

BEEMER ZEITUNG

A Publication of...

BMW Motorcycle Club
Dallas - Fort Worth



APRIL 2019



CATEGORY 1 PHOTO FOR APRIL

DUSK AT THE BEEHIVE IN LA LOMA DEL CHIVO
MARATHON, TX

Contributed by - Christian barber

**Membership
Meeting**

**Tuesday
APRIL 9
7:30 PM**

**Spring Creek BBQ
1509 Airport Freeway
Bedford, TX
817-545-0184**

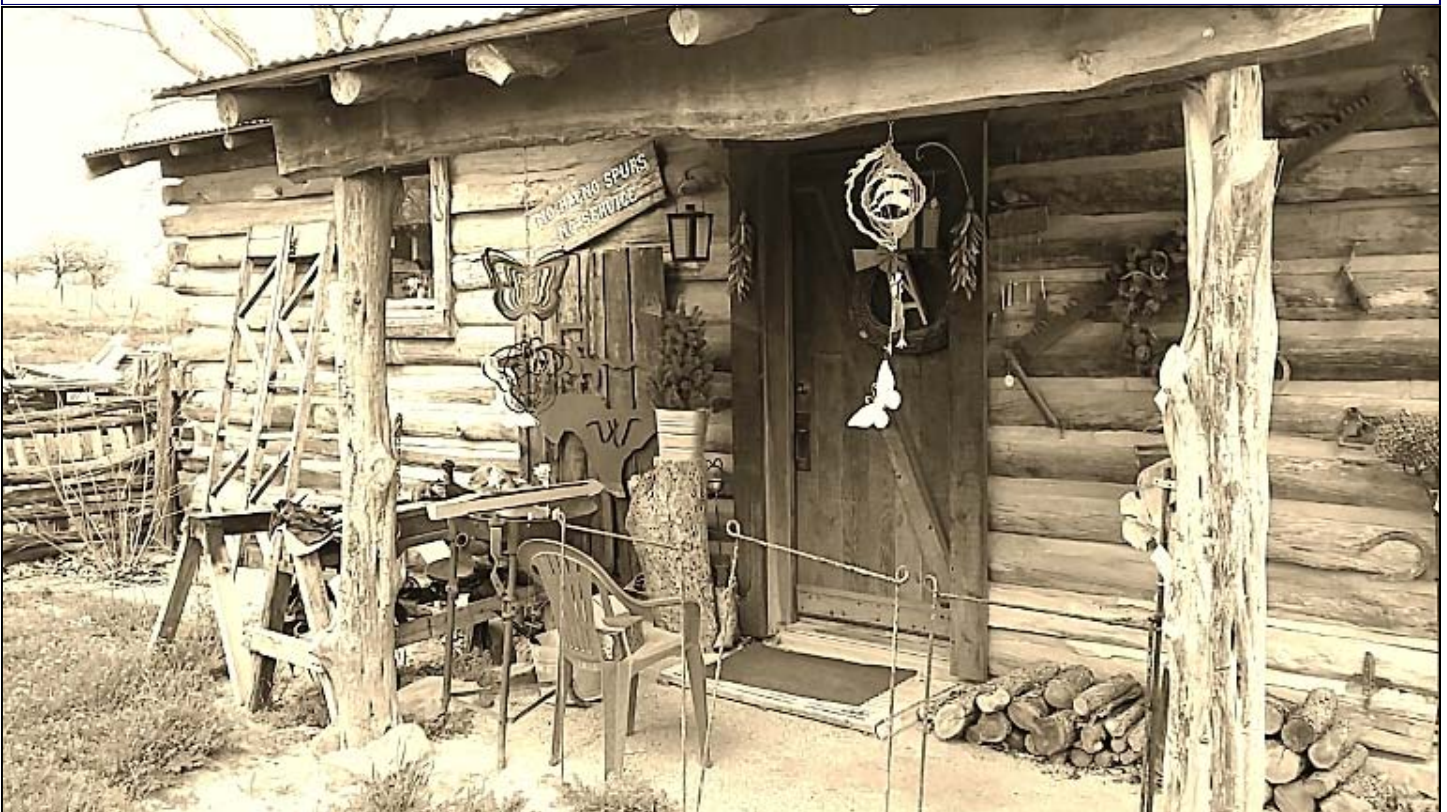
**At Forest Ridge & Airport
Freeway (Hwy 121)**

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Points of Interest this Issue

- *Photos OTM* - Category 1 (front cover) and Category 2 (sans m/c - Sometimes) elsewhere within.
- *Mike Gragg - Kruisin Kansas*
- *Stephen Slisz - True North*
- *Events* - Vince mesmerizes us with all our options
- *OHP* - Slow riding training April 27

CATEGORY 2 - PHOTO FOR APRIL



HOME

by Stephen Slisz

Kruisin' Kansas - Part One

A few months ago, after locating some fun South East Kansas bonus locations for the 2018 FourPlay Rally, I decided to learn a little more about the state most often labeled "boring" by motorcycle riders. There's an old joke about Kansas:

A sportbike rider, new to Kansas, pulls over to the side of the road to ask directions of a farmer sitting with his dog in an old pickup truck. "Hey Mister. Are there any curves in this state?" "Why sure, sonny" answers the farmer. Everybody knows where the curve is. It's 74 miles east of the tree."

While it's true that there are a lot of straight and level roads in Kansas, that doesn't mean it's boring. I found some interesting stops on this ride - a roughly counterclockwise loop of the state.



MIKE GRAGG



Altoona and the Prairie Nut Hut

I left home on a Sunday morning in nice weather, making good time and enjoying the ride seeing both new and familiar sights when I made my first planned stop, pulling in to the parking lot of the Prairie Nut Hut in Altoona, Kansas. The Prairie Nut Hut is locally famous for serving mountain oysters. I probably should have known they would be closed on Sundays: it's really more of a bar than a cafe. Disappointed and hungry I remounted and continued my ride north.

Atchison: Amelia Earhart and Louise Foudray

It was a pleasant day riding through small eastern Kansas towns and enjoying the gentle hills and curves. Continuing north I decided to stop at the **Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum** on the Missouri River bluffs in Atchison, Kansas. In the front yard of the museum I met Mrs. Louise Foudray, former manager of the museum. Mrs.

Foudray and I stood in the shade of a tree

and had a long and interesting chat about Amelia's life, accomplishments and eventual disappearance. She told me about some interesting theories very much at odds with the official plane crash story. I had such a good time talking with Mrs. Foudray, a life long resident of Atchison and close friend of Amelia's family, that when the current museum manager closed the museum and locked the door I really didn't mind at all. Mrs. Foudray was annoyed, however and muttered that she would not have closed the museum since such "a nice young man" had come from so far away to see it. It has been a while since anyone called me "young" so she definitely made my day.



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Blue Rapids and the Monument To The Ice Age

In May 2012, "The Monument to the Ice Age" was dedicated in the town square of tiny Blue Rapids. It features descriptions of Ice Age times, continental glaciers, and Sioux Quartzite glacial erratics (a piece of rock that differs from the size and type of rock native to the area in which it rests) - the oldest rocks in Kansas. Blue Rapids was founded in this place because of the abundant natural re-



sources brought or created by the glaciers of the Ice Age over 10,000 years ago. The namesake rapids on the Blue River that were harnessed to power early industries, the sand and gravel deposits used for construction and roads, and the rich soils for agriculture are all here because of the Ice Age glaciers. Georgia-Pacific has a gypsum mine near Blue Rapids containing some of the purest gypsum in the world.

Irving and a beloved children's book

L. Frank Baum worked at various times as an actor, playwright, shop owner and salesman, though he was not very successful at any of them. In 1879 he was working at a newspaper and as part of his job of reviewing other newspapers for interesting stories, he happened upon an article about the devastation caused on May 30, 1879 by the two tornadoes that struck tiny Irving, Kansas. They destroyed the town and killed 19 residents including a young girl named Dorothy. Those tornadoes picked Dorothy up and slammed her into the muddy ground head first with such violence that she was killed instantly and buried up to her waist. The story hit Frank



exceptionally hard. He had a favorite niece named Dorothy who had recently died as a result of a long illness. Most experts agree that Irving's Dorothy and Frank's Dorothy inspired Baum to

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write a book which became a classic: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, featuring as heroine a young girl named Dorothy. Dorothy's last name is never mentioned in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* or *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, the first two Oz books. The last name was first mentioned in Baum's script for the 1902 Broadway stage version of *The Wizard of Oz*, in which it was originally a setup for a joke. (DOROTHY: "I am Dorothy, and I am one of the Kansas Gales." SCARECROW: "That accounts for your breezy manner.")

Little remains of Irving today. Through plagues, fires, tornadoes, floods, drought and grasshopper invasions the residents of Irving persevered but they were unable to fight the power of the US federal government. When plans for the construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam were announced the residents were ordered to abandon the town, even though the lake is miles away. Irving is still accessible: a few miles of gravel roads took me to the old townsite, where the city's street network is visible and foundations for buildings can still be seen. A stone marker and a "mailbox" occupy the site of the former post office. Visitors and past residents are asked to leave a message in the box. Those messages are read as a part of the annual reunion of past Irving residents and their families. I hope they read mine.

Marysville and the Pony Express



Pony Express Help Wanted Poster:

On April 3, 1860 the first Pony Express rider (whose name is lost to history) left St. Joseph, Missouri and rode the ninety-eight miles to Marysville, Kansas and the easternmost Home Station, arriving late that same evening. He changed horses ten times. Nine days later that same mail arrived in Sacramento, California. In 1860 there were 184 Pony Express stations on the route between the eastern terminus of St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California, the western terminus. The stations were of two types: the Swing Stations (7-15 miles apart depending on terrain) were strictly for horse changes while the Home Stations (75-100 miles apart) were more permanent and substantial: the stations where riders handed off the mail in their saddlebags (called mochilas) to fresh riders on fresh horses and then settled in for food and sleep and the wait for the next relay rider to arrive. The wait might be one day or it might be several and the next rider could be headed east or west. Though food and lodging were provided for the young riders at each Home Station (most were 15 or 16 years old), they were making a very good wage for the time (\$100 per month) and many opted for the nicer environments offered by local hotels. The Marysville Home Station is the only Home Station still in existence in

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its original condition and in its original location. Its museum is a great place to spend a few hours. I learned a lot from the volunteers and the displays but my next stop for the day was calling.

Lebanon and the Center of the 48 States

In 1931 the US Geological Service set about determining the center of each state, beginning their 1932 report with a disclaimer that they had **"no completely satisfactory method"** of doing so. They did it with cardboard. Literally. They cut out the shape of every state from a sheet of cardboard and then balanced each on a single point. The point where the state-shape was perfectly balanced was determined to be the geographical center. Brilliant? Yes. Super-duper accurate? No.

At about the same time, a group of businessmen hired a surveying company to locate the center of the 48 contiguous states since the USGS made no attempt to do so. The survey determined that the center was located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Lebanon. Believing that surveying was more accurate than cardboard balancing, Lebanon proudly proclaimed itself the geographic center of the United States surveyed spot.



Peter Rogerson is a geographer where he mostly works on

Rogerson published a paper in August 2015, detailing a new method for calculating geographical centers in which he lays out the precise centers of every U.S. state, plus the contiguous 48 states (Rogerson's method locates the 48-state center a few miles south of Lebanon. Lebanon steadfastly ignores Rogerson's center and so did I, finding a very pleasant park and a stone marker at the "official" center of the US 48 states.

St. Francis and the St. Francis Motorcycle Museum



In 2013 and 2014 a group of Kansas motorcycle riders and collectors decided to build a motorcycle museum in tiny St. Francis. They worked to raise money, buy and remodel a building, fill it with over 100 rare and unusual motorcycles, and hold a Grand Opening on 2016's Memorial Day weekend. I had assumed the museum was small and only mildly interesting but I was quickly proven wrong. It was one of the best I have ever seen. One of the original founders was

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KRUISIN(Continued from page 6)

on hand to guide me through the 100+ motorcycles nicely displayed in the 10,000 sq ft building. A large portion of them were built prior to 1929 and many are quite rare, including a **1902 Orient** which is one of only two known to still exist (Orient was the first manufacturer to use the term "motorcycle"). The Orient and a few other rare and valuable motorcycles are stored in a tornado, fire and flood-proof vault near the back of the display area. My longer than planned visit put me behind schedule but it was a fascinating stop and well worth the time.



Goodland and an early helicopter



Kansas has a robust aviation history. For many years Wichita was known as the Air Capitol of the World. It was the headquarters of Cessna, Beech, Lear, Stearman and more, all of which maintain Wichita operations today. It's a long way from Wichita to the small town of Goodland, hard by the Colorado border, but there were once two aviation pioneers who called Goodland home. In 1909 two railroad mechanics, William J. Purvis and Charles A. Wilson, built a working model of their flying machine, organized a stock company with \$30,000 capital and made plans to build "an aircraft of the helicopter type." Other helicopters had been built and flown, but in 1910 the government granted the Goodland machine the first US patent for any rotary-winged aircraft. Only one machine was ever built and it was only able to hover a few feet off the ground before crashing. Other aviation pioneers eventually built on the

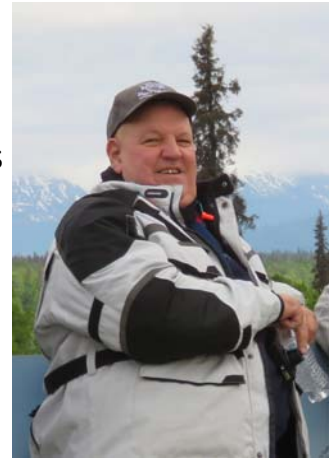
foundation of Wilson's and Purvis' work to create the modern helicopter. In 1976, Harold Norton built a replica of Purvis' and Wilson's creation from the only known photograph of it in existence. That full-size replica is the centerpiece of Goodland's High Plains Museum. Stopping here was a real treat.

Next month: closing the loop of my Kansas ride.



True North

How many people guide you through your life? Parents, teachers, pastors may come to mind as the most influential people that shape your world. For me, it seriously has to be the TV weatherman or the local Meteorologist shaping much of my world.



Steve "Yeeha" Slisz

I had a short plan to take the club up to the Talimena Scenic Byway this weekend and rip up some of the Roads of Spring in Eastern Oklahoma and Western Arkansas. Leaving on Saturday for a day ride, overnighing in Mena, Arkansas and returning home Sunday morning, I didn't think I was asking too much from the weather gods to grant us about 48 hours of beautiful skies.

I usually catch the NBC 5 nightly TV weather because they finish off their segment with a 2 week forecast. I'm constantly amazed how accurate those forecasts are for later in the 2-week period and I've come to rely on it in planning the Tourmeister's rides. This time the forecast for the weekend was showing thunderstorms all along a line from DFW up through Eastern Oklahoma and on into the Mena area of Arkansas. So, even though the current weather was beautiful and the last couple of burger day-runs have turned out great, I posted a Yahoo note that I was cancelling the Talimena Roads of Spring ride.

Oh boy! Here they came. The emails claiming it was too early to tell what the weather was going to be several days away. They said I should've waited a little longer. Wait a few minutes, the weather will change. Wait it out, and leave after the storms. Evidently there are a few people that don't have my faith in Channel 5.

Just as a curiosity, I looked up what it takes to be a TV weatherman. Actually it takes nothing other than a good on-screen personality. In fact, the "weathermen" of local news stations are usually trained as reporters or broadcasters, often with backgrounds in journalism or communications, and act as envoys, communicating information from actual meteorologists to the public. . If considering becoming a meteorologist, you'll need four to thirteen years of post-secondary education, depending on the specific position within the field that you desire. Many possess degrees in closely related fields such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science or other branches of earth science, like hydrology or oceanography. Of my "NBC 5" favorites, most have degrees in Meteorology, but also have other degrees in Atmospheric Science, Broadcast journalism, Geography and Theology. Hmm... maybe that's why they tend

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to be so accurate. They have a direct connection the Thee Man! All of the on-air personalities list several outdoor activities as their side interests and thus needing accurate weather forecasts.

After cancelling the ride, Miss Vicki said she and I should go anyway just to get out of Dodge for a while. Driving the car through Sherman and Dennison it sprinkled on us all along the way. Once into Oklahoma we hit the thunderstorms that were predicted. As we drove along the route I programmed for the motorcycle ride, the rain chased us all the way to our lunch stop at Maw & Paw's Café in Wilburton Oklahoma. While in the area we cruised through the Robber's Cave State Park and managed to catch about 30 minutes of rain-free exploration of the Robber's Cave rock pile although there was rolling thunder constantly in the background.

Then it really hit. I think most of the locals were at home hovering around their severe weather bug-out kits as the ride to Mena Arkansas over the scenic drive was a lonely one. Thick fog and heavy rain pelted us the entire way as I drove a little over 2 hours across the scenic drive at 30 mph. We only saw one other car and one motorhome that looked to be abandoning the mountain. It would've been a good weekend to snag a Queen Wilhelmina Lodge room as the hotel was empty as was the camping area next door. It was the same situation at the Sun Country Inn in Mena. Only 2 other cars were in the entire hotel. No doubt there are a lot of people up in those hills that pay attention to the NBC 5 weather personalities. Looks like I need to retrain some of our club members!

Ride 'Em Don't Hide 'Em

Stephen Slisz



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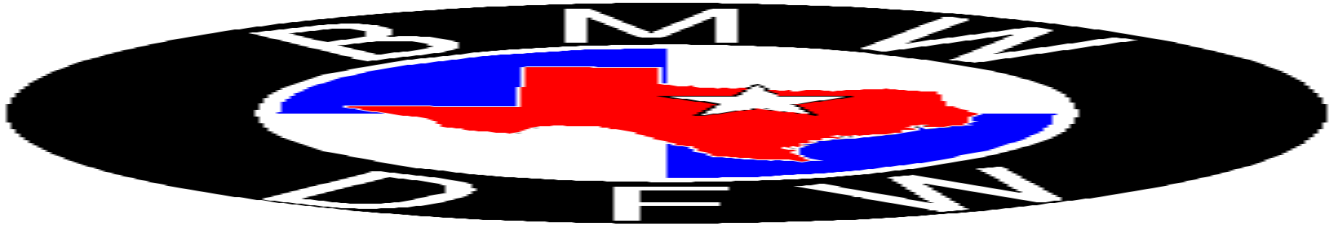
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2019 PREMIER CLUB RIDES

All the details for each of the Club Events are available by going to the Event Calendar [Click here](#)

April 6-7; Mena, AR. “Roads of Spring”

**May 10-12, Fri-Sun; Natchitoches, LA. “Thank God It’s Spring” -
Natchitoches Jazz Festival & Crawfish Fest****

Sept TBD, Farewell to Summer Tour

**Oct 24-27, Thu-Sun; *Eureka Springs, AR.*
*BMWDFW Annual “Fall Color Tour”***

**** No Club Hotel Room Block**
“Ride ‘em - Don’t Hide ‘em”

**THE WORLD’S MOST INTERESTING MOTORCYCLE
CLUB**

RECURRING CLUB ACTIVITIES DETAIL

BMWDFW Club Forum

Our members’ forum is at the BMWDFW Yahoo Group. [Click here to join](#)

CLUB MEETING, 7:30 PM, 2nd Tuesday, MONTHLY, except December

Spring Creek BBQ, 1509 Airport Freeway, Bedford, TX. Located on the westbound access road of Airport Freeway at the corner of Forest Ridge Drive in Bedford. Dinner and social begins 6:30 pm.

CLUB BREAKFAST / RIDE, 2nd Sunday, MONTHLY

AM/10 AM, Mary’s Brazos Café, Tin Top, 15 mi south of Weatherford, Texas. A ride follows, weather permitting.

CLUB BREAKFAST, Saturday, 7:30 AM/8:45 AM

WEEKLY. Original Pancake House in Grapevine, 1505 William D Tate Avenue, Grapevine, TX 76051, (817) 421-3444.

AD HOC RIDES

These will be announced as they come up on the Members Forum at Yahoo Groups. [Click here to join](#)

2019 UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

For future and most current updated Event information, go to the Club Event Calendar [Click here](#)

Roads of Spring – Mena Ark – ~~CXLD~~ due to weather – stay tuned for possible future date

April 6 - April 7

Ride is Cancelled - Weather forecast does not look good for riding this weekend. We may try again soon SS Route Information:

Find out more [Click here](#)



VINCE BRECKNER

Ride Like a Pro Training – hosted by Oklahoma Highway Patrol

April 27 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Choctaw Casino Event Center Parking Lot Durant Oklahoma, US 75/Choctaw Road
Durant, OK 74701 United States

This is a daylong motorcycle training experience for riders on their own motorcycles. Safe operation of the motorcycle from slow speeds to moderately high speeds including proper turning techniques, obstacle avoidance, threshold braking, and u-turns. Instruction by OKHP motor officers. Water and a simple lunch will be available on-site for a small contribution. The class is limited to the first 30 to RSVP. This training is free of charge. Participants will be required to present a valid drivers license with...

Find out more [click here](#)

BMWDFW Attend the MOA Region 4 Chartered Club Meeting

April 27 @ 11:30 am - 5:00 pm

Frisco, TX.

Although this conflicts with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol motorcycle rider training, the MOA is having a regional meeting with local BMW clubs on Saturday April 27th in Frisco TX. Anyone is welcome to attend and a few of your current/past club officers are headed to the meeting as representatives of BMWDFW. You are invited to attend and participate. If at all possible, you should take advantage of the Safety rider training course taught by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol motor officers...

Find out more [click here](#)

Thank God It's Spring Ride – Natchitoches Jazz Festival & Crawfish Festival

May 10 @ 7:00 am - May 12 @ 5:00 pm

2019 TGIS Natchitoches Jazz and Crawfish Festival, 5335 University Parkway
Natchitoches, LA 71457 United States

This is the revised and current date for the TGIS ride to the Natchitoches Jazz and Crawfish Festival The TGIS ride will be to the Natchitoches Jazz and Crawfish Fest-and leaves the Hurst QT at 7am. The main group will briefly stop to pick up a second group to depart from the Forney Dairy Queen on US80 and 740 at 8:15am. Lunch will be in Nacogdoches at the Clear Springs restaurant. The Friday dinner suggestion is at the Crawfish Hole...

Find out more [click here](#)

Listed below are select other events that are not club sponsored but may interest our members. These may not be listed on the Club's website calendar.

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OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS DETAIL

Apr 5-7, Fri-Sun; Kerrville, TX. Hill Country Hangout

Please join us at Kerrville- Schreiner Park in Kerrville, TX April 5 - 7th for a couple of days of beautiful springtime in the Texas Hill Country. The rally site is on the hill side of the park. The rally camping will be in the Fawn hide-a-way loop, dining hall and mini cabins in the Midway Mini-cabin loop. The GPS coordinates for the entrance at State Park Rd 19 and FM 173 are 30.011739, -99.122925. Note that this is NOT the same as the entrance to the river side of the park which is on the opposite side of FM 173. Entrance to the rally site opens at noon on April 5th. [Click here](#) for all the information and registration.

Apr 12-14, Fri-Sat; Austin, TX; MotoGP Grand Prix of the America's

Don't miss the excitement of the 2019 Austin MotoGP Championship! Choose from a variety of seating options and enjoy VIP hospitality in the Paddock Building. Plus, add hotel accommodations and ground transportation to complete your trip! [Click here](#) and [click here](#) for all the information.

Apr 20, Sat; Rusk, TX. Texas National Picnic

Join us on Saturday, April 20th, 2019 at noon for the Texas National Picnic, being held at Love's Lookout Park, located on the east side of US Hwy 69 approximately 4 miles north Jacksonville, TX. N32d 01' 46.03 W95d 16' 46.93 We will fire up the grills at noon. There are restrooms, vending machines, covered picnic tables, grills, plenty of parking, and a great view. Bring your own food and drink; we will provide charcoal for the grills. Come join us for lunch and meet some folks from East Texas!

Apr 18-21, Sat; Mountain Home, AR. Ozarks Great Escape

Motorcycle Sport Touring Association in Mountain Home.

Jerry James, formerly of the Dallas BMW club, the other Lone Star Riders and Two Wheeled Texans, moved to Bentonville Ark for a job relocation and has joined up with the MSTA. Jerry is putting together his first big ride for that group and our Tourmeister is going up to support him (as if he really needed it!) Jerry just sent Stephen a note that there are plenty of rooms open and you do not need to join the MSTA to attend. Check it out and [click here](#) for all the information to register and to get the updates.

Apr 20, Sat; Ft. Worth, TX. Lone Star Half-Mile - AMA Flat Track Racing

The Lone Star Half-Mile AMA Flat Track Racing event will be held at 3545 Lone Star Circle (Texas Motor Speedway). For tickets and more information [click here](#).

Apr 21, Sun; ***EASTER SUNDAY***

Apr 26-28, Fri-Sun; Branson, MO. Blitz to Branson

The 2019 Blitz will be held in the Honeysuckle Inn and Conference Center at 3598 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson MO 65616. Be sure to make your own reservations. 888-386-3648 or 417-335-2030 and let them know it's for Internet BMW Riders (IBMWR) for the special rate. The Honeysuckle Inn rooms will be all non-smoking and cost \$55 for a double with 2 queen beds, king is \$65. ****Please note, they have a two day cancellation policy and if you're arriving later than 9 PM please let them know in advance.**** The meeting room will be available for checking in, dropping off any door prizes that you want to bring, socializing and the Gathering Sat night at approximately 8 pm. I will be Keeper of the List for this year, so please email me your names and state with 'Branson Blitz' in the Subject line to keep it updated. Karen Mans neraksr@gmail.com or (816)590-1759

Apr 29, Sat; Bryan TX. NIIT WIT takes on the Heart of Texas Rally

This will be the first year the NIIT WIT crew has taken on the HoT Rally and we hope to do it the justice it deserves for James and Karen Stovall. This is a 12-hour rally with a remote start and a finish in Bryan, Texas. This year's Heart of Texas Rally will be a 12-hour rally focusing on the El Camino Real (Old San Antonio Rd) and the Daughters of the Revolution route markers as the bonus points. All bonuses will be within the state of Texas. Registration is \$100-\$150. [Click here](#) for all the information.



BMWDFW