

**Not smiling causes soul sucking!**

This weeks ride was a cautionary tale of what can happen to someone if you don't smile. See what you miss if you can't make it out? Read on...

**What we did last week:**

Saturday's ride to the Gristmill started cold but ended up a pretty nice ride for our little group of 13 on 12 bikes. The lack of wind helped and the only distractions on River Road were some fly fishing folk. I led and Ismael "Smiley" Lara was sweep. We had Gary "Kick It" Sitler and Frank "Comeback" Deyo in the center as stand-by road captains if we got split up. Thanks Smiley for dealing with the horror that is I-35 as sweep! Once there, we took in the ambiance of Gruene and enjoyed some gi-normous onion rings and good food. Its pretty hard to get bad food at the Gristmill and the wait staff was... interesting. According to our waitress, every time she looked at Frank, a little piece of her soul was sucked out. That's a quote, to his face no less! I'm starting to wonder if "Soul Sucker" might be a better road name. So please, smile. It's too late for Frank.

Sunday's LOH brunch at Milano Cafe happened, but I haven't heard anything from those that attended. The lack of info is suspicious. I wonder what goes on at those LOH events. Just kidding. I'm sure Eva will have something posted on the chapter's Facebook page and pictures posted in the member only section soon.

**What's coming up this week:**

Tuesday, Feb 28th - Officer meeting at Caliente at 6:30pm  
(Note, this is an open meeting for all members)

Thursday, Mar 1st - Chapter Social at 6:30pm  
Location - Fuddruckers at 7230 NW Loop 410

Saturday, Mar 3rd - at Caliente:  
- Road Captain meeting at 8:30am  
- New member orientation at 9:30am  
- New member ride at 11:00am (modified Medina Loop)  
- Chapter fundraiser 11:00am - 4:00pm

**Other news:**

Don't forget about our overnight ride to Sonora Mar 31st - Apr 1st. Our group room rate is \$69.99 plus tax for the night and cave tour group rate of \$16 per person. If you are planning on going, please **RSVP Gary "Kick It" Sitler** at [gsitlr@satx.rr.com](mailto:gsitlr@satx.rr.com) **no later than Tue, Mar 13th**. We have at least 1, possibly 2, vehicles following to carry overnight bags and a few extra passengers for those that want to go but not ride.

Pete (Caliente's Rental Manager) reminded me he's putting together another advanced rider's course soon. If you are interested in polishing your riding skills, please call Caliente ([210.681.2254](tel:210.681.2254)) and let Pete know so he can put you on the list. He'll schedule the course dates when he has enough people on his list.

A quick word from our Safety Officer Kick It: Are you checking THEIR blind spot? Checking our own is second nature but how often do you consider the other drivers blind spot as you ride up on them? With all the activities, makeup, cell phone, fiddling with the tunes, etc, drivers are more distracted than ever. If you're following, get their attention by moving your lane position from center to left or visa-versa. During daylight hours, use auxiliary lighting or your high-beam. Ultimately, it comes down to you for ensuring you are seen.

Lots of meetings and events for us this week. See ya there.

**Squirrel Out**