



# The Epic Ride

Scott Huckaby's Toastmaster CTM #10

## CTM #10 – Inspire Your Audience – Objectives:

- To understand the mood and feelings of your audience on a particular occasion.
- To put those feelings into words and inspire the audience.
- Time: eight to ten minutes

## 1 – Intro slide

Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and gentlemen...  
Have you reached the point this year where you need a vacation? Maybe you've had one and already need another one. In either case, what you need is a little adventure. I'd like to tell you about my last camping trip to Big Bend in hope that it will inspire you to plan more adventure into your next vacation. For me, to turn an ordinary camping trip into an adventure, you need to include a long mountain bike ride that my wife and I call an epic ride.

## 2 – Epic Vacation Components

Different environment

- Remote: no TV, email, cell phones
- Experiencing culture shock necessary

Right companions

- Family tradition
- Shared vision

Physical exertion

- Justifies an exercise routine to prepare
- Obj: come back healthier
- Look forward to routine to rest up

## 3 – Map – Texas & Park

11 hour drive

what Texas looks like in westerns  
arid, mountains

A huge national park

Camp by Hen Egg, ride to ranch HQ

## 4 – Camp – Hen Egg, truck, trailer

40 acres – purchased from Dad, taxes  
prominent terrain feature

Big Draw

4x4 F-150 wet conditions, cross draws  
Sierra Club, back of truck, comforts of home

## 5 – Mesa

middle of 40 acres, home site with view  
problem getting a road up there

Water: 1000 feet, \$15K, risk of dry hole

No power but generators, solar, gas

## 6 – Great views – candellia, creosote

unique area geologically

great distances

private property but roads through-out

wax for candles, creosote smell in rain

## 7 – Prominent terrain features

navigating is easy –road ex-Army, pre-satnav  
draws – challenges map skills

## 8 – Back side of Hen Egg, Terlingua Creek

ride, hike the draws

Water is pretty rare, creek exception

Tanaha's little ecosystems, very special

## 9 – Descending into Javelina Draw

discovered wild pigs, just following game trail  
got pretty close, up wind

reached a point where we could go no further

## 10 – Cliff & water – Javelina Draw

30 foot drop off

precious water – well visited by animals

## 11 – Close-up of Tanaha

we don't drink this water but there are springs

most pools have a high mineral content

great place to cool hot feet

**12 – Teresa in shade**

shade enough to spend the heat of the day  
Indian petroglyphs

**13 – Flowers – petrified wood**

October blooms on our property, hill covered  
Spring most blooms, but rain create mini season

**14 – Cactus (stickers everywhere)**

most growing things have stickers

**15 – Boots & cactus**

don't range too far in sandals, watch step  
challenge getting used to bifocals

**16 – Snake**

a lot of animals, never have seen poisonous  
watch where you step and put hands

**17 – Spider**

on walk-about, benign variety of tarantula

**18 – Paw Print**

larger predators, mountain lion (no claws)  
large for coyotes, no wolves; bears in mtns

**19 – On bike at beginning of ride**

look forward to our one extreme ride  
distance, terrain – 35 mi with challenging hill

**20 – Ride Partner**

need a partner: strong but refuses single-track

**21 – Sign – bike gear**

Lunch, water, tube repair, map, helmet, clothes

**22 – Big draw**

picture do not show steepness, rubble  
difficult at bottom of washes.

**23 – Big saddle**

did not take pictures during difficult places

**24 – Ahead of my ride partner**

lowest granny gear, more stable with faster speed

**25 – Walking**

will be walking, Teresa is due to taking a picture

**26 – Ranch house**

objective, hunt cabins, cantina, shade, water

**27 – Lunch**

comfortable in sun, not all objectives have tables

**28 – Road – all down hill**

go back the way we came, easier

**29 – Reading**

best way to wrap up an epic ride, cooling heels  
trailer shade, great views (hard to read)

**30 – Watching goats**

cheap entertainment watching the goats,  
precarious places to spend the night

**31 – Steak**

epic ride does generate an epic appetite  
everything tastes better in the wilderness  
freeze-dried backpacking

**32 – Sunset**

every evening show is different  
tracking satellites  
early to bed, cold, exhaustion

**33 – Hen Egg**

time always comes to say good-bye  
this image is imprinted in our minds  
start psyching ourselves up for culture shock

Well... I appreciate the opportunity to share the story of my last epic ride with you. I've been rejuvenated just recalling these things for you. And I hope you'll see the wisdom in planning your own epic vacation.

Mr. Toastmaster...