloRio. John Floyd led and organized the ride, media coverage, and law en-



In 2021 PBBA Membership reached an all time high of 1450 registrations. This includes all family, individual, and one day registrations.

So far in 2022 we are experiencing a slight drop in total registrations (approximately 500 to date) compared to 2021 . We are also seeing a higher ratio of individual registrations from 2021 to 2022 (19\% vs 35\% respectively).

It's good to see that membership numbers are relatively steady. Please note that memberships are good for one calendar year. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2022, please sign up again and support the club.


# Get ready for the ride of a lifetime 

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { July } 16-17,2022 \\
& \text { Midland, TX }
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Enjoy a full two-day experience across the flat desert terrain of West Texas and pedal to the finish line at English Newsome Cellars. Along the way, take photos of cactus, a sunrise as far as you can see and your ice cream when you stop to rest in Klondike. The hardest part of this ride isn't the desert heat or miles - it's leaving the incredible memories you'll make with friends new and old as we come together to reach our goal: a world free of MS.


| June 5th <br> WEATHERSTONE <br> Opening Night | June 12th <br> SMALLTOWN | June 19th |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | MIDLANDAIRES |
| July IOth | July 17th | July 24th |
| TREATY OAK | TALL CITY BAND <br> REVIVAL | Museum Member <br> Appreciation Night | | CHAMBER COMISPANIC |
| :--- |
| COFERCE |

## June 26th

THE CROAKIN TOADS
Armed Forces 6 First Responders Night

July 31st
UNSWEETT'S
Family Night

Please watch Friends of the Permian Basin Bicycle Association Facebook page for details from Tom Elliot regarding time and departure location for the Sunday Lawn Concert Rides. The June 5th ride will depart at 6:15 p.m. from Windlands Park between the baseball and soccer fields.


Beat the Street in Sweetwater, Texas is a popular event with PBBA members due to it's nearby location, challenging topography and the fact that the ride is well organized. Several PBBA riders made the podium and we all had a challenging ride. This event is a timed race, but participants that just want a fun ride are also encouraged to attend. There are options for 33, 49 and 73 mile rides as well as several run options. If you did not have the opportunity to attend this year then be watching for the event next May.



"A Memorial and an Extraction"
The New Mexico Off-Road Runner is the route the Trail Warrior Project was created on. John Carter was on the original ride and was an intricate part of helping found the Trail Warrior Project. The first crossing was an epic ride John called "The ride of a Lifetime" and little did we know it would be John's last ride as he passed the following Christmas eve. We decided to do this route again this year and make it a memorial ride for John. John was a good friend, a patriot, and one heck of a bike rider.

We knew heading out this year that there were many dangers on the route that we did not have to face the last time. Anytime you are inserted in the situations that we do, you are putting yourself into a survival situation voluntarily. You must worry about food, shelter, water and transportation. You do take your initial supply with you, but after that, you better plan and be prepared. This year, New Mexico was on fire, literally. We had to worry about several huge forest fires to reroute around. We were also worried about the wind reports we had seen and decided to roll each day by daylight to beat some of the winds.

On day one, we headed south out of Santa Fe with the idea of making mile 44 for camp and hit the town of Moriarity on day 2 for a re-supply. About 20 miles out of town, we hit a closed forest road and luckily, there was a county road reroute less than a mile back. When bikepacking, plans are not set in stone and you adapt and change plans on the fly day by day. We ended up riding our longest day ever loaded for about 73 miles to Moriarity. Tired and hungry, we ordered Pizza and hit the Dollar Store for a re-supply. One day ahead of schedule, we felt great and like we were out of danger.

Day 2 we headed out of town for a great 54 -mile ride through the mountains to Manzano State Park. The only water stops on route that day were a cattle tank and a little store in Tajique. The wind and heat were getting to us, so we hung out at the store a while to eat and cool off. The state park was about 10 miles from the store and was a welcome site with all the huge pine trees that provided much needed shade. That night we hung out, ate and planned for the day ahead.



Day 3 started out at sunrise and a cool crisp morning on a good 5-mile climb in the Manzano Mountains. We had planned to place John's ashes and his Vietnam issued P38 can opener on a location that we hoped would reveal itself when the time was right. After a good while of climbing, we reached the top of the pass. It was a beautiful sunny morning, no wind and not too hot at the top of the 8000' peak. We spotted a tree out by itself overlooking the valley below that looked healthy and strong and buried John at its base. We carved JC in the tree as a marker and placed an Airborne patch and his can opener in the tree. We finished our tribute to our fallen brother by playing his favorite song "The Gary Owen March" and a small ceremony. We finished that day with a 33-mile descent into the Kiva RV Park for a good rest.

While at the RV Park, we decided to contact the hotel in Magdalena about a room. We knew that we had a reroute in Magdalena due to the bear Trap Canyon fire and had a contingency plan. The hotel said "if we could get into town, we wouldn't be able to get out" as all roads were closed except for firemen and forest service workers. We started researching other options to finish the route and soon realized that we were literally boxed in and trapped. They had been closing roads and forests right behind us for 3 days and we finally were trapped.

With no way out except to call for an extraction, we made the call and headed back to Las Cruces. Luckily, we were right by the Interstate or we may have really been in a survival situation.

Our mission was to lay John to rest and we did that, so even though we did not get to do the entire route, it was "Mission Accomplished".



May 11, 2022


No podium May 18, 2022 due to Ride of Silence

May 25, 2022



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2021 Peyton's Champion - Eric Burkhart
2022 Series Points:
Eric Burkhart - 60
Fidel Ruvalcaba - 25
Clif Coleman - 25
Zack Belew - 20
Conor Steward - 7
Zack Risher-6
Kenneth Priebe - 5
Justin Willoughby - 5
Manny Pena - 3
Shawn Harris - 2
Jason Haislip - 1
Carlos Traslosheros - 1

## B-Series



PJ Woolston - 19
Katie Briscoe - 8
Toby Keel-7
Alec Lyle-5
Justin Fletcher-4
Angie Kayastha - 3
Petey Lozano - 2


Rail-trails are multipurpose public paths created from former railroad corridors. These paths are flat or gently sloping, making them easily accessible and a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Rail-trails are ideal for many types of activities--depending on the rules established by the local community--including walking, bicycling, wheelchair use, inline skating, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

Mike and I visited Mississippi in April with the objective of riding two Hall of Fame trails: The Tanglefoot and the Longleaf Trace. Each are about 45 miles one-way, paved trails. It was a pleasure to ride on trails with no vehicles allowed. Riders still have to watch for traffic at private crossings and roads, but there are no vehicles on the trail itself. The Tanglefoot is in northern MS between Houston and New Albany. Longleaf extends from Hattiesburg to Prentiss. Each trail has restrooms and water fountains along the route. I enjoyed both trails. The wooden bridge surfaces on the Tanglefoot were rougher than the paved bridge surfaces of the Longleaf. I could not pick one as a favorite over the other and would enthusiastically return to ride them again. The weather was beautiful this time of year, but the heat and humidity of the coming summer months would be daunting. The rail-to-trail foundation of a prior railroad track results in very gradual grade changes. It was interesting to catch glimpses of the steep grades of nearby highways as the Tanglefoot is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Each trail was easily rideable out and back in a few hours, but I have seen posts on the Rail to Trails Facebook page making the trails into multi day rides.

Railtotrails.org and the traillink app are great resources to locate these trails. One can plug in the state and sort trails by length and road surface. My personal goal is to ride trails in each state.

Kathy Hester



[^0]:    At this point we have reached our fundraising goals and $100 \%$ of registration fees for the gravel bike race will go to the Volunteer Fire Departments of Nolan County.

