

# BEEMER ZEITUNG

A Publication of...

BMW Motorcycle Club  
Dallas - Fort Worth



SEPTEMBER 2019



## CATEGORY 1 PHOTO FOR SEPTEMBER

Paul Lange at Shiloh Battlefield  
Photo by "Crunch" Crenshaw

**Membership  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
SEPTEMBER 10  
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* - His own story
- *Vince Breckner* - GPS Tech Tip
- *Paul Lange* - Tales from the Rally
- *Stephen Slisz* - True North
- *Club Events* - Vince mesmerizes us with all our options

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### THE MIKE GRAGG STORY

On May 31, 1969 in a small town in Kansas I got married - surely the luckiest day of my life. On May 31, 2019 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii I celebrated my 50th anniversary. In between, some motorcycle riding happened.

I bought my first new motorcycle, a Honda CB350, in 1972. I owned it nearly two weeks before my first out-of-state trip (an ambitious 90 miles each way! - to Tulsa, Oklahoma) and another week or so before Peggy and I took our first two-up overnight out-of-state trip (to Table Rock Lake, Missouri). In 1975, Peggy surprised me with a new BMW R90/6. My out-of-state rides took on a much different dimension.

In the 1970s, at least where I lived, counting our motorcycle travel achievements meant tracking the number of states visited by motorcycle. One of the more popular decorations for our riding jackets (usually Levi's jean jackets) was a patch (about the size of a basketball) of the continental US on the jacket's back. Filling in each state's shape with colored markers after successfully riding in that state was the common practice. Wearing the multicolored map was a matter of prestige at BMW rallies - both national and local rallies: a not-so-subtle way of announcing to the world that the wearer was a serious rider. I never had one of those patches, but I did have a US wall map and I tracked each state visited on it. Peggy's gift of that '75 R90/6 seemed to open up the entire map for exploration and I spent more than a few hours looking at the map and



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dreaming of destinations. Over the years, working around personal and work obligations, I was able to color quite a bit of my wall map - although mostly within a few hundred miles of home.

Fast-forward to 1982 and my first chance at a full two-week vacation. Peggy and I decided to ride from our home in Kansas to Kennebunkport, Maine for a lobster roll (it was worth every mile!) and then down the east coast to Key West. After returning home we were able to check off 17 states on that ride, 9 of them new ones. Things in our lives seemed to get more hectic soon after that trip and our riding suffered. Peggy and I bought a tiny cabin on Grand Lake in Oklahoma and used it nearly every weekend. Our motorcycle trips consisted solely of riding the 90 miles to the cabin after work on Saturday and back home on Sunday - and that happened only infrequently.

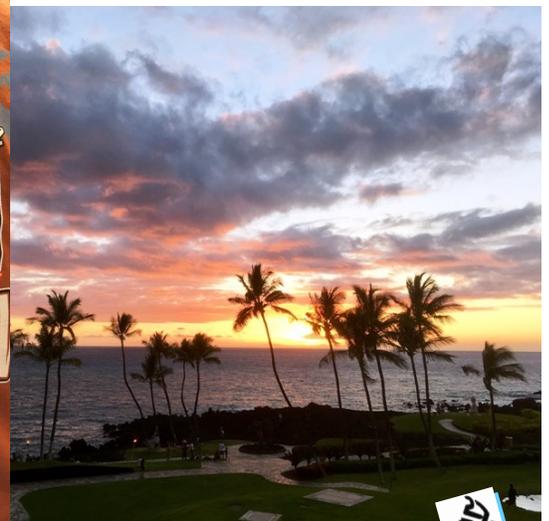
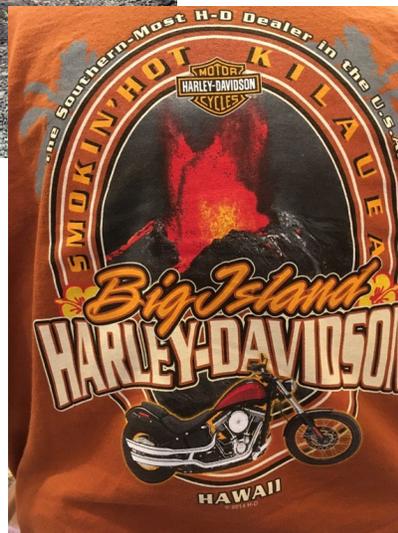
In 1988 I moved to Texas and soon afterwards joined BMWDFW - another lucky day - and met a group of riders who like me, enjoyed going places on motorcycles. Some of those riders have been my friends ever since - more than twenty years now. I have had the good fortune to visit several states with those friends, including rides to a few BMWMOA National Rallies, a few "destination" rides, many local day rides and a few rides with no objective other than an evening in a motel parking lot telling tales, tasting scotch, and smoking cigars. Other rides which increased my state count were courtesy of the Iron Butt Association, including the one which enabled me to add Alaska to my state count.

Although Peggy and I spent the summer of 1977 in Honolulu it didn't occur to me at the time that I would one day have ridden motorcycles for so many years and in so many states so it never crossed my mind that I could rent a motorcycle (or even a moped) in Honolulu and check Hawaii off my states list. Last week, in addition to celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary, I rented a Harley Davidson Sportster for a day and toured the big island of Hawaii on it, finally finishing my 50 states checklist.

Everyone has goals. Some are as



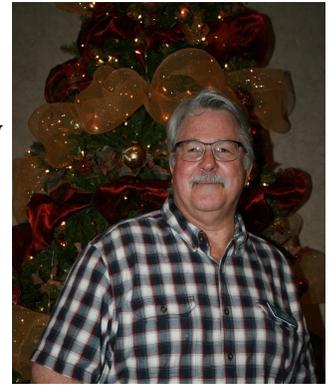
silly as trying to ride a motorcycle in all 50 US states, but there is still a sense of satisfaction in achieving one of those goals. Motorcycles have been a big part of my life: I credit motorcycles with great memories and some truly great friends.



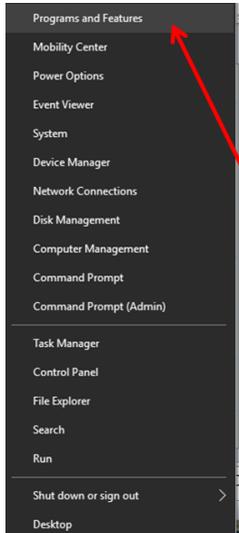
# GPS Tech Tip: Delete Old Mapsets from your PC or Mac

Always use the Uninstall process to delete old maps

If you download the Garmin Maps into your PC or Mac as well as your GPS, chances are you have a ton of old map files on your computer. As the Garmin Maps take up gigabytes of space, you can get some significant disk space by deleting the old Map files. Here's how to do that on first a PC, then on a Mac. **For a PC:**



VINCE BRECKNER



Right click on the Windows Start button to pull up this pop-up window, then click on Programs and Features

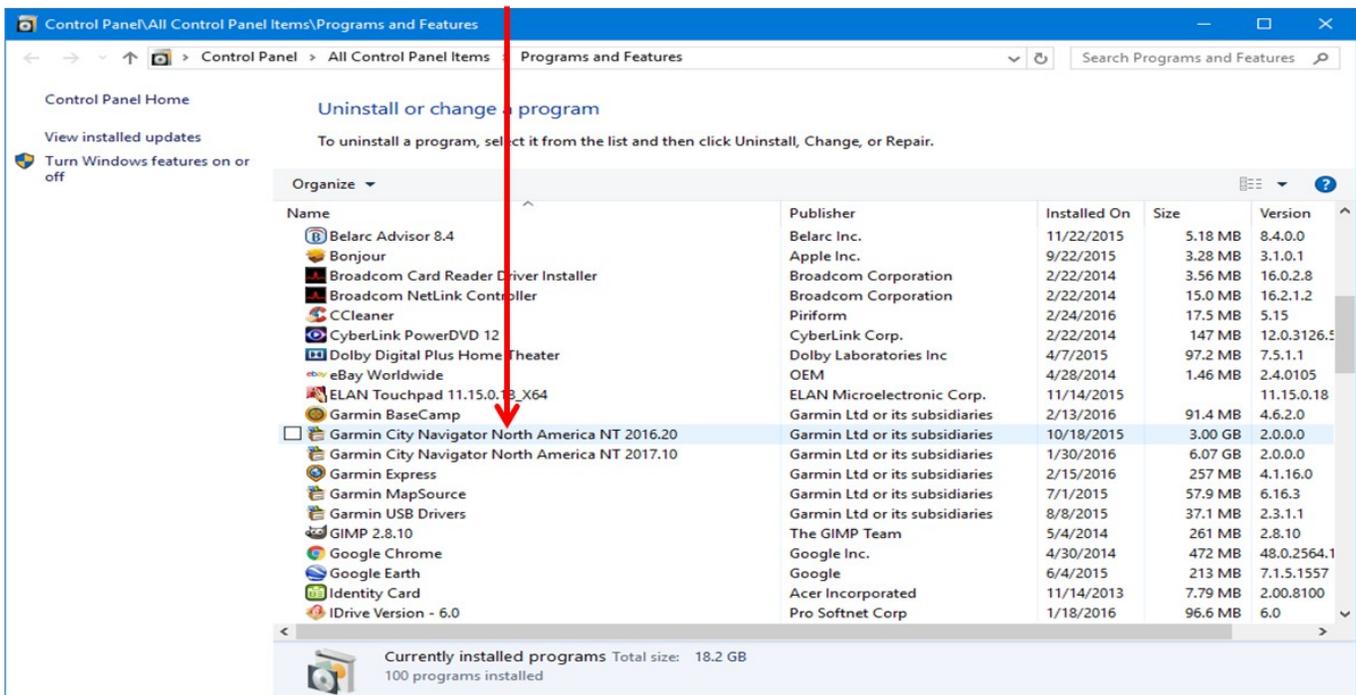
When you click on the Program and Features button, that will give you the pop up "Uninstall or Change Program."

Be sure to only delete OLD map files. Be sure you are not deleting the newest one or the Garmin Base Camp program file!!!

screen. Follow

Once the Uninstall or change a program screen comes up, select (highlight) the old map you want to delete

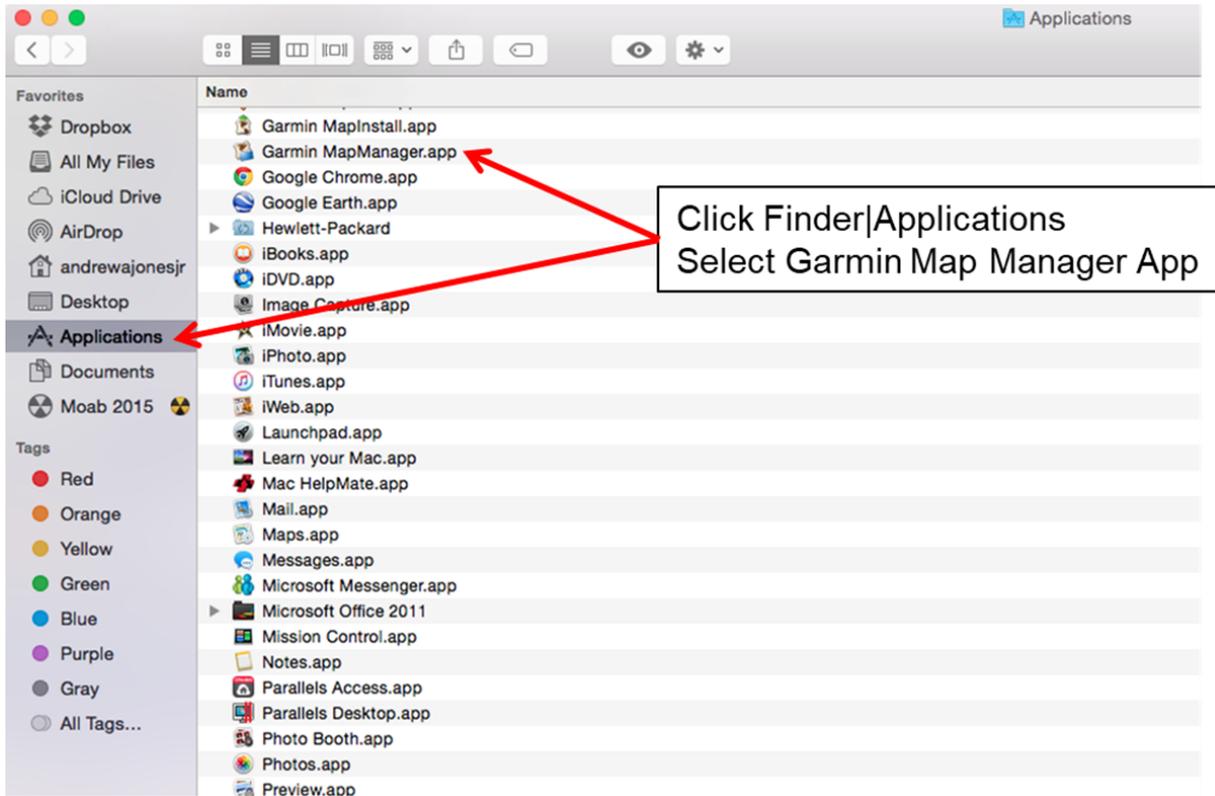
Click Uninstall



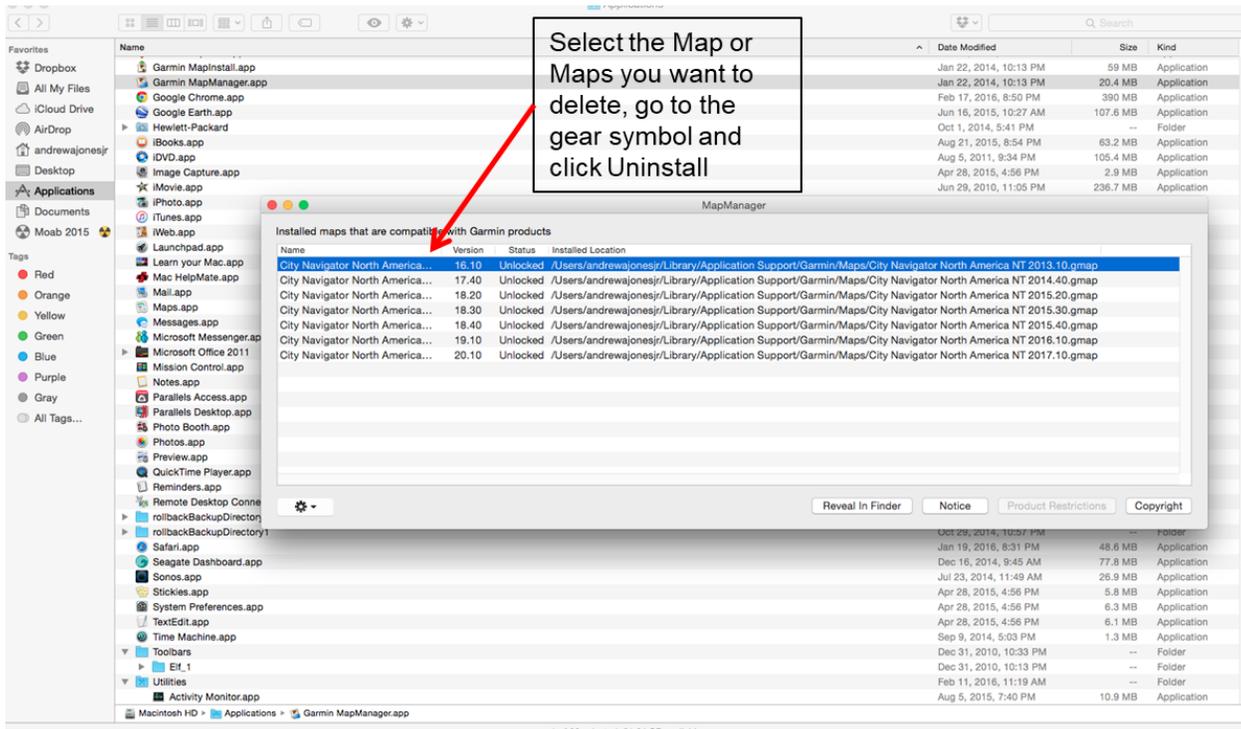
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**For Macs: Always use the Uninstall process to delete old maps**

First you want to get into Finder on your Mac



Next step is to:



## CATEGORY 2 - PHOTO FOR SEPTEMBER



### MOLAS PASS - COLORADO

by Mike Jensen

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### Color Profiling

Near Lake City Arkansas.....Crunch states over the bike to bike radio we have a performance award....I look into my mirrors to see a Dodge police car within inches of my tail light. He sounds his siren. I am able to whip over to a tiny patch of side road while Crunch rolls on about 100yards and stops at a small road. The officer is looking over the BMW R80RS custom as I take my time turning the motor off, kicking out my side stand then flip up my helmet....he is muttering "Red and White" - we stare at each other. He says to me directly.....your red and white. I responded with a long.....yeeeeeaaahhhup. He says he just got a report of a stolen motorcycle and ask's where we had just come from. I could not remember as my brain was abit unsettled at the moment. I had Crunch



**Paul Lange**

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still cued up on the bike radio and asked him. He replied, "Gator Burger Haunt". I repeated the establishment name....The officer said the report was for a stolen Orange and Black motorcycle from there. At that moment I felt something really odd was about to take place.....I repeated, "Orange and Black"...and he looked at my bike and said "Red and White". He was sweating profusely....this made me a little more suspicious....a few seconds later he said BMW ....then apologized and shook my hand and said have a safe and fun day. As I remember that Gator Burger joint....there were no other bikes at the time we were there.....so I wonder, if Crunch had not been in sight when the officer pulled me over, would things have gone south....or was he saying in his own way we were riding like we were on stolen bikes....or was someone planning to get a free bike not realizing it was a BMW.....I don't think I'll ever know for sure.....The weather was perfect, the roads were supreme, the surrounding scenery was spectacular and the day continued in blissful splendor as we gobbled up miles.



## RALLY ANGEL

So Crunch and I arrive at Birmingham, Alabama hotel late in the evening. After I unpack and get settled in some....I went to check the oil since I had not done so after servicing the bike the week before our departure in Fort Worth Tx. I noticed the fairing lower bracket on the right side had stress failed at the motor mount bolt. Snapped clean. This explained the wind-

screen and mirrors up top excess vibration. I was able to get a zip tie around the frame and inner section of the frame bracket mount to help minimize the fairing vibration. This now meant the jagged fairing bracket was going to hammer the powder coated frame....even with what little electrical tape I had on hand.

Upon arriving at the MOA Rally I saw **Bob Denk's** custom orange and cream R80ST out front of the vintage display.....a shining beacon of pure joy. I began to tell Bob about the changes in this years Peoples Choice Bike Show, Black Sheep are not running the show this year so the categories are completely changed...etc. I mention that my right lower fairing bracket had failed and was going to try and manufacture a bracket at airhead central. Bob says....."you know I've been traveling with a set of those brackets in my tank bag....follow me to my camp site and I'll give you both sides....install the one you need and bring back the one you don't." At that moment I saw angels begin to appear all around Bob's body, his hair began to



**Bob Denk on the right**

glow as his smile warmed all those within 100 yards of our presence. The trip to Bob's campsite took only a few seconds as the angels teleported us to his camp.....I don't even remember getting there. Bob went straight to his bag and produced the brackets in glorious splendor and placed them in my trembling hands. I tried to offer compensation for the bracket to no avail.....it was difficult to hear his response for the angels singing over his body. If only he knew what was going on at that moment. I could hardly sleep that night awaiting for daybreak to get that bracket on. That next morning after consuming a little "Nectar of Coherence" I started the repair effort. Even though the little R80RS custom is pretty clean there is quite a bit of grease and grime and I was worried about the bolt zerts condition in the fairing. A small gathering of supporters grew around me only to hear my profanity during the process....but I immediately felt the "Zen" in Bob's brackets and the glory of the angels who teleported me to his camp ...soon I calmed down, took a deep breath and discovered the strategy of safely and gently finding the forward zert thread by gently caressing the lower fairing while fingering the bolt ever so slightly into the proper angle to get it started. Remembering Bob's big smile I continued again to the rear bolt in the same fashion and then began to finely torque both bolts to my spirits advice. When the final motor mount was snugged tight and the job was successfully completed.....I felt a rush of gratitude run over me....realizing I held in my hand a broken bracket touched by angels which led to a chance encounter with the one saint who had its counterpart that no other would possibly possess within many states and thousands of miles. The rest of the rally would only be a foot note against this event. Later, as I returned the left side bracket to Bob's camp site, I found the trek was long and arduous, proving the angels did teleport me the day I was escorted to his camp site. Bob's camp was both hospitable and soothing and his company of



## True North - BY STEPHEN "YEEHA" SLISZ



What in the world possessed you to get on a motorcycle, much less a BMW motorcycle and then proceed to buy one? I often wonder, after seeing the hordes of club members at the Saturday Pancake House breakfasts - Why are you motorcyclists?

Take a look across the room Saturday and take note of the diverse backgrounds of our attendees and then ask yourself the same question. Ask it of Mr. fashion-statement himself, Ben Langley. Why would an impeccably dressed man like Ben ever get near a nasty, greasy motorcycle? Then there's Bill McGannon. How and where do high-end furniture merchandising and Harley/BMW ownership cross paths? I see lawyers, I see pilots, and I see people in IT. How many of the people you see at the Saturday breakfast are the major bread-winners of the family? Why would they risk their necks in the precarious world of riding a motorcycle... in DFW traffic no less!



Ever wonder who's to blame for immersing our friends in the leather and chrome lifestyle rather than some ten-pin league at the bowling alley or checkmate moves at a chess parlor or the intensity of living room stamp collecting? Was it the movies? It was a little before my time, but in the early '50's Marlon Brando's *The Wild One* juiced some testosterone filled youth into dreams of terrorizing the highway on cool bikes. Who wouldn't want to be Johnny Strabler and drag for beers! More recently, we paid 2019 theater prices to re-watch 1969's *Easy Rider* and Peter Fonda (RIP), Dennis Hopper and

Jack Nicholson take two very impractical bike-show quality choppers to battle their way half-way across our nation.

What about the TV influence? Who hasn't dreamed of being Jim Bronson and sticking it to "The Man", cashing in your chips and hitting the road for endless weekly episodes of adventurous living? This show was more my style. I had couple of cheesy 125cc motorbikes back then and after every weekly episode of "Then Came Bronson" I would cruise multiple laps around our block just looking for a distressed damsel to rescue.

Then again, maybe you had a mentor. Though motorcycle riders were as numerous as ants on an ant hill in the neighborhood where I grew up, I can name the very person that lit the fire under me and fanned the flames into a red hot life-long addiction to everything motorcycles. I went to middle school with Mike Kidd, the 1981 AMA Grand National Dirt Track Champion (American Flat Track today). He occasionally gave me rides home from middle school on the back on his Honda 65. Mike became enamored with racing motorcycles and started entering local dirt track (Ross Downs!)



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TRUE NORTH(Continued from page 8)

and motocross races and progressed through a successful amateur career, which included multiple Texas state championships. After a storied racing career he went onto motorcycle race promoting. Mike Kidd Promotions became one of the leading promoters of AMA races in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1985, he inaugurated the AMA Arenacross Series, which became a major success. Kidd was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 1998 and was still managing the AMA Arenacross Series. I doubt he would remember me and those rides home, but Mike is the one that plant-



ed the seed in my brain.

I think a lot of motorcycle ownership could be a primal instinct. The urge to be living large. Like the cowboy that speaks to us. The classic picture of the American cowboy. The Marlboro Man. The cigar smoking, whiskey drinkin', dance hall girl chasin' cowboy. The Sam Elliot of riders. Every man wants to have "Cowboy" in him. That man alone.

So, Cowboy Up!



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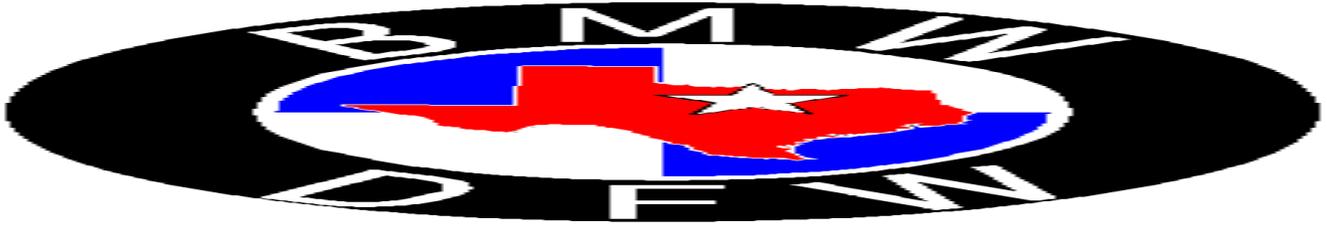
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### *2019 PREMIER CLUB RIDES*

*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\*\***

**Oct 11-13, Kerrville, TX. Farewell to Summer Fall Texas Hill Country  
Ride**

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](#)



VINCE BRECKNER

## **BMWDFW 7th Annual Ride For Tacos – Del Norte Tacos**

**September 2 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm** Godly, Tx

Meet me @ “The” QT station in Hurst across from the old dealership on Highway 10 at 0900. We’ll ply some back roads over to Godley and Del Norte Tacos. We’ll lunch on some tacos and head back to the house before it gets really hot. (“The” QT Station is at 1400 W Hurst Blvd, Hurst, TX 76053). Raining? Go in the Car! Start time bumps up to 9:30 from the QT station. Arrival time Approx 10:30

Find out more [click here](#)

## **Ending Date for the Photo of the Year Contest**

**October 1 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 am**

This is the ending date for Photo of the Year (Contest runs to October 1 in any given year. Photos submitted after October 1 will be considered as an entry for the following year.) All Contest forms are available at under the Contests tab.

Find out more [Click here](#)

## **Fall Texas Hill Country Ride**

**October 11 @ 8:00 am - October 13 @ 5:00pm**

Kerrville, TX

Come Ride The Beautiful Texas Hill Country As We Attend The 32nd Annual Texas Gathering Motorcycle Rally - October 11-13 2019 Host Hotel - Best Western Sunday House Inn Phone 830-896-1313

Find out more [click here](#)

## **BMWDFW Annual Fall Color Tour**

**October 24 @ 8:00 am - October 27 @ 5:00 pm**

Edelweiss Inn, Eureka Springs, AR.

Host Hotels: Edelweiss Inn at 2066 E. Van Buren. The reservations number is 800-870-2529. Or Trails End at 2060 E Van Buren, Eureka Springs, AR 72632, 479-253-9390. This is our Annual ride to Eureka Springs, AR for some of the best autumn color and riding available. We’ll be there for the nights from October 24th to 27th, arriving Thursday and departing Sunday. When you call or email be sure to tell them that you are with the BMWDFW Motorcycle Club...

Find out more [click here](#)

## **Ending Date for the Article of the Year Contest**

**October 31 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 pm**

For Article of the Year (Submit articles to the newsletter editor, Don Mills at email address don\_mill@sbcglobal.net). All Contest forms are available under the Contests tab.

Find out more [click here](#)

## **Ending Date for BMWDFW Mileage Contest Submissions**

**November 15 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 am**

The submission form must be sent to Dennis Bufton at BMWDFW, P.O. Box 132, Bedford, TX 76095-0132. The form is available under the Contests tab.

Find out more [click here](#)

## **Starting Date for BMWDFW Mileage Contest**

**November 15 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 am**

Record your starting mileage and submit to Dennis Bufton at BMWDFW, P.O. Box 132, Bedford, TX 76095-0132. The form is available under the Contests tab.

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Find out more [click here](#)

**Last Day to RSVP for the BMWDFW Annual Awards Banquet**

**November 25 @ 8:00 am - 9:00 am**

**BMWDFW Annual Awards Banquet \$20 pp**

**December 8 @ 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm**

Raven Grill at Texas Star, 1400 Texas Star Pkwy  
Eules, TX 76040 United States [+ Google Map](#)

Be sure to put this one on your calendar as a do not miss. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held at in the ballroom adjacent to the Raven's Grille at the Texas Star Golf Course, 1400 Texas Star Parkway, in Eules, TX on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Check in starts at 6 pm with dinner starting about 7 pm. Dinner will be followed by the presentations and some more socializing until about 10 pm. This is a premier event...

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.*

## OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS DETAIL

**Sep 06-08, Fri-Sun; Sipapu, NM. Bavarian Mountain Rally**

The Land of Enchantment BMW Riders has hosted this September event for nearly three decades at the Sipapu Ski Area in the heart of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. [Click here](#) for all the details and registration information.

**September 14, Lone Star BMW (Dallas) Annual Burger Cookout – Sulphur OK**

Dallas BMW club annual Iron Butt style ride in for burgers. At the Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur OK. Ride time/start location TBD... stay tuned.

Find out more [click here](#)

**Sep 26-29, Thu-Sun; Jefferson, TX. NTNOA Lake of the Pines Rallye**

The rallye displaying over 150 of the finest vintage motorcycles anywhere in the country is now held at Diamond Dave's about a mile outside of Jefferson, TX. [Click here](#) for all the information.

**Sep 27-28, Fri-Sat; Talihina, OK. Oklahoma BMW Rally**

Come join the Central Oklahoma BMW Road Riders for this multi-club camp out in southeast Oklahoma! It's free but make your own campsite reservations. [Click here](#) for all the information.

**Sep 29, Sat; Dallas, TX. Distinguished Gentleman's Ride**

Actually, a world-wide event for classic bikes and riding in tweed. Dallas is one of the world-wide sites for classic bikes and the dapper rider. Intrigued? [Click here](#) for registration and to get all the information.

**Oct 11-13, Fri-Sun; Kerrville, TX. Lone Star Riders' Annual Texas Gathering**

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Texas Gathering in Kerrville and Hill Country riding. Friends show up from the Dallas & Houston areas as well as Corpus Christi, San Antonio and even from the great states of Colorado, Kansas, and maybe even Wisconsin. [Click here](#) and scroll down to the link for Texas Gathering. Registration and event information when the link is finalized.

**Oct 18-19, Fri-Sat; Luckenbach, TX. 18<sup>th</sup> Harvest Fall Classic**

Gearheads come from all around to enter their European, Vintage, and Competition bikes in the bike show, participate in or watch the vintage trials, eat home-cooked barbecue, win swag (or a bike) in the insanely good raffle, go big for the kids in the live auction, watch a big-screen outdoor movie, listen to great music, camp under the stars and generally immerse themselves in moto-culture. [Click here](#) for all the information.

**Oct 25-27, Fri-Sun; Kerrville, TX. MOA Getaway Texas.** [Click here](#) to register and for all the details.



**BMWDFW**