

# ***BEEMER ZEITUNG***

**DECEMBER 2020**



## **CAT 1**

**A different mood in Arkansas**

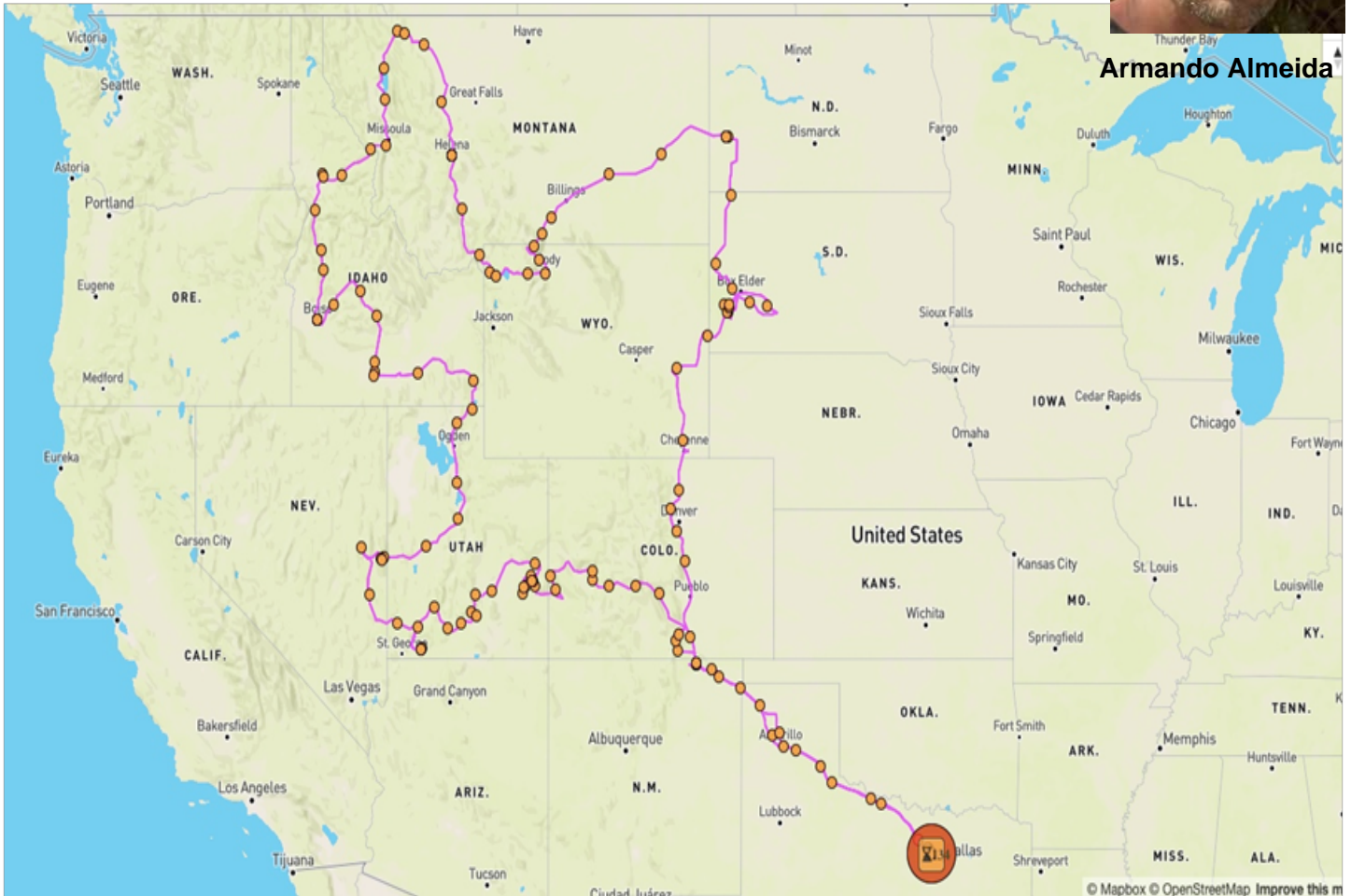
**Contributed by STEPHEN SLISZ**

# GOING WEST AND THEN NORTH

Our 5-state Odyssey, covering over 10,000 kms. continues... Last month we zipped into a bit of Nevada then back into Utah and ended our tour of UTAH, pausing at **Bear Lake**, then onward to **Garden City Park** for a big taste of their famous **Raspberry Milkshake**, then another one at **Jakes's** with our burgers. Rather than risk OD'ing on another shake, we



Armando Almeida

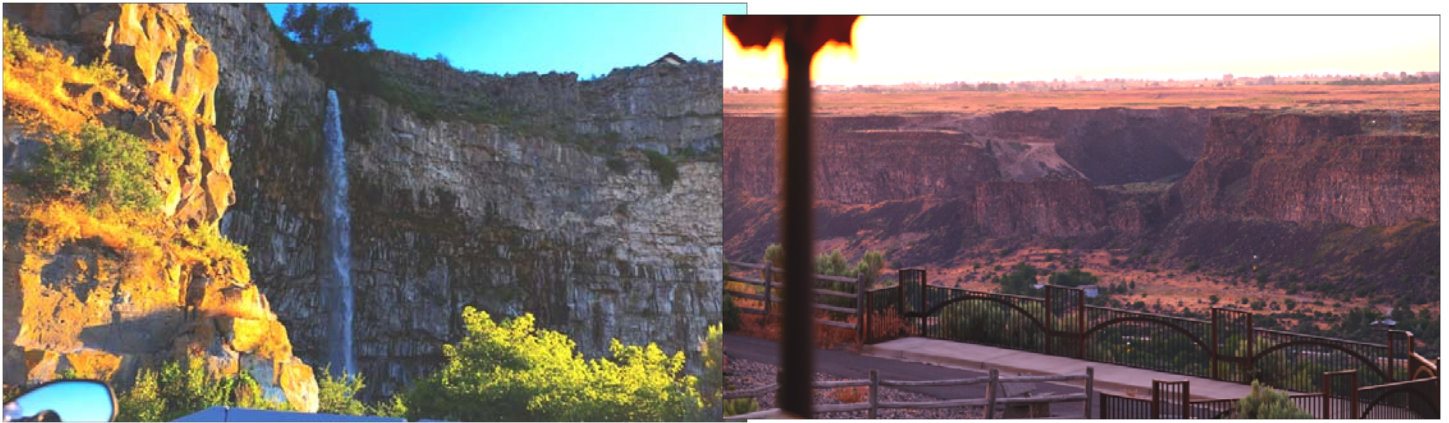


headed for **Idaho** to ride a portion of the **Old Oregon Trail**, which is roughly a 2,000-mile route from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City, Oregon, used by hundreds of thousands of American pioneers in the mid-1800s emigrating west. The trail was arduous and snaked through Missouri and present-day Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho and finally into Oregon. Without the Oregon Trail and the passing of the Oregon Donation Land Act in 1850, which encouraged settlement in the Oregon Territory, American pioneers would have been slower to settle the American West in the 19th century. As we rode the Idaho part of the trail it dawned on me that by the time they crossed into Idaho, the pioneers had been on the trail nearly two months, plenty of time to lose the excitement they experienced when starting out in Independence. In addition, by now they had lightened loads by tossing many of their personal possessions and they had witnessed plenty of mechanical failures and human tragedies.

We then rode on via Idaho Highway 30 towards **Twin Falls, ID** where we spent the night. For dinner we went to **Elevation 486 Restaurant** which is blessed to be in a one-in-a-million location, perched on the south rim of

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The Canyon, 486 vertical feet above the beautiful Snake River, "Location is everything!"



Next morning we visited the **Shoshone Falls** and the **Dierkes Lake**. Sometimes called the "Niagara of the West," Shoshone Falls is 212 feet high—45 feet higher than Niagara Falls—and flows over a rim nearly 1,000 feet wide. It offers a unique blend of recreational facilities, including playgrounds and hiking trails, landscaped picnic areas, a boat ramp and swimming area, and a scenic overlook and we saw many families enjoying the day. The water flows were high and we were even able to witness a beautiful rainbow.



And as we, motorcyclists, do many times, we made our way towards Boise, ID (in the West) by first going north on the Idaho Highway 93 to Ketchum, ID, then Idaho Highway 75 to Stanley, ID from there Idaho Highway 21 towards Lowman, ID and then Idaho City, ID and... finally **Boise, ID**. All of these Highways were amazing and I learned, this not well known fact, that Idaho is one of the best places to ride motorcycles in the United States.

We loved riding through the **Sawtooth National Forest** but the highlight of the day was **Idaho Highway 21**. The amount of curves on this road is amazing and going through Idaho City was surreal. **Idaho City** is one of those places I'll never forget as it transported me to another time period. It was the largest city in the Northwest 150 years ago with over 7,000 inhabitants. At the time, it was bigger than Portland, Oregon, largely due to

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the flood of miners seeking gold. When mining declined many years later, the population of Idaho City dwindled down to approximately 104 people, giving the town its reputation as a ghost town. Today, Idaho City has about 485 inhabitants, and while it's no longer technically a ghost town, it still has great charm, mystery and history!



We spent the night in **Boise, ID**, the capital of the state, in one of the most interesting hotels during this trip, **The Modern Hotel**, “a hip neo-motel that used to be a Travelodge before its owners transformed it into a contemporary

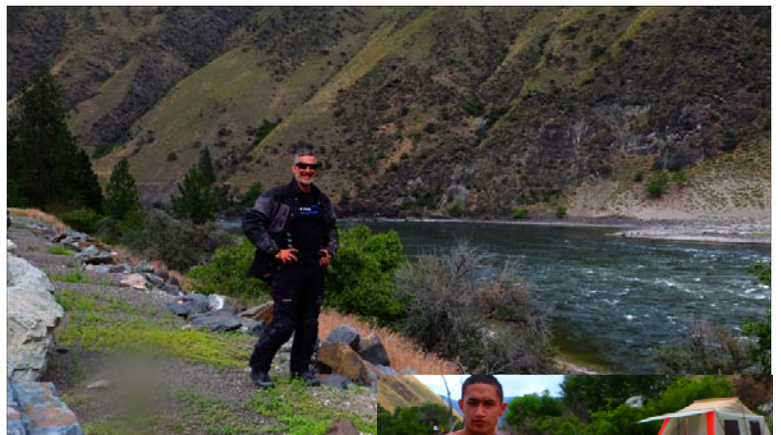
abode with stylish rooms and a swanky restaurant.” Paula waited in the hotel, I had bike in to change the back tire.

We then made our way north from Boise, ID towards Kamiah, ID. On the way out of Boise, ID we rode the Idaho Highway 55 towards **Lake Cascades** and we stopped to enjoy the views and walk around taking photos. We had lunch in McCall, ID which is a very nice resort town nestled in Idaho's picturesque mountains and bordering the **Payette Lake**.



After lunch, we made our way north on Idaho Highway 95 towards Riggins, ID, nestled deep in a canyon at the confluence of the Salmon River and the Little Salmon River. The town is all about the river as it built itself around it. We stopped to take some pictures and see the salmon run.

As we were leaving the town, we spotted some boys that had just finished fishing and spoke to them about it. We learned that thousands of salmon and steelhead journey up these rivers to their yearly spawning grounds, making them a premier catch for many who love to fish.



We rode on lonely country roads toward our accommodation for the night, in **Kamiah, ID**. The temperature was perfect and being on a BMW R1200GSA was absolutely magic. Our Inn for the night was very beautiful and we sat outside our verandah having our dinner, enjoying the sunset and looking at the **Cleanwater River** that ran just in front of the property. There is something about being in

the country that quiets the soul and that night we slept soundly.

ED: Armando's trip continues into MONTANA

In the next edition of Beemer Zeitung



CAT 2 PHOTO FOR MONTH OF *DECEMBER*



**DOWN BY THE RIVER**

Contributed by **STEPHEN SLISZ**

# The Falling Leaf

by Paul Hill

What a great weekend for a BMW rally! You can certainly see where the Falling Leaf rally gets its name. This rally is held in Missouri and this time of year the leaves are raining down like giant, radiant snowflakes. It's a beautiful sight and the colors are spectacular. If you are in a tent for the night, you might think its gently raining but you will wake up to find that the moisture is only from the dew as the sound is from the leaves coming down. Of course, that sound may be mixed with a cacophony of tunes inspired by the chili and hot dogs from the evening meal. Just think of the campfire scene in "Blazing Saddles." I missed out on the evening music since I reserved a "cozy cabin" located close to the camp site. "Cozy" is not the term I would use and after navigating



up a steep gravel hill and looking at the closet-sized room that I was condemned to stay in, I made a quick phone call to the lodge inquiring about other accommodations as I was fearing for my life and my motorcycle after going where mountain goats were too afraid to go. I was told that there were no more cabins available, at least of the cozy variety, but they did have a few that were available of the Taj Mahal variety if I was able to provide my FICO score and first born for collateral. I quickly agreed and was happy when I got a 30% discount as I was exchanging keys. The Taj Mahal was magnificent and could easily accommodate 16 adults with a huge living area, fireplace, deck, and cable TV. I was very happy and within walking distance

of the rally grounds.

This is the fourth year I've been to the Falling Leaf and it was the best so far for weather, riding and the overall experience. Missouri offers great day rides on winding roads or you can tag along with the scheduled rides including the most popular off-road ride. There was a woman in a Russian Ural with a side car and her dog as passenger who, believe it or not, was going on the off-road trip with her companion.



Her dog was wearing goggles and seemed happy as can be. There were more women at this rally than I can remember but the testosterone was in full bloom as the highlight of the rally is the anvil shoot. This is where they take an 85-pound anvil and put a stick of dynamite under it to see how high they can make it go up in the air. Guys have been known to ride thousands of miles just to see this. On the other hand, I've seen women barely look up when it happens. What can I say? It's a guy thing. It's awesome.



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FALLING LEAF(Continued from page 6)

But I have to say my favorite part of any rally is getting to meet the people and sharing great stories. I met a guy who came to America as a Hungarian refugee probably 30 years ago. BMW just seems to bring together some of the coolest and most interesting people. It's nice that BMW riders seem to have no issues with riders of other makes of motorcycles but just show admiration for any model that may have other qualities of engineering or style. Everyone has their preference and I must say I don't see myself on anything other than my 1250RT. It performed flawlessly on this trip, and I look forward to taking many more trips in the future.

I highly recommend the **Falling Leaf rally**. For me it's a two day trip with a stop in Joplin on the way there and one in Tulsa on the way back. I hope to see some of you or, all of you there next year. I will be staying in the Taj Mahal and would love to share this (and the cost) with others.



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## Motorcycle Grand Tour of Texas 2020

Flag 279 – Jim Cassidy

I made the mistake of putting on our Gmail group my completion of the “Grand Tour of Texas” and a few of you twisted my arm to write an article on my insights.

First, I will give you two web sites that will give an overview of the event which started March 1st, 2020 and was to end November 15th, 2020. Because of COVID there was a shutdown in the event for over a month (yes, it continues to be an interesting year) the completion date is now December 15th, 2020. [Grand Tour Info Page](#)

<https://motorcyclegrandtouroftexas.com/rules-for-participation/>

[Tour Stops Page](#) – this page has at the end a check sheet of the stops

<https://motorcyclegrandtouroftexas.com/home/tour-stops/>

As of November 15<sup>th</sup> there were 194 of the 950 people who signed up that had completed 25 or more of the 50 stops and 48 have completed all 50. When I finished all 50 on October 27<sup>th</sup> about 30 had finished. I signed up for the event in late 2019, and in February, they had most of the 50 locations picked. I requested a couple of Texas state maps and marked up the locations to get a handle on what was ahead. When the final list came out, I put the locations in my Garmin XT and I also created a map on Google with all 50 of the locations.

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I planned out my rides and set up geographic zones to accomplish the “mission” but with the COVID – my plans changed. I decided to make some day loops around Dallas – rides I could accomplish in one day. I did six of these “Day Rides”, averaging 7 hours of riding and just under 400 miles for each of these six trips. 18 locations were completed on the day trips and I completed my trip in town to **Moto Liberty** – this totaled 19 locations complete and 31 to go. These 31 were all remote enough – I needed to plan some multi-day trips!

My lovely wife and I talked about how this could be accomplished as I have responsibilities each Sunday as a pastor and also like to visit those 9 grandchildren. (Oh, you knew I was going to say something about my grandchildren, but Don

said, “No Pictures of the grandkids unless they are on a motorcycle!) As usual, she came up with a good idea – “Why don’t you head out of town on Sunday, after church, and then you will be out of the metroplex – try to plan trips of 2 or 3 days and you can be back for the Wednesday prayer meeting.” Yes, that is it!

I had 3 multi-day trips – one was 3.5 days and two were 2.5 days for a total of 8.5 days of riding. When I did the stats on those rides – it made me realize why I needed to rest each time I returned. I averaged 8.9 hours in the saddle and 487 miles for each of those days!

The totals for the “Tour” on flag 279 were: **6,514 miles, 119 hours, and an average speed of 55.** I guess you could say I was focused.

Equipment used: I ride a **2013 BMW R1200 GS WC** and it now has 73,000 miles on it. I purchased it with a few thousand miles on it in early 2014 and it has been a great bike. I change the engine and rear end oil regularly and have lubed the splines since Jim Christian taught me and reminded me how important it is. Yeah, those airplane mechanics can teach us all a few things. I really do appreciate being a part of the BMWDFW group that helps each other learn about our bikes.

I splurged a couple of years ago before heading out to Canada on a motorcycle camping trip and purchased a **Redverz Atacama tent** – it is very nice (it should be \$\$\$). **Total nights camping were 7 for a total cost \$70.00.** Yes, two nights were free! I am not a fella who needs a gourmet meal each night – I was raised in a family of 10 - one of 8 children. The boil and eat meals are fine with me – so I have a little cook stove to make a freeze-dried meal at night and oatmeal and coffee in the morning. Typically, I stop at a Chick-fil-a for lunch or some other “high class” restaurant for a meal on the road.



Some of the things I learned: Stephen Slisz, Don Mills, Scot Thompson, and even John Painter plan a lot nicer trips than I do! Yes, I “got it done” but it was not your typical BMWDFW ride. It was good to see more of Texas, but our Tourmeisters have been very good at getting us to great locations that were included on this

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“Grand Tour”.

The three multi-day tours were the most interesting. The first was a 2.5-day ride to the Hill Country. I left Sunday about 1:30 pm on 9/13/20 and camped in Fredericksburg at the **Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park** for two nights. I was able to knock out 16 locations on that trip – from Leaky to Seguin, and on to Houston’s **San Jacinto Monument**. The San Jacinto Monument is beautiful, but you sure need a mask when you visit that part of Houston! I arrived at the Monument at 6:08 pm and after leaving Fredericksburg at 9:00 am. It had been a good day of riding and I was ready to set up the tent but – I did not plan well! For some reason there are no nice campsites near the petrochemical plants! The few I found outside of Houston but they did not allow tents. By the time I got out of the “traffic” of Houston – I was halfway to Dallas. Yes, you guessed it – I was ready to get home. I rode another 275 miles and got to Dallas at 10:30 pm. The camping is not too bad but – home is better! That was the longest single day of riding on 9/15/20 – 635 miles in 13 hours.



The second multi-day trip was 3.5 days of riding including **Borger, Dimmitt, Odessa, Stockton, Big Bend, Alpine, San Angelo**, and then back to Dallas. I left on Sunday, 10/4/20 at 1:30 pm and got my picture in front of Antelope



Creek Leather in Borger – then headed to a **Fritch Fortress Camp on Meredith Lake**. It is maintained by the National Park Service and is very nice and cost nothing to camp or use the showers. I thought, “This will be GREAT!” but....., I had asked a friend who grew up in Amarillo if he had ever been to Meredith



Lake when he was growing up in that part of the country. He said to me, “you know, it is very windy there at Meredith Lake”. Well, when a fella from Amarillo tells you someplace is windy – you probably should take note.

It was about 8:00 pm when I finally got the tent set up – it almost blew down the 100 ft cliff into the lake a few times but I remembered how much I had paid for that tent and I

did not want to lose it! Did I tell you about the supplemental guy lines on the Atacama tent? Well, I needed every one of them! I put my earplugs in and thought, “well, if I don’t look up at the tent moving maybe I can get some rest, NOT”. I thought the wind was blowing hard at 8:00 pm but it kept getting worse. I just knew that tent and I were going in that lake! I got up a few times to check the “guy lines” and it was all in place but at 4:00am I could take it no longer. I was heading South to Canyon to get my picture at the Tex Randall

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Statue. I had to wait for a little daylight, but I got it done and by the time that day was over – I had gone 480 miles in 8 hours and was sitting in Marathon, TX! I was ready to get a good night sleep, but it was not going to happen.

I set up the tent in a beautiful spot in a campground right in **Marathon**,



**YES!** I was sitting next to my tent when a fella came over to talk to me who was in a 200.0K motorhome in the same park. He said to me, “Wow, you have a really nice set up. Do you have ear plugs that you wear when you sleep?” I said yes and he went on to tell me about the train noise that goes on about every 2 hours along the main rail that is 300 yards from the campground. He was right! Not much sleep that night.

After a wonderful day of riding around Big Bend, I knew staying at the railroad station was not a good option – I picked up the tent and found a free site in **Big Lake, TX** at the **Reagan County Park** – no trains, no wind, yes, I got a good rest that night. 10/7/20 was a light day of riding only 342 miles in a little over 5 hours and I was home.

My last multi-day ride was to the far South of Texas. I left again on Sunday 10/25/20 at 2:30pm and headed for my first and only picture of the day at the **Classic Rock Coffee Shop in Navasota**. Now that is a really neat coffee shop! I camped 30 miles West of Navasota at **Yegua Creek Park on Somerville Lake**. This is a Federal campground you must reserve on recrea-



tion.gov and with the senior pass it was only \$14.00 a night. That place is a jewel. I got a good night sleep and headed out for a long day of riding that would take me to Goliad, Port Aransas, and finally to **South Padre Island**. 429 miles and 8 hours of riding and yes, I found a nice campground operated by the county, **Isla Blanca Park**. After a night camping next to the beach at 80 degrees, I knew I'd better get home to beat the cold front heading South from OKC which was hit by an ice storm.

Crumbs, I had a 600-mile drive ahead of me the next day and needed to be in Dallas no later than 3:00 pm to miss the traffic and worsening weather. I was on the road by 5:00 am, the temperature was in the high 70's and I was hoping not to need my heated gear until San Antonio, about 300 miles North. Well, I am a dreamer, I was South of Kingsville, 100 miles North of Padre when I needed everything I had in the bag – got plugged in and kept going North. I got home with all 50 locations complete a little after 3:00 pm. **Sweet Success!**

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## 2021 PREMIER CLUB RIDES - *maybe*

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

“Thank God It’s Spring”

Farewell to Summer Rally

**BMWDFW Annual “Fall Color Tour” -  
Oct 21-24 Eureka Springs, AR**

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

**Cancellations** Resulting from the CoVid Executive Orders. Please Check the Website and Group.io List for Most Recent Updates

## **RECURRING CLUB ACTIVITES DETAIL - [On Hold due to CoVid](#)**

### **BMWDFW Club Forum**

Our members’ forum is at the BMWDFW Group.io [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**

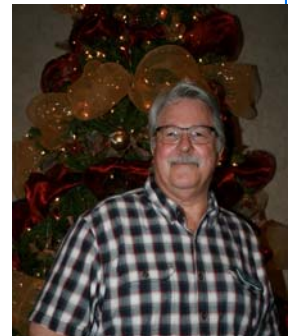
AM/10 AM, Mary’s Brazos Café, Tin Top, 15 mi south of Weatherford, Texas. A ride follows, weather permitting.

### **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 BMWDFWGroup.io [Click here to join](#)



VINCE BRECKNER

## 2021 UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

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

**NONE ON THE BOOKS**

### OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS DETAIL

*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.*

**WAITING ON Covid**



DEAR TOURMEISTER - YEEHA

WE'RE KEEPING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS

SINCERELY, *ALL OF BMWDFW*

**Membership  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
CANCELLED**

**7:30 PM**

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

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

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