

2023 Heart of Texas Daily Report – 4/27/2023

Okay, a moment to catch our breath. Another early morning meeting, this time with the 48-hour riders. Eleven of them in total. More than we typically have for the 'short' rally, but that's good! Everyone was read in on the event theme and bonus structure, little practice on the app and they're off to plan their ride for the next 2 days. We'll get them all off on their odo course from the host hotel to a lunch spot nearby. We'll have lunch together and send them off for some fun in the sun, er, rain? Well, weather of whatever sort they find.

As of 9:30AM, we have scored over 1200 bonuses. That's a lot. Especially with only one scorer. It gets overwhelming sometimes but feels so good to get caught up. The riders are really starting to get in the groove. Far less mistakes than we had early on. I'm sure there will be a little learning curve with the 11 folks new to the game as they get going, but that's okay, we're used to dealing with this at this point.

Oh, so you're wanting to know the theme? Well, where do I even begin? Okay, so this evolved as a concept where there are a lot of towns in Texas that are named after somewhere else. Paris, London, Nashville, Victoria, etc. So Paul got to thinking about that as a rally. Then realized that that ZZ Top, that little ol' band from Texas, had a tour in the 70's called the World Wide Texas Tour. And a rally was born. There are various categories of bonuses. The categories include Municipalities, States, Capitals, Foreign Capitals, Countries, Foreign Regions/States, and Planets. For the 4-day riders, certain categories are only available on certain days (or a window really, a "day" in this rally is noon – noon). Within this structure, there are "Tours" which are essentially combo bonuses in the sense that all rally riders know. You successfully claim a specified group of bonuses to obtain additional points.

In this event, as an example, the New Jersey Tour contains 4 locations – Jersey Village (69 pts), Trenton (194 pts), Newark (177 pts), and Princeton (177 pts). Newark and Princeton were available on the first day as they are municipalities in the state. Trenton, the capital of NJ, is available on the second day of the rally. Jersey Village, with a little artistic license, is the state and so only available on the third day of the rally. If a rider successfully claims all four of these, 617 points would be awarded. But since all of the tour locations were awarded, the rider would also receive the tour bonus of 1495 points.

Another example is the Saudi Arabia Tour, it is worth 29 points. There is only one location on this tour, Mecca, which is also worth 29 points. If a rider successfully claims Mecca, 58 total points will be awarded. There are several single location tours on the rally, which makes the minimum effort for 4-day riders very attainable – 16 total tours.

There are also planets in this rally available after noon on Friday, the last "day" of the rally. Each planet is its own tour, but they don't have tour points as well like the other states and countries do. But they have a different kind of multiplier.

BUT! What good rally doesn't have a but...? The 4-day riders were given a ZZ Top style beard in their rallypack as well as sunglasses. If they don these items, they may take a selfie (including their flag) and the object of interest to get any bonus from a prior window after 2AM on Saturday, the last 10 hours of the rally.

The 2-day riders didn't have the restrictions, nor the wildcard beard/sunglasses deal. And they need eight tours successfully claimed. As mentioned previously, this shouldn't be very difficult to do. Obviously, if

the rider works a little harder to maximize points, they will be rewarded with an improved finishing position. But if the rider simply wants to have a fun time with a little challenge, get your 8 and go have fun.

Staff is about to get the 2-day riders out on their odo check to Sodolak's Original Country Inn in Snook, TX. We'll gather there and have lunch together before sending this batch of riders out into the wilds of Texas to add to the entertainment Paul and Nancy get from this.

I'll tell some funny stories when we get back from rider stuff. We definitely have some fun!

Okay, 2 day group got out of Snook, no issues. They're out there doing what riders do.

So, a couple stories:

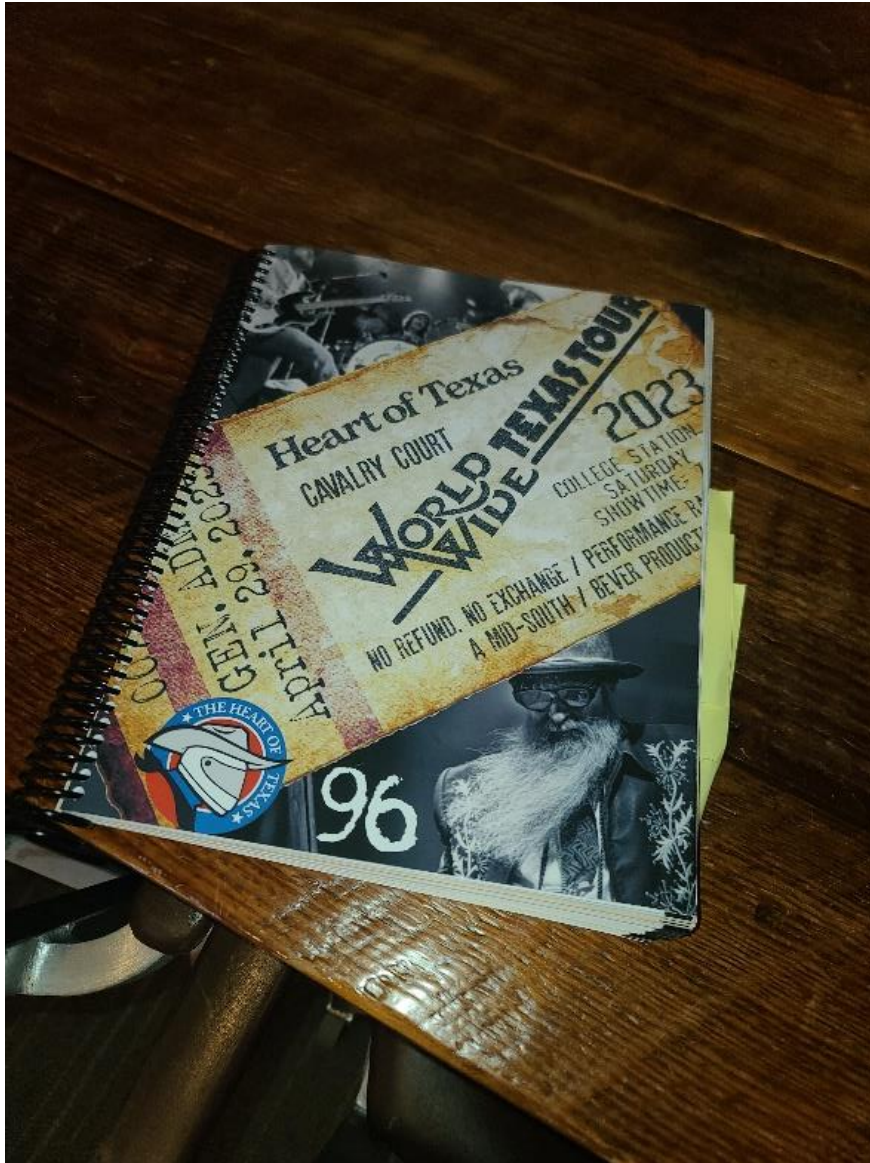
Mike Kozicki (AKA Special K 2) texted Nancy at lunch to ask what to do about a "dangerous situation." Of course, this prompted an immediate phone call. "Well, see, I can't approach Tokio Store because there's a vicious pack of dogs wanting to tear me limb from limb. My life is in danger." "Okay, so can you see the bonus from where you are? Can you just take the shot there from safety?" "Yes." Problem solved. Thirty minutes later, one of the 2-day rider, Jeff Konicek, submitted this photo.



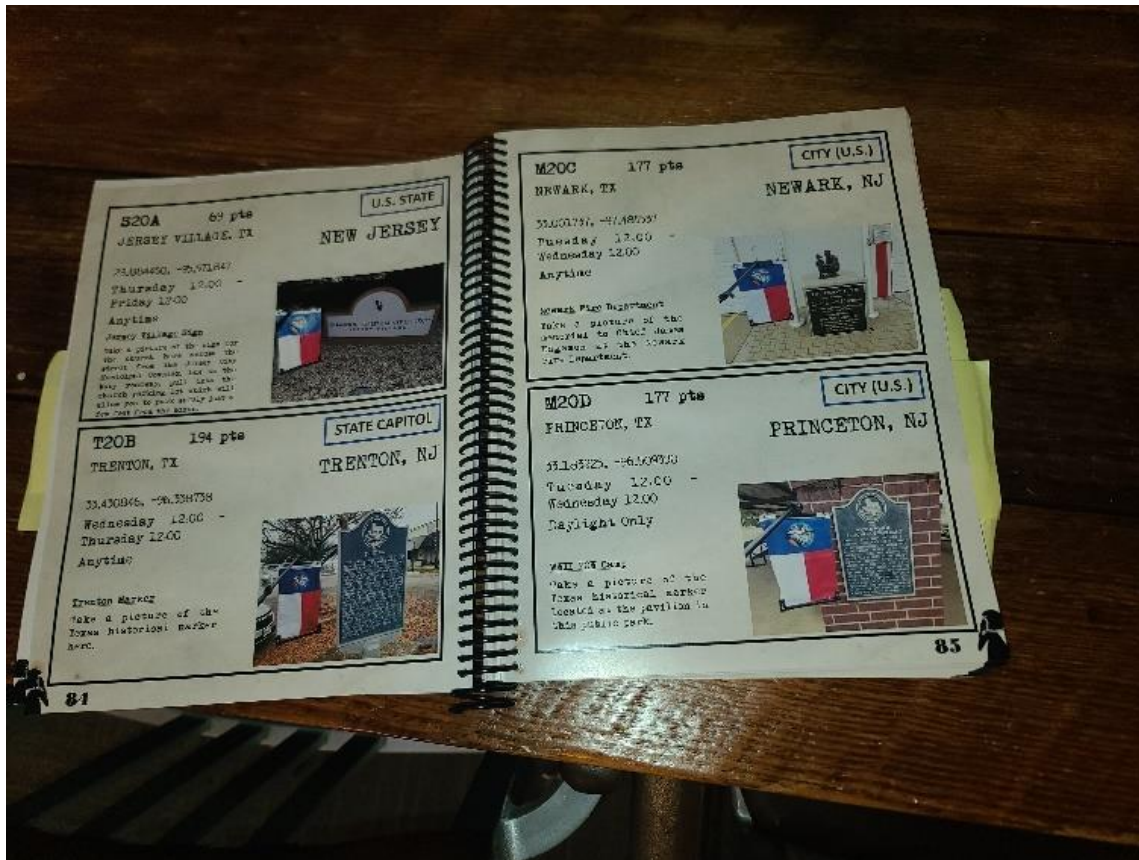
Oh my goodness! That dog looks hella vicious!

We stress to riders that they should NEVER touch or move a found flag for another rider. That rider may realize the error and come back for it only to find it gone. That's never fun. So when Bryan Bailey and Marissa Scott got to Utopia today, they found Rider #31's flag there (Don Duck). Luckily, Don was in the rally approved restaurant across the street and was told of his flag's location for easy retrieval. Nice job, Bryan and Marissa. You saved Don a lot of aggravation, no doubt.

Oh, would you like to see the rallybook?



4-day book – 2-day is very similar, but enough differences to have a separate book



Here's the detail for each of the NJ locations. You can see the S for State, T for Capital, M for Municipality

We are going to stop here for today. Will discuss more tomorrow. Just super busy with staying on top of the riders and getting the new batch going and now processing their submissions too. We're thrilled to share the event with you, just need to make the riders our first priority, we're sure you understand.