



Thursday, February 3rd, Austin, Texas

The Hill Country BMW Riders reconnoitered at Cozymel’s Coastal Grill for a fun-friendly get-together. It was a time for meeting the new Prez – Tom Soutter, and worthy Road Captain, Del



Grosenheider, along with hearing some future refreshing/revitalizing plans for the Club.

After introductions all around, the evening went pretty much as follows: food, but let’s get on to the real stuff – riding! A survey was passed out to those in attendance that would give the Prez some input for the kind of group he’ll be leading. (Maybe it was also a way for him to decide if he wanted to keep his position as Prez!) Tom stated that an impromptu meeting was held awhile back and it was decided that a newsletter was needed and would be sent via email in PDF. My question is, “Did this impromptu meeting comply with the Open Records Act?” Anyway, someone had volunteered (evidently they were in a weakened condition at the time) to do a newsletter – and this is the start of it!

Tom had an agenda, we could clearly see, as he had his bullet points and checked them off as he covered them! Good leader – shows organization! Tom discussed the upcoming election of officers in April. The elected positions are as follows:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms. A Nominating Committee will be *Selected? Appointed? Volunteered?* at the March 3rd meeting. If you’re interested in participating, I’m sure Tom would appreciate an email from you.

Another bullet point was club membership. Membership will now become people friendly and in person! Outreach will be done to contact BMW riders to attend the monthly meeting. At that time they can check us out and see what they’ll be receiving for their mighty hefty dues fee of \$12.00 per year. It will also allow current members to make the new folks feel welcome, learn what they ride, and hear about their riding escapades. Sounds fun to me – and we’re all about fun and riding!

A very special recognition award was presented to member, **Bob Buffington**. A set of tires,



donated by Lone Star BMW/Triumph, was awarded to Bob for being the first to complete and send in the required pictures for the “Historic Landmark Churches” Rally. Yea Bob! Yup! It’s all about riding so put those tires to good use! Bob said a special thanks goes out to Nancy Marshall for putting a lot of work into developing the tour. Yea Nancy!

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This then brought on a quick discussion of other types of tours: "Cemeteries of Texas", "Court Houses of Texas" and considering we have 155 counties in Texas – there's some riding involved! More details as they develop.

A special acknowledgement went out to Ken and Marilyn Korn for being the longest (does that mean oldest) club members in attendance. They have supported the club faithfully through thick and thin. Thanks, Ken and Marilyn! Other regular faces in attendance were: Harley Blake, Tom & Becky Soutter, Del Grosenheider and Brough Baily. New faces were Bob Buffington and Bill Vaughan of Kerrville, Lesley Wade of Temple, Tom Haycraft of Austin and Carla Cay Krull, Leander. Tom was a first-time attendee and joined on the spot. Way to go, **Tom!!**



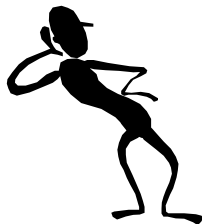
A special thanks goes to Brian Collins for making the dinner arrangements. Good job! If you have a favorite restaurant that would be able to accommodate the Club, let the Prez know. He appreciates the input! A thanks also goes to Harley Blake for preserving this fun time for posterity on digital film. That means you were caught on camera and just may see yourself on the Hill Country BMW Riders webpage at some future date! Check it out!

www.hillcountrybmw.com

Heard it thru the grapevine



Tidbits of "gossip" to be included in this area in future newsletters.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BMW Lunch **Sat., Feb. 19th, 7:00 A.M.**

Meet at the convenience store on the southwest corner of 360/Bee Caves. Arrive in Marble Falls around 8:15 for a light breakfast at the Bluebonnet Café. Will then continue on to Westphalia to rendezvous with the Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and San Antonio BMW clubs for lunch at "The Old Store" at 11:30.



Monthly Business Meeting **Thur., March 3rd, 7:30 P.M.**

Threadgill's, 6416 N. Lamar Blvd.

Traditional Club Breakfast **Sat., March 12th, 9:00 A.M.**

Ross' Old Austin Café, 11800 N. Lamar Blvd.

Product Review



This product speaks for itself.
Let us know how well it works for you!

**Riding... it's about...
Safety... Learning... and Fun!**



Moto Fun, a local Motorcycle Safety Training provider, offered a discounted rate for the Basic Rider Course (BRC) and the Experienced Rider Course (ERC). This discount would be available to members of the Hill Country BMW Riders for groups of 4 or more. Special arrangements available by request. Call today **512.341.0930** and set up a time for that refresher course! Classes available in Austin and Liberty Hill.

It was a Great Ride...



In early January, Ardys asked me if I'd like to run up to Dallas to meet Ron Ayres. He was speaking at the joint meeting of the Dallas and Fort Worth chapters of the Texas Sport Bike Association. So, on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 11th, I met her at her home in Lexington and we headed out for dinner at Spring Creek BBQ in Addison.

The weather was comfortably cool, and the distance was well within the range of our RT's fuel supply, so we arrived non-stop at the restaurant without incident, and about two hours early. Trying to find a way to kill some time, Ardys found Ron's phone number in her cell phone and gave him a surprise call. He said he'd try to get there a little earlier. So, we settled into the meeting room and spent this time getting to know some of the TSBA members as they arrived.

When Ron Ayres arrived, it was like a mini-reunion between a couple of Iron Butt veterans. Ardys and Ron had not seen each other for a couple of years. He has been very busy for the past two years building Ayres Adventures, which was to be the subject of this evening's visit.

Ayres Adventures has developed motorcycle tours on four continents - South America, Africa, Europe and New Zealand. He presented a slide show of his tours, and then a 30-minute video of one of his South American tours. I was seriously tempted, and wish only that I had the time do a few of these getaways... If you're curious, try the website: www.ayresadventures.com

After the meeting, we had a little time to visit with Ron, and then it was time to head home. The run home was significantly cooler, and windier, but was again uneventful. I left Ardys in Lexington a little after midnight, and headed for New Braunfels. As I was putting the RT into my garage, a neighbor just coming home, stopped by to see why my garage door was wide-open in the middle of the night - a comforting end to a great day. Thanks go out to Ardys. ~Tom Soutter

And the survey said.....

Member Stats *	
Years in Club:	5.33
Riding Years:	22.3
Annual Riding Miles:	14,500
Typical Trip:	2240 miles over 5 days
Typical Day:	395 miles
Riding Preferences *	
Riding Time:	Saturday Morning
Riding Mode:	Solo/Dual
Restaurants:	Down Home
Accommodations:	Motel, or Camping [close 2 nd]
Surface:	Two Lane
Pace:	Scorch Pavement/Smell Roses [tied]
Member Priorities / Club Roles *	
1.	Regular Meetings
2.	Riding Information
3.	Website
4.	Organized Rides
5.	Discussion Group
6.	Newsletter
7.	Fund Raising Activities
8.	Sponsor Rallies

* Based upon membership present at meeting.	