

2023 Heart of Texas Daily Report – 4/29/2023

Well, the report I started got blown away. It wasn't anything earth shattering, but I was writing a couple sentences here and there and maybe it gave the feel for how the morning unfolds. Sorry. We have gremlins in this office at the Cavalry Court. Have had them every year we've been here. The lights just shut off and come back on. Different lights that weren't on, come on and other go off. It's just a thing and we've gotten used to it. We just say "Good morning" or whatever is appropriate for the time of day. I must have missed a greeting because they shut my computer off and I hadn't saved it. Oh well.

Riders were permitted to arrive as early as 7AM and 2 took advantage of that. A few sprinkled in here and there until about 10/10:30 when most arrived. There was one rider still out there when the penalty window opened. None other than the rainmaker himself, Kenneth Andrews. I (Nancy) stood out there to ensure that he was treated fairly with penalties. Kimberly Walling and Chris Hopper were there to get odds and steer the riders to the banquet hall. We stood there looking and listening for him. Oh! Here's he comes! There he goes. We were baffled. Instead of coming to us, he thought a lap around the entire hotel was in order. Cost himself an additional 4,374 points. He was 8 minutes late. Of the 51 bikes that started the 4 day, 46 came back to the Cavalry Court. Stuff just happens on the road and people don't always finish the rally.

For the 2-day, one person of the initial 11 dropped out during the rally. Of the 10 who completed, none were late. Thank you. We really do appreciate that.

Riders got through scoring with very little fanfare. Because we score constantly, it's a simple matter of printing out the score we've calculated and them reviewing it. There's a question now and then, but it's quite smooth.

Now that scoring is all done, all riders are safe and accounted for whether they are here with us or elsewhere. That's the important stuff. Nancy and Paul are working on the presentation for this evening and will begin packing up the office until next time soon. Might be fun to share a little more about the rally now that it's over. Something that we don't think a single rider noticed in the rally book is all the little Easter eggs that were hidden here and there. Things like, "Successfully claim Nassau Bay and Amsterdam and quadruple the New York completion points." In other words, if a rider was able to claim New York and successfully claimed Nassau Bay and Amsterdam, 12,812 points would be awarded instead of the published 3,203. Oops. Or my personal favorite, "You can submit a picture of your flag and the Alamo in San Antonio for each of the three Tennessee tour locations in lieu of visiting each location, but each bonus must still only be claimed during a timeframe it is allowed." So, a single photo of the Alamo, could have been submitted 3 times for each of the other sites – Tennessee Colony, Nashville, and Memphis. Not bad for 2,931 points. I'm sure folks could have easily ducked into San Antonio either early morning or some other less busy time to accomplish that while dashing around Texas. Even if a rider didn't notice this until later, the photo could have been taken with beard and sunglasses and submitted after 2AM on Saturday. Or if it were a 2-day rider, whenever since they didn't have the same restrictions. There were several other similar gems in the rally book. As far as we can tell, no one spotted any of them. Of course, we will not reveal anything about point totals or winners, places, etc until after the banquet tonight.

How about some photos. Riders had a lot of fun. As did we receiving their photos. Clearly, the old adage is true. Riders will do anything for points. I think it's been explained, but in the 4-day rally, the bonuses

were categorized and only available on certain days of the rally. But after 2AM on Saturday, all restrictions were removed (except for daylight only or time of day restrictions) So here's a selection of beard photos:









I mean, who doesn't have fun with this? I was envisioning the conversations between 2-up riders. "Is my beard on straight?" and similar. Just plain fun. I think this worked out really well to get the riders in the mood for fun at the end of the rally.

I wonder if I didn't say anything here about the Easter eggs when they'd have found them. Someone would eventually. For LDX last summer, the top ten finishers received a trophy. First place pictured George Washington, second place had John Adams, third place had Thomas Jefferson, then James Madison and so on. Several months after the rally, one of the riders posted on Facebook that his daughter asked if it was a coincidence that the finishing place matched the president's place in history and he didn't know. WHAT?!? *hangs head in shame* how did that happen? Or not happen? OF COURSE IT DOES! The theme of the rally was "Founding Fathers." Not just like George Washington, but also Rosa Parks, Susan B Anthony, and so forth. Anyone who was a founder or pioneer or innovator of something. But yes, United States presidential history was included in that.

An epilogue will be coming soon, but not sure when exactly. For now, we hope you've enjoyed following along and if you're on the edge of wanting to do a rally, talk to us. We have options for you! There's a contact us form on the Heartoftexasrally.com site and we can help steer you toward an event just right for you to join in the fun! But if you're a woman looking to join the fun, we strongly suggest the Valkyrie Moto Rally. Website is vmrally.com and registration is open! 30-hours based in Fort Smith, AR (this year). We have lots of very experienced women but lots of brand new ladies as well.

Thanks for following along. Until next time, stay safe out there.