

# Hotter 'N Hell 100 is a breeze for these diel

Larry Schwartz and girlfriend Judith Jolly know the cycling road

By **MATT MOSLEY**  
Staff Writer

Larry Schwartz insists that he hasn't lost his mind. But the fact that he rode his bike 170 miles from Wylie to Wichita Falls on Thursday as a prelude to a 100-mile ride on Saturday doesn't exactly provide evidence to the contrary.

Schwartz will be in Wichita Falls for Saturday's Hotter 'N Hell Hundred bicycle event. He'll then ride 170 miles back to Wylie. It's the fifth time he's made the trip to Wichita Falls by bike since 1994. And as one might imagine, Schwartz, 40, usually makes the trip alone.

"I just don't get much support

when I ask friends to go ride 170 miles with me," Schwartz said.

Actually, Schwartz's girlfriend of six years, Judith Jolly, has accompanied him on the trip before. But this year, a broken elbow will only allow her to ride in the 100-mile Hotter 'N Hell. Jolly, 27, fell and broke her elbow on the ninth day of a 3,400-mile bike trip that began in Everett, Wash., and ended in Williamsburg, Va. But she kept pedaling for a week until the group reached Minnesota and caught a flight home. Schwartz finished the trip alone.

Schwartz has ridden his bike almost 15,000 miles since Jan. 1. That's only 2,000 miles less than he's put on his 2000 Honda Civic in 1½ years. Since the first of the year, Schwartz has had 111 rides of 100 miles or more.

"I started riding in 1988 because I wanted to stay in shape," Schwartz said. "But along the way,

I developed a passion for bicycling."

Schwartz, who retired after "cashing in" at WorldCom two years ago, trains almost every day. Recently, he went for a routine training session and ended up in Oklahoma.

"I just got on Highway 78 and kept on going all the way across the border," Schwartz said. "I turned around, though, because there wasn't really anything to see."

Schwartz left his house at 6:45 a.m. Thursday. He took FM 1378 and then McDermott, Custer, Rock Hill and Preston roads before connecting with Highway 380 in McKinney. He eventually turned north on HW 281 in Jacks-



Larry Schwartz



Judith Jolly

boro and made it into Wichita Falls at about 4:30 p.m.

He said a strong tailwind and cooler temperatures made it a pleasant trip. Last year, Schwartz said, a

stretch of the trip that took him through Windthorst was almost unbearable. A road crew was in the process of laying five miles of blacktop, and Schwartz estimates that temperatures on the ground were around 130 degrees. In the past, Schwartz has made the trip on Friday, but the blacktop experience caused him to change his strategy. He thinks a day of rest will allow him to recover for Saturday's race.

For Schwartz and Jolly, 100 miles is a good warm-up distance.

Last year, Schwartz and Jolly rode in a 24-hour race near Toronto. The purpose of the race was to see how many miles each participant could travel in 24 hours. Schwarz shattered the race's previous record by going 410 miles. Jolly traveled 328 miles.

"We rode in the rain almost the entire time," Schwartz said. "I was ready to get off that bike."

Schwartz and Jolly met in a Plano Cycling Association meeting in 1996. She had just moved to Dallas from Canada. She said her flexible schedule as a pediatric nurse and her boyfriend's early retirement has allowed the couple to travel across the world on their bikes.

Recently, Jolly has had to improve her speed because of problems with dogs.

She has been bitten three times while riding her bike. But she is fighting back.