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# HOUSTON AREA TANDEM SOCIETY HATS

AUGUST 2011 NEWLETTER

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## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BIKE TO BUILD – CHARITY RIDE

8:30AM SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

10 AND 20 MILE OPTIONS FROM DISCOVERY  
GREEN.

\$25 FEE

POST RIDE PARTY WITH FOOD AND  
REFRESHMENTS

<http://www.houstonhabitat.org/bike>

## Top Hats

Stephen and Janet Bain

**MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00 per couple**

If you haven't paid your membership dues please  
contact Jim and Ruth Fleshman  
[fleshmanrj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fleshmanrj@sbcglobal.net)

**CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 18, 2011**

We are looking for someone to plan the Christmas  
party. If you are interested please contact us.

[Bainsj@ATT.net](mailto:Bainsj@ATT.net).

## JERSEY'S

Neither Janet nor I have HATS jerseys, only the wind  
vests we purchased some number of years ago. How  
many members are in need of or would like new  
jerseys? Let Janet or I know at [Bainsj@ATT.net](mailto:Bainsj@ATT.net) if  
you are interested so that we can gauge current  
interest.

The Oktoberfest Weekend in Fredericksburg this year  
is Friday Sept 30 and Saturday & Sunday Oct 01 &  
02. Hugh and Becky are happy to lead rides that  
weekend if anyone wants to drive to the Hill Country.  
They have offered to accommodate upto 2 tandem  
teams at their house...otherwise you should plan to  
make plans for accommodations soon because every  
hotel room will be sold that weekend.

If anyone has information on the September TROLS  
ride, let me know and I'll post in the next newsletter.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## NEXT RIDE – SEPTEMBER 30 THRU OCTOBER 2

The next scheduled ride is the Fredericksburg Oktoberfest hosted by Hugh and Becky Reeves. Contact Hugh and Becky at [seveer@prodigy.net](mailto:seveer@prodigy.net) with your RSVP.

## HATS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST – OPEN

SEPTEMBER 16 – 18<sup>TH</sup> - TROLS GREAT ADVENTURE ??????????????

SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – BIKE TO BUILD – HOUSTON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY : DISCOVER GREEN

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1-2<sup>ND</sup> : FREDERICKSBURG: OKTOBERFEST: REEVES

OCTOBER 22 (TENTATIVE)- BRENHAM: OKTOBERFEST: MOORMANS

NOVEMBER- OPEN

DECEMBER- COLVIN/JOHNSON - CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RIDE

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – HATS CHRISTMAS PARTY

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# Riverhaven July 2011

As recalled by Reggie Bowers

This year's Summer Riverhaven ride was Saturday, July 23. But because of the heat, it was designated as a "ride optional" event this year. And as it turned out, more folks chose the "optional" part than the "ride" part. Regardless of their inclination, I did not hear anyone say they had less than a great time. Attendees are listed below:

Mike and Susan Mahoney (hosts)  
Roger and Marcia McBride  
Ken and Kim Weigel  
Jim and Ruth Fleshman  
Robert and Nikki Archambeault  
Simon and Nathalie White with son Christopher and his friend Jackson  
Alan and Debbie Currie  
Stephen and Janet Bain  
Reggie and Linda Bowers

Coming from Longview, Linda and I picked up Mike on our way through Houston so the Mahoneys would only have one car at the river (Susan had left earlier that morning to spruce up the grounds). When we arrived, Susan had the Husky rider in high gear and was cutting what little grass that had enough water to grow.

So Mike, Linda, and I walked over to admire the Mahoney's brand new boat ramp and then set about launching their boat. The river was really low and Mike kept backing the trailer trying to get enough water under the boat. All of a sudden, the trailer dropped as the wheels rolled off the end of the submerged ramp. Oops! The good news ... the boat easily came off the trailer now. But the bad news ... the Explorer wouldn't pull the trailer back onto the ramp. A below-surface inspection revealed that the fronts of the trailer fenders were resting on the edge of the concrete ramp and the wheels were free to spin in the water. But true to form, Mike immediately had a plan. He backed the boat over the back of the submerged trailer, dove down and tied ropes between the corners of the boat and the corners of the trailer. Then we alternately hoisted each corner of the trailer until it was suspended under the boat. Susan (who had finally stopped wasting gas and come over to help) then easily pulled the trailer wheels back onto the ramp (and made a note of where to stop the Explorer on subsequent launches!). The efforts that the Mahoneys put into these weekends are often not fully appreciated! By the time the McBrides arrived later that afternoon, the boat was dutifully moored in its slip and all traces of the incident had been expunged.

Jim and Ruth Fleshman arrived early Saturday so that Jim could join Mike, Roger, and me on an early morning singles ride. All of our stokers had seen the weather report and wisely opted to find something cooler to do. The four of us would not be deterred but did make the concession to start early at 7am to beat the heat. Shortly after leaving, when the sweat began dripping on my sunglasses, I realized that we probably should have started earlier still ... like about April! In spite of the heat and the oppressive humidity, it turned out to be a great ride. There are many

reasons that I enjoy rides in other areas away from home ... a different ride group, change of terrain, new scenery, etc. But the change that always seems to intrigue me the most is the variation in roadkill. Once in Fredericksburg, Mike and I came upon a dead porcupine of all things. How often does that happen! Well this ride will forevermore be remembered as the dead gator ride. Yup. We were riding along east of Sweeny in a marvelous paceline where I'm sure we resembled the Tour de France navigating a roundabout. Some went left, some went right, but as we regrouped on the far side, we weren't quite sure we wanted to believe our eyes. He wasn't huge, maybe a foot or a little more ... probably somebody's pet that got away. Surely there are no great big momma gators in the San Bernard River! Regardless, I hosed off with the garden hose when we got back instead of jumping in the river like I had originally planned.

Alan and Debbie Currie had arrived at the riverhouse while we were still out and they left for a tandem ride on their own. They got caught in a little rain shower but I doubt the rain got them any wetter than they already were. Upon returning, Alan (who hadn't seen the gator) cooled off in the river while the Mahoneys' labs, Lacey and Holly, took turns leaping off the dock into the water.

The remainder of the crowd arrived throughout the morning, and by the time the riders had cleaned up, lunch preparations were well under way. As always, there was plenty to eat and it was quite good as well, but the desserts deserve special commendation. There were two kinds of cheesecake (raspberry and blueberry), Nikki's delectable chocolate pecan balls, Janet's carrot cake, and Mike's homemade peppermint ice cream. And although technically not an actual dessert, Marcia made an outstanding blueberry salad that could have easily been classified as one. The afternoon consisted of boat rides (Christopher learned to kneeboard), visiting, and just catching up on everyone's recent and prospective activities. It was a very enjoyable day, but eventually the crowd began to thin as folks had to begin their journey home. But three lucky couples (McBrides, Weigels, and Bowers) got special dispensation because of the extent of their drive and were invited to spend the night.

That evening we decided to go out to dinner at the old lumberyard in West Columbia, a.k.a. the Baytown Seafood Restaurant. Since they live so close (Angleton), the Archambeaults were able to join us. It was quite good. Linda said that the coconut shrimp with pina colada sauce was the best she had ever had.

The next morning, the Mahoneys and Weigels, who apparently couldn't get enough of the heat, went for one last tandem ride. Like us, the McBrides used the time to pack up, clean up, and load up for the long drive home. When the riders got back, we exchanged sweaty "good-bye" hugs and parted ways still wallowing in the memory of a great weekend!