

*50th Anniversary*

# BEEMER ZEITUNG

JULY 2022

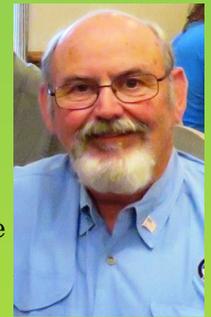


**CATEGORY I Photo for JULY**

**CAPE MENDOCINO, CA**

**Submitted by: Christian Barber**

## 50th ANNIVERSARY Ride to the BMW MOA Rally in Springfield, MO.



ANDY JONES

This year's BMW MOA Rally took us up to Springfield, Missouri. Our group included Stephen Slisz, me, Joel Watson, Bill Corkern and Randy Gilbert followed us in his Ridgeline chase truck. We rode up to the **Queen Wilhelmina Lodge** on Monday. On the way up, we



stopped in **Paris, TX** to visit the **Eiffel Tower** and **Red River Veterans Memorial**. Then we rode through Hugo, OK to visit



the **Showman's Rest Cemetary** where many carnival and circus entertainers are interred. Hugo was the home base for several different travelling circus and carnival groups. We had lunch in Angie's Circus City Diner before riding on across the **Talahina trail**, always a treat! Although the sky was quite hazy, the view was still pretty amazing. Mike Gragg met us at the Lodge for a pleasant dinner together that evening.

On Tuesday, we rode across to Grove, Oklahoma, where Mike and Peggy live. After a fine evening meal and a restful night's sleep, Mike took us on a sight-seeing trip around Grove and environs. We visited the **Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma**. Will Rogers said "he never met a man he didn't like!" I wonder if he could still say that in today's crazy world!

We then drove back to Grove to visit the **Second Kicks Motorcycle Museum**. The bikes on display brought back fond memories of our youth with examples of several of the motorcycle models that we rode as teenagers! There was a Maico like Joel used to ride and several examples of Hodakas and Yamahas like I used to ride. We lunched at the **Checkered Past Diner** while there.



On Thursday morning we started the day with me experiencing a dead battery on my Africa Twin. Apparently I had left my electronic countermeasure device on since I parked the bike Tuesday and by Thursday morning, the battery was dead. We jump started the bike and I didn't turn the bike off all day until we arrived in Springfield. A quick check up at the local Honda shop determined that the battery was fine and had recharged during the ride. They cleared a number of fault codes on my LCD display that were caused by a current spike when we jump started the bike. WHEW! All is well that ends well!



We spent Friday and Saturday at the Rally site and saw a lot of BMW /5s, as they were the featured bikes for the 50 years of BMW. It is my understanding that our own **Arnold Garcia** won the "Best in Show" /5! Congratulations to him! Our Club had some 52 members present and we made a fine showing

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with our snazzy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tee-shirts! The vendors were there in force again this year and we took advantage of their “show specials!” It was great to renew old acquaintances and visit with members that I haven’t seen in some while. We attended **Jack Riepe’s** seminar on “Writing articles for motorcycle magazines”, and he kept us in stitches for a whole hour.

On Sunday morning, Joel, Bill, Randy, Darwin and I left to return to DFW. We departed at 0530 hours and arrived back home at around 1230 hours, covering the 434 miles in seven hours with two fuel/rest stops along the way. All in all, a good time was had by all. It was great to see so many of you there at the Rally! I hate that Don’s mishap kept him from joining us in Springfield. I wish him a speedy recovery.



# IT HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO and FROM THE....RALLY

By Leslie Hillhouse

Dictionary.com describes Brother (among other things) as: “a male numbered among the same kinship group, nationality, ethnicity, profession, etc., as another; an associate; a fellow member, fellow countryman, fellow man, etc.”.

I'm new to the BMW family, having bought my first BMW, in December of 2021 at the urging of my friend Paul Hill. I had attended a couple of the Saturday morning breakfasts, riding my Honda VTX1300C and parking it beside all the much taller and sleeker BMWs at the Original Pancake House in Grapevine. But I promised him that “one day in the spring” I'd get a BMW and join the club. Honestly it had been a seed planted in my brain long ago by another friend, Stu Spencer, who swore by BMW motorcycles. We rode with the church motorcycle gang, the “Circuit Riders.” So in December 2021, Paul texted me one Saturday morning and said, “There's one at Denton Cycle Center you really need to check out.” The following Tuesday at about 10:00, my name was on the title, and I was the proud owner of a “new” 2021 BMW R1250RT. Little did I know how that Tuesday morning would change everything!

I've ridden Honda, and Kawasaki for years, but never with a group that did organized rides or felt such a strong kinship with people who shared the same passion for the open road as I did. That changed when I bought that RT, and joined the BMW DFW club.

My first “big ride” was to New Mexico and Arizona on the Thank God It's Spring trip. What a great learning experience. (white knuckle twisties, trying to figure out a new bike that is miles different from the old bike, and being the only female rider with a bunch of seasoned guys who've ridden together for years. But y'all, (Mike, Yeeha, Paul, and Scott), are now my new brothers. The grace and patience you showed me helped make it a wonderful trip. Y'all are awesome! And I survived.



Next up was the BMW National Rally in Springfield. That too was a lesson on the meaning of “brothers”. I could probably win an award for the most ruined tires going to and from a rally. On a day-ride in MO, Reed Roach, Mike Valentin and I stopped for gas. Reed noted that my back tire looked a little low. Eagle eye Reed saw something that probably saved me a ton of trouble. After lots of looking, checking tire pressure, pumping air, we agreed the tire wouldn't hold air. They helped me get it to a nearby Honda shop for a new tire, and we still managed a late lunch in Rockbridge at the trout farm.

Note: later Randy retrieved the tire and brought it to me in Grapevine (thanks Randy!).

On the way home, the plan was to leave from Russellville, AR for a twisty, fun ride leaving at 0630 for DFW to beat the heat. When I got to my bike that morning and I found a 3” screw in my new (less than 500mi) tire. @\$#\$%#@#!

David Frankenfield and Eric Edstrom tried to plug the leak, but after three plugs, the tire still hissed like a pissed off copperhead. Back to another Honda shop. If y'all need help in a pinch, and there's not another BMW dealer nearby, try Honda. They've been great!

Bottom line is, another new tire, not balanced, but I was on my way home. And *I made it home safely*, thanks to my new “brothers”. You made me more than grateful for having met you.

Shalom!

## True North

“**Thank God It’s Spring!**” I yelled inside my helmet as I pulled out of the driveway starting the first ride of the club’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season, the namesake Thank God It’s Spring - **The Trinity Site Excursion**. We’ve never visited the Trinity Site and it was a little exciting to start the post COVID restriction season off with a fresh ride to New Mexico.



Trinity was the code name of the first detonation of a nuclear weapon. As part of the Manhattan Project, the United States Army set off the bomb at 5:29 a.m. on July 16, 1945, in the New Mexico desert about 30 miles southeast of Socorro. What is now the White Sands Missile Range, the Trinity Site is open to the public for visitation twice a year; once in the spring and once in the fall. Since our fall riding season is usually full, we decided to hit the site during the April edition of the Open House.

I read that the Trinity Open House was very crowded and it was best to arrive pre-dawn to avoid the long lines of cars waiting to enter the Trinity Site gates. After I posted our plans for the visit, someone on the BMW MOA Facebook site recommended that we wait till about lunchtime to do our visit. They predicted that arriving later in the day, all the people that had waited in that early morning line would be finishing their visit and would be exiting the site, leaving much shorter lines at the entry point. What great advice. We practically rolled straight through the gate after the guard made a separate “motorcycle” line for us and waved us through after a short ID check!



“Open House” was a bit of a misnomer because there is nothing at the actual site save for a chain link perimeter fence and a stone monument with a plaque dedicated to the historical 1945 moment. There were several items that had been hauled in on trailers for visitors to see, like a replica of the **Big Boy bomb**, a few kiosks with Trinity info and dozens of photos and signs portraying the events surrounding the detonation.

One funny thing is that the explosion melted some of the surrounding desert sand, largely made of silica, and became a mildly radioactive light green glass, which was named Trinitite. It’s against the rules for souvenir hunters to collect the Trinitite from the grounds, but obviously many people don’t pay heed, and think they are taking home Trinitite trophies. I say “think” because it seems some wise White Sands official hauled in a truckload of broken shale that resembles the green Trinitite and spread it along the exhibit grounds. I saw more than one person grabbing samples of the shale to show their friends. I’ll bet their fake Trinitite trophies are secretly on display at home!

Though there’s not really that much to see on site, it’s eerily sobering to stand on “ground zero” of the first atomic bomb test. If you can get into one corner of the perimeter fence, away from the crowds and stand in a quieter zone and gaze out onto the desert and the surrounding mountains,

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it's quite a humbling experience. I kept thinking of the first button pusher; did he wonder if he was about to end the world with a chain-reaction cataclysm?

During the week-long trip to New Mexico we accomplished a few other touristy stops. Heading out I-20 we stopped in Cisco to visit the location of the December 1927 Santa Clause Bank Robbery. Two-days before Christmas and during the town's holiday celebrations, Marshall Ratliff, (dressed as Santa Clause) Henry Helms, Robert Hill and Louis Davis held up the First National Bank in Cisco. Two police officers were killed during their escape and the robbers took some children as hostages. The group was captured near Graford, Texas and tried for their offenses. Ratliff faked insanity during the trial and escaped a death sentence. A mob, angry that the phony Santa had been spared the death penalty, dragged him from his cell in the Eastland County Jail and hanged him from a nearby telephone pole. There's not much to see at the robbery site in Cisco. The bank building is now a Quest Auto Parts store with a lone commemorative plaque mounted nearby. Curiously the vacant building next door looks more like a 20's bank building than the auto parts store.

On our way through Sweetwater, we paid (free - but donations accepted) a visit to the **WASP museum**, a 1929 hanger at Sweetwater Army Air Field now named Avenger Field that houses the museum. Women in WWII "Home Front" jobs took to the air when the U.S. Army Air Forces launched the civilian Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. From 1942 to 1944, these first women to fly U.S. military planes logged 60 million miles, ferrying military aircraft to bases nationwide. They also opened the future for women in the Air Force. The museum's exhibits tell the pioneer pilots' stories and a monument bears the names of 1,074 women pilots who received their WASP silver wings here, and honors the 38 women pilots who died in their service. There are some full sized aircraft to view in the hanger next door.



Before riding to Ruidoso, New Mexico the BMWDFW crew stopped at the **Lincoln County Courthouse** and Historical site, the location of Billy the Kidd's last jailbreak. On his way out of town, Billy killed deputies JW Bell and R. Olinger. A few short months later, Billy would meet his end when killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett near Fort Sumner NM. Some parts of New Mexico are evidently still in COVID lockdown. Lincoln is obviously a tourist town but a lot of it was shut down. On the north end of town is a jail break and shoot-out reenactment stage with a park that was badly overgrown with COVID restriction weeds.

We had a couple of special attention moments on our New Mexico motorcycle travels. South of Ruidoso is the **Sun Spot Observatory**. The Dunn Solar Telescope on the site is open to the public on select days and times. Visitors can step inside the observing room for an up close look at the instruments used to study the Sun. On the day of our visit there weren't any guides available. One of the observatory's astronomers standing nearby volunteered to lead our little group and took us up to the telescope. Inside the main door Mike Valentin started chatting up our astronomer and we found out he was a huge Sci-fi movie nut. We spent several minutes talking about our favorite space mov-

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ies before our tour started. Additional special attention came when the guide took us behind the scenes to see a couple of the Sun's rays experiments going on inside the lab. On top of the telescope's 40ft wide turntable, we were invited to check out the primary reflective mirror 193ft below ground. The turntable, by the way, is mounted on top of liquid Mercury serving as a bearing to cushion and stabilize the telescope.



The second special moment happened at the **Very Large Array Radio Astronomy Observatory**. Each spanning 82 feet in diameter, the 27 radio antennas are spread in a "Y" shape arrangement with each leg of the "Y" being 13 miles long. The most common arrangement is when the antennas are closer together at only 2000ft apart and is the one used most often in movies. This day the VLA was COVID closed to visitors and the antenna arrangement was miles apart making for very poor photo ops. The security officer guarding the closed entrance gate heard our lament and offered to sneak us inside for a closer look. He told us his boss, the site administrator, was due to leave in a few minutes. After she left, we followed the security guard down to the inner workings of the site. We got our close-up photos (bikes included!) and were able to wander around the telescope maintenance area where they drag the antennas in on rail cars for maintenance. Very cool.

We also visited the **New Mexico Museum of Space History** in Alamogordo. If you're interested in the inner workings of rockets and missiles, this place with its dozens of exhibits of rocket "guts" will definitely have you geeking out.

The only disappointing adventure on our trip was the extension over into Arizona to ride the **Devil's Highway**, old Route 666, now called US-191. We wanted to see the **Gila Cliff Dwellings** inside the Gila National Monument and then ride over to the **Morenci Copper Mine** and north on 191. The cliff dwellings part of the trip was wonderful. The ride over Emory Pass and through the portion of the Gila National Forest from I-25 to Silver City on NM-151 was pure magic. And then the ride north on the deeply forested twists and turns of NM-15 was another beautiful experience. The next morning we rode up the Devils Highway to the Morenci Mine overlook. Since I was there a few years ago the mine seems to have doubled in size. The overlook is still there but the copper excavation is so massive now it denies the ordinary snapshot photographer a chance for a good travel photo. None of my shots are worth showing. Next, is US-191 itself. It's in bad shape. Once a motorcyclist's favorite, now a bike rider has to be very careful of gravel and broken pavement in almost every turn till you get to Alpine AZ. The saving grace is that US-180 back to Silver City from Alpine is another sweet Arizona stretch of pavement.



Mike Valentin, Leslie Hillhouse, Paul Hill, Scott Miller and I had a great time on this historic 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ride. Except for some windy times and a little desert heat in White Sands, the weather was Blue-Sky perfect and I truly wish you could've been with us. There's still time to join one of our anniversary rides, so this season make sure you Ride 'Em and Don't Hide 'Em

**CATEGORY II Photo for *JULY***



**SUNRISE ON THE TALIMENA TRAIL**

**Submitted by: MIKE VALENTIN**



# Skill Development - New dancing pegs!

Mike Valentin



Time is one thing we never seem to have. In reality we have plenty, or more, as I've suggested many times before. Expanding time allows us to consider or just double-check where we are, what we're doing. Or at least, when I'm on a long ride, I can run through visual and mental checklists.



Not surprisingly during a cursory TCLOC check on my ride to the 2022 BMWMOA Rally and beyond into the Northeast, I began to notice my left foot slipping off the peg. The diagnosis (DX): worn out foot rest rubber. The treatment (TX): replacement.

The worn footrest wasn't a problem, but I could feel the foot slipping especially as I was going through some beautiful twisty bits in Kentucky - off the beaten path and worth the experience (Red River Gorge/Daniel Boone National Forest).



During a resting evening I ordered my parts for two BMW Footrest Rubbers (#46718544486) with a scheduled pick-up upon my return home at my trusted GOTO place, Cycle Center of Denton/BMW Motorcycles of Denton.

Here's what I did to repair the rubber bits when I returned home. Now be prepared, we'll be dealing with dangerous tools, foolish attitudes with magnificent outcomes. You're responsible for your own actions - if you think this is beyond your skill level, consider this a cursory guide, not a definitive guide, not quite a Rickapedia level detail guide, there won't even be a Harms Reduction Analysis...Blah! Blah! Blah! Just a simple fix.

**Step 1.** - Using a razor blade, or similar safer tool, cut the rubber footrest along the side. A longitudinal cut, not too deep to score the underlying magnificent alloy. [PIC 3]

DON'T cut into the fiddly plasticity collar next to the hinge, it's a Thrust Washer and it should be left alone.

**Step 2.** - With a 10mm wrench, lefty-loose, remove the Stopper and put it aside for reinstallation at the end. The Stopper is the little finger that makes sparks for all of your friends to see behind you, as you enter a Gravity Well in a curve, something like a Cloud Chamber, if you recall your high-level particle Physics classes. Better yet, be behind a great rider through the twisty bits the sparks are really cool to see.



**Step 3.** - Remove the rubber footrest before attempting to install a new/fresh rubber footrest. No, this is not a birth control method. This is for a motorcycle.

**Step 4.** - Coat the inner diameter of the footrest with water or a temporary lubricious material to facilitate placement on the peg. I used a COVID-19 approved alcohol hand sanitizer. It will not break down the rubber and will not leave a slippery coating after drying.

**Step 5.** - Place the rubber footrest on the peg and push it on.

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**Step 6.** – Once satisfied with the installation, re-attach The Stopper with a 10mm wrench using your preferred method of torque measurement, in descending validation, e.g., BMW specification, the Germanic TightE'nuf, YouTube or TikTok.

**NOTE:** Apply some blue juice/LockTite/SureTite on the threads of The Stopper, so your bike won't look like some goober missing a tooth down the road. The snooty judgmental types we come across will point and snicker about how out of balance your bike is. We don't want that.

**Step 7.** – Admire your craftsmanship, how beautiful the casting of metal and elastic polymers can look on your magnificent Beemer.

I'm looking forward to my next ride, knowing full well Raquel (you don't have a name for your Beemer?! ) has a new pair of dancing pegs for the next trip for a visit to the local waltz or twists.

For the analysts in the audience, you'll improve the rigid body dynamics of your Beemer, or your mileage by .002 miles per gallon, or your speed through curves by applying better rider positioning counter weighting towards the center of the curve while the bike attempts to push away from the curve.

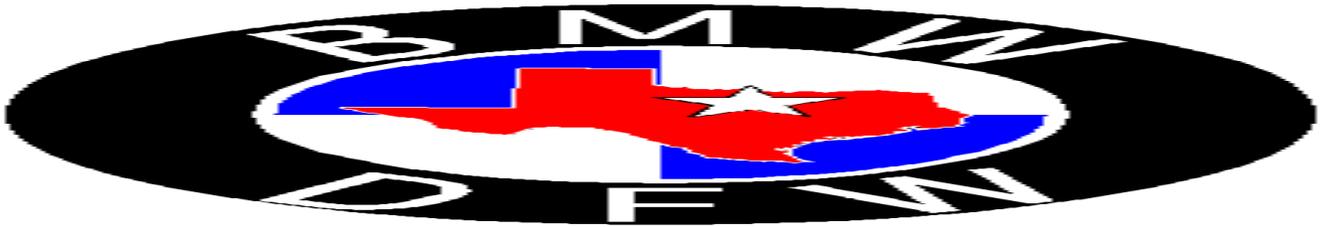
Better yet...measure your smile for any of the reasons above, or some of your own.

Then head off to ride. See you on the road of the infinite horizon.



**EDITOR NOTE:** Any club member who can accurately identify 2 out 3 riders in this photo, except the riders themselves, wins....

A valuable coupon from WHATABURGER.



## 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

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#### **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 - 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](#)

Sun - October 9 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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

Thu - October 20 - October 23

[BMWDFW 50th Anniversary Celebration Fall Color Ride Away](#)

Sun - November 13 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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

Sun

December 11 @ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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

Sun

December 11 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[BMWDFW Annual Award Banquet](#)



Compliments of ... Mark Jensen

**Membership**

**Meeting**

**Tuesday**

**JULY 12**

**7:30 PM**

**Spring Creek BBQ**

**1509 Airport Fwy**

**Bedford, TX**

**817-545-0184**

At Forest Ridge & Airport Freeway (Hwy 121)

