**Research Riders Meeting**

# Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2012

1. Call to order

**James Mathis** called to order the regular meeting of the Research Riders at **12:10 am** on **May 11, 2012** in the SWRI cafeteria.

1. Attendance

Present were: James, Scott, Bob, and Malva.

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from last meeting were approved with one minor correction on the group ride.

1. Treasurer’s Report

As of 05/10/2012 our bank balance is $460.83.

1. Old Business
2. **New Mexico Group Ride, May 24 -28, 2012 -** 6 signed up. Meeting will be held to firm up route and stops.
3. We had 6 in attendance at the May 4th **Ride to Breakfast**.
4. Bob made the “**SaddleSore 1000**” ride on April 14th. The ride began at the HEB on Babcock near Huebner at 5:45AM. It got a little chilly as the sun came up so I stopped and zipped on the outer layer of my mesh jacket. About 8:00 it began to sprinkle so I stopped and donned the rain suit. Of course that made the rain stop, so I shed the rain gear and outer jacket layer at the next gas stop and did not need either one the rest of the trip. Made a gas or rest stop every hour or so and had lunch in Fabens, TX, which by the way is in a different time zone. Once I got my log book entry adjusted to the right clock, I headed back east. Again, frequent stops for gas and soda, arriving home at 10:15. The 1000 miles was accomplished with 12 hours and 33 minutes of “engine on” time, yielding an average speed of 79.7 mph
5. Scott’s report on the 2012 Fredericksburg **Optimist Club Hill Country Run Rally, Luckenbach** on May 4-6. This was the 16th year for the Rally and I headed up there to join in early Saturday morning.  I was the only Research Rider to head up; perhaps the early start dissuaded folks….but it really turned out to be a good time.   I did meet & hang out with Mark Bowen of SwRI, who has been attending the Rally for many years and help with their bike games.  The rally was a lot of fun, it was relaxing and not too crowded. Lots of real nice people around, the sponsored route & stops were great, the food & music were good.  I think we need to add this one to the regular events that the Riders consider doing.  Here is a highlight of events: The ride up through Boerne was nice – low traffic, nice scenery.  When I got to Luckenbach I guess there were about 500 motorcycles there as well as a number of RV’s, vendors, and people camping.  I headed over to the big oak trees and pitched my tent.  There were probably 50 tents there.  Some people stay in local hotels, and some go up for the day only. Got there in time for the Cowboy Breakfast.  This is what that is – they hand you a skillet at the door of the big dance hall, and pour in some eggs.  You head to a Bunsen burner station, right next to a bunch of things you can add in, like ham, bacon, cheese, tomatoes, onions, etc.  So you cook up your own omelet or taco filling, then get tortillas and plenty of coffee and juice/milk, and eat what you made.  Then go back for more if you want.  It was fun and gives you the chance to sit and talk to other bikers. The biker crowd was mostly cruisers and mostly Harleys, as is the norm.  But I saw everything there, a few old bikes, some sport bikes, trikes, Spyders, choppers. In the camping area I saw a nice 1978 Suzuki 750 parked next to me, and struck up a conversation with the guy.  It turns out he was part of a contingent of 7 bikes that came up from Monterrey Mexico for the Rally.  In my broken Spanish (one guy spoke good English) we talked about biking in Mexico and traveling places by motorcycle.  It turns out there is a strong core of riders in Mexico who ride pretty much like we all do, except they said overall we have nicer roads.  The bikers were all real nice folks.  You do meet a lot of good people with similar interests at these rallies.  I was impressed that the Mexicans were headed all the way back to Monterrey the Sunday the rally ended.  They said border crossing was no big deal. The Rally had a ride route that looped through nice Hill Country roads.  There were stops at 6 places along the way, and you dropped tickets in the buckets there.  They drew tickets Saturday night for prizes.  It was free form touring, you left when you wanted, so there were bikes all along the route for many hours.  At the stops you would run into perhaps 50 -100 other bikers, hanging out. The first stop was a road house in Sisterdale where you could get a drink or food.  While there I had to head to the Sister Creek winery for a sip and a purchase….  Then down the road to Blanco, where the stop was the Real Ale brewing company.  Real Ale is a small craft brewer that has grown a lot recently.  They make really good beer, and were giving away samples for free….. and doing brewery tours.  I had to hang out there for a while.  After that we headed to Albert, another hill country road house amongst the trees, you and 100 of your biker buddies relaxing and eating/drinking.  Then onto Fredericksburg for a similar stop.  You get the idea – cruising and stopping as you wanted.  All in all a real nice, relaxing route and a fun way to see the area. Back at the Rally grounds they had guys doing a stunt show, bike games, and a bike judging contest in the later afternoon.  Then onto a BBQ dinner that was part of the Rally fee.  More good chow and chatting.  Then music on the famous Luckenbach stage.  This night it was a ZZTop tribute band – good stuff.  Then a bit more talking over beers before hitting the sack. Then in the middle of the night the lightening started, and the thunder, then the rain.  Recall I am in tent.  Good thing it was very waterproof.  It held up great and it was not too bad overall.  By the time the roosters started crowing (for those of you who have not been there, Luckenbach is famous for its chickens hanging out with people)  the rain had diminished enough to jog over and do the cowboy breakfast again. I broke camp without getting too wet, and headed back home.  Hwy 1376 was wet and I got a bit damp, but no big deal.  Got home in about 1-1/2 hours.  But it did remind me to make sure you take the bad weather gear anytime you’re a long way from home. A good time – let’s do it next year, Scott
6. Bake Sale held on 4/23 in Bldg 77 to benefit Devine tornado victim and fellow rider Dustin Noll raised $623.00. Sandra chaired the event. She demonstrated her great baking skills as well as her salesmanship. Several other riders donated baked goods and funds to the cause.
7. New business
8. For the June ride we’ll do some bat watching at the Old Rail Road Tunnel next to the Alamo Springs Cafe, between Comfort and Fredericksburg. Patrick will advise us of the date for this ride.
9. Informative Topic of the Month - Group Riding, presented by James. This included a review and discussion on the Research Riders adopted hand signals and rules of the road. The group agreed that we should review these at the beginning of each ride.

Next month: - James will lead the discussion on “Pre-ride bike checks”.

1. Adjournment

James adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Malva Burrahm