

*50th Anniversary*

# BEEMER ZEITUNG

APRIL 2022



**CATEGORY I Photo for APRIL**

**ANDY'S HUSKY 701 ENDURO ON THE "HOW BDR"**

**By ANDY JONES**

## STAGE 3 - TO THE CENTER OF THE 48 UNITED STATES



**MIKE GRAGG**

### STAGE 3, DAY 2

*Irving, back through Marysville, Sod House, Monument to the Ice Age, CTR48, Lucas*

#### Irving and a beloved children's book

L. Frank Baum worked at various times as an actor, playwright, shop owner and salesman, though he was not very successful at any of them. In 1879, he was working at a newspaper and as part of his job of reviewing competing newspapers for interesting stories, he happened upon an article about the devastation caused on May 30, 1879, by the two tornadoes that struck tiny Irving, Kansas. They destroyed the town and killed 19 residents including a young girl named Dorothy. Those tornadoes picked Dorothy up and slammed her into the muddy ground head first with such violence that she was killed instantly and buried up to her waist. The story hit Frank exceptionally hard. He had a favorite niece named Dorothy who had recently died as a result of a long illness. Most experts agree that Irving's Dorothy and Frank's Dorothy inspired Baum to write a book which became a classic: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, featuring as heroine a young girl named Dorothy. Dorothy's last name is never mentioned in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* or *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, the first two Oz books. The last name was first mentioned in Baum's script for the 1902 Broadway stage version of *The*



*Wizard of Oz*, in which it was originally a setup for a joke. (DOROTHY: "I am Dorothy, and I am one of the Kansas Gales." SCARECROW: "That accounts for your breezy manner.")

Little remains of **Irving** today. Through plagues, fires, tornadoes, floods, drought and grasshopper invasions the residents of Irving persevered but they were unable to fight the power of the US federal government. When plans for the construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam were announced the residents were ordered to abandon the town, even though the lake is miles away.

**Irving** is still accessible: a few miles of infrequently traveled and even more infrequently maintained gravel roads took me to the old town site, where the city's street network is still visible and building foundations can still be seen. A stone marker and a "mailbox" occupy the site of the former post office. Visitors and past residents are asked to leave a message in the box. Those messages are read as a part of the annual reunion of past Irving residents and their families. I hope they read mine.

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## Marysville and the Sod House museum

I passed back through **Marysville**, hoping to take the "Historic Marysville" tour in Marysville's striking courthouse. Unfortunately the volunteer who usually leads the tour was not available that day so I missed it. Luckily, Marysville also has a **real sod house**, restored by volunteers, and located just a few blocks



away in the city park. I found it quite interesting and was very glad I stopped.



## Blue Rapids and the Monument To The Ice Age

In May 2012, "**The Monument to the Ice Age**" was dedicated in the town square of tiny **Blue Rapids**. It features descriptions of Ice Age times, continental glaciers, and Sioux Quartzite glacial erratics (a piece of rock that differs from the size and type of

rock native to the area in which it rests) - the oldest rocks in Kansas. Blue Rapids was founded in this place because of the abundant natural resources brought or created by the glaciers of the Ice Age over 10,000 years ago. The namesake rapids on the Blue River that were harnessed to power early industries, the sand and gravel deposits used for construction and roads, and the rich soils for agriculture are all here because of the Ice Age glaciers. Georgia-Pacific has a gypsum mine near Blue Rapids containing some of the purest gypsum in the world.



## Lebanon and the Center of the 48 States

In 1931, the US Geological Service set about determining the center of each state, beginning their 1932, report with a disclaimer that they had "**no completely satisfactory method**" of doing so. They did it with cardboard. Literally. They cut out the shape of every state from a sheet of cardboard and then balanced each on a

single point. The point where the state-shape was perfectly balanced was determined to be the geographical center. Brilliant? Yes. Super-duper accurate? No.

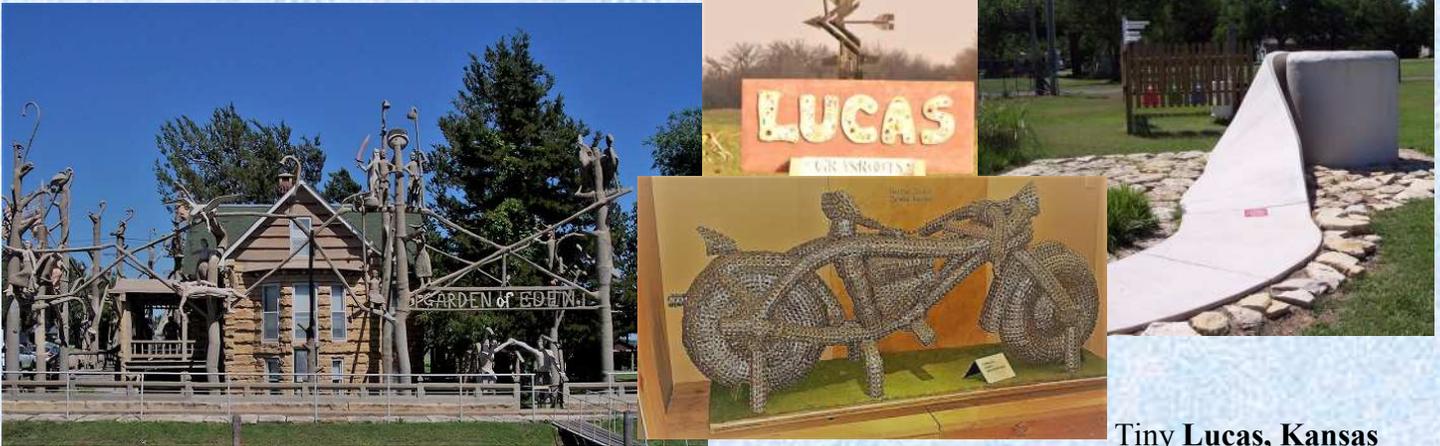
About the same time, a group of **Lebanon, Kansas** businessmen hired a surveying company to locate the **center of the 48 contiguous states** since the USGS had made no attempt to do it. The survey determined that the center was located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Lebanon. Believing that surveying was more accurate than cardboard balancing, Lebanon proudly proclaimed itself the geographic center of the United States and built a stone cairn on the surveyed spot.

Peter Rogerson is a geographer at the University at Buffalo, where he mostly works on population and demographics. Rogerson published a paper in August



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2015, detailing a new method for calculating geographical centers in which he lays out the precise centers of every U.S. state, plus the contiguous 48 states (Rogerson's method locates the 48-state center a few miles south of Lebanon. Lebanon steadfastly ignores Rogerson's center and so did I, finding a very pleasant park and a stone marker at the "official" center of the US 48 states.



Tiny Lucas, Kansas

(pop. 463) bills itself as "The Grassroots Art Capital Of Kansas" and boasts **The Garden Of Eden** (the unusual home of S. P. Dinsmore), **The Grassroots Art Center**, the adjacent **Toilet Bowl Plaza**, and **The World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things Traveling Road-side Attraction and Museum**.

After a very full day I was happy that I had a room reserved and guaranteed at the Hutchinson, Kansas Holiday Inn Express.



J2C Stage 3 Day 3



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## ***The Kansas Cosmosphere, Beaumont, Hubble's Rubble, Coffeyville and a Deadly Shootout***

### **Hutchinson and the Kansas Cosmosphere**

On my first visit to the White Sands Missile Range Museum in New Mexico several years ago I was surprised to see so many of the exhibits displayed outdoors with no protection from the weather. One however, was displayed in a specially-built shelter: a fully restored V2 rocket. A bronze plaque revealed that this rare World War II rocket had also been outdoors for many years and had deteriorated to the point that many recommended its destruction. Eventually it was decided that the V2 was too historically important to be destroyed and the fragile rocket was sent to the **Kansas Cosmosphere**, one of the very few places in the world with the knowledge and the skill to properly restore it. (I suspect that because the Cosmosphere had meticulously restored its own V2 some years earlier that wasn't lost on the decision makers.) After seeing WSMR's restored V2 and reading the information plaque I added the Cosmosphere to my list of must-see attractions.

In 1962, Cosmosphere founder **Patty Carey** rented a used Planetarium Projector and set up rented folding chairs in the Poultry Building of the Kansas State Fair Grounds, creating one of the first public planetariums in the Central United States.



Encouraged by the planetarium's popularity, she mounted an expansion campaign to develop a space and science center worthy of international recognition. When it opened in 1980, the 35,000-square-foot facility included the planetarium, a three-level exhibit gallery, new classrooms for expanded school programs and one of the first-ever IMAX® Dome Theaters. In 1997, the facility was expanded to 105,000 square feet, allowing for the display of a flown SR-71 Black-

bird in the lobby. In 1998, the Cosmosphere was named one of the first affiliates of the Smithsonian Institution, formalizing a long-term relationship with the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum. The Cosmosphere far exceeded my expectations with the depth, quality and breadth of its displays. I spent more than an hour watching a recorded interview with men who had actually flown the Blackbird. A few hours is not nearly enough time to explore the Cosmosphere's breadth and depth of displays. Today the Cosmosphere features the largest combined collection of U.S. and Russian space artifacts in the world and tells the comprehensive story of mankind's race to space unlike anywhere else on Earth.

### **Beaumont and the Beaumont Hotel**

Beaumont, Kansas was first a stop on the stagecoach route between Fredonia and Wichita. In 1879 Edwin and Emma Russell built the **Summit Hotel**, later renamed the **Beaumont Hotel** to provide lodging to the travelers. In 1885 the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, better known as the Frisco, established Beaumont as a railroad town. One line of tracks ran east and west, connecting St. Louis with Wichita. A spur was added later going south from Beaumont through Latham and on to the Oklahoma border. A roundhouse was built in 1890 across from the Summit Hotel, and employed 90 people. The water tower, built in 1885, stands across from the hotel and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of the rich bluestem grass, the area was used as staging area to ship cattle back east.

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The railroad supported several businesses in Beaumont. These included a hardware store and lumber yard, as well as a pharmacy owned by the town's only physician and surgeon, Dr. William James Phillips. The population of Beaumont has never been large. In 1910 the population was 200. Today, fewer than 50 people live there. A post office was opened in Beaumont on June 3, 1880, and remained in operation until it was discontinued on August 16, 1997.

Beaumont maintains a private airfield directly next to the town. The **Beaumont Cafe and Hotel** is a popular place to eat and stay for locals as well as pilots on their way through. There is a taxiway and parking area for small planes directly next to the restaurant itself. I flew into Beaumont to get a piece of pie a few times with my father. After Peggy's parents moved to the Wichita area she and I stopped for pie a few times on our way to visit.



### Hubble's Rubble

The welded metal sculptures of Hubble's Rubble (also known as Hubble Rubble People) fill an empty lot along Kansas Highway 99 in **Howard, Kansas**. The sculptures were created by Jerry Hubbell, a realtor and rancher. Jerry has had no formal art training, but took welding lessons when he began farming in 1980, in order to learn how to mend implements for his farm. I was disappointed to see the many of the folk art pieces needed freshening. I have since learned that Jerry has worn a defibrillator since 2001 and is no longer permitted use a welder

### Coffeyville and a deadly shootout

On October 5, 1892, the **Dalton Gang**, consisting of Grat, Emmett and Bob Dalton, Dick Broadwell and Bill Power set out to simultaneously rob both of Coffeyville's banks: The Condon and The First National. The gang wore fake beards as they rode into town but Emmett was recognized by one of the townspeople who spread the word that the infamous Dalton gang was in town. Exiting the banks the gang met heavily armed civilians and a fierce gunfight exploded in the street. Grat and Bob Dalton, Dick Broadwell and Bill Power were killed as were three townspeople and town marshal Charles Connelly. Emmett Dalton received 23 gunshot wounds but survived. Sentenced to life imprisonment at Kansas State Penitentiary in Leavenworth, he was paroled after serving 14 years and moved to California to become a real estate agent. Years later he purchased a headstone for his brothers' graves in Coffeyville, which was installed beside the only marker the townspeople had ever allowed: the steel hitching rail to which the gang tied their horses before the robbery. Interestingly, the grave of brother Frank Dalton is just 100 yards away. Frank was killed in the line of duty as a US Marshall. Today one of Coffeyville's historical attractions is the **Dalton Defenders Museum** honoring the townspeople killed during the robbery and subsequent gunfight. Just don't call it The Dalton Museum - you will be corrected.



**CATEGORY II Photo for *APRIL***



**TEXAS' WIND ENERGY**

**By Stephen Slisz**

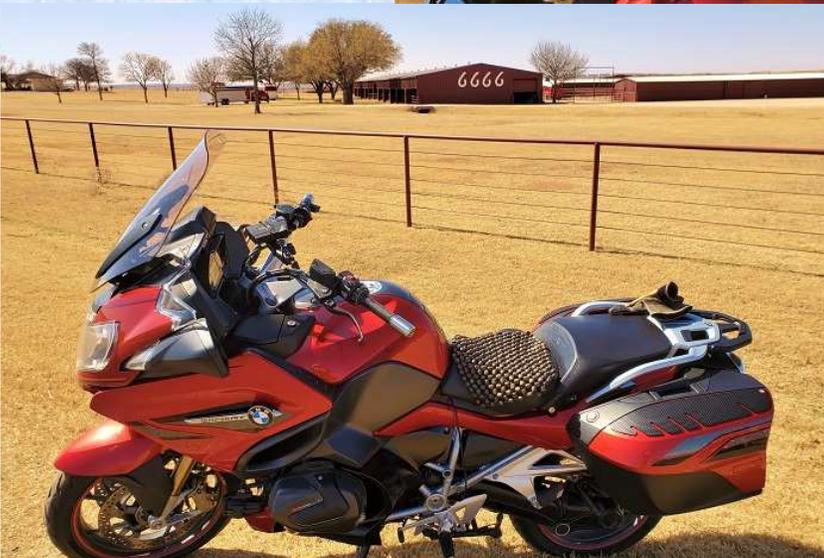
## True North

“Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning...” The old maritime adage about predicting the weather was never as true as when we removed “sailor” and replaced it with “motorcycle rider”. Originally taken from the bible verse Matthew 16:2-3 where Jesus said “When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring...” and adopted by early shepherds and later seafaring sailors, the saying proved true on our ride out to the **6666 Ranch** in Guthrie Texas.



STEPHEN SLISZ

A couple of weekends ago we decided to make a run out to Guthrie and see what there was to see at what is considered “among the most storied family-run businesses in Texas history”. The 350,000 acre ranch, made even more famous



by the hit TV series *Yellowstone*, is said to be home to legendary quarter horses and superior breed Angus cattle. The 6666 brand started in the late 1800's by Samuel Burk Burnett in Missouri and as legend goes, its name taken from a winning poker hand in which Burnett held four sixes. Burnett moved to Denton Texas and started the now famous ranch on land leased from

Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

As soon as Mike Valentin, David Frankenfield and I rode thru the Springtown area headed to the 6666 the wind started picking up to 30 mph and gusting a little higher. Just pesky winds as we rode Northwest on TX-114, the crosswind became troublesome after we turned Westerly

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after Jacksboro. Still early in the morning we could see the sky turning red as the gusty cross-winds stirred up tons of West-Texas dust. Bikes leaning at what seemed a constant 10 degree angle, we ignored the “red sky in the morning” omen and continued on TX114 to Seymour and turned due West on US 82. The **main office and oft photographed cattle-barn section** of the 6666 Ranch is on US 82 a little north of Guthrie and encompasses about 16,000 acres of the



ranch. Stopping for our own version of these photographs, we had a little trouble parking the bikes on the grassy roadside until we figured the best angle for the bikes to face the wind.

The ranch is still a working operation and is closed to tourists, so we jockeyed for the best photo snaps we could get from outside the fence. After the three intrepid photographers clicked their money-winning shots, we made our way back to town to check out the **6666 Supply Store** and a few blocks North, the main ranch house built by Burnett in 1917.

The 6666 Supply House was originally a “company store” type general store, build to service the ranch hands and their families. Today it’s still a general store with gas pumps outside and is also the 6666 Ranch gift store. We visited on a Sunday and it seems almost everything in West Texas is closed, including the gift store. It’s probably a Must-Do stop if I’m ever out this was again.

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Built for a reported \$100,000 in 1917, the magnificent main ranch house is a couple of blocks North of the store. It was constructed with native stone quarried right on the ranch, and other



materials brought in by rail car to Paducah, and then hauled by wagon to Guthrie. Densely surrounded by shade trees, the house is a little difficult to photograph and show its epic western scale. Evi-

dently still occupied, a couple of yap-yap dogs started sounding the alarm as I tried to get close to the front gate for a better photograph.

From the Saturday Breakfast Pancake House, it's a 430+ mile round trip to the 6666 and by the time we finished our photo stops, our lunch break was pushing 2pm. With the Supply Store closed, there's no place in Guthrie to grab a snack so we wandered Eastward on TX 222 to **Knox City** and found **Bud's Café** open. Bud's is a little rough looking on the outside, but perfectly fine on the inside. The interior looking newly remodeled, I even made a comment to Mike and David about how super clean the restrooms were. Mike's and David's burgers looked great, and my Senior Chicken Strip basket was huge with 3 large strips and fries.

The return trip to DFW was perfectly awful. Leaning our bikes to the opposite side for a few more hours, I'm hopeful we wore the tire tread pattern equally as we had on the outbound trip.



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF BMWDFW



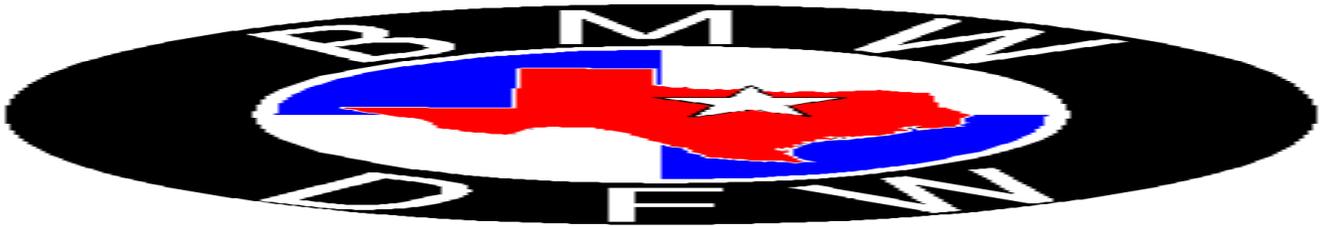
I want to say thank you to everyone for their kind words, thoughts and prayers for us on my loss of my dear **Mary**. It was such a great help through a difficult time to know I have friends and your support. It has been a great help being able to have a ride or two. If it were not for Mary, I may not have gotten back to riding. She was wise enough and encouraging enough to know I would be needing this someday...and all too soon. She rides with me whenever I strap on my helmet.

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JOHNNY KRESENA





## 2022 Signature Rides

*Landmark Rides for a Landmark 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 info)

*“Ride ‘em - Don’t Hide ‘em”*

### 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**



VINCE BRECKNER

**2022**

### **BMWDFW**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Carter Lewis

#### **Vice President**

David Frankenfield

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Dennis Bufton

Bedford, TX

817-475-2413

#### **Tourmeister**

Stephen Slisz

[yeha\\_stephen@yahoo.com](mailto:yeha_stephen@yahoo.com)

#### **Webmeister**

Art Ullman, Jr

#### **Safety Director**

Ruben Alanis



## 2022 UPCOMING CLUB RIDES & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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](#)

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

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

Sunday - August 14 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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

Sunday - September 11 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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

Thursday - September 15 - September 18

[Farewell To Summer Ride Away – Rich Mountain Rendezvous](#)

Saturday - September 24 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[BMWDFW Cool Your Rocks Cookoff](#)

Wed - September 28 - October 2

[The Texas Hoedown/Thrill In The Hills & The BMWDFW Texas Spelunker Ride Away](#)

**Membership**

**Meeting**

**Tuesday**

**APRIL 12**

**7:30 PM**

**Spring Creek BBQ**

**1509 Airport Fwy**

**Bedford, TX**

**817-545-0184**

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