

## 2023 Heart of Texas Daily Report – 4/26/2023

Happiest of Birthdays, Lew Ballard! Just for you, I will not name and shame you anymore. Well, not in the daily reports and in this rally. That's as good as you're gonna get. I suggest you say thank you, Ma'am. Today, it's Craig Phillips's turn. Same reason. Seriously, guys. Who goes to Texan Café & Pie Shop and doesn't get pie?!?!?!?

Riders are scattered far and wide. We keep an eye on them throughout the day and are happy to see the 48-hour folks heading to rally central. They should be arriving throughout the day today. We've had 2 drops so far in the 4-day, this isn't unusual. We're going to let these folks tell their tale if they choose. We're always sad to see folks drop, but we also accept their reasons as completely valid.

As of 9AM and getting caught up from overnight and morning submissions, we are at 573 bonuses dealt with. Probably 95% of them are super easy. It's the ones where riders do things they shouldn't or sometimes techy glitches that get time consuming. But boy does it feel good to be caught up. We hope that riders will write up reports at the end of this event so that that folks who have been following from Staff's perspective, can also see things from a rider's perspective.

We've taken to sending out a mass email periodically when we notice something riders are doing that they shouldn't or aren't following directions. We try to give folks some grace, but come on man! When we told you 44.9 is not 45 and you submit your meal break with 44.9 minutes when the requirement is 45? Last warning to all of them! Did we discuss this before? We want riders to get off their bike and go to a sit-down restaurant for a meal once a day. They can do this 5 times a day if they like, but we will only be giving points (or exponents in this case) for one time. We also give points for sleeping. While we can't know when exactly they slept, we do require they be off the bike and resting for a period of time. Minimum is 3 times @ 4 hours (not 3:59) for the rally. But they can have up to a total of 24 hours for the event. Again, they can take much more but will only get points for this amount. Submitting the sleep bonuses seemed to present a little challenge this morning and we're going to include some guidance and suggestions to have a smoother morning tomorrow.

A word about speeding. Nothing is more important to us than riders remaining safe and healthy. Hence the forementioned sleep and meal bonuses. We loathe the idea that riders would speed around trying to get from here to there. It's not necessary and it's unsafe. We don't tolerate it. As such, Paul has developed a really cool system to keep track of their speed and compare it to the speed limit in the area they are located. It's not perfect, but it's quite good and we review each hit to see if it's possible that it's not really as bad as it appears. As an example, if a rider is on a road with a high limit, say 70, but it periodically goes through a small town with a quick drop off to 25 in town and quick ramp up back up to 70 in the other side of town. If the rider's spot pings while in the town, we might see a speed of 68 in a 25. That would be really bad. But then Paul reviews the specifics of each case to see if it's plausible that it's a false hit. If it's NOT a false hit and we decide someone is engaged in unacceptable speeding, they will be penalized. As we often say, the punishment will fit the crime. We aren't going to give a specific definition or penalty. Each case will be handled based on the specifics. Speed and deal with the consequences when you're caught. Don't like consequences? Don't speed. Period. There is one rider who has received consequences, another who got a stern warning and several who have been told they are being watched vewy vewy cwooswy.

We are looking forward to sharing more about the rally theme and some rider photos, but we need to wait until the 2-day folks have been appropriately read in. That meeting will be tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 5:30. Followed by rider planning and an open Zoom meeting for their questions. We'll head out as a group for the odo check to a nearby lunch spot to ensure the riders have the opportunity to head out with a fully belly. They'll be dismissed after odo readings at 2PM. For now, a couple pics from the start. "Happy Riders" courtesy of Nancy, the rest from Annette Ure, Cory's lovely wife and Sam, Annette's charming sister.

Happy Riders at the start Tuesday



Big Daddy preparing to release riders Tuesday



Final Riders' Meeting prior to 4-day start