

AHH SPRING

BEEMER ZEITUNG

MARCH 2024



CATEGORY I Photo for MARCH

"OFF ROAD" In Briceville, Ky

by Mike Valentin



TRUE NORTH

“Big Bend’s Sam Nail Ranch”



The fall season comes late to the high deserts in the Big Bend area of far Southwestern Texas. Autumn colors may last through December into January and occasionally even February. At the start of the season you often see abundant green flora and beautiful wild flowers. Then in certain spots, you’ll brilliant flashes of traditional fall colors. I was about to tell you of a recent trip through Big Bend National Park when I just happened upon an area displaying an artist’s brush stroke of brilliant yellow in a sea of green. That would not be true though. I didn’t chance upon this area of the park, I was making this stop deliberately.

Scattered throughout the National Park are small roadside signs calling your attention to some of the park’s exhibit pullouts. Entering the park from the west on **Panther Junction Road**, many visitors make the turn south on Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive to make the Santa Elena Canyon overlook their first stop. For me, a couple of miles south of the intersec-



tion, the “Exhibit Ahead” sign and pull out for the **Sam Nail Ranch** are my first

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stop. Today, the Sam Nail Ranch area and the small Cottonwood Creek oasis just off the road is that area awash with the artist's stroke of color.



Less than a quarter mile from the parking area, the Sam Nail trail takes you back into a grove of giant pecan, walnut, willow, soapberry trees, Mexican persimmon, fig, and a wide variety of native plants. Nearby, a windmill pumps water to the surface spilling water out on the ground, attracting birds and other wildlife and nourishing the oasis's plants and trees. A small bench is available to sit, catch your breath and just listen to the quiet.



Sam Nail Ranch

Take a five-minute walk to the site of an early Big Bend ranch. Near the oasis, look for ruins of an adobe ranch house, two windmills, and non-native trees—figs and pecans—the Nail family planted to transform the desert.

El rancho de Sam Nail

Camine por cinco minutos al sitio de un rancho antiguo de Big Bend. Cerca del oasis busque las ruinas de una casa de campo hecha de adobe, dos molinos y árboles—higueras y pacanas—que la familia Nail plantó para transformar el desierto.

Sam Nail's family moved to Texas from Arkansas in the late 1800's and later moved to the Government Springs area of the Big Bend to establish a ranch. Nearing the end World War I, Sam Nail and his brother bought land southeast of Cottonwood Creek and near Burro Mesa. In 1916, Sam Nail built a two-room adobe house on the banks of Cottonwood Creek, married, and he and his wife raised a family.

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You can wander through their homestead and the remains of the original adobe walled house. In the shade of the orchard, look for remnants of their garden and their chicken coop shaded by soapberry trees. The Great Depression and the era's droughts were rough on the Nail family and Sam eventually sold his land to the State of Texas representing the National Park service and established a new ranch in Brewster County.



J.P. Bryan of Houston and former owner of the Gage Hotel in Marathon eventually purchased those ranches from Sam Nail. Nail retired and passed away in 1958 at the age of 80.

On this visit to the Nail Ranch, I sat near the ranch's old windmill. Pretending to be a bird-watcher, and listening to plunger creak and groan as it pumped a trickle from the old well, I heard a rustling in the brush behind me. In the dry wash of Cottonwood Creek I saw a small family of Javelinas climbing the opposite bank and ducking into the brush. Quite a sight.



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BIG BEND (Continued from page 4)

Winter season in Dallas-Fort Worth may be the best time to visit Big Bend National Park. I've watched the weather reports closely, looking for a 4 or 5 day weather window and made several of my last visits a "window" run. If you are fortunate enough to make motorcycle trips on short notice, this is a Bucket List item. The Sam Nail exhibit is about 2.5 to 3 miles south of the Panther Junction and Ross Maxwell intersection. Next time you make the run down to the Santa Elena Canyon, put another X on your treasure map and take the little hike down to the Sam Nail Ranch.

Stephen Slisz

BMWDFW Tech Day - Sunday, 17 March, 2024 10am to 4 pm

Hosted at Cycle Center/BMW Motorcycles of Denton
521 Acme St, Denton, TX 76205

You read that right! Tech Day in the Denton's dealership's professional shop!

Bring your own tools, but don't worry about hauling your Service parts or liquids. Use the order form available in the Groups.io forum. Your order will be awaiting you at the shop. Or Parts personnel will be available to purchase any in-stock parts there. All at 15% off. **It gets better - if you want to check your bike in for Service at the dealership, there will be Service Advisors to check in your bike. You get 15% off Parts *and Labor* for any bike checked in on Sunday. Or you can always bring your own stuff, too. Sales Reps will be available for any Sales questions, too.**

Unprecedented Amount of Expertise

There will be BMW Service Technicians available to consult for your project. And we'll have literally centuries worth of the club's mechanical expertise available spanning the entire brand. Use this knowledge to your advantage and get the advice you need to get your project done.

Lunch Will be Served

Lunch will be available for a small donation, too. Be sure to RSVP to dtfrankenfield@gmail.com so we'll know how much to bring.

Watch the Groups.io Forum for all the details

CATEGORY 2 - Photo For MARCH



THE GRAND CANYON - RIM TO RIM
(THE TRAIL THAT BEAT ME)
by Bill Case

Test Ride Your Own Bike

SIR REED ROACH



Several club members, including this author, rode over to the Barber Vintage Festival at Barber Motor Sport Park in Birmingham that was held this past October. Along with all the other activities they normally have at this wonderful “bucket-list quality” annual event they also hosted the BMW Motorrad Americas presentation and display. BMW had every model in their current and 2024 product line on full display. Of course, the big deal was the unveiling of the new **R 1300 GS**. My gosh they rolled



this bike across the stage and the crowd went wild. A wet t-shirt contest would have caused less hoopla. The air turned green with envy and desire. Then when the game show type master of ceremonies announced they were actually going to start this new marvel, the crowd almost blew a gasket. The GS and the Rallye version were eventually set out on display in the BMW park where visitors could climb on for photo ops and Facebook posts. This was a big production and a lot of hype about a new version of

BMW’s best-selling model. I get it. However, I wondered how many would spend \$30k on the new model just to get a bike that doesn’t “clunk” when you put it in first gear.

Now I am not the guy that you need to spend one moment of precious time trying to justify or explain the desire to buy a motorcycle. Far from it. But, I might suggest that you try taking your current primary bike for a test ride first. Let me explain, I might save you a chunk.

Next time you go out for a spin, treat it as a test ride of the bike you already own. Give it a good run. Hammer the throttle a few times, run it up to red line, practice

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a couple of panic stops, hit a couple of curves and pass two cars at the same time in a double yellow while you're out there. Get the heart rate up. At the end of a few hours, you might conclude that your current bike suits you perfectly; it's comfortable, has more performance than you could possibly ever use (no matter how good you think you are), has the exact accessories and mods you would want, none that you wouldn't, has storage for all your clobber and the insurance is less than a new bike. Best of all the bike you have just test ridden is free. Just think about it when you are reading every review and watching hours of YouTube and dreaming about the 1300 GS or any other dream bike. And if you still just want to buy a bike that doesn't "clunk" when you drop it in first gear just go buy any Asian bike that has been made in the last 25 years. You'll save much more. See what I'm saying?

Out,
RR



2024 Calendar of Events

BMW Motorcycle Club
Dallas - Fort Worth



RECURRING CLUB ACTIVITIES DETAIL

BMWDFW Club Forum

Our members' forum is at the BMWDFW at Groups.io [Click here to join](#)

CLUB MEETING, 6:30 PM, 2nd **SUNDAY**, 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 **Saturday**, MONTHLY

Destination to be announced each month. Watch BMWDFW at Groups.io

CLUB RIDE, 4th **Friday**, MONTHLY

Destination to be announced each month. Watch BMWDFW at Groups.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.



VINCE BRECKNER

THE OLD EVENTS LISTING IS DEAD!

LONG LIVE THE EVENTS LISTING.....

On the website.

If you haven't seen it yet, it's been redesigned and is better than ever. A couple of the things the website provides are up-to-the-minute Event Listing detail and calendar updates for all the club activities, events and scheduled rides. The Club's Event Listing has been present in the website and published in the Monthly Newsletter for many years. It was originated by our illustrious Past President, Mike Moon, who's boots proved they could not be filled, and was transitioned to me around 2009. Since then that Event Listing has been modified many times in format and content and consistently updated on a monthly basis. This aged method is being retired in lieu of the expanded Event and Calendar updates in the newly designed website.

Upcoming Events for the next month are listed on the opening page of the website. Click on any one of those and it will take you directly to the calendar event. And by clicking on the "Meetings and Events" tab just below the header picture, you'll be taken to the club calendar where you can explore future rides and events by calendar format or list format. You can also search for events and drill down to the detail for each event by clicking on the event. The best part is that you'll be getting up-to-the-minute information on the ride or event. Any change to the event by the Tourmeister or owner of that ride or event is immediately available in the detail of that event. Enjoy the new website and its benefits! VB

HOWEVER.....

NOTABLE EVENTS FOR 2024 :

MARCH 17— TECH DAY @ CYCLE CENTER OF DENTON
MARCH 21-25 TGIS RIDE TO FRIO PECAN FARM, LEAKEY, TX
APRIL 8 SOLAR ECLIPSE—VIEW IT AT JAY SCHLINGER'S HOUSE IN WELLS POINT, TX
MAY 16-19 FALL COLORS RIDE— OZARK, AR—OXFORD INN HOTEL
JUNE 8-22 MOA NATIONAL RALLY— REDMOND, OR
SEPT 21 COOL YOUR ROCKS—WHITE ROCK LAKE BOAT CLUB IN DALLAS, TX
OCT 11-14 BARBER VINTAGE FESTIVAL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA
DEC

Contest Reminders

[Click here](#) for all the contest information and forms

Mileage Contest – Nov 15 to Oct 15

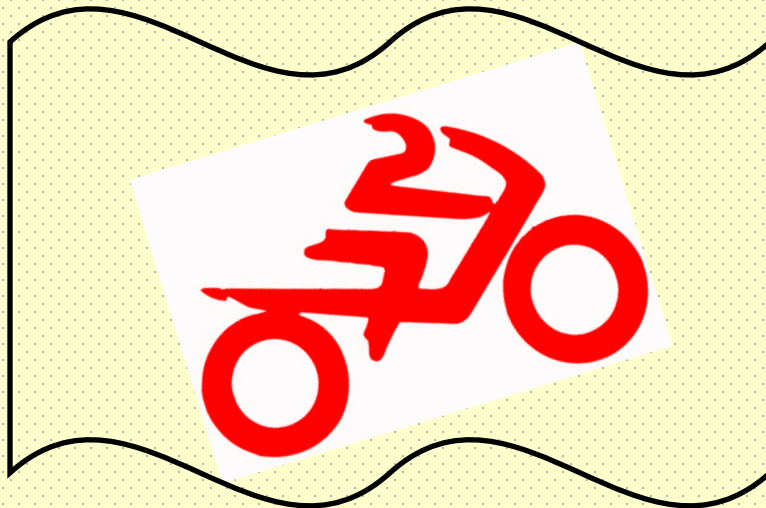
Grab your gear, ride the miles, get recognized! The annual mileage contest celebrates your willingness to enjoy the open road. Download the [rules](#) and the [entry form](#) to get started!

Photo of the Year

Did you snap the most unbelievable image that you can't wait to share? Enter our photo of the month and photo of the year contests to win some great gear for BMW DFW members. Download the contest rules for the [monthly](#) or [annual](#) contest and submit your favorite image.

Newsletter Article of the Year

We're always looking for the next great writer. It might be you. Enter our newsletter article of the year contest and help promote the riding community. Download the contest rules to get started.



2024 BMWDFW OFFICERS

President

David Frankenfield

Vice President

LESLIE HILLHOUSE

Secretary/Treasurer

Dennis Bufton
Bedford, TX
817-475-2413

Tourmeister

David Frankenfield

Webmeister

Art Ullman, Jr

Safety Director

Tom Manly

Newsletter Editor

Don M Mills

Membership

Meeting

SUNDAY

MARCH 10

6:30 PM

**Spring Creek BBO
1509 Airport Fwy
Bedford, TX**

817-545-0184

At Forest Ridge &
Airport Freeway