

THE RACING POST

for Cycling Enthusiasts

August 2010

Vol. 10, No. 8

 HOTTER'N HELL HUNDRED

Wichita Falls Heats Up for Hotter'n Hell Hundred

August 27th-29th

Junior Spotlight Caleb Welborn

Free
Take One

Plan Your Road Trip
Calendar
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THE RACING POST

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THE RACING POST encourages cyclists and other readers of the publication to submit letters, stories and reports. We reserve the right to refuse to print any submission not deemed in the best interest of the cycling community. We don't do the latest gossip or scandal. Articles submitted for publication should be in MS Word format. Do not expect to get paid - this is a free publication after all. If you become a regular, there are some benefits.

All submissions are subject to review by the editorial committee, which could consist of the other guy who gets dropped on the Saturday morning ride, either of my 8 o'clock classes, and whoever I happen to be with on the phone at the time. Baggins has the deciding vote. We retain the right to edit anything - especially when it's a question of space. Sometimes we can't send it back to you for approval - our time lines change moment to moment with paid advertising. If the above doesn't fit into your ideas about submission, please don't.

Letters and/or guest articles appearing in THE RACING POST are the sole opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of THE RACING POST staff.

Our world revolves around on-time issues. Therefore everything (stories and advertising) should be in THE RACING POST's office no later than the 15th of the month. Call as early as possible with problems or issues - if we know about it, we can usually work with you.

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On The Cover: The start of the Hotter'n Hell Hundred 2009.
HHH suggests you Start Smart

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Bear!!!

By Stanley Ford

I've always had a thing about seeing bears in the wild but have never done it. My wife & I went to Alaska a few years ago. Never saw a bear. When I mountain bike, if there's a burnt tree stump off to the side I always think, "Bear!!!" but it never is. As I was mountain biking alone on the Womble Trail in remote central Arkansas this summer, I was glancing at all the stumps that didn't turn out to be bears and thought, "I know there are bears in these woods. It's weird that there can be so much wildlife around that we never get a glimpse of."

About 5 miles from the end of the 40 mile ride there was a mass of black in the trail ahead. I thought, "Bear!!!" but before the thought could

become completely formed, it changed to, "Oh sh*t, it IS a bear!" It was huge - about 30 feet away from me walking across the trail slowly. My only real option was to stop and get still. I was trying to stop as quietly as possible, but the moment I applied my brake, the slight noise it made got her attention. She glanced at me, then shot away in the opposite direction. The sound from her running was like a horse galloping, only louder and much deeper. She was incredibly fast. Within a second or two she was out of sight.

As the crisis evaporated with the vanishing bear, a grin spread over my face. I floated up the climb to where the trail overlooks the Ouachita River, still watching and listening for the bear. What a day.



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