

It's All About the Hill Country!

Riding the Hill Country

By: Lisa Grissom and Ronn Reeger

Meandering our way from West Texas to the Hill Country in anticipation of motorcycle highs, we followed this route that left us thrilled beyond description. It has been said that information allows you to understand, but to really "know" you must experience it yourself.

On TX-55, about 22 miles outside of Sonora, we traveled some 33 miles southeast to Rocksprings passing some beautiful ranch land along the way. As we approached Rocksprings, we found out, presumably, how it got its name as the rocks do appear to start bubbling up through the earth as you get closer to town.

From Rocksprings, we headed northeast out of Rocksprings on US-377 (Trans Pecos Trail) for about 8 miles, until we took a left on TX-41 for around 4-1/2 miles to meet up with RR-335. From there we went south toward Camp Wood.

We discovered a deep breath would have been helpful as we started down RR-335! The ride is like a roller coaster with awesome views along the narrow road that climbs and winds its way south, sometimes following Bullhead Creek. After about 23 miles, we met up with TX-55 again for the final five into Camp Wood.

After a brief stop to dissect our thoughts, and catch our breath, we started off east on RR-337 towards Leakey, Vanderpool, then Medina – another ride that takes you up and down mountain sides, complete with tight curves and blind corners. At one moment, you are deep in the valley, the next, overlooking the countryside while maneuvering a tight, climbing, mountain switchback.

From Medina, we went north on TX-16 for the seemingly calm ride into Kerrville only to be reminded that we were still in awesome riding country as TX-16, in all its glory, made us proud to be motorcyclists!

To really experience this journey, here are a few of the "you won't want to miss 'em" spots along this route: Frio Canyon Motorcycle Shop and Leakey Mercantile in Leakey, Motorcycle Museum and Lost Maples General Store in Vanderpool, and Koyote Ranch and Hill Country Resort outside of Medina.

Hill Country Faves

While we head to the Texas Hill Country for ROT Rally, 6th Street, and great rides, we asked our readers where their favorite places are...Here's what YOU said...

Eat

Cooper's BBQ in Llano
Bluebonnet Cafe in Marble Falls
Vinny's Italian Restaurant in Leakey

Sleep

D'Rose Inn & Cabins in Leakey
Koyote Ranch n Medina
Marriott in Horseshoe Bay

Drink

Luckenbach
11th Street Cowboy Bar in Bandera
Ironhorse in Blanco
Buddies's Bar in Johnson City
Angel's Icehouse in Spicewood

Ride

The "Three Sisters" (335,336 & 337)
Willow City Loop
281 to 290 to Luckenbach, 16 to Llano
Most any road with four numbers!

Biker Lands Luckenbach

Bo Porter may already be a familiar name to some of you. He is already playing the premiere clubs around Austin like The Saxon Pub, Hills Café, The Continental Club and more... Now he'll be taking up one Friday night Every Month in Luckenbach Texas.



If you've ever seen Bo you first impression is biker; and you would be right. He's been riding or driving just about anything with wheels and an engine since he was 5. Bo and his wife bought the Yamaha Virago they still own

shortly after moving to the Lake Travis area about year ago. Since then Bo has picked up a generous sponsor who allows him to ride a 2007 Heritage Softail while he's out promoting his band. Beautiful ride provided by Global Dehumidification Systems, Inc. or GDSI.

Many of you know Luckenbach is a great biker friendly destination, and what's better after a long ride than stretching a little. Dancing, wiggling, gyrating and toe tapping can't be helped anyway. You could even shake a leg with your lady friends, no charge. All of Bo's shows at Luckenbach are open (No Cover Charge) so everyone has access to the dance hall.

Along with Luckenbach Porter & his band the Dixie Rockits frequently play many biker friendly venues. Riverside bar and grill in Blanco is another upcoming event that will reward you with a beautiful riverfront



deck to party on while you rock out to the best countrybilly honky tonk horsepowered show you've seen in a while.

You can find more information about Bo Porter, his sponsors, more gig dates, pictures etc. on his website www.BoPorter.com.

And the State of Texas Says...

In addition to Reader Favorites – the Travel Texas Guide (TravelTex.com) also offers the following wisdom about visiting the area:

Welcome to the heart of the Lone Star State—the Hill Country region. Here, you're not only in the middle of Texas, but you're also at the center of everything Texas has to offer. You'll find beauty all around you. The Hill Country is home to rolling hills that dominate the region, a breathtaking display of wildflowers found along roadsides in springtime, year-round lush green landscapes and plenty of splendid lakes and rivers beckoning you to take a dip or cast your line.

The region is also filled with heritage and historical museums, amazing underground caverns, historic structures providing a glimpse into the lives of early Texas settlers, wineries offering tours of their vineyards and wine-making facilities, wildflower and nature attractions, dude ranches that allow guests to relax or have a true cowboy experience, and plenty of venues to enjoy some quintessential Hill Country cuisine and music.

