

BEEMER ZEITUNG

AUGUST 2021



CAT 1

ANDY ATOP BEARTOOTH PASS

2021 GREAT FALLS, MT

MOA RALLY

CONTRIBUTED BY - ANDY JONES

True North



Stephen Slisz

Have you seen my messages on our Groups IO and Facebook pages concerning the 2022 MOA International Rally? 2022 is the BMW Motorcycle Owner's Association's 50th anniversary and I've heard next year's rally in Springfield MO is to be their big celebration party.

They're looking for original members to be Grand Marshalls and Guests of Honor. Also the MOA is looking to field a display of bikes from every one of those 50 years. In the style of a live nativity during Christmas time celebrations, someone was suggesting a live continuous Glockenspiel! At the 2021 Great Falls rally the MOA had their first ever "Brewfest", a commercial craft brew type sampling festival that seemed to be more popular than the rally's beer tent. Look for that kind of stuff to continue.

The current scuttlebutt seems to be drifting toward the 2022 rally to be a model for future rallies. Site selection for all-volunteer rallies is becoming more difficult. Future sites are becoming more commercial and are following a for-profit business model that involves commercial vendors, including beer sales. The volunteer beer tent may be dead. If you're looking for a memorable BMW event to fill your memory bank, you might consider volunteering for a position at the rally. It might be the last one. I know they are always desperately looking for folks to man the check-in tables.



2022 is also our BMWDFW club 50th anniversary. We might as well make next year's MOA rally our big event too. You know I'd love to have at least 50 members show up of this one! The Springfield MO area isn't too far off base from our usual haunts for the signature Fall Colors Tour to Eureka Springs. We could always visit our favorite spots in Arkansas and then add some in Missouri.



In Springfield itself, is the original location of Bass Pro Shops with its Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium. We love old cars too, how about the Route 66 Car Museum? Hungry? There's the original Route 66 location of Steak n' Shake. Bring out the kid in you at the Creation Experience Museum or the Fantastic Caverns. Like dirt track auto racing? Lucas Oil Speedway is right on the edge of town.

You know me; it's all about the curvy pavement. I can't wait to get my motorcycle up on some of those alphabet-marked Missouri roads. I'm going to insist that you add a couple of days on ei-

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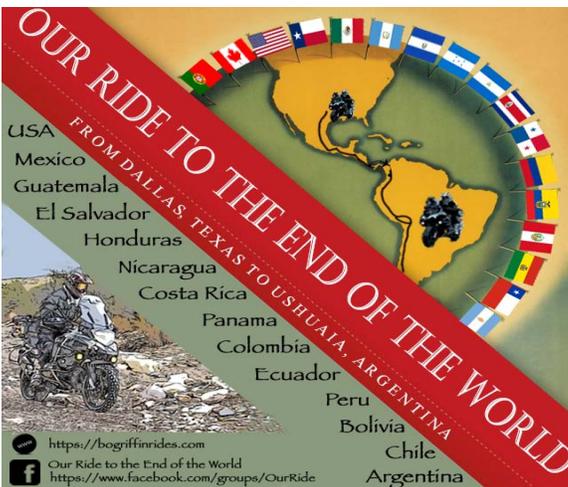
ther side of the rally just to spend exercising your bikes suspension! You've still got time to order an Ozarks Butler Map and spend a few nights perusing all those Yellow, Red and Orange highlighted lines. And it's not too early to start buttering-up your Chief Cook and Bottle Washer

for that extended Kitchen Pass now!



Let's talk about it soon because we're going to "Ride 'Em and not Hide em"!

"Yeeha" Stephen Slisz



Armando Almeida

In our May edition of the **Beemer Zeitung** Armando and crew had reached the Panama Canal and were preparing to cross over onto the South American continent. **Ed.** The story is aptly named as we would be riding to the end of the road in South America.

This was a trip I had always dreamed of since 2004, when I

first saw the film, "The Motorcycle Diaries." 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 much more adventure waiting for me.

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

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We planned to do the entire trip in 6 weeks, but in the end, as we were having so much fun, we decided to extend it to 82 days and were able to visit 14 different countries (USA 🇺🇸, México 🇲🇽, Guatemala 🇬🇹, El Salvador 🇸🇻, Honduras 🇮🇸, Nicaragua 🇳🇮, Costa Rica 🇨🇷, Panama 🇵🇦, Colombia 🇨🇴, Ecuador 🇪🇨, Peru 🇵🇪, Bolivia 🇧🇴, Chile 🇨🇱 and Argentina 🇦🇷), and traveled over 22,000 kms. It is impossible to put down in a magazine article all the things we did so I have been selective and chosen some of the most amazing days we experienced in chronological order as they occurred in our lives.

For Part 2 of this article, I am relating our trip through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

Day 17 – Entering Colombia 🇨🇴 and South America

After preparing the bikes for shipment the day before, we left Panama City on a plane and arrived in Bogota, Colombia, at 11 am, whereupon we were informed that the bikes had already arrived at 5 am and were at the DHL warehouse ready to be picked up and passed through customs. At 3pm we had the bikes and made our way to our hotel.

At the beginning of the trip we had two options to get the bikes from Central America to South America, one was by boat and the other by plane. The prices would be quite similar (about \$1,000 per bike) but the plane option took less than 24 hours so we were very happy that we had chosen that option and that everything worked fine.

Days 17-19 – Riding in Colombia 🇨🇴

There are two main North-South routes to ride from Colombia to Ecuador. We decided to do the less known Eastern route (Girardot, Neiva, Pitalito and Mocoa). This is a route that was not possible to ride a number of years ago as it was controlled by the FARC (guerrilla group).

We felt quite safe during our ride and were extremely well received and treated by the locals. We ate **queso asado** (cheese) accompanied with pineapple on the side of the road and also stopped for local cookies that we carried and enjoyed for some weeks. And had the arepas paisas, made from soaked, threshed corn that is shaped and grilled until golden brown, and can be eaten on its own or stuffed with carryable fillings like cheese, meat or eggs.

Most of the time we rode in Colombia was under rain and one of the days it was quite foggy but we were still able to enjoy the beautiful mountains that were full of



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ARMANDO(Continued from page 4)

coffee plantations. The roads were not in great shape and there were many curves and going up and down mountains and we had to be very careful with the trucks.

The last large town we visited was Mocoa, CO which 2 years earlier (April 2017) had experienced one of the worst natural dis-



asters, when a local heavy rain triggered flash flooding and landslides, killing over 300 people, injuring 400 and leaving over 200 others missing. The town was still recovering from this horrible event and many roads were still closed to traffic. We also learned that unfortunately people are still living in the same conditions as before and over 25,000 people are in mortal danger if a similar event happens again. They cannot afford to leave and

pay higher rents somewhere else. Throughout our trips we often find these cases of people living in difficult conditions. A reminder that as difficult as sometimes our circumstances feel, they are nothing compared to that of others in much more precarious conditions.

Days 19-24 – Riding in Ecuador

Upon entering Ecuador, we saw many young Venezuelans walking from their country and were staying in a refugee camp at the border. We spoke to some young people that had left their parents and were making their way towards Chile for a better chance in life. They had seen people die and being assaulted on the road.



We rode on to **Coca, EC** and stayed in the best hotel in



town. There we met **Pedro Gonzalez**, manager and son of the owner of the hotel and who is a fellow motorcyclist and became a great friend.

The next day we went up river on a boat to visit and spend the day with a **Kichwa Indian tribe**. We learned about their medicines, way to trap animals, games they play and also had the opportunity to have lunch with them. The main delicacy was chontacuros. Their name comes from the Kichwa word “chonta”,

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which is a tree that grows in the jungle, and “curo”, which means “worm”, so they are literally “**chonta worms**”. They can be eaten raw, fried or on skewers. We had them on skewers.

We were also “blessed” by the **Shaman** and



had the opportunity to try cocoa.

It was an outstanding cultural day and one we would strongly recommend if you are ever in this part of the world.

Next morning we went to the local market and visited the indigenous section where we bought a number of different types of fruit that we had never tasted before. We brought them to the hotel and went through a tasting session with Pedro explaining the history of each fruit and how to eat them. Amazing !

In the afternoon, Pedro took us to another hotel of the family in Shushufindi, EC where we saw an inverted aquarium with koi fish. In the late afternoon we moved a sloth that had been caught in the hotel to another place in the area where there was a tree that sloths enjoy to be on. It was a real adventure as moving any animal, that is not sedated, can be.

The next day we left Pedro and Coca, EC after having a really great time and made our way to **Banos, EC**, a beautiful city surrounded by amazing mountains and a volcano and waterfalls. We specially enjoyed our hotel and our room that overlooked a beautiful courtyard garden.



Our last night in Ecuador we spent in **Cuenca, EC** which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, the third largest city in Ecuador and has a large expat (mainly Americans) community.



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Ecuador is the smallest country we rode in South America and I would say the best part are its people. They are extremely friendly and welcoming to strangers and we always felt very safe while riding there. Very similar to Colombia, we found Ecuador's scenic country backroutes very pleasant and quite diverse. As in most countries in South



America, the landscape shifts dramatically and we rode close to rugged canyons and enjoyed the mist-shrouded cloud forests and steamy lowland jungle. But probably one of the nicest things about Ecuador is that despite its natural beauty, mass tourism is yet to make major inroads, so once

you're out of the main cities, you're already very much off the beaten track – wild, remote and relatively traffic-free.

Days 24-34 – Riding in Peru

After spending a couple of hours at the border, we entered Peru towards the late afternoon and made our way to Piura, PE and we experienced two major changes: the aggressiveness of drivers increased a lot and there was much more trash everywhere. We actually saw people in a car, opening the boot and taking trash bags and leaving them on the side of the road.

The Ecuadorians had told us that North Peru was not a nice place to ride and they were totally right. Fortunately things improved a lot the further south we went (more on that later).

We spent the second night in Chimbote, PE. It is a city next to the Pacific Ocean and at night there were many people on the streets close to the water.

We were getting quite discouraged as the first two days were disappointing. Then on day



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three all that changed as we rode in the **Canon del Pato**, one of our “bucket list” destinations.



This is where two of the Andes mountain ranges, the **Cordillera Blanca** (the most extensive tropical ice-covered mountain range in the world and has the largest concentration of ice in Peru) and the **Cordillera Negra** (that has rocky peaks with very little winter snowfall and are gloomy and dark) come to within kissing distance for a battle of bedrock wills, separated by only 15m in places and plummeting to vertigo-inducing depths of up to 1000m. The harrowing road snakes along a path hewn out of sheer rock, over a precipitous gorge and passing through 54 tunnels. Gargantuan, crude walls tower above the road on all sides, and the most dramatic stretch of the road is between **Caraz** and **Huallanca**, especially between tunnels 10 and 18, where the canyon is at its narrowest point. The surface of the road is mostly asphalted and falling rocks are a major concern.



After the Canon, in the afternoon we visited the **Llanganuco Lakes**, Chinancocha (“female lake” in Quechua language) and Orconcocha (“male lake”). We had to go off-road in a very bumpy section for 25 kms (took us a bit over one hour up and 40 minutes down). Paula was a champ and on way down we both got up on our pegs and rode most of the way standing up. It was amazing ...

We spent the night at Huaraz, PE and as we were walking back to our hotel,

after dinner, we saw a group of young men practicing their “**caporal**” (a folk dance originating in Bolivia and spreading into parts of Peru and Argentina that share the Amaya culture) for the national championships.

The next day we travelled to **Pisco, PE** and had a beautiful ride through amazing valleys. We passed through Lima, PE, the capital, and a nightmare to go through. There’s no bypass for this very busy city and the heavy traffic traversing the country passes through downtown Lima.

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CAT 2 PHOTO FOR MONTH OF *AUGUST*



TWIN PEAKS
By **MIKE VALENTIN**

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It can take up to 4-6 hours if you hit at the wrong time of the day. It took us 2.5 hours to cross it. The rest of the ride was “tranquilo” as we entered the area south of Lima where there are many beach towns with high concentrations of holiday resorts. The south of the country is much nicer than the north, it seems to be a different country and much less poverty.

The city of **Pisco, Peru** is one of the more colorful and picturesque we have seen. Before putting away the GSA for the night, I went for a ride on the beach.



For the evening we rode a **tuk-tuk** to dinner.

The day we spent riding from Pisco, PE to Camana, PE will always be for me one of the best riding days we had. It was over 12 hours riding through some majestic terrain. So, the next morning our objective was to get to Nazca and see the famous **Nazca lines**.

But first we visited Huacachina, a village built around a small oasis and surrounded by sand dunes. We flew a drone and took some interesting videos of the area.

The **Nazca Lines** run straight across the landscape, but there are also figurative designs of animals and plants. The best way to see them is from the air. We were able to view some of it from an observation platform beside the Pan American Hiway. From there we were able to see “The Hand”, “The Tree” and “The Lizard”.

You will see photos of this and more next month in Beemer Zeitung.

2021 BMWDFW OFFICERS

President
Carter Lewis
President@bmwdfw.org

Vice President
David Frankenfield
VicePresident@bmwdfw.org

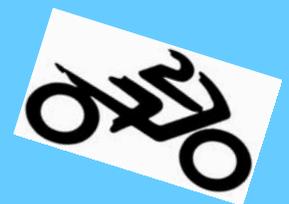
Secretary/Treasurer
Dennis Bufton
Bedford, TX
817-475-2413
schatzmeister@bmwdfw.org

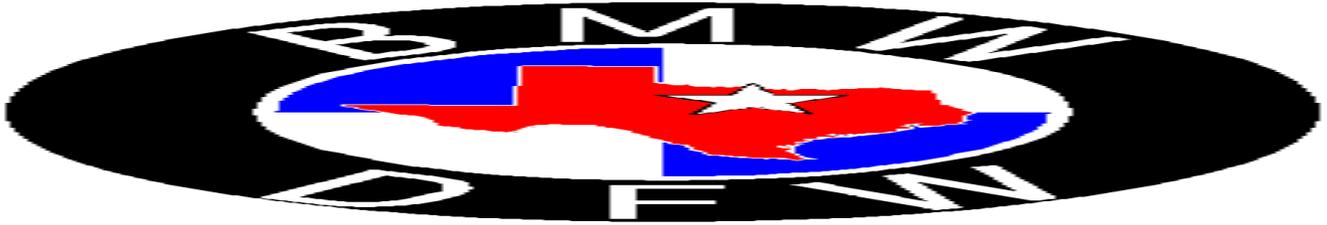
Tourmeister
Stephen Slisz
tourmeister@bmwdfw.org

Webmeister
Art Ullman, Jr
webmeister@bmwdfw.org

Safety Director
Ruben Alanis
safety@bmwdfw.org

Newsletter Editor
Don M Mills
newseditor@bmwdfw.org





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" - 9/24 - 9/29

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

Destination to be announced each month. Watch BMWDFWGroup.io

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 2nd Sunday Breakfast; Ride

August 8 @ 7:30 am - 11:00 am

It's Back! The Second Sunday Breakfast Ride With a special twist now. We will be visiting various new locations. Watch for announcements for new locations, meet up times etc. on BMWDFWGroup.io

BMWDFW Weekly Breakfast – Ride planned following club breakfast on

August 14 @ 7:30 am - 9:00 am

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

Ft Worth @ 9th Street downtown.

Saturday August 14 2021

On Display 9am thru 3pm.

Arrives Friday 6:45pm

Departs Sunday 8am.

<https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>

[Find out more](#)

MC Cannonball/Hwy 16 Farewell to Summer Ride

September 24 - September 29

[RSVP Now!](#)

Some men like a fishin'. Some men like the fowlin'. Some men like to hear, to hear the Cannonballers roarin'. Mush-a-rain dum-a-do dum-a-da. Whack for my daddy, oh. Whack for my daddy, oh. Make sure you take, take your whiskey in the jar, oh! (fractured Irish folk song) The bi-annual vintage motorcycle event, the motorcycle Cannonball Run, usually runs from coast to coast - Atlantic to Pacific.. This year, after being delayed a season by the COVID, it heads to...

[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

[RSVP Now!](#)

This is a premier social event held at the White Rock Boat Club on White Rock Lake in Dallas from 6pm to 10pm with free hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and music. Bring your spouse or significant other and spend time with your fellow BMWDFW members Please RSVP for the number in your party...[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

Rich Mountain Rendezvous – Queen Wilhelmina Lodge Ark

September 16 - September 19

This rally used to be called the Jail Break in the Clouds, 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://rnr4casa.com/about/its-about-the-kids/> Lot of Dual-Sporters make this event. As of this writing...

[Find out more »](#)

MotoGP – Austin TX

October 1 - October 3

[RSVP Now!](#)

JUST ANNOUNCED: MotoGP Returns October 1-3, 2021 Get ready for the long-awaited return of The Horsepower Rodeo! Today, it was announced that the 2021 MotoGP Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas will take place on October 1-3, 2021. Preparations are already underway for an unforgettable race weekend experience that is nearly two years in the making! If you are an existing ticket holder, your tickets will be reissued in your Account Manager early next week. No further action is needed. We...

[Find out more »](#)

**Membership
Meeting**

Tuesday

AUG 10

7:30 PM

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

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