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RUBBER SIDE DOWN

Hill Country Travels

We have been traveling our butts off, almost to the point of insanity. We have been to Dallas and back, to Llano for the 1st Annual Hawgs-n-Hills Rally and to Fredericksburg with a group of friends to check out the Hill Country Run.

Anybody that rides knows that you can find great riding roads in the Texas Hill Country. But there is also lots of other great stuff to do. To start with, somehow we managed to go to Llano and stayed in Fredericksburg (*all the rooms were sold for the rally*) and then the next weekend we went to Fredericksburg and stayed in Llano (*because we have cool friends with a house on the lake*). Needless to say, we rode Highway 16 (*a great riding road between Llano and Fredericksburg*) often over the course of two weekends!

The Hawgs-n-Hills rally in Llano was really well done! We have been to 5+ years of rallies that weren't this good, so this rally is definitely a must-do for next year! We won't spoil it for you this year!

Llano also has some groovy shopping, even for the guys. You can check out the Gridiron Gallery, just a block off the beaten path and visit with Jack Moss – football coach turned artist. He has some really phenomenal work and he does it right there in the gallery. None of this let's-put-on-a-front kind of business in the front of the gallery and a mess in the back. Nope, he has his works-in-progress right there on display and works on it while he talks to you. You can get a sneak peek at his works at galleriesofllano.com.

Of course anytime you are even in the vicinity of Fredericksburg and you have women in your group, shopping is a top priority, but guys don't despair ... just go to Luckenbach! If you have never been to Luckenbach, this is another must-do. This is the land where "everybody is somebody" and the only place where the post office, the general store and the local tavern are one in the same. Not to mention that the Mayor serves the beer! The short ride there and back from Fredericksburg ain't bad ridin' either!

We learned something interesting about the Hill Country Run – namely that we are not very observant. It is called the "Hill Country RUN" (*not rally*) for a reason. We went to check it out, and at first, we were really disappointed at the size of the rally, but then as we started talking to vendors, we realized that the real treasure in this rally is the organized run they do on all those great riding roads in the Hill Country and the Cowboy breakfast that kicks everything off. So...note to self for next year: Eat breakfast with the cowboys and go on the RUN!

Another cool little side trip you can take when you're down in these parts is the Willow City Loop. It is a side trip off Hwy 16 and it is just beautiful! We went thru when the wildflowers were in bloom and – you just have to see it to know what we are talking about. It's a loop, so it starts and ends on Hwy 16, but here's a little tip: Start on the road closest to Fredericksburg and come out on the road closer to Llano. You will go thru the city of Willow before you actually get on the Loop, but there are signs that direct you the whole way, so you really would have to be not-so-bright to get lost.

So that's a wrap for our Hill Country travels, or at least all we're going to share here. You can glimpse a few more details at our travel blog site, www.pigletpaper.com.

There is one more thing, totally unrelated to our travels, that we would be remiss if we didn't share. There is a biker friendly coffee-house coming online in June called *Manhattan CoffeeHouse* and it's situated in the big city of Snyder, TX – right there on the square. It would make for a great day trip!

Well, you know what to do until next time...Keep the rubber side down and have fun rally-ing!

Rally Snapshot: Looking Ahead

June 22-24 Wet-N-Wild Rally (*Lake Tawakoni*)
www.wetnwildrally.com

July 13-15 Fire on the Plains Rally (*Levelland*)
www.fireontheplains.com

July 20-22 Blackgold Rally (*Goldsmith*)
www.blackgoldrally.com

August 19 Ride for Dime (*Arlington*)
www.ridefordime.com

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