



# Rough! Tough! Real Stuff!

Volume 3, Issue 3

February '08

## HOWDY!

### Captain's Log

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Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. Another legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure.<sup>1</sup> So, what does this have to do with a cycling team? Simple, the characteristics of this figure are ones that our riders also exhibit - sympathy and heroism. Each rider is a hero to someone who is unable to ride. Each time we pass those signs along the road that say "Thank you for riding for me" we feel that indication of sympathy - compassion. So, it's only natural that with the focus being on St. Valentine this month - that we focus on the mission of the MSI50 rides.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

#### Calling All Ride Marshals!

If you plan to be a Ride Marshal for the BP MSI50, let us know!

#### 2008 BP MSI50

Save the Date!  
April 12-13, 2008.  
One week earlier!

#### 2008 Sam's Club MSI50

Save the Date!  
May 3-4, 2008.

<http://dallas.msi50.org/dallas/>

"MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't." That is the mission of the Society and of the MSI50 bike rides. We, as individual riders and as a team, need to remember that this ride isn't just about your personal goals or challenges - it's also about the fight against Multiple Sclerosis. Keep at the forefront those images of the people cheering you on alongside the route. Picture those smiling faces who appreciate every mile you rider - whether it's at 20mph or at 12mph. It's not just about how fast you make it across the finish line, or how many rest stops you skip - it's about them. I challenge you to find a way to incorporate the mission of this ride into your personal goals - be it in your fund-raising or in how you promote your participation. Do you have a CHAMPS bandana? Have you contacted your Champion? Have you taken a moment to learn more about this disease and just exactly what it is we are fighting? Why do you ride? Think about and make it your mission to be a sympathetic hero to 17,000 Texans living with MS.

#### Download & Sign!

Get your ride waivers:

[BP MSI50](#)

[Sam's Club MSI50](#)

#### WHOOPI!

<sup>1</sup> Content from History.com: article at <http://tinyurl.com/27rezc>

## Featured Ride: Tri-County Hill Hopper

Got a little story for you Ags! Seems like there is a [not so new] ride in town known as the Tri-County Hill Hopper. Maybe you've heard of it. Maybe you've heard it is a great way to prepare for those hills on Day 2 of the MSI50. Maybe you've heard that it's a butt-kicker of a ride. But, have you heard about the connection this ride has to our team?

Back in 2004 Amy Sharp, Billy Cox, and Matt Demel decided that there needed to be an Aggie presence at the MSI50. They had seen jerseys indicating that t.u. alums had teamed up and felt it was a shame that the Aggies weren't being fully represented. So, they did some digging and found out that you only need a small number of people to register as a team. And so, Ol' Army Cycling was born. That first year, there were 75 members - pretty great for a first year team!

The next year, Amy decided to step away from her co-captain role to focus on another project - the Tri-County Hill Hopper. Proceeds from the Tri-County Hill Hopper help send kids with disabilities from the Brazos Valley to [Camp LIFE](#), a bi-annual recreational weekend for children (ages 5–18). Organized by Texas A&M's Family Support Network, Camp LIFE was established in 2004 and boasts ropes courses, archery, canoeing, fishing and more for children who have special needs and their siblings.

Word got out that this ride is a great way to train and prepare riders for the hills on Day 2 of the BP MSI50 and the ride has grown. We, as a team, want to show our support to one of our team founders as well as support for a good cause that is related to Texas A&M University. This is going to be a team ride so, mark your calendars for February 24, 2008 - wear your jersey, meet your fellow team members, and get out and ride!

For information and registration go to <http://hillhopper.org/index.htm>.

**\* NOTE: There is a HUGE need for volunteers and SAG drivers this year! Any Ags that would be willing to help out, please contact Amy Sharp at [sharp@tamu.edu](mailto:sharp@tamu.edu). It's all about Ags helping out other Ags!\***

## Upcoming Rides

These are the upcoming recommended rides from the MSI50 organization. A full list of rides can be found at: [http://msi50.org/msi50/riding/recommended\\_rides.cfm](http://msi50.org/msi50/riding/recommended_rides.cfm)

### February

Sat - 02/02	Bike Through the Forest	<a href="http://www.kingwoodfillies.org/Bike%20Ride.htm">http://www.kingwoodfillies.org/Bike%20Ride.htm</a>	
Sat - 02/09	Ducks Unlimited Ride	<a href="http://www.tx.ducks.org/">http://www.tx.ducks.org/</a>	
Sun - 02/10	The West U Warm Up	<a href="http://www.teamwestu.org/">http://www.teamwestu.org/</a>	
<b>Sun - 02/24</b>	<b>Tri-Country Hill Hopper</b>	<a href="http://www.hillhopper.org/">http://www.hillhopper.org/</a>	<b>* team ride!!! *</b>

**For other rides in your area, go to: [http://www.bicycletexas.com/tx\\_bike\\_rides.htm](http://www.bicycletexas.com/tx_bike_rides.htm)**

Team Captain: [Jill Hughson](#)  
 Team Co - Captain: [Brian Waldrop](#)  
 Team Co - Captain: [Michael Kamps](#)  
 Team Treasurer: [Larry Isham](#)  
 Team E-mail: [sarge@olarmycycling.com](mailto:sarge@olarmycycling.com)



The Ol' Army Cycling team is made up of former Texas A&M students, current Texas A&M students and anyone else who loves Texas A&M.

Our experience levels range from novice to veteran, but one thing is common to all of us - we all love Texas A&M. We love cycling and have the burnin' desire to be the best darn cycling team on the planet!

## Special Thank You

We have a few people to thank this month. First - a huge thank you to team member Josh Benn (**Swearingen, Peterson & Benn, P.C.**) for helping the team setup our 501(c)(3) status. Even though donations made to the MSI50 are already tax-deductible, now contributions to support the team will be as well! Thanks Josh!!

Second - a big thank you to Christina Willis and Charles Mueller for taking on the role of organizing team events/rides in the Houston area. Christina is working with the Howdy Club to get team info on their site at well. Check it out at [www.howdyclub.com](http://www.howdyclub.com). Thanks Christina and Charles!!

## Packet Pickup

We will be doing a team packet pickup for the BP MSI50 on March 18, 2008. In order for your packet to be picked up, you must fax a SIGNED waiver to Jill no later than March 17, 2008. We will then schedule pickup locations for you to get your packet and jersey. All packets and jerseys not picked up at that time will be mailed to you. If you do not get a SIGNED waiver to Jill by March 17th - you will need to pick up your own packet. Fax your waivers to (888) 722-1161. Don't wait until the last minute!

The race is not always to the swift, but to those who keep on running.

~ Anonymous

## Suggestion Box

If you have suggestions for this year's MSI50 rides, please send them to [sarge@olarmycycling.com](mailto:sarge@olarmycycling.com). Additionally, if you have ideas or suggestions for rides in your area, social get-togethers, etc. - send those along as well. Remember - Ol' Army Cycling isn't just a MSI50 team - let's keep the fun rolling all year long!