

BEEMER ZEITUNG

MARCH 2021



CAT 1

TEX DINOS PAUSE IN FEAR OF APEX
PREDATOR

Contributed by MIKE VALENTIN



Stephen Slisz

True North

Cranfills Gap Texas

When you first walk into the *Horny Toad Bar and Grill* in Cranfills Gap Texas, there's an old weigh station scale you have to sashay your way past as you belly up to the bar to order your burger and fries. If the ordering line is lengthy, you may end up leaning on that scale for a bit as you ponder your lunch menu selection. Did you wonder why there's a large weigh scale in the middle of the floor? The Horny Toad was a former feed store and up till the



mid 1970's the store was a weigh station for wool and mohair when the area's fields were full of Angora goats. Currently the scale is just a conversation piece and in the era of Covid social distancing, it's a support-stand for a large manual-pump jug of hand sanitizer. On any fair-weather Saturday, the Toad is a mecca for motorcycle enthusiasts and is now serving up chicken quesadillas, burgers and cold beer instead of pushing sacks of feed out the back door. Quite often the Toad's main drag, Third Street, is so full of bikers it resembles a scene out of the hit TV series about an out-law motorcycle gang – *"Sons of Anarchy"*.

(Continued on page 3)

Sons of Anarchy has bigger tie-in to Cranfills Gap that might delight fans of the current hit TV series - **Yellowstone**. Taylor Sheridan, co-creator of cable TV's runaway "rope opera" hit, got his first big Hollywood gig in **Sons of Anarchy** as the show's no-nonsense police chief. After two successful seasons Sheridan asked for a raise and was promptly killed off by the series writers. Soured from being an actor Sheridan turned to screenwriting and created the Western trilogy of **Sicario, Hell or High Water, and Wind River** before creating 2020's highest rated cable TV program, **Yellowstone**.

Taylor Sheridan's mother grew up in Bosque County and his parents wanted their children to know about West Texas country living and they bought a ranch in Cranfills Gap in 1978 when Sheridan was 8. Actually living in Ft Worth, the family would drive to the ranch on weekends, holidays and summers effectively having the kids "grow up" in the Gap.

Recently nicknamed "our generation's greatest Western story teller", Sheridan's writing is greatly influenced by the stories he heard as a child about the struggles between Norwegian immigrants and the multiple bands of Native Americans in the area; especially the Comanche. In 1867, Comanches in the Norwegian Upper Settlement area of the Gap, kidnapped a 14 year old boy and held him for months before releasing him alive. That story and the discovery of Paleo-Indian burial grounds near their ranch, (Sheridan said they always had people from the University of Texas digging around on their ranch) and stories from the UT archeologists and the artifacts they found, further fueled his imagination about the local lore.

You may have been on one of the day-trips we've taken to Cranfills Gap, the Horny Toad and the ridge above "Little Norway" as we rode a few miles up County Road 4145 to the St. Olaf's Kirke - The Old Rock Church. Sheridan has an anecdotal story about the church too. As a pre-teen, he and some friends would sneak into the church's organ loft. When tourists would come in for a visit, the kids would blast a dramatic ghostly chord from the organ to send the tourists running from the "haunted" church.

I know quite often the rides I lead are all about the twisty, curvy roads and I consider the spirited pace as a big drawing card for the ride. But deep in my heart, especially where local Native American history is involved, it's really entertaining to dig a little deeper and check out "The Rest of the Story."

2021 - "Everything will be alright in the end. If it's not alright, it's not the end yet."

"Yeaha" Stephen Slisz#

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SAFETY FIRST

by RUBEN ALANIS

Hi everyone, let's talk about staying young and wise.

To stay young and wise is to be aware that there is always potential to learn.

So today let's think about the fountain of youth within. The willingness to learn and do things differently in the name of progress would be the fountain and the water flowing would be the information, books, youtube videos, experience, safety talks, etc... you get the point.

Once this has sunk in, let's think about our motorcycle riding. If there is a part of you that says I know everything there is about riding, you my friend are closing the doors on riding improvement; Its like sitting on the bottom of a hill looking at the fountain at top of the hill. Just because we have not had an accident in a while or because we've been riding for "all our life" does not mean you finished all the water in the fountain. It's like saying that road conditions, car speed, car driver awareness, has not changed since you started riding. I remember there were no cell phones the first time I rode a motorcycle. We have to keep up with our changing times and continue to develop knowledge and awareness to ride better, to ride safely and to go back to our loved ones.....because as unlikely this may sound for some of us.....there are people waiting for us to come back in one piece.

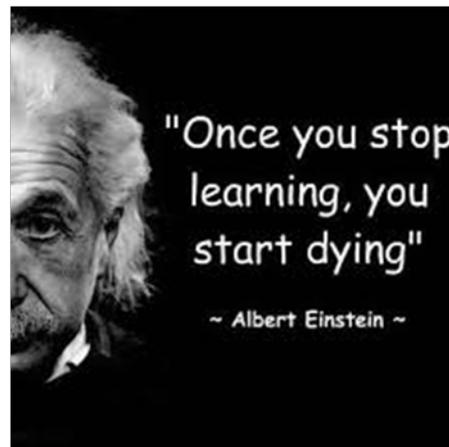
Let's please be young enough to watch a youtube video about riding skills, be open to have conversations about other ways of handling situations , be smart enough to sign up to a riding course now and then. If you have a friend that happens to be a pilot....ask them if learning is over after flying school.....then...after you ask them, get away from their front path just in case they spit out their water while laughing. Of course learning and updating is never over!!!

So if you're guilty of not attending a safety course in the last year or two....start looking for one that fits your needs. As your safety guy, I will provide information about the course that the Oklahoma Police places every year specially for riders...so be aware of this upcoming information which will be announced on the bmwdfw website in the next few days.

knowledge is worth everything when we use it and spread it.

Stay safe fellow riders, stay young fellow learners and thank you teachers,

Ruben Alanis



CAT 2 PHOTO FOR MONTH OF *MARCH*



JOANN....My own true love slipped away to Heaven March 1, 2021.

TOM MANLEY

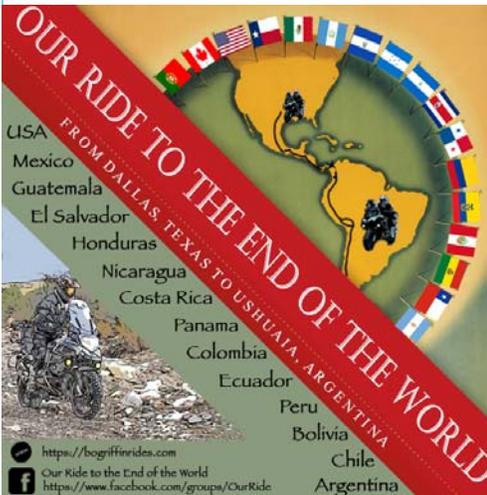
Our Ride to the End of The World

Aptly named as we would be riding to the end of the road in South America, this was one of the trips I had always dreamed about since I first saw the film “The Motorcycle Diaries” in 2004. At that time I did not have a motorcycle so I thought I would do it in a Jeep. Little did I know that life had a much more adventurous way waiting for me.

I literally rode my motorcycle from my garage in Dallas, Texas USA to Ushuaia, Argentina passing through so many of the most famous roads in the world like the Ruta 40 in Argentina, Carretera Austral in Chile, The Pan American Highway, the Road of Death in Bolivia and so many more. We would have to bypass the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia which is pretty much unridable and for this part we would send the bikes by plane from Panama City, Panama to Bogota, Colombia.



Armando Almeida



The plan for the trip was that we would do this in 6 weeks but in the end, as we were having so much fun, we decided to extend it to 82 days where we visited 14 different countries (did over 22,000 kms and enjoyed one of our most memorable rides.

It is impossible to put down in a magazine article all the things we did so I will be selective and choose some of the most amazing days we experienced.

I will also choose a number of special encounters that marked us during this trip.

I will do this in chronological order as these moments happened in our lives.

PART 1 - Mexico and Central America where we visited 6 of the 7 countries in this region (we did not get to Belize).

Myself and two of my American friends, Bo and Dave, met south of Dallas, Texas in Llano, Texas on December 28, 2019. We were to be riding mates for weeks and our first night stop was in Sabinas, Mexico. As I was the only one who spoke Spanish, it was left for me to communicate with the locals. We had decided not to book anything in advance and we would book the hotels on the same day using booking.com or arrive in a town and look for an hotel. As it turned out in the end, we would choose the hotel using booking.com but always try to negotiate a better price when we got there. Sometimes we would be successful but other times we could get cheaper prices using booking.com than negotiating locally. Never understood this as the hotel has to pay a commission when we book with booking.com.



Crossing the border on the USA side into Piedras Negras, MX was pretty simple as all we had to do was pay a toll to cross a one each way traffic bridge, wait for them to take some pictures of our motorcycles and us and let us through.

We then travelled about 40 miles (64 kms) to Allende, TX where we had to do immigration and customs. The immigration was quick but the customs was extremely slow as one has to stand in line for hours. Only two of us could be on the line as one (Dave in this case) stood outside by the bikes. During this time, we had to listen to some people that came with sad stories of how they were stuck after an accident

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and with no money to get back home and begged people to help them. The use of props, like a neck brace and children carefully placed and looking sad is very well done and Mexican people do help. Later on, I had the chance of meeting the family (mother, father and two kids) who hung around the bikes asking a number of questions about the trip. They had dropped the act and were laughing and enjoying themselves.

When it was eventually our turn we were treated very nicely, the process was explained to us and they even took photocopies of our documents. The whole affair costs about \$28 for immigration, \$435 for customs (out of which we get back \$400 when we leave Mexico).



All in all a good day where we learned about each other's riding styles and speeds and practiced at riding in a group formation. Entering Mexico is always fun as the colors change, things look different and people are very nice to deal with. Over the next two days we had a lot of ground to cover so we departed quite early, had a quick meal on the road, and did what we love so much...ride and eat up miles.

Day 2 – Visiting a Children's Home and Festival of Lights

One of the things that has always amazed me living in the United States is the culture of giving to the less privileged and in this trip Bo had decided that he would like us to take some presents (we were travelling around the Christmas time) to a children's home in Mexico. The visit to the children's home was very nice. In the beginning the lady came out alone and we could see the girls (it was an all-girl home) looking through the windows. But she eventually warmed up and let us in



the house where Bo put

some presents under the Xmas tree and then we all took a picture together. We hope that those three young girls we met will remember fondly these three riders that one day came to visit, left presents and then rode away.

In the evening we walked to the plaza, joined many Mexicans for dinner where we tasted and learned about a number of new dishes specific of this region. We even had our own band in the restaurant.

The end of the evening in **San Luis Potosi, Mexico** was the **Festival of Lights** which was fabulous.

I was really enjoying coming back to Mexico as I love their culture, cuisine and friendliness of its people.

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Day 3 – The Plaza in PUEBLA

On our third night we found ourselves in **Puebla, Mexico** and we decided to take a bus tour to better know the city. We also went to **Saint Guadalupe hill** where a lot of the iconic buildings and statues to the various Mexican heroes are. From this location you can see below the well-lit city. It is as if they built it so its heroes can watch every day what they fought for and generations can come and pay tribute for being alive and free. ...I loved it !

Back at the Plaza, which is the main square that exists in all Mexican cities, I walked into the church to see its magnificence and they were actually having a service so I joined. I always enjoy being in a crowd that is sharing their devotion with their God. For in these moments people forget about their differences and their self-interests and look upon the divine as an higher power and thus become humble and more human. Energized by this experience it was time to walk among the thousands of people that mingled with their families and loved ones and just watch the beauty of humanity.



I love to ride a motorcycle, its pleasures are undeniable, on it I feel like a man with super powers and who does not love to have those. But for me the most beautiful part of traveling around the world is meeting and seeing people of other cultures. See perfect strangers that I will never meet again and in these moments that we share the same space and time, feel deep inside something that connects me to them. How very strange and very beautiful.

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Day 4 – Topes and The Beginning of a New Year

One of the features that we encountered throughout our trip were the speed bumps that are present everywhere. In Mexico they are called “**topes**”, come in different shapes and sizes and are lots of times hidden by the light and shadows on the road. They are lurking waiting for inattentive riders to “kick” when least expected, which is usually right after you just overtake a slower car and you are preoccupied with this maneuver and not looking for these sleeping policemen.



We have been using communication devices to stay in touch with each other. It really is a safety aid as the front rider can warn the other two of dangers on the road and the back rider can warn of any cars that may be overtaking us. It also helps as we call each other's attention to things we see on the side of the road as we pass by the more populated areas.

We were also getting accustomed to the great food we would be encountering in this trip and at amazing prices. Today after a set of curves we entered in this little town

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and in the right side saw a sign for a “comedor” which means restaurant. We actually overshot it and then had to come back for it. We were received by a large family and the lunch felt like we were actually dining with them. As we have done so far, and has worked well, we speak directly to the cook and let her choose what she recommends. In this case it was pork chops with a very tasty sauce that we poured over the rice, added the black beans and put a bit of red chili. We used tortillas to round up the meal. The most amazing thing is that the price of the lunch for three with a bottle of water, a coke and lime juice was \$9.

Tonight, was **New Year’s Eve** and I stayed in the plaza, and decided to visit the church and enjoy a number of acts of local artists that use the plaza as their stage. It was a great variety show. I laughed heartily with the clown and paused to think as “Sounds of Silence” played above the noise of the plaza.



Day 5 – The Pacific Ocean

Today for the first time on this trip we saw the ocean, in this case **the Pacific**. If yesterday had been a great ride, today it was magnificent. The **175** is very much a road worth doing in Mexico. I have to believe it is in the top 5 to ride in this country.

We had left **Oaxaca** and made our way south and west towards the Pacific Ocean, lunched at San Jose **Del Pacifico** where the view was excellent but the food just average. We had climbed up to 9,200 feet ABSL (more than 2,700 meters) and temperature had dropped to below 60F (15C), but as we had gotten closer to the coast the temperatures started to rise and reached nearly at 90F (32C) when we arrived. towards the end of the afternoon and were able to take some pictures of the beach. But, by the time we had found an hotel, unloaded and freshened up with a shower the sun had gone down. We dined in a fresh fish restaurant and after eating meat and chicken so far it felt good to have fish and sea food.



There is a road behind the first row of hotels close to the beach where all the action is and it is full of people walking around until late hours of the night. To counterbalance that you also have the quietness and peace of the seaside.

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In the morning we woke up quite early and were treated to an amazing sunrise as we walked on the beach.

Day 7 – An Unforgettable encounter

6 weeks before we started our trip I heard about this couple **Heiki and Toshi** that were traveling the world on a BMW

R1200GSA. “Heike cannot walk, uses a wheelchair, and Toshi needs to assist for most of her needs”. They had entered Mexico at the end of November going south. I contacted them and said that we might meet them on the road.

Today, as we were arriving at our hotel after visiting Chamuca and Zinacantan, we saw a yellow R1200GSA with a sidecar. Heiki and Toshi had just arrived in town!

We had dinner with them and learned that Heiki was a teacher when she met Toshi and they had fallen in love. Heiki has a disease that has pretty much turned her into a quadriplegic, so she is reliant on Tosh to help her do everything. She has trouble breathing and that she is riding on a motorcycle is amazing. Riding around the world is absolutely nuts. It took them years for her to get used to riding before they could even think about this trip.

During the trip I thought of her, if at any time I was uncomfortable or felt sorry for myself.

Days 8-9 – Guatemala



Armando’s travels to the End of The World will continue next month Ed.

**2021
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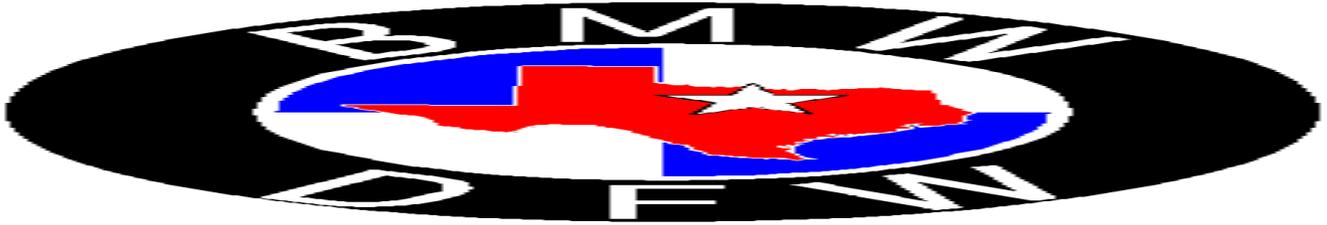
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2021 PREMIER CLUB RIDES - *maybe*

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

May 1-2, Fredericksburg, TX. - "Roads of Spring"

"Thank God It's Spring" - TBD

Farewell to Summer Rally - TBD

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 ACTIVITIES DETAIL

BMWDFW Club Forum

Our members' forum is at the BMWDFW Group.io [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

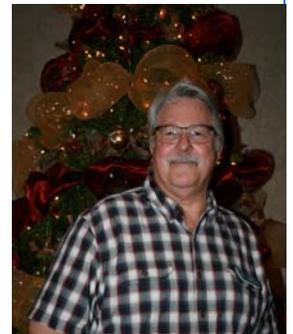
AM/10 AM, Mary's Brazos Café, Tin Top, 15 mi south of Weatherford, Texas. A ride follows, weather permitting.

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



VINCE BRECKNER

2021 UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

2021 BMWDFW Roads of Spring Ride May 1 - May 2

May 1 & 2, 2021 5th Annual Fredericksburg Vintage Motorcycle Show & Ride-In Pecan Grove Store May 1, 2021 Admission = a donation of three cans of food or cash donation for the local food bank. Open class Vintage Bike Show \$20 entry fee per bike. All entries receive a souvenir koozie and sticker. Registration will be at the store Saturday 10:00-11:30am. Showtime is 12-3:00 pm. We are an official stop on the Hill Country Run. For more info call: 830-990-4433. (not...

[Find out more »](#)

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.

Apr 4, Sun; ***EASTER SUNDAY***

Third Annual Medicine Park Street Taco Run April 10

Third Annual Medicine Park OK Street Taco Run (Day Ride) Saturday April 10, 2021 3rd Annual Street Taco Run - The Annual Street Taco Run in Medicine Park, OK has become a tradition for Long-distance riders from around the country. Expect great street tacos, live music, lots of motorcycles, and camaraderie. All are welcome to attend! <https://www.facebook.com/events/612765752727382> <https://www.ridetexas.com/event/3rd-annual-street-taco-run/>

Sat 4/10 – 8:30 am – Stands Up. Taco Run ride leaves from the 7/11 on 114 at Trophy Club.

11am – Arrive... [Find out more »](#)

Ozark Escape

April 16 - April 18

Ozark Great Escape - Eureka Springs, AR Moto Adrenaline Tours - This is a MTSA kick off event for the new year. This is a Just For Fun event. There is no fee for this event. Just show up and Ride. All fees for lodging, fuel and food are your responsibility. This is a MSTA (Motorcycle Sport Touring Association/Arkansas) event but it's put on by our friend and former Dallas-ite Jerry James and he's inviting us without our having to become an...

MOA Getaway Santa Fe – Tentative for May 20-23

May 20 - May 23

The Kerrville MOA Getaway conflicts with our annual Fall Colors Ride in October. But, this year there is a Getaway in Santa Fe NM that does not conflict with anything we have on our calendar so far... May 21-23. These rides are very similar to our weekend overnights and the MOA has done all the leg work for us. The fee is \$99 for the event and includes two meals. Hotel rooms are your responsibility. I'm thinking of putting a...

[Find out more »](#)

BMWMOA National Rally – Great Falls, MT.

June 24 @ 8:00 am - June 27 @ 5:00 pm

Montana Expo Park, 400 3rd St NW

Great Falls, MT 59404 United States [+ Google Map](#)

Great Falls offers all the best of Montana recreation: fishing, hunting, hiking, and more. Added to that, a rich history and arts community that caters to enthusiasts. We welcome you to a True Montana and True to Expectations. [Find out more »](#)

Top of the Rockies Rally – Paonia Colorado – July

July 14 - July 19

[RSVP Now!](#)

Ride to the Top of the Rockies Rally July 15-17 2021 Got an email from the Colorado BMW club that the 2021 TOR Rally is on! One of my favorites and I'm going again this year. All the restaurants in New Mexico and Colorado are Take-Out Only at this time so if the virus doesn't ease up, this will be the ultimate distancing ride. We'll just grab our stuff to go and spread ourselves out! The TOR rally is mainly...

[Find out more »](#)

**Membership
Meeting**

**Tuesday
APRIL 13
7:30 PM**

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

**At Forest Ridge & Air-
port Freeway (Hwy
121)**