

It's all about the ride... So we rode to Vanderpool...

Yesterday was the club ride. There are lots of miles of wonderful roads. The 15-mile section of 337 from Van-



derpool west to Leakey (pronounced La-key) is especially challenging... lots of ups and downs, blind curves, and guardrails to keep you from deep drop-offs into canyons. Quite a few people have crashed over the years by over-cooking it into some blind off-camber decreasing radius curve. I suspect one would have to ride it MANY times to learn it all... and then you still don't know what's coming the other way. (People talk about doing the 3's... 335, 336, and 337... all great roads.) Ducati Austin organizes a weekend ride out there... they stay overnight somewhere around Bandera or Kerrville so they can do more riding.



We started at a favorite restaurant in Blanco, about 1 1/2 hours from my home, taking really nice roads including one called Crabapple Road that is one of the prettiest I've seen... somewhere between 5 and 10 miles wandering along creek beds and through canyons. The weather was great... started at about 58 and went up to over 70 by the time we got to Vanderpool, close to noon. We spent about an hour (or two) there viewing the bikes, eating some lunch, and just yakking. We started home by doing 337 to Leakey heading north into darkening skies. Not too far north on 87 we could see lightning and what promised heavy rain and the temp dropped abruptly to around 60 and windy. We stopped and put back on some layers that we had taken off in Vanderpool. Soon it was

raining... sometimes pretty hard. We decided to head for Fredericksburg and highway 290 to blast for home in the rain. By the time we got to Johnson City, it was raining really hard and we stopped under a gas station's cover... think there might even have been some hail with the thunder and lightning. When we headed east from there, it was difficult riding because of the wind from the



NW and gusting... rain and a fair amount of traffic made visibility not so good. We were running around 70-80... lessens the effect of the crosswinds.

I had left home at 7:30 am and got back around 5 pm... about 350 miles. There were about 20 riders on the



way out and 6 of us in the group coming back. Good friends, great roads, nice weather (at least half of the trip), all in all a nice ride. Wish you could've been there.
~Ken Korn

Riders participating in this event:

Brough Bailey, Harley Blake, Eric Brubaker with a guest Art, Brian Collins, Lew Gibb, Del Grosenheider, Ken Korn and Tom Soutter

Photos by Harley Blake
