

NOTES FROM THE 2011 OATBRAN MOCHELLA:

Monday, September 26, 2011

I, Rene' had the honor to bring the Mochella to the top of Spooner. The day is just Beautiful, about 50F. A little breeze just right for a bike ride. Here at Spooner, passing it on to Big Bill. Rene' Linares – There will be Oatbran 2012.

Well Big Bill didn't wait for me. sSo I have it to Carson and will be handing it to somebody. It was a fast downhill to Carson. Whew!
Later, Rene'

Though on Horseback, not my Titanium Steed, the Wind I caught from Carson City to Fallon... Today the Mail was on Time. Bill Jenkins

Dayton to Lunch Stop (1st day)

Yea Baby! Bill, Jenkins, Rene' (Bill Sagging) Me & Leonard... Sweet Draft line, visits from Norm & Cal along the way – perfect weather – could have used a little more tail wind & Less Head Wind...

Last stop to Fallon:

It was a thoughtful 10 miles. Since I was 30, I've been running or biking with Bill Jenkins & Mike Cruddas. To say we've been thru a lot... 3 years ago, I almost died on a ride. With out Bill & Mike, I'd be dead. Now, I'm watching them go through their traumas... it's not fun. If I could, I'd make the well. I can't, so I have to accept and hope for the best. Bill Bahn

Tuesday, September 27, 2011:

Beautiful Morning... Light Breeze from Fallon to Sand Mountain. 4th into Aid Station. Sucked Mike's Wheel all the way.
Break! Refuel! Great Stop. Carol Nicholson

Rider: Jeff "Sore-Ass" Maples Segment: Sand Mountain to Middle Gate.

Like the Pony Express Rider of the Old West, I was a Lone Rider on this one. Just me... The Bike and some Awesome scenery. This is the Nevada I Love. Great Ride. Thank you Curtis & Crew. Jeff Maples

Middlegate to Cold Springs:

This was a good section to see. Trees in the desert, wild horses and planes "dog fighting". I want to give my thanks to Andy for helping me today. I woke up sick and his encouragement has meant me making today's ride. Dave Nevin

Day 3 "The Longest Day" – Fallon to Austin (113 miles)

- nerve wracking departure trying to stay on the one foot of pavement, right of the Rumble Strip. Looking directly into the sun with heavy traffic.
- * BUT, the day got much better after 6 miles.

- Sand Mountain was georgeous in the morning sun.
- Old Milldgate was unique with it autographed dollar bills taped to the ceiling (couldn't find mine I put up 2 years ago) And, great support for the Rest Stop.
- Great Lunch / Rest Stop at Cold Springs and a Great Tailwind leaving.
- Pickjed up the bag at New Pass Summit Rest Stop and carried it to Austin
- At the bottom of the valley between New Pass and Asustin saw large sings on both side of the road identifying "The Original Pony Express Trail" – Very appropriate while carrying the bag.
- Ausin was a welcome sight, even if it was uphill.

p.s. Road into Fallon the previou day was great – 9 miles of even surface radway with 8-10" of shoulder (and the sun behind us). Roger Olpin

Wednesday, September 28, 2011:

Austin to Hwy 376 intersection. Awesome fall Nevada Morning. New Slurry Seal Road surface is great. IF only the Pony Espresso riders would have had the Oatbran Crew for Support. Blain Meissner

10:00am Hwy 376 to Hickison Summit. Good Ride. No Flats or Blowouts today! Smooth surfaced road. Easy Day compared to yesterday's brutal 113 miles. Ron Guidotti

Hickison Summit to Rest Stop – Mile 38.
Excellent – Great Ride & Surface Condition. Great view of Mtns on the right side

Austin to Eureka – Wed 28 Sept 2011 – NO Problems. John Schwaner

Day 3 – Lunch Stop to Rest Stop
We hit the traffic construction perfect. Got waved thru. No waiting. Ran a 3-man paceline thru the Valley. Awesome Day!!!

In this time of Twitter & instant communication, I think about how precious a letter must have been on the back of a sweaty pony and hard rider. Maybe we lost something in the digital world. Leonard Sloomaker

In my Bucket of Life, I had a "I WISH". It was to ride my bike across the State of Nevada. Thanks Oatbran for turning my "I WISH" into a "I'M GLAD". It was a Beautiful, Peaceful and Awesome Ride. My Bucket is a little lighter. Andy (Kachoo) Kachurak.

Thursday, September 29, 2011:

Eureka to Pancake Summit. Beautiful morning. Fast Trip across the Valley thanks to Bill who put us in a spot of bother.

Carried the Mochella from Pancake Summit to Ely with my recumbent bike. I was able to outrun all the Indians trying to intercept the mail! IMO, this is the BEST day of Oatbran! I'm proud to have carried the Bag on my 11th Oatbran. Jim Giles

Friday, September 30, 2011:

Not sure what happened on this morning as riders headed out way before start time. As mentioned as the week goes by day after day, riders get stronger and just want to get on their bikes and ride. I think this was the feeling this morning as everyone wanted to Complete the ride across Hwy 50.

Carroll Summit Rest stop to Wheeler Peak

I was glad to have another chance to carry the Pony Express Bag. I wanted to carry it up Sacramento Pass. In 2001, I was very sick by the 5th day – Altitude Sickness, dehydration and tired. Halfway up the Pass there is a Ranch with large cottownwood trees that provide shade to the passer-bys. I spent about 5 minutes with the dry heaves, then layed down in the shade for quite a while. On the next 10 rides I have always stopped there to remember that first Oatbran. Today, I road up to Wheeler Peak. WOW, What a Route! As I got higher there was many Thunder Heads and a few lightning strikes in the distance. Above 8,000 feet, itn began to rain hard with partially frozen rain, plus very gusty winds. I made it to the 10,000 feet elevation sign, very cold – the Temperaure was about 45F. On the downhill, I had to keep m speed below 20mph because I was shivering so much I could not control the bike.

Curtis had allowed Arnold & Dawn to watch over the riders attempting the ride and they gave me a thick fleece jacket to wear. That helped immensely to keep me warmer. Even though, I was constantly shivering, I had time to appreciate the fresh smell of the wet desert foliage and the intensity of the Aspen colors.

This is a GREAT TOUR! Good Support, Friendly Staff, and Great Organization. Plus, lots of enjoyable friends to chum with. Jim Giles

Other notes found in the Mochella:

OATBRAN has been the high point of my bicycling year for the past 11 years. The scenery is great and the support is even greater! It's like a Great, Friendly, Family Reunion. You make good friends even though you see them only once a year. Jim Giles

2011 OATBRAN

Thoughts & Comments from Jeff Maples:

Excellent Event!

Great Support!

Good Group!

Beautiful Scenery!

It was all Awesome!

Hope you continue to do this ride in the future. A little more info ahead of the ride might be good. No other suggestions. Thank You!

This has been the most challenging ride that I have done but it was also very rewarding. Riding abilities of all participants were comparable and there was a strong sense of camaraderie often missing on many tours. It was a unique and fulfilling memorable experience. Ron Guidotti, Minden, NV

OATBRAN 2011

Great Weather

Great Group

Really Great Support (and organization)

All made the journey so very enjoyable! A Great Adventure.

Roger Olpin

p.s. Thanks for the gluten free meal alternatives consideration.

Roger Olpin