



The Trailblazer Singletrack



The Fort Hood TrailBlazers; an MWR activity

#4, SEPT 30, 2002

FALL SERIES TMBRA CIRCUIT

The Texas Fall Cup is well underway with three of eight races complete.

Many Trailblazers have raced at least once; many find it a fun activity. We encourage everyone to give it a try. Lake Bryan is the next race and will be held on the weekend of 12-13 Oct; it is a fairly mellow course. The URL to TMBRA is on the next page. The TMBRA website has all the details regarding racing to include tips for beginners.

Chris and Elizabeth Mead continue to do very well in their classes. They were #2 and #1 respectively at Huntsville on 29 September. Others who have raced at least once this fall include Jean Baines, John Bolin, Travis Shain, Pete Kutheis, Cliff Mead, Steve Lancaster, Kevin Smith and others.

Who knows maybe you can take home a ribbon or trophy like Elizabeth's:



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Send all material for newsletter to Pete at above email

OCT-DEC 2002 Schedule

Schedule is subject to change; always check email and web site for the “up to date”

Event	Date	Time
Trail Work Day	05-Oct-02	11:30 AM
BTU Power Pedal (see TMBRA website)	12-13 Oct	
Piney Hills, Fall Classic (see TMBRA website)	26-27 Oct	
Daylight Savings Time Ends	27-Oct-02	12:00 AM
Trailblazer Meeting	31-Oct-02	6:30 PM
Horny Toad Roundup-fall finale-Lake Ray Robert State Park	10 Nov 02	

Generally rides are around 9 A.M. on Saturdays; at times rides are leaderless AT BLORA

Meetings are usually the last Thurs of each month at 630 PM AT BLORA

If you would like to lead a ride or host an event at the mountain bike park just email TestA29@aol.com or Pkutheis@cs.com so we can distribute via the club email list

**SAT 19 OCT at Dana Peak Park::
A Texas Trails Event hosted by area trail enthusiasts.
From approx 0900 to 1500**

The Trailblazers will have their canopy set up and will be available to ride the “warm up” trail with folks, discuss the trailblazer club, discuss basic bike maintenance, trail access or anything bike related you want to talk about.

Come on out and look for our popup canopy.

<http://www.tmbra.org/calendar/calendar.htm> TMBRA
WEB SITE

CLUB POSITIONS AND OFFICERS

President:	Cliff Mead	TestA29@aol.com
Vice-Pres:		
Trails Coordinator:		
Promotion:		
Ride Coordinator:		
Web Presence:	Pete Kutheis	Pkutheis@cs.com

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New trail system in Valley Mills

Our sister club in Waco recently invited the Dallas Off Roaders and the Trailblazers to a new network of trails they have been developing in Valley Mills, TX, near Waco.

Cliff and Elizabeth Mead and Jean Baines went to check their progress and enjoyed a ride. The report was very positive. This will be one more great trail for Central Texans.

Check the Waco Bicycle Club's website at
<http://www.wacobicycleclub.org/>
for further news.

Trailblazers ride 12 Hours of Mac, San Antonio

The Trailblazers ventured to San Antonio for a bikemojo event. Bike Mojo is an informal, huge net of Texas mountain bike enthusiasts that come together at events and share good times. See bikemojo.com

This event was billed as a ride rather than a race and the trail was suitable for all but very new beginning riders.

Everyone rode as much as they wished and took as many breaks as they wanted.

The Mead Team logged ten laps. Soloists logged between 5 and 8 laps.

This was a wonderful event. Tops.

A Club Perspective from your editor

Fort Hood/Killeen is a tough area to attract riders to come together to enjoy a ride.

Maybe this has to do with the area's close ties to the military. Everyone is busy with work and family; it is very hard to get even a few people together at the same time, even more especially so since there only seems to be a very small dedicated rider population to begin with.

The Trailblazers current leadership will be leaving the area early next year. Now is the time for folks to step forward and try to grow the club.

Who knows, maybe the Trailblazers park can be adopted by one of the area clubs.

Just please don't let the park fall by the wayside and put trail access in jeopardy as it did when Joey left, and after the CenTex Wheelmen dissolved. Be proactive now!!!

STAY INFORMED!!

If you do not receive email from the club but wish to; please drop an email to Cliff at TestA29@aol.com stating your desire to join the club email list.

Many extra events that are put together "at the last minute" will be announced this way.

Also you may choose to have a ride or event that you put together announced via the club email list.

Learn the dirt world's knobby tire language:
Browse to: <http://world.std.com/~jimf/biking/slang.html>
Happy readin' and gabbin'.

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Central Texas Trails: Experience Them All

So you think you've mastered Trailblazer Park and want to add variety; that is a good thing. Riding a variety of terrain helps the cycled warrior master all situations. Here in central Texas we are lucky to have a vast network of trails to enjoy at relatively little expense. Gas, time, leg and lung energy, and a minimal amount of folding money is what ya need.

Listed are some favorite trails—we'll leave it up to you to do the research—there is plenty of literature on the web and in the bike shops. Ride 'em and have fun.

Dana Peak-----Harker Heights area on the Stillhouse Hollow Lake shoreline
Cameron Park-----Near downtown Waco
Lake Bryan-----By Texas A&M
Walnut Creek-----An Austin Municipal Park—off Parmer and Lamar
Barton Creek-----Austin's jewel—near the south junction of 360 and Loop 1
Muleshoe Rec Area-----West of Austin on Lake Travis
Bluff Creek Ranch-----Warda
Rocky Hill Ranch-----Smithville
McAllister Park-----San Antonio

Those are some of the closer trails; further driving will bring you to Bar H, Huntsville, Tyler, San Angelo, Palo Duro, the Big Bend area and a myriad of others.

Beginners' Tip for Ride Technique

The Ready or Attack Position

No we're not talking chessboard position here; what you need to think about when bumping along trails (Longbow Lane or Minefield, and Clean up on Aisle 3 especially) is how you position yourself on the bike.

Sitting planted on your saddle, with rigid arms and a death grip on the bars is a pretty good way to guarantee a meeting with the ground, or at the least a sore butt and upper body (arms, wrists). The rockier and more technical terrain demands proper scanning technique and body positioning.

You should ALWAYS scan ahead on the trail using only your peripheral vision for what's immediately under or upon your tire's contact patch. Looking straight at an obstacle is a sure way to hit it.

Your elbows should be bent and your butt hovering just above the saddle; when not pedaling or carving a turn keep your cranks horizontal. Set up your levers for a comfortable wrist position; one or two fingers lightly on the brake levers is all you need. When descending a downhill assure to shift your weight further back, ascending uphill scootch further up on the saddle and bend more at the waist.

Following the above will help you stay on the bike, and provides the optimal position for you to shift your weight around and help balance and maneuver your bike. Your body will thank you for it too. More tips can be found in the excellent publications: [Mountain Bike!](#) by Nealy and [Mountain Bike like a Champion](#) by Ned Overend.

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**The changing face of the Trailblazer
(or a letter from the President)**

A wise man, don't ask me who, said "If you always do what you've always done, then who you are, is who you'll always be". This is so very true in this case. And this is not necessarily a bad thing. I will always be Kandace's husband, and father to Chris, Elizabeth and Kendell. I will always include cycling in my way of life as it is the gateway to communication with my kids. I will always be a soldier, serving on your behalf. What I can't always be is your President. The world as we know it is changing right in front of our eyes, and we must change with it. My schedule has become very hectic these last couple of months in order to adjust to these changes, which leads me to the point where I have been forced to let some things slide.

In with this change, Pete, the "Web Guy", has been selected for promotion to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three. This places him in the Senior Warrant Officer ranks. A great change for him and his family. With that promotion comes additional change, as he will be leaving us shortly to go to advanced schooling and then off to Hawaii. If you get the chance, be sure to bid him an aloha prior to his departure.

I will also be leaving shortly after that for a period of about six to eight months to serve a tour in the Balkans. This will require additional time on my part to insure that I am prepared as well as my Family. This is time that I will not be able to put towards the Trailblazers and the Mountain Bike Park. I am reaching the point that I will no longer be able to carry the Trailblazer Banner to all the TMBRA series races. Come the end of the calendar year, I am stepping down as your President.

So here is the bottom line. Look to yourself. Are you ready to do something new? There are many opportunities and ideas out there to keep this club going and to keep BLORA the best place to ride and race in Central Texas. The door is wide open; all you have to do is walk through. The worst part of this whole change is that if no one comes up to steward the mountain bike park, the park will close, and will most likely never open back up.

Cliff Mead
President
Fort Hood Trailblazers

CLUB OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE: RIDE COORDINATORS, TRAIL STEWARD

CLUB PRES, AND WEBMASTER/NEWS LETTER AVAILABLE 1 JANUARY '03.

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