

BEEMER ZEITUNG

JUNE 2021



CAT 1

DANCIN' WITH THE DEAD

Contributed by ARMANDO ALMEIDA

BMW Motorcycle Club
Dallas - Fort Worth



BMWDFW Tech Day 2021 10am to 4 pm Sunday, 13 June, 2021

Hosted at Cycle Center/BMW Motorcycles of Denton
521 Acme St, Denton, TX 76205

You read that right! Tech Day in the Denton's dealership's professional shop!

Meet the Denton BMW Techs!

Got any questions you've been dying to ask a BMW Tech? Now is your chance!

We'll have the club's mechanical cognoscenti there, too. You definitely need to know them, if you don't already. Lunch will be available for a small donation, too. Be sure to RSVP at the Calendar event ([Click here](#)) so we'll know how much to bring. **And there's so much more...**click on the link above and get all the information on the event.

We will have literally centuries of experience available to answer your every question at the BMWDFW Tech Day event on **Sunday, Jun 13th**, from 10 am to 4 pm. This includes not only our own tech gurus, but the experts from our host, Cycle Center of Denton/BMW Motorcycles of Denton. If you're planning on being there to join us for lunch we ask that you again RSVP for the new date

To RSVP for the new event [CLICK HERE](#) add the number in your party and click confirm. All the details for Tech Day are available at the above link, too.

And there's no need to haul all those parts and liquids for your maintenance, either. You can order parts and liquids to be waiting for you. The order form is attached up at the top or just call Jason at 940 387 3885 for all your needs. Take advantage of the 15% discount!

Have a good week and ride safe!

Vince

I'm pretty sure there was one when we took it apart.....



Journey to the Center Of The Universe

(Part 1)

It was a sunny Sunday when I started this journey but the idea had been percolating in the back of my mind for a very long time.

I am a huge fan of the 1950s science fiction movies about space travel: *Destination Moon* (1950), *The Day The Earth Stood Still* (1951), *The War Of The Worlds* (1953), *The Blob* (1958) and many more. I could go on and on and on.



Mike Gragg

This trip was even less scientific than those movies were and this account isn't at all fictional but with my ultimate destination The Center of The Universe I knew exactly what I was going to call it *Journey To The Center Of The Universe*.

2017 had not been kind to me. I had been ill for most of it, having no energy, significant cognitive issues and a twenty pound weight loss. Tentative diagnoses were influenza and a reaction to a medication I had taken for several years. No firm diagnosis was ever made, but I was unable to work or to concentrate on trip planning. Frustrated, I packed my motorcycle, waited for a break in the weather, updated my phone's Hotels.com app and departed with only a loose idea of routing and destinations.

STAGE 1 - TO THE CENTER OF THE 50 UNITED STATES

DAY 1

Altoona, Kansas and the Prairie Nut Hut

The trip didn't start very auspiciously. I left home on a Sunday morning and was making good time and enjoying the ride, the nice weather, and seeing new 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 Kansas, Amelia Earhart and Louise Foudray

It was a pleasant day riding through small eastern Kansas towns and enjoying the gentle hills and curves. I was beginning to feel better. Continuing north I thought it might be interesting to stop at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum on the Missouri River bluffs in Atchison, Kansas. I met Mrs. Louise Foudray, former manager of the museum, in the front

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JOURNEY TO THE CENTER(Continued from page 3)

yard. Mrs. Foudray and I stood in the front yard in the shade of a big tree and had a long and interesting chat about Amelia's life, accomplishments and eventual disappearance. She also 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 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 "nice" or "young" so she definitely made my day. Thank you Mrs. Foudray for an enjoyable and entertaining interlude.



After an interesting ride along and across the Missouri River and into St. Joseph, Missouri (the eastern terminus of the legendary Pony Express) US 36 provided a scenic hour-long journey back across the river into Kansas and on to Hiawatha and the welcoming Best Western.

**DAY 2
Marysville, Kansas and the Pony Express**

Pony Express Help Wanted Poster:

“Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.”



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 the western terminus in Sacramento. 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. They were 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

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JOURNEY TO THE CENTER(Continued from page 4)

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 its original condition and in its original location. The Marysville Home Station 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.



Florence, Kansas and Fred Harvey

Fred Harvey is credited with creating the first restaurant chain in America, beginning in 1875, with two locations. In 1876, he bought the two year old Clifton Hotel in Florence, Kansas, refurbishing and expanding it to include a new restaurant. In 1878, the Florence Harvey House became the **first Harvey House** to offer sleeping accommodations, in addition to the excellent food served by the legendary Harvey Girls. Today the museum is operated by the Florence Historical Society and is open by appointment only.



Surrender

Although I had enjoyed being outdoors and on the motorcycle, riding for the past two days had tired me far more than I had expected. It was clear that I would not be able to continue this ride which I had thought about and looked forward to for so long. I felt that I had no choice but to give up and return home. My wife was surprised when I rode into the garage at home on Monday night but agreed that I had made the right decision.

DAY 3

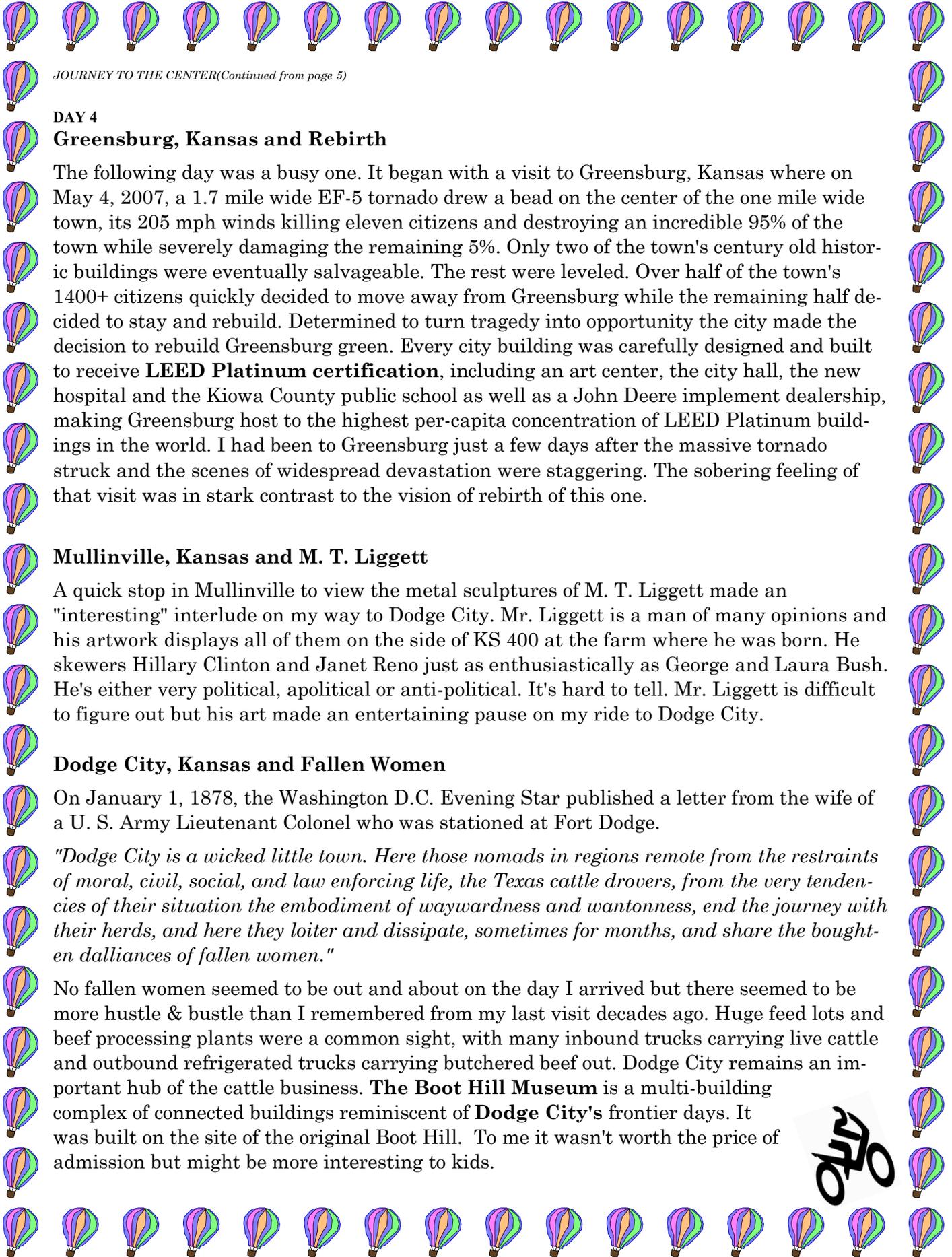
Rethinking

A good night's sleep in my own bed did wonders for me. By noon Peggy made a suggestion that I rent a car and resume the trip. Since I was still weak and since the weather was forecast to be cold and rainy most of the next two weeks it seemed like a great idea to me. There was no way I could do the trip on the motorcycle

Peggy took me to Enterprise Car Rental in Miami, Oklahoma and I returned with a big black Chrysler 300C. She quickly repacked my luggage into a more car-friendly bag while I made a motel reservation in Wichita, Kansas, about three hours away. At about 2:30 Tuesday afternoon I left and drove to Wichita's Airport Best Western motel. The trip was back on!

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DAY 4

Greensburg, Kansas and Rebirth

The following day was a busy one. It began with a visit to Greensburg, Kansas where on May 4, 2007, a 1.7 mile wide EF-5 tornado drew a bead on the center of the one mile wide town, its 205 mph winds killing eleven citizens and destroying an incredible 95% of the town while severely damaging the remaining 5%. Only two of the town's century old historic buildings were eventually salvageable. The rest were leveled. Over half of the town's 1400+ citizens quickly decided to move away from Greensburg while the remaining half decided to stay and rebuild. Determined to turn tragedy into opportunity the city made the decision to rebuild Greensburg green. Every city building was carefully designed and built to receive **LEED Platinum certification**, including an art center, the city hall, the new hospital and the Kiowa County public school as well as a John Deere implement dealership, making Greensburg host to the highest per-capita concentration of LEED Platinum buildings in the world. I had been to Greensburg just a few days after the massive tornado struck and the scenes of widespread devastation were staggering. The sobering feeling of that visit was in stark contrast to the vision of rebirth of this one.

Mullinville, Kansas and M. T. Liggett

A quick stop in Mullinville to view the metal sculptures of M. T. Liggett made an "interesting" interlude on my way to Dodge City. Mr. Liggett is a man of many opinions and his artwork displays all of them on the side of KS 400 at the farm where he was born. He skewers Hillary Clinton and Janet Reno just as enthusiastically as George and Laura Bush. He's either very political, apolitical or anti-political. It's hard to tell. Mr. Liggett is difficult to figure out but his art made an entertaining pause on my ride to Dodge City.

Dodge City, Kansas and Fallen Women

On January 1, 1878, the Washington D.C. Evening Star published a letter from the wife of a U. S. Army Lieutenant Colonel who was stationed at Fort Dodge.

"Dodge City is a wicked little town. Here those nomads in regions remote from the restraints of moral, civil, social, and law enforcing life, the Texas cattle drovers, from the very tendencies of their situation the embodiment of waywardness and wantonness, end the journey with their herds, and here they loiter and dissipate, sometimes for months, and share the boughten dalliances of fallen women."

No fallen women seemed to be out and about on the day I arrived but there seemed to be more hustle & bustle than I remembered from my last visit decades ago. Huge feed lots and beef processing plants were a common sight, with many inbound trucks carrying live cattle and outbound refrigerated trucks carrying butchered beef out. Dodge City remains an important hub of the cattle business. **The Boot Hill Museum** is a multi-building complex of connected buildings reminiscent of **Dodge City's** frontier days. It was built on the site of the original Boot Hill. To me it wasn't worth the price of admission but might be more interesting to kids.



CAT 2 PHOTO FOR MONTH OF JUNE



“DON’T FENCE ME IN”

By STEPHEN “YEEHA” SLISZ

True North



Stephen Slisz

“Missed it by that much.” Says Maxwell Smart to the Chief, the boss of the spy organization – CONTROL. In the 1960’s weekly TV secret agent spoof *Get Smart*, agent 86, Max Smart, played by actor Don Adams, gives his supervisor repeated excuses for the SNAFU situations that happen in every episode. That’s my line for the ugly weather that has affected most of our club rides in the past year.



Starting with the 2020 version of the **Fall Colors Ride**, it seems that almost every event has had some kind of bad weather that reduced attendance or completely eliminated our rides altogether. Yet, a day or two later the weather changes for the better, making me want to scream **“Missed it by that much.”**



The fall ride up to **Eureka Springs** was nice but the rest of the weekend’s chilly rain itinerary involved trolley tickets and rides downtown to be tourists. After our Fall Colors event, I stayed in Arkansas for the week and attended the Dallas BMW club’s fall event on the following weekend. From the out-

set, the weather improved and was beautiful and sunny through the week. We had “Missed it by that much”.

Add the cancelled ride to the **Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-Up**, the rainy spring ride to Eureka Springs, the cool air, wind, and ugly clouds at the **Oklahoma Highway Patrol rider training**, the rainout of the ride to the **Pecan Grove Vintage Bike Show** in Fredericksburg, and most recently the **Cycle Center of Denton club Tech Day** rain-out and you might see a pattern.

We did get to break it up a little and get some sunshine for the ride to **Street Taco Day** in Medicine Park Oklahoma, but it came back with the club ride to the **MOA Getaway in Santa Fe New Mexico**. Randy Simoneau, John Bonowitz and I squeaked in the ride without hitting any storms, but I did get spooked and delayed the start of the ride due to a rotten TV weather forecast. I shouldn’t have cancelled the first day because it turned out clear and sunny. “Missed it by that much.”



Maybe we should keep our eye on a more promising TV show theme and push for a brighter mantra like the kids show title *Sunny Savanna Sparkle Spectacular*.

I caught the long range weather forecast for next week and the new schedule for Sunday’s Tech Day promises to be Sunny Sparkle Spectacular. Hopefully, along with the good vaccination news on the COVID scare, our luck will improve for the rest of 2021 and we can get in some wonderful events this year. Then we can cry **“Nailed it by that much!”**

THE MOTO SHUFFLE



RICK KALLMAYER

We are moving to a new house which is slooowly under construction. We sold our old house to a nice couple who would like very much for us to move out, so we are entering a state of homelessness until the new house is finished. Our stuff is headed to a moving company warehouse except for our motorcycles, which I plan to stash in a couple of rental garage units. During the past few days I have been riding the fleet over the same route from the old house to the rent-a-garage. Normally, when I want to go for a ride I select whichever bike has been parked the longest and ride it on some combination of roads, usually making it up as I go. This practice keeps the fleet in shape and affords me a nice long time with each machine to get reacquainted. Each of those riding days usually ends up on routes which are especially suited to the machine being used. Riding all the bikes over the exact same route gave me a chance to compare the experience of riding each bike to the others in a way which emphasized the many ways we enjoy the sport.

The little **WR250R** dirt bike was super fun to ride as usual. Bedecked with a ludicrous set of big aluminum panniers, huge five gallon gas tank, and loud exhaust with sasquatch at the controls, that dual sport is the definition of the little engine that thinks it can! Riding it on the delicious curves and hills of 917 at 60 mph requires a level of focus and precision that takes me back to my youth.

My old adventure pal the mighty **BMW X-Challenge** shares the same knobby tires and wheel sizes with the 250, the 650 engine and wide range five speed gear box translates to loping along effortlessly. The entire bike is bigger and fits me like an old baseball glove, and the short windshield reduces the wind blast by half. This thing is sneaky fast on twisted pavement and with the quieter exhaust it is fun to listen to the warning howl of the knobbies when pushing the limit in the corners.

The **78 R100RS**, flirts with the first few miles of my route following the interstate frontage road, which includes a sexy chicane around an old rest area. The first half is a nice constant radius, positive camber right hander and the connected left hander over a little rise has a nasty negative camber finish to punish those who get carried away. Getting past that, the following flat right hander is easy money. The old RS really shines in this section, blowing past a mail truck in the first curve and smoking a delivery van on the last, flashing past the trooper working truck enforcement on the interstate at “full honk” in fourth gear. Ah, for those of you who are not familiar with the particulars of the big pipe RS, “full honk” is the mighty sound emanating from the intakes at full throttle starting above 4k rpm...music for the soul. The RS on 917 in light traffic is the motorcycling equivalent of Mozarts’ finest compositions, a perfect match of machine and road.

And now for something completely different! My **R100RS/EML** sidecar rig, with inherently unstable three wheels, makes the experience of hustling along much more difficult and technically challenging, especially with a sharp right hand curve climbing the grade to the interstate overpass just half a mile from our old house. On an American rig, the sidecar is on the right which means that right hand turns cause the sidecar wheel to want to leave the earth, thus reversing the steering brings the wheel again down on the pavement. Accelerating hard up the hill on this curve, the front tire skids across the road as it is unweighted, exaggerating the sudden change from direct-to counter-to direct steering. Freaky scary and a ton of fun! Hard on the brakes coming down the hill to a stop on the other side and the rig tries to turn left as the weight of the chair pivots around the center of gravity. That was all in the first half mile! Nothing quite matches the feeling of flying on the ragged edge and the satisfaction of completing a ride under full control that a sidecar pilot can experiences on a ride. Everything you want to do requires more rider input on a sidecar. You must constantly push hard on the handle bars to counteract the weight of the rig as it tries to pivot on acceleration and deceleration. It also tries to turn to follow the slope of every

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MOTO SHUFFLE(Continued from page 9)

dip or tilt of the pavement, and the truck tire grooves and potholes are each an opportunity to be flung off the road. You must also use a lot of body English, sliding your butt and upper body to the inside of turns to keep all three wheels weighted. In addition to all the usual things to watch for, constant reading of the pavement to detect even minor changes in camber or defects makes this the most mentally challenging form of motorcycling. The ten miles of twisty roads on this road is so packed with physical and mental effort it seems like thirty. Riding a sidecar is intense.

All this bike shuttling has confirmed that I cannot shake the Multiple Bike Syndrome. Each of my bikes gives me a different set of riding experiences, and they are all fun and satisfying to ride. I am saving the **K1600** for last, hoping that I will have an entire day to ride after all the packing for the move is finally done. The dreadnaught sport touring bike demands long rides combining many flavors of roads and I want to be able to fully enjoy it before interning it in the garage for weeks. I will start out following the same route but I am pretty sure that this bike will resist turning into the garage complex until we have burned at least a tank of fuel. My main ride has LEGS! Between the year of covid and the house build and move the big GT and I have been out of circulation far too long. We will see y'all on the road soon though, so be safe out there.

MOTO SAFE

Hi there BMW compadres,

It's time to reflect about being reflective....That's about being visible through reflective materials on your gear and/or your motorcycle. In these times where every driver has a cell-phone and other distractions **visibility** can your life. Some riders rely on the sound of the motorcycle to make others aware that they are close to them, but the reality is that sound is only going to help in close range and low-speed situations. In other conditions, we have to be visible more than audible.

Reflective tape on your motorcycle is very effective and low cost, just remember to not place RED reflective tape on the front of your motorcycle, that could get you a ticket. Adding reflective tape on your helmet is another good surface for it. When I added reflective tape to the back of my panniers, I noticed vehicles behind me hung further back from me than before.

Wearing reflective or bright colored protective gear will also help to make you even more visible and lower the risk of an accident involving drivers who might not see you.

There are many designs out there made with reflective tape that are not only safe but look really good, so challenge yourself to have the best design out there and ride safely!

RUBEN

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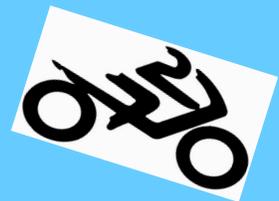
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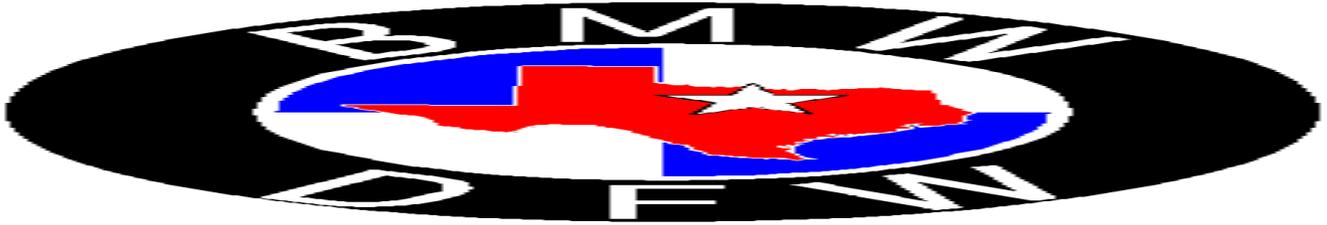
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2021 PREMIER CLUB RIDES - *maybe*

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 ACTIVITES 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

BMWDFW Tech Day 2021 – New Date!

June 13 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cycle Center/BMW Motorcycles of Denton, 521 Acme St
Denton, TX 76205 United States

[RSVP Now!](#)

The originally scheduled Tech Day for May 16th was cancelled and is now planned for June 13th Please RSVP for this date if you're planning to join us for lunch. We did not roll over the RSVP's for the original date. This popular event will be held at our generous friends at Cycle Center of Denton and BMW Motorcycles of Denton's location and their shop will be available for our use. We'll have both the Cycle Center's professionals and our...

[Find out more »](#)

Hemmings Motor News Great Race – Nocona TX

June 20 @ 9:30 am

Got a heads-up from Ronnie Weinzapfel that the Hemmings Motor News Great Race is stopping over in Nocona on Sunday June 20th. Might be a fun day trip up to Nocona to check it out. The Plan: Sunday June 20th Meet at the usual QT Station on TX10 and Loop 820 KSU @ 9:30am Ride West to the Weatherford area and take FM 920 up to Bridgeport 1655 thru Alvord to Forestburg and FM 677 to Saint Jo Lunch stop...

[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.

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

The MOA Saddle Up and Ride 2021 National Rally will be held in Great Falls Montana. 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 come experience Great Falls' spectacular unspoiled nature, our charming tree-lined streets, our breathtaking experience by day and our relaxing hospitality at night. It is True Montana and True to Expectations. For all the...

[Find out more »](#)

Top of the Rockies Rally – Paonia, CO

July 13 - July 19

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 »](#)

Rich Mountain Rendezvous – Queen Wilhelmina Lodge Ark

September 16 - September 19

This rally used to be called the Jail Break in the Clouds. It used to be a rally put on by the "Chain Gang" club for BMW 650 GS singles with a chain drive. It's evolved over the years. It's primarily a camping rally at the campsite near the Queen's lodge up on the Talimena scenic drive. But plenty of people don't camp and just stay in the lodge. <https://rmr4casa.com/about/its-about-the-kids/> Lot of Du-al-Sporters make this event. As of this writing...

[Find out more »](#)

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](#)

BMWDFW Cool Your Rocks Annual Picnic – Dallas, Tx

October 9 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

White Rock Boat Club, 340 E. Lawther Drive
Dallas, TX, TX United States + [Google Map](#)

[RSVP Now!](#)

Membership Meeting

Tuesday

JUNE 8

7:30 PM

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

At Forest Ridge & Airport Freeway (Hwy 121)