

50th Anniversary

BEEMER ZEITUNG

FEBRUARY 2022



CATEGORY I Photo for FEBRUARY

JOEL, RANDY & CLIFF "Which is the Road Less Traveled?"

by ANDY JONES

Journey To The Center Of The Universe

Center 3 Episode 1

With two *Centers* checked off my list I was looking forward to some unusual attractions to entertain me today, but this was primarily a travel day; I have ridden most of these roads a few times in the past and have been able to find a few stops that I thought would be fun.



MIKE GRAGG

Day 10 - Fargo to Mitchell, South Dakota

The House That Pa Built, Corn Palace

A three-hour drive down I-25 took me through the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation of the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe to Watertown, where a jog to the west and another to the south took me to **De Smet, South Dakota** and the childhood home of children's book author Laura Ingalls Wilder. Laura's father, Charles Ingalls, moved to De Smet in 1879 with his wife, Caroline, and their daughters Mary, Laura, Carrie, and Grace. After first living in the Surveyor House and two other locations (no longer standing) in De Smet, Ingalls built their permanent home, the house that became known in Wilder's writings as "**The House That Pa Built**". Construction on the house began in 1887 and was completed in 1889. After settling in De Smet, Charles Ingalls owned and operated the Ingalls Store from 1880-1881, a small general store selling various goods for the home. Several Ingalls related buildings in a small park-like setting are identified with signs depicting their use and significance in the books.



Another southbound hour put me in Mitchell, home of the famous **Corn Palace**. It is decorated with several colors of dried corn and grains, creating murals. The theme of the external murals is changed yearly at fall harvest; internal murals are changed approximately every ten years. The building itself is used for several purposes including a basketball arena, the local high school prom, trade shows, staged entertainment, and the Shriner's Circus. I happened to visit while the entire exterior was covered with scaffolding and canvas. Since the day was rainy and cold no one was working and since I had toured it on other trips through Mitchell I wasn't too disappointed.

Mitchell is also the home of the **Dakota Discovery Museum**, which covers the time period from 1600, when the Native Americans were still largely undiscovered, to 1939, the end of the Great Depression. It holds one of the world's most complete and pristine collections of American Indian quill and bead-works. In the village area behind the main building are four authentic historical buildings, including an 1885 one-room school house and the fully furnished 1886 Victorian-Italianate home of the co-founder of the Corn Palace, Louis Beckwith. Unfortunately, the museum complex closed early on this rainy and dreary day so I wasn't able to visit.

The **Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village**, an archaeological site where scientists are excavating a Native American village, is another attraction in the city. The site, near Lake Mitchell, is believed to have been occupied by ancestors of the present-day Mandan, who now reside in North Dakota. The excavation is unique in

(Continued on page 3)

that it is enclosed by an **Archeodome**, a climate-controlled structure built over the site, which allows scientists to continue their excavation work year-round. My timing was off so I didn't get to see it. Next time!

The Best Western motel in Mitchell had one room still vacant when I arrived at the desk. Unfortunately, it was a very large suite, complete with leather furniture. Fortunately, however, the desk clerk rented it to me at the normal room rate. I was happy!

Day 11 - Mitchell to Yankton to York, Nebraska

Ashfall Fossil Beds, Johnny Carson Gallery in Norfolk, Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland

It was easy to leave Mitchell early after a nice dinner and relaxing evening in the full-service Best Western and make my way to the **Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park & National Natural Landmark**, located in Nebraska prairie country about 100 miles west of Sioux City, IA.

From "*Ashfall Fossil Beds - Present View Of An Ancient Past*" (available at the visitor center)

What Is Ashfall

Nearly twelve million years ago an enormous blanket of volcanic ash from a distant super volcano (*The Ashfall ash came from a gigantic explosive volcano in southwestern Idaho, the remains of which are called the Bruneau-Jarbridge Caldera*) settled over the central Great Plains of western North America. Countless animals and plants perished without a trace on the savanna of what is now eastern Nebraska. But remains of some of them were so deeply and gently buried in ash that they still survive today as exquisitely preserved fossils.

Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park in northeastern Nebraska was developed in 1991 as a place where interested people can get a good close-up look at skeletons of animals killed and preserved by the ash storm and share in the excitement as paleontologists continue to uncover previously unseen fossils every summer. All fossils are being left exactly as they are found; unlike traditional museum fossil exhibits, at Ashfall we have brought the museum to the fossil bed so that visitors can see the actual remains of real prehistoric animals exactly as they exist in nature.

How Old Are The Fossils?

Using a recently developed method of radiometric dating scientists date the Ashfall Fossil Beds at almost twelve million years old. That's much later than the dinosaurs but a long time before the Ice Age. Nebraska was already well above sea level by then but still had a nice mild climate - no brutally cold winters or broiling summers.



Just how long is twelve million years? Imagine shrinking the entire four and a half billion year history of planet Earth down to the length of a 24-hour day. Under this scale, Ashfall didn't happen until four minutes before midnight. From this perspective then, Ashfall happened almost yesterday. However, if we compare Ashfall's date with some familiar landmarks of human civilization - Ashfall is three thousand times older than the pyramids, and sixty thousand times older than Washington, DC - the fossil beds seem respectably ancient indeed."

Even though I had arrived at Ashfall a few minutes before the gate opened I still had not allowed nearly enough time to take it all in. I completely filled my memory card with photos and still wanted to take more to capture the many fossils exposed and left exactly where they died. Careful excavation goes on each summer inside the Rhino Barn, a 17,000 square foot building enclosing and protecting the dig. Standing outside and looking over the vast green rolling Nebraska prairie it was easy to visualize the prehistoric rhinos, dogs, cats, wolves and other animals I had just seen inside the Rhino barn. It was a truly amazing experience.



Perhaps fortunately, the **Johnny Carson gallery** in Norfolk, Nebraska was just a single room in the **Madison County Historical Museum** showcasing his 6 Emmys. It took far less time than I had planned, allowing a more leisurely drive to Ashland, southwest of Omaha, to spend a few hours at the day's next stop.

Just off I-80 in Ashland is the road to the **Strategic Air and Space Museum** and the outdoor static display of one of only four Rockwell International **B1-A** Swing



Wing Strategic Bombers ever built. (The B1-A was the predecessor to the one hundred 900 mph B1-B's that followed.)

Also displayed outdoors just before entering the museum are one each: a Northrup SM-62 Snark, a Chance Vought SLV-1 Blue Scout, a Douglas PGN-17A Thor, and the mighty Convair SM-65 Atlas. These amazing machines are only a prelude to the huge selection in the vast museum building, however. The real fun begins upon entering the nearly 300,000 square foot

(Continued on page 5)

main building and finding yourself standing nose to nose with the incredible **SR-71 Blackbird**, an airplane impossible to describe or even discuss without using multiple superlatives.

The SR-71 Blackbird is still considered the world's fastest aircraft, and still holds several speed and altitude records; record speed over a 15-mile course (2,193 MPH), maximum sustained height (85,069 feet), speed record from New York to London (one hour, 55 minutes), and London to Los Angeles (three hours, 47 minutes). An SR-71 crew consisted of a pilot and a reconnaissance systems officer. If a surface-to-air missile launch were detected, the standard evasive action was simply to accelerate and outfly the missile - just "Punch It" and Vanish!



The development of the SR-71 by the USAF and the CIA was shrouded in secrecy, and came into being as a result of a decision by the CIA to acquire an aircraft with a higher service ceiling and a greater maximum speed than the U-2 aircraft. Based partly on the A-12, it was constructed largely of titanium, coated with high-heat emissive black paint, and uses precious metals (such as gold) components to help retard the 1100 degree Fahrenheit skin temperature experienced in sustained supersonic flight. Designed as a strategic reconnaissance aircraft, its equipment included electronic intelligence collection and radar surveillance systems plus photographic equipment capable of surveying 100,000 square miles of the earth's surface in an hour. This very SR-71 was delivered to the USAF on May 27, 1966, and has the third highest flight hours of the fleet. It was delivered to the Strategic Air & Space Museum on March 20, 1990.

The museum's vast collection of hugely significant airplanes and related exhibits is truly astonishing. From the enormous B-36 to the huge **B-52** (the amazing B-52 is currently scheduled to be retired some time in the 2050's - an incredible 90 - 100 year service life!). The bombers are flanked by fighters, reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters and the C-47, credited (along with the jeep) by many as the machines which were the most important contributors to our winning of World War II.



The museum's 5 PM closing time came too soon. Reluctantly, I left and headed west to York, Nebraska and its older full-service Best Western Hotel (with an on-premise Applebee's Restaurant). Sleep came easily after a full day being on my feet (and the martini at Applebee's probably helped.)



CATEGORY II Photo for *FEBRUARY*



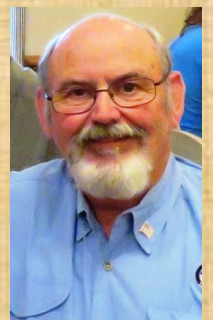
A NEW LOOK AT SANTA ELENA CANYON

by STEVE HOLTSCRAW

Heart of the West 2021

Today, September 19, 2021, we started riding the **Heart of the West Adventure loop**. We had two teams of 8 riders each depart Meeker, Colorado this morning. I led Team 1 riding in a clockwise direction, and Ronnie Weinzapfel led Team 2 riding in a counterclockwise direction.

Team 1 consists of Andy Jones, Joel Watson, Rod Mullins, Randy Gilbert, Reed Roach, Cliff Gunter, Randy McClanahan and Chris and Susan Burns.



ANDY JONES

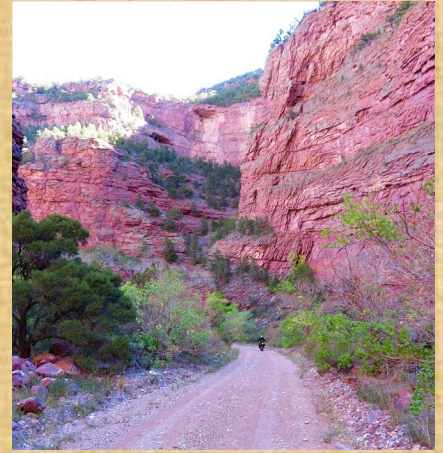
Today's ride took us from Meeker, Colorado to Vernal, Utah. We rode through The **Dinosaur National Monument**, riding from one end of the canyon to the other paralleling the Yampa and Green Rivers on the Yampa Bench Road. There were some spectacular vistas along the way.

We wrapped up the day riding into Vernal about 4:30 PM.

(Continued on page 7)

Day 2

September 20, we rode to **Flaming Gorge, Utah**. The ride took us up through **Crouse Canyon**. The views were spectacular with the canyon walls rising up on both sides as we wove our way through the canyon. The trail was rocky and rutted in places, but for the most part navigated fairly easily. After exiting the canyon we crossed back into Colorado entering the **Browns Park**



National Wildlife Refuge. Our trail followed along the Green River until we reached the **Swinging Bridge**, where we crossed over the Green River to the north and then headed back west and back into Utah, through Flaming Gorge Canyon and then into Dutch John, Utah. We stopped at the **Flaming Gorge Reservoir Overlook** before riding on across the Green River Bridge and then on over to the **Flaming Gorge Resort**, our destination for the evening.

Day 3

September 21, we rode to Lehi, Utah, traversing the **Ashley National Forest** and the **Wasatch National Forest**. We passed the China Meadows Campground; one of the prettiest camping areas along the trail through the Wasatch National Forest. The aspen trees were turning colors and the vistas along the trail and across the meadows were beautiful. We made one short foray into Wyoming as we crossed the forest. We also went over **Elizabeth Pass** and further along, over **Bald Mountain Pass**. After a fuel stop in Kamas, we rode pavement on into Lehi, Utah, finishing the day with 225 miles!



Day 4



September 22, we headed for Wendover, Utah, riding a portion of the **Pony Express Trail** for over 100 miles! It is amazing to see the terrain that these young men rode across on their half broken wild stallions. Those were the only horses with the stamina and speed to cover the distances they had to run, and they were also the only ponies that could outrun the Indians' horses!

(Continued on page 8)



We summited **Lookout Pass** as we travelled westward noting the regularly spaced Stations where the riders could change horses on their journeys. We stopped at the **Simpson Springs Station**, rebuilt to show the primitive and remote living conditions the people faced to provide the Country with the Pony Express Service. Continuing on, we rode through the **Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge**. The trail then

wound around the **Dugway Proving Grounds**. We paused in the village of **Callao** for a quick lunch from our saddle bags, then made our way across the mountains and through the **Gold Hill Ghost Town** then headed west into Nevada before catching Hwy 93 in to West Wendover, Nevada, our stop for the evening. Our Adventure ride today was 245 miles of desert sand and dust!

Day 5

Today, September 23, our sights were on Brigham City, Utah. We visited the **Bonneville Speedway** and rode across the salt flats on our motorcycles. I was a little disappointed that the big Bonneville Speedway sign had been removed! This is **The Place** where the best of the American speed merchants go to test their machines and try to set speed records! We then made our way north, through **Leppy Pass**, crossing into Nevada and then back into Utah riding up **Pilot Mountain Road**. There were long stretches of straight, dusty roads crossing the prairie pretty much all the way to **Lucin** where we came to the western end of the old **Transcontinental Railway grade**. The tracks have since been relocated some miles to the north for more favorable grades,



so the old road bed is now clear of rails and crossties, so we rode on it for a number of miles and enjoyed the view that our early American rail travelers saw! At the eastern end of the road bed is the **Golden Spike National Historical Park**, where we stopped to see the replica steam engines, the **Jupiter** and the **Union Pacific 119**. We even got to

(Continued on page 9)

watch them move 119 away from the display site over to the storage garage. VERY COOL!!!! We finished our ride today in Brigham City, Utah covering 224 miles.

Day 6

September 24, 2021, we rode to eastward into the **Cache National Forest**. Soon after riding through the town of Hyrum, we stopped for a break and watched a bunch of cowboys and cowgirls on horseback ride by driving a herd of cattle down the road! Once the cattle drive passed we continued on through the **Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area**, followed forest roads and exited through **Temple Canyon**. The trees were showing off their fall colors and the canyon walls were awesome. Leaving Temple Canyon, we had a spectacular view of **Bear Lake** then continued on around the south end of the lake and crossed into Wyoming. After our lunch stop in Cokeville, Wyoming, we entered the **Bridger National Forest** and rode through Afton, Wyoming, getting the obligatory photo of the **Elkhorn Arch** across Main Street! Our ride today concluded in Alpine, Wyoming after riding 194 miles.

Day 7

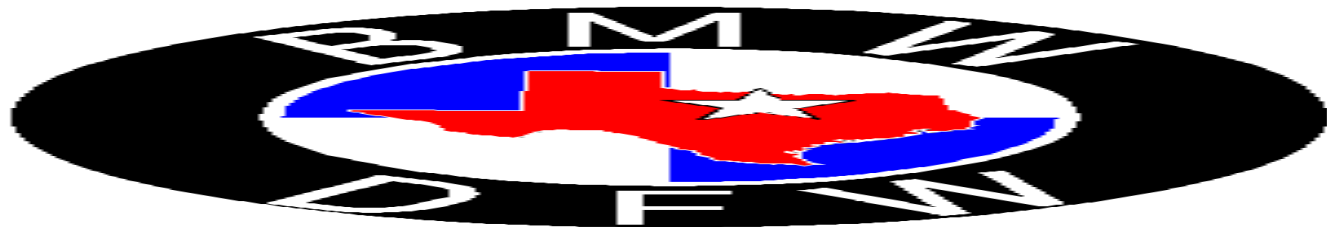
Today, September 25, we traveled to Idaho Falls, Idaho, leaving southward out of Alpine, crossing the **Snake River** and curving back to the north along the **Palisades Reservoir**. Our track then turned west into the **Caribou National Forest**. The further north we went, the more colorful the fall foliage became; especially the Aspens. As we got to the western edge of the Forest, we rode along **Sky-line Drive**, which had awesome views on both sides of our trail. We encountered several hunting camps and had numerous pickups with hunters driving by us!!! In addition, several wind turbine farms cluttered our route today. Continuing westward, we crossed **Eagle Pass** before dropping down into Idaho Falls. Our ride took us 84 miles. Shortly after arriving, Team 2 led by Ronnie Weinzapfel arrived as well and the story telling began!!

That evening, we met with **Tony Huegel**, the creator of the Heart of the West Adventure!

ED. NOTE -

Andy's description of this, his second time to lead a group of off-road friends along the Heart of the West BDR will be continued in the March Edition of Beemer Zeitung....





2022 SIGNATURE RIDES

Landmark Rides for our 50th Anniversary Year

- Mar 30-Apr 6**, Roswell, NM - Thank God it's Spring – The Trinity Site Excursion [Click here for GPX](#)
- Apr 21-24**, Eureka Springs AR – The Roads of Spring – The Ozark Escape [Click here for GPX](#)
- Jun 16-19**, Springfield, MO – BMWDFW Ride to the BMW MOA 50th Anniversary National Rally
- Jun 19-24**, Cape Girardeau, MO - MOA After Ride [Click here for GPX](#)
- Sep 15–18**, Mena, AR - Rich Mountain Rendezvous at the Queen [Click here for GPX](#)
- Sep 28–Oct 2**, Kerrville, TX – Texas Spelunker Tour/ MOA Getaway, Kerrville [Click here for GPX](#)
- Oct 21-23**, Eureka Springs, AR – Annual Fall Color Tour [Click here](#) for event

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 Tues. MONTHLY, except December

Spring Creek BBQ, 1509 Airport Freeway, Bedford, TX. Located on the west-bound 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

2022

BMWDFW

OFFICERS

President

Carter Lewis

Vice President

David Frankenfield

Secretary/Treasurer

Dennis Bufton

Bedford, TX

817-475-2413

Tourmeister

Stephen Slisz

yeeha_stephen@yahoo.com

Webmeister

Art Ullman, Jr

Safety Director

Ruben Alanis

Newsletter Editor

Don M Mills

don_mills@sbcglobal.net



2022 UPCOMING CLUB RIDES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Click on the listed event for more information. [Click here](#) for the most current updated event information.

Sunday, February 13, 2022 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast and Ride](#)

Sunday, March 13, 2022 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Cancelled – see Tech Day Event - [BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast and Ride](#)

Sunday, March 13 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

[BMWDFW Tech Day](#)

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

Wednesday , March 30 - April 6

[Thank God It's Spring – Ride To The Trinity Site](#)

Sunday, April 10, 2022 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast and Ride](#)

Thursday, April 21, 2022 - April 24, 2022

[The Roads Of Spring – The Ozark Escape](#)

Friday, May 6 - May 8

[Fredericksburg Vintage Motorcycle Show & Ride-In](#)

Sunday, May 8, 2022 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast and Ride](#)

Thursday, May 19, 2022 - May 22, 2022

[Tentative – 25th Natchitoches Jazz Fest and Crawfish Festival](#)

Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[BMWDFW 2cd Sunday Breakfast and Ride](#)

Thursday, June 16, 2022 @ 8:00 am - June 18, 2022 @ 5:00 pm

[BMW DFW Ride to the BMW MOA 50th Anniversary National Rally](#)

Ozark Empire Fairgrounds 3001 N Grant Ave, Springfield, MO

Sunday, June 19, 2022 - June 24, 2022

[MOA After Ride – Another 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Membership

Meeting

Tuesday

FEB 8

7:30 PM

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

At Forest Ridge & Airport
Freeway (Hwy 121)