



March 2024

## WINDBUSTERS

### Important Dates

March 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 11 Gazelle Mission Monday Ride begins

March 13 Wednesday Night Worlds Begin for 2024

March 14 Thursday Energy City (slow, social ride) begins

March 16 Saturday , 173 Ride begins

Monday Monthly Bike and Brunch will begin when morning temperatures allow

March 22-24, 2024 Rattlesnake Gravel Grind

April 27, 2024 Beat the Street

September 21-22, 2024 Fort Davis Cyclefest



## New No-Drop Group Ride!

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Please join us every Saturday starting March 16 at 8:30am. We will ride off from the corner of WCR 173 and SCR 1110 (address: 9216 SCR 1110).

Three different ride speeds: 13-14mph, 16-17mph, and 18+mph. Distances will vary based on the different speeds. This is an out and back type ride, so if you maybe haven't been as serious about your winter training as you intended, you don't have to worry. They'll be something for everyone, whether you're a newbie just starting out or an experienced racer. Come support your local road cycling community!

# Slow-Ride

No Drop Social Ride

ANY BIKE, ANY STYLE - ALL FUN

Ride off at 6:15 Thursday 3-14-24



## ***Wednesday Night Worlds begin March 13***

*Note: The Wednesday Night Ride will continue the tradition of a tour group that rides Greentree Country Club and the Fasken School route. Ride off is from Trek Midland at 6:15 p.m.*



Monday, March 11 the M&M Ride from Mission Fitness hosted by WTGO begins a new season of riding fun and fitness.



## 2024 Monumental Loop Ride by Odis Franklin



The Trail Warrior Project embarked on the annual Monumental Loop on February 9th after postponing it a month due to a polar vortex hitting the area. The weather looked promising in February with sunny skies in the forecast and highs in the mid 50's and lows in the 30's. This looked like the recipe for a great excursion in the desert surrounding Las Cruces.

We initially had 16 sign up for the trip, but due to changing the date, we ended up with 7, which is still a large group and our largest group to date for the TWP. We also had another milestone, we needed all 5 of our bikes and gear for this trip and we were excited to share this with our fellow adventurers.

This year's expedition was going to be something we haven't tried before. We normally only do either the North or South loop of the route, but this year we decided to do the entire loop, which consists of 250 miles of desert riding with a mix of singletrack, sandy/gravel roads and pavement. We planned on doing the entire thing in 5 days with a break in Las Cruces on night 3 before heading back out toward El Paso for an overnigher on the southern loop.

Thursday everyone met at the hotel parking lot and packed bikes and gear and hung out talking about the trip. The next day was a little cool, but the sun was brilliant and we warmed up quickly as we ambled our way through town. Soon we found ourselves on canal gravel roads following the Rio Grande outside of town and finally made it to some of the best single track I have ridden on. After making our way through the single track, we ended up on some nice gravel roads and a little pavement before getting to the state park for camp. We had a great time with a huge campfire and telling stories of how everyone's day went on the bikes. The weather was still looking great with a small chance of a morning shower in spots, but nothing big when we went to bed.





The next day's plan was to get to Hatch for a world famous green chili burger and then make our way to camp in the mountains West of Hatch. When we got up, the skies were clear and there were calm winds, I looked at the weather forecast and it showed a few tiny clouds in the distance heading north of us that were actually snow clouds, but nothing to worry about it seemed. We broke camp early and headed towards Hatch. As we progressed, the temperature kept dropping. It was a little below freezing with a decent wind. The light mist was freezing on our gear when it hit, but it wasn't enough to worry about yet. We hit Hatch right around noon and went in to get warm and our bellies full before heading to camp. As we were eating everyone noticed the weather seemed to be deteriorating outside. I checked the weather before heading out and it was a full on snow and freezing rain situation at camp, but it looked like it was going to blow through well before we got there and was going to clear off. We all decided to go ahead. I let the faster guys go ahead and told them we would meet at camp later.

As we rode out of town, climbing huge rollers and going at a turtle's pace, the weather kept getting worse with bouts of freezing rain and regular rain and a constant hard headwind. The temperature dropped from 37 to 32 on the last hill, we were all soaking wet and I was starting to shake from not being able to generate enough body heat riding. Finally a few miles before turning off to camp and with darkness approaching quickly, I remembered a business in the middle of nowhere and we saw it open. We went over and asked if we could get warm and they did let us get inside for a bit. By the time we got there, it was a complete white out from the snow. We were still at least 2 hours from camp and it was almost dark. The kind trail angel that let us get out of the weather let us camp under a carport out of the wind for the night. We quickly pitched tents, threw hand warmers in sleeping bags, cooked a hot meal and drank hot coffee to warm our core up. Joe was a survival instructor for the Air Force and went into survival mode making sure we got dry and warm and teaching us what to do at the same.



I was worried about the other group since they had separated, I tried calling and no cell service on their end as it went straight to voicemail. We do carry GMRS radios, but the range can be tricky on them especially if there are hills. I went around the side of the building and called them on the radio, to my surprise I got a response. It was staticky, but we could hear each other. They had made it to an old ranch house and had to hunker down in there for the night. They were in the same situation, but quite a bit higher in elevation. I was relieved to know everyone was safe for the evening and could rest. I told them we would see them back at the hotel the next day.

We awoke to a beautiful snow covered desert and clear skies. We planned on heading back to Cruces on pavement as we knew the mountain pass would be too treacherous with all the snow at that elevation. That pass is about 10 miles of hike a bike on baby head boulders and would be a good way to break a leg or ankle. We made it back to town about 5 pm with a nice tailwind and sunny skies all day. The other group made it to town at the same time coincidentally and we rode through Cruces for the end of the Northern Loop on Super Bowl Sunday. We finished the evening off with a super bowl party and plenty of stories to tell.

The other group did the entire North Loop, including the Hike a Bike section. They were all in good spirits, but glad that day was over. I've done that route in perfect conditions, it would be really tough in the snow and cold. We will have another write-up from that group with details on their version of the route soon.

You never know what the day holds and you need to be prepared for any kind of weather. This is 2 out of 3 times the Northern loop has got me. One time it was my legs and this time it was the weather. I love the Northern Loop and next year, I'll get it and do the whole enchilada.





**Have you joined or renewed your membership for  
2024?**

Go to [www.pbbatx.com/join](http://www.pbbatx.com/join) or hit the “Join PBBA” button from anywhere on the website



Have you considered your role in regard to Cyclefest 2024? It's not too early to mark your Calendar for the weekend of September 21st.

Fort Davis Cyclefest is the major PBBA yearly fundraiser. Please consider where you fit into making this event a success.

Considering volunteering before or during the event?

Will you help enlist a sponsor for the event?

Please contact Kathy Hester, Cyclefest Volunteer Coordinator. ([khester4205@gmail.com](mailto:khester4205@gmail.com))



**RATTLESNAKE**



**GRAVEL GRIND**  
**SWEETWATER, TEXAS**

**21 - 24**

**MARCH 21-24, 2024**

**MORE GRAVEL!**



For details: [rattlesnakegravelgrind.bike](http://rattlesnakegravelgrind.bike)

March 21-24, 2024

Sweetwater, Texas



Registration is open at:

[Runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com)

Note: There are running events in addition to cycling events.

7:30 a.m. Ride off

400 Elm Street  
Sweetwater, TX US 79556

## Description

Join us for our 12th annual Beat the Street April 27, 2024!!

Get ready for the 12th annual Beat the Street for Little Feet benefiting Cornerstone Christian School! The event includes: a Half Marathon, 10K Run, 5K Run, 79-Mile Bike Race, 51-Mile Bike Race, and 33-Mile Bike Race. Come spend the morning with us and enjoy great exercise and fun!

\*Participants registering BEFORE 4/13/2024 will be guaranteed a shirt.

\*\*Cash prizes will be awarded!\*\*

Awards given in the following divisions include:

79-Mile Bike Race - Men's 1st - \$1,000

Women's 1st - \$1,000

51-Mile Bike Race - Men's 1st - \$300

Women's 1st - \$300

33-Mile Bike Race - Men's 1st - Bragging Rights

Women's 1st - Bragging Rights

Participants must complete the race entered to be eligible for placings and prizes.

\*Road bikes only will be allowed for cycling events - no electric bikes will be permitted.

\*Mountain bikes will be allowed ONLY IN THE 33-MILE BIKE RACE.

\*Support for all cycling events stops at 12:00pm

Cycling race routes to be posted at a later date

\*Registration for all events will end at 7:00 PM on 4/26/2023. Day-of registrations will be permitted onsite at the original registration price plus an additional \$25 late fee.

Please note: All entry fees are nonrefundable as Beat the Street for Little Feet is a fundraiser for Cornerstone Christian Educational Endeavors. Proceeds from Beat the Street for Little Feet go to fund scholarships for students of Cornerstone Christian School. Your support is appreciated!





Wheelbrothers.com is an excellent resource to find ride events/ tours in Texas. Check the site for current ride information, links and opportunities.

# Selecting a Rearview Mirror

The temperatures are warming up; therefore, riders will be looking forward to being back on the road. Most drivers would feel very uncomfortable without a rearview mirror. On a bike, the rider either has to turn their head to look behind or use a rearview mirror. Turning one's head without swerving for a quick look back is challenging for many riders. A mirror may be the best solution to safely assess what is approaching from behind. Not watching behind you is equivalent to trusting drivers to pass you safely. Rear radar can be a helpful tool too for warning riders about cars behind them.

There are several options of types of rearview mirrors. Individual riders must determine which type suits them. Talk to other riders to get opinions and feedback. Many cyclists have a rearview mirror type or two collecting dust as they experimented to find the mirror that suited them best individually. Riders can ask to borrow a type for a trial run.

Choose what works best for you. Consult with other cyclists. Most cyclists have an opinion about which works best. If the type they recommend is what works best for them, then it is the best mirror—at least for them.

Personally, I like the Mirracyle end tube mirror. I have tried all of the others with the exception of the wrist mirror. I enjoy mine as I only have to shift my eyes rather than my head. I frequently only need to use my peripheral vision to check it. I can also see the mirror from an upright position and when I change to a position to the drops without moving the mirror. Others riders like their mirrors for a variety of reasons.

Find the type of mirror that works for you and stay safe!

Kathy Hester



Bar end bike mirror



End tube mirror



Wrist mirror



Glasses mount



Helmet mount



End tube insert



Handlebar mirror





## **PBBA 2024 Officers and Chairpersons**

**President:** Eric Burkhart

**Vice President:** Clif Coleman

**Secretary:** Justin Willoughby

**Treasurer:** Kye King/ Brent Hoke

**Mountain Bike Director:** Stephen Mitchell

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Chairperson: Sarah Kate Epperson

Members:

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Chairperson: Oscar Salazar

Members:

### **Publicity Committee**

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### **Mountain Bike Committee**

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Midland Trails: Jeff Ledford, Justin Thompson

### **Cyclefest Committee**

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Members: Kathy Hester, Eric Burkhart, Ron Appling, Javier Morales, Dan and Shauna Saxton