



RBM Rally Report

Burleson Honey Tour

By Lisa Tilley

Over 875 riders made a bee line to the Burleson Honey Tour this year. The sultry air and the vision of thick green foliage around Centennial High School created a feeling of a jungle forest. As a member of several different cycling clubs, I saw fellow riders from nearly every group converging at the scene. Registration was spacious and organized. Volunteers were happy and knowledgeable. And in addition to one of the best t-shirts I've seen for a rally, volunteers were handing out "energy" honey sticks to get us charged up for the ride. This was a very popular ride, and the parking lot filled quickly as friends connected and compared notes on their latest accomplishments.

The Honey Tour organizers were diligent about talking up the ride on social websites, posting pictures of all sorts, including tree-lined roads. In most cases, it is a treat to get one tree-covered lane on a ride. Just minutes after the ride started, we found ourselves on those very roads, and to our delight, they lasted for several blocks. It was unbelievable! Cool air, dense plants, the sound of road tires and happy chatter filled the air. I stopped to take a picture and heard other cyclists commenting on how pleasant it was.

The 30 mile route to Alvarado was quiet and comfortable with a few "rollers" included for variety. Photographers seemed to position themselves on the steepest inclines. They snapped photos as they cheered us on. Neighbors were out and about, busy with their yards, quietly tending to their chores. It's always inspiring to ride by children who are watching, riding their bikes in their driveways, and waving to the hundreds of cyclists gliding past them. One group of children in a yard on a steep hill were yelling, "Race ya!" Many of us took them up on the challenge. They ran along their fence line as we powered up the incline. There was a lot



of laughter and great fun for all. I always wonder how many young cyclists will be inspired to join us in later years; after all, this is the 15th year for the Burleson Honey Tour.

The ride was Memorial Day weekend and that was never more apparent than at the Alvarado Town Square rest stop. Red, white and blue banners and flags hung like jungle canopies all over the town and the rest stop itself. Texans are ultra-patriotic. I am reminded of this during the ride, both by the townspeople and the cyclists themselves. I took a great picture of my Cannondale nestled among the flags as I munched on Fig Newton's and bananas.

The route took us around the town of Alvarado and then doubled back to Burleson. This was the first rally I have participated in that utilizes the same roads more than once for multiple routes. I laughed out loud at the sight of riders coming and going, at some points crisscrossing themselves. This is when the Guns N' Roses song "Welcome to the Jungle" entered my mind, and the foliage and humidity became a perfectly themed fit.

The final leg of the route extended for several miles on East Renfro Rd. As I settled into a strong cadence, I remembered that my event wrist band also provided entrance into the Lost Oak Winery. I also recalled that some lucky rider would win a cycling pendant valued at \$700.00 from the raffle. There was no shortage of treats on this ride. Just the chance to ride was enough for me.

No matter the route, the last miles seem the longest. East Renfro runs for miles and I kept looking for the familiar turn into the high school. It was warmer now that it was later in the morning and my hair was as wet as if I had just stepped out of the shower. I pedaled on, happy to get the miles in. May was nearly over and I wanted to supplement the miles

so June would have a nice half-way total for the year. Yes, it's an obsession-- Even if my miles are small in comparison to my club and commuting friends!

Finally the turn for the high school appeared. I noticed several other cyclists reaching for their towels first as they stepped off the bike. More conversing and nibbling on honey sticks ensued... Happy cyclists mean we'll be back!



TREK SUMMER SALE

SALE

July 12-22

RICHARDSON
1451 W. Campbell Rd.
Richardson, TX 75080
972-231-3993

DALLAS
9040 Garland Rd
Dallas, TX 75218
214-321-0705

FRISCO
8820 John Hickman Pkwy.
Frisco, TX 75035
972-335-7600

bikemart.com