

BEEMER ZEITUNG

NOVEMBER 2021



CAT 1

**ANDY IN THE ASPEN TUNNEL
"HEART OF THE WEST BDR"
CONTRIBUTED BY - Andy Jones**

Journey To The Center Of The Universe

(STAGE 2 - PART 1)



MIKE GRAGG

If you are still following my wanderings, you may remember that last month I recounted my trip to the Center Of The 50 US States. Join me as this month I continue my journey and find some interesting detours while touring North Dakota and visiting the Center Of North America.

Day 8

Regent, North Dakota - the Enchanted Castle Hotel, The Enchanted Highway, and The Lefor Bank Vault

It takes about four hours to get from Spearfish, SD to Regent, ND and unless you enjoy the wide open prairie there's not much to see. Once in Regent, however, things get more entertaining.



In 1989, local Regent artist Gary Greff conceived a plan aimed at countering the trend toward the extinction of small towns like Regent. He created the **Enchanted Highway** by designing, building and erecting a collection of giant scrap metal sculptures along the 32-mile stretch between Regent and Interstate 94 to the North. Each sculpture has a nice pull-out, a graveled parking lot and several have picnic shelters. Starting in Regent,

after a stop at the *Enchanted Highway*

Gift Shop and the *Enchanted Highway Hotel* (in the style of a medieval castle) you will see: *The Tin Family*, *Teddy Roosevelt Rides Again*, *Pheasants On The Prairie*, *The Fisherman's Dream*, *Grasshoppers*, *Deer Crossing*, and finally, on a hillside on the other side of I-94, *Geese In Flight*, currently the world's largest scrap metal sculpture. Gary's next project will be a giant motorcycle which he hopes will someday attract touring motorcycle riders and perhaps even a motorcycle rally to the area.





Near the midpoint of the Enchanted Highway is a relic of another time. The **Lefor bank**

failed during the Great Depression and was eventually torn down. The vault, however, was just too stubborn to come down so it was left. A metal arch has been erected in front of the old vault. On it are the words "Remnants Of Lefor State Bank 1913-1934" and the names of the bank officers. There is also an old-time photo of the bank when it was still open and operating.

Arriving in Minot and my destination for the night; I pulled up to an older independent hotel. Frankly, it looked a bit sketchy but turned out to be quite nice. Once a Best Western Hotel it was two stories of guest rooms built around a huge atrium containing a large swimming pool. There was a full-service restaurant to satisfy my steak-and-baked-potato craving and a good bar to provide me with the two very good martinis which I'm sure made a good night's sleep even easier.



Day 9

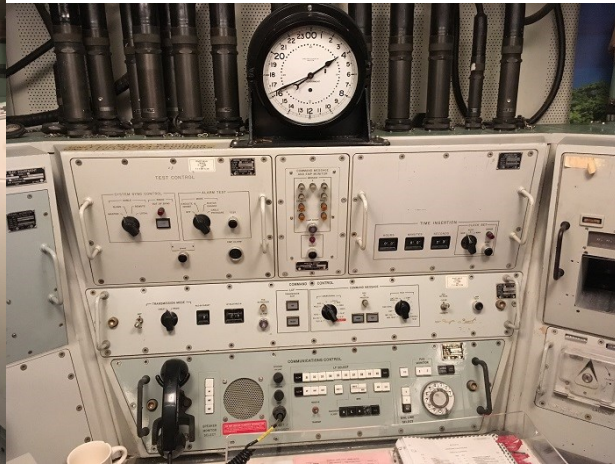
Center of North America, Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site, Fargo Visitor Center, Space Aliens Bar and Grill

It's only an hour or so from Minot to Rugby and **The Center Of North America**, my second Center on this journey. Rugby is a small North Dakota farming town only 48 miles from the Canadian border. I had hoped to drive that 48 miles to see the *International Peace Garden* but time and money were running low so I took some photos of the **Center Of North America** marker in wind-blown Rugby and drove about three hours southeast to near Cooperstown, North Dakota and the **Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site** which actually consists of two sites telling the story of the Cold War years in North Dakota: **the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility** and the **November-33 Launch Facility**. These are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites that were spread over a 6,500-square-mile area around the Grand Forks Air Force





Base. The **Oscar Zero Launch Control Center** and the **November-33 Missile Facility** played an integral part in the Cold War in North Dakota and the



world. This site is the last completely intact launch control center, and includes the top-side of November 33 missile facility - also still intact. I joined a small group of visitors given a guided tour of topside facilities, learning how the facility managers, security forces, maintenance teams, and cooks lived their daily lives at the Missile Alert Facility. Riding down the elevator to the underground

Launch Control Equipment Building and Launch Control Center, we were taken behind the concrete blast door to see the equipment that would have been used by the missile crews to launch nuclear missiles. After an extremely interesting tour of the MAF site I drove a few miles to the November-33 site - the topside of a launch facility, including the massive launch closure door which once protected the missile, an imposing security fence, the electronic security system, and the ventilation systems that served the underground equipment buildings. The topside appears exactly as it did during its existence as an active launch facility. This was a fascinating stop and the State Historical Society has done a wonderful job of maintaining and presenting these sites. I spent a lot of time there so I was still an hour away from Fargo, my planned stop for the night.

Arriving in **Fargo** my first stop was the **Visitor Center**, where I took some photos of the actual **chipper** featured so prominently in the Coen Brothers' 1996 film *Fargo* (which actually takes place mostly in Minnesota). The chipper has become quite a draw for tourists visiting the Fargo area. I spent a half hour or so in the busy visitor center before leaving to find my motel.

After checking in to my room I headed to my choice of dinner

establishments: the **Space Aliens Bar and Grill**. I didn't know anything about the place except that I liked the name. I was disappointed to find that while the



decoration was clever and well done the menu and atmosphere seemed to be focused on mothers bringing groups of children - sort of like a Chucky Cheese. It seemed to be quite popular for the target customer but not what I had hoped for.

Back to the motel to get ready for an early start in the morning.



CAT 2 PHOTO FOR MONTH OF *NOVEMBER*



MONUMENT ROCKS - KANSAS

By MIKE GRAGG

True North



Stephen Slisz

It's a good thing I wasn't born into the Wild West era. I'm a little slow on the draw.

Have you ever made an irreversible decision and then regretted it just a few minutes later? I recently had a chance to make a new BMW motorcycle friend, but Mr. Slow-Hand let it get away.

Returning from a trip to "The Valley" in far South Texas I stopped at one of those mega-sized Quick Trip fuel stations with their rows and rows of fuel pumps. After filling up my RT, and wishing to ride away, I pushed the BMW branded Keyless Ride start button but nothing happened. The battery in the key fob had failed and wasn't transmitting a go signal to the keyless system. No problem as I always carry a spare 2032 Lithium pancake battery in my riding jacket pocket. In fact I carry more than one spare fob battery just in case one of my riding companions gets stalled by a failed fob battery. Those little extra "rescue" batteries have earned me numerous free lunches after donating a 2032 Lithium to someone else in that stranded situation. (Should I tell that those batteries are a lot cheaper than a cheeseburger and fries at the Greenwood Store?) Thank you very much.

I digress. **If your BMW key fob transmitter battery fails**, it's quite simple to replace if you brought a spare. On your fob, press the button that pops open the switchblade-type key blade. (The BMW Riders Manual calls it a Key Bit.) On the same side as the key release button you'll see the fob is split in two sections. Use the battery cover section that doesn't have the key release button on it. BMW says "Press battery cover upward." Well, you've got to use your thumbs in the recess where the key blade was folded and really use some oomph to pull the battery cover open. Hopefully you have some tough skin on your thumbs.

With the battery cover removed, slide the battery slightly in the direction of the two small flat springs that hold the battery in its slot. That will clear the battery from the lip that holds it in place and the battery will pop out. Insert your new 2032 battery into that same slot and just snap the battery cover back in place. (Make sure to remove the protective cover stuck to the positive side of the battery) Now press the Keyless Ride start button to see if your battery replacement was a success.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the disclaimer: *Dispose of the old battery in accordance with legal regulations and do not dispose of the battery in the household waste.*



Meanwhile, back at the pump; I was fiddling with my key fob and noticed two rows of gas pumps over, a very elderly gentleman exit the passenger side of a small car, hurry over to my side of the pumps and with his family in hot pursuit, exclaim “It’s a new BMW! Look son, it’s a new BMW! These are the motorcycles I used to ride.” the man told his family. “I haven’t seen one this new yet.”

This gentleman told me he used to ride an R69S back in the day. He and his riding buddies would pick up their girlfriends and make their big Sunday ride out to the Forest Park Zoo. “You been to the zoo? Fort Worth’s got a good’un.” He said. And this friendly gentleman proceeded to tell about the good ole days of riding around Fort Worth and the crew that did the zoo and picnicking in Forest Park every Sunday afternoon. Then he told me the story of a friend that picked up one of the new 750cc BMWs. “Man that thing was fast. He let me ride it out on the highway near the zoo. Before I got to the Arlington Heights High School, that new BMW was doing 75 mph! I’d never been 75 mph before. Man that thing was fast!” We talked just a short while more about new and old BMWs before his family’s pleading to leave won out and they escorted him back across the busy gas station driveway.

I’m so slow on the draw. I didn’t get his name. I could’ve got his (or a family member’s) email, given him mine, invited him to a BMW breakfast or maybe even a club meeting. His stories of the Zoo Crew would’ve have made a great monthly meeting presentation. Slow on the draw and I regret it. Sorry gang. Maybe next time.



“Yeeha” Stephen Slisz



COOL YOUR ROCKS
At
White Rock Lake Boat Club
Compliments of Bill McGannon

Photos by Johnny Kresena



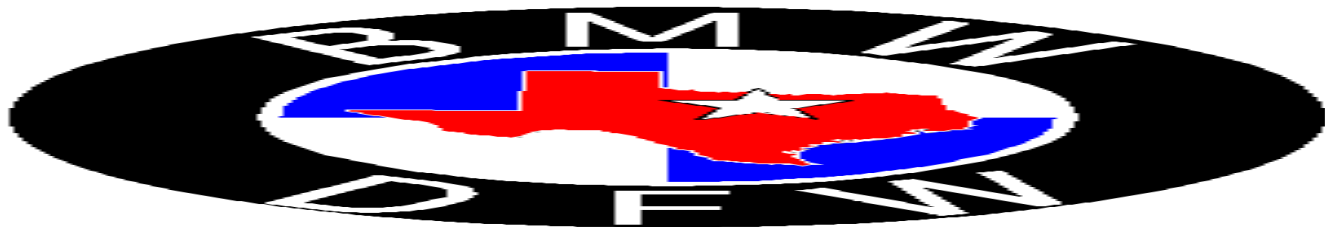


COOL YOUR ROCKS 2021



**ASTRID KATTWINKEL'S
PHOTO OF
WHITE ROCK LAKE
FROM THE CLUB DOCK**





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

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

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2021 UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

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

November Second Saturday Ride – Edgewood Heritage Festival

November 13 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Ride to the Edgewood Heritage Festival in Edgewood TX (East TX)

Lunch at the Pint and Barrel Brew House in Palestine TX

[Find out more](#)

BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast & Ride

November 14 @ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

It's Back! The Second Sunday Breakfast Ride

With a special twist now.

[Find out more](#)

Ending Date for BMWDFW Mileage Contest Submissions

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

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

Find out more [click here](#)

Starting Date for BMWDFW Mileage Contest

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

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

Find out more [click here](#)

Last Day to RSVP for the BMWDFW Annual Awards Banquet

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

BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast & Ride

December 12 @ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

It's Back! The Second Sunday Breakfast Ride

With a special twist now.

[Find out more](#)

BMWDFW Annual Awards Banquet – Euless, Tx.

December 12 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Raven Grill at Texas Star, 1400 Texas Star Pkwy

[RSVP Now!](#)

Be sure to put this one on your calendar as a do not miss. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held at in the ballroom adjacent to the Raven's Grille at the Texas Star Golf Course, 1400 Texas Star Parkway, in Euless, TX on Sunday, December 12. Check in starts at 6 pm with dinner starting about 7 pm. Dinner will be followed by the presentations and some more socializing until about 10 pm. This is a premier event and...

[Find out more »](#)

For additional future club events [Click here](#)

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.

Nov 7, Sunday *** Daylight Saving Time Ends ***

Updates to follow next year! Watch for the 2022 Event Listing here and in the January News-letter.

Membership Meeting

**Tuesday
NOV 9
7:30 PM**

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

At Forest Ridge & Airport Freeway (Hwy 121)