



# Hill Country BMW Riders

*It's all about the ride...*

Vol. XXV, Issue 3

## "The Newsletter"

July, 2005

### From the Prez...

It seems that the Dog Days of Summer have arrived a little bit earlier this year. And for Texans, this means a slowdown in organized riding events. Not so however for our neighbors to the north; these rally masters are at they're most active. Check any of the several motorcycle event calendars and you'll surely be overwhelmed. Your biggest problem might well be resolving conflicts in overlapping schedules, rather than worrying about all those extra miles you'll have to ride in getting there.



This month's Newsletter contains three very interesting ride reports. Two of these rides were IBA certification attempts, with quite different outcomes. The other ride was to a rally in Arkansas, with some complementary insight into another brand of touring machinery. I'm sure you'll enjoy these reports. And speaking on behalf of our Newsletter editor, I hope you'll feel inclined to share your future riding experiences with our readership.

Looking beyond the Dog Days, I see the Club organizing more its own riding events. Activities currently under consideration are: overnight rides to points-of-interest, rides to unique cuisine, endurance rides and, of course, local scenic rides. Also, as always, there will be a holiday party in December.

Our good friend Harley Blake has taken a contract on his house in Austin. We knew this was inevitable, but would have wished otherwise. So, as of July 22nd, Harley will be on his way to Duluth. We will miss his wit and charm, but take comfort in the fact that he'll be only 1325 miles away! Another interesting ride in the making?

Ride safe, enjoy the ride,  
Tom Soutter

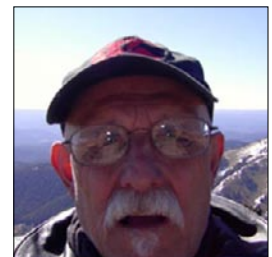
### 2005 HCBMWR Officers

President:	Tom Soutter	Tom
Vice President:	Harley Blake	Harley
Secretary:	Carla Cay Krull	Carla Cay
Treasurer:	Ken Korn	Ken
Sgt. at Arms:	Del Grosenheider	Del

### Saddle Sore/Bun Burnout

It was a good plan gone sour. I was attempting to go the 1000 miles in 24 hours on a trip to Phoenix. It would be a dual purpose visit as I have two sons and two grandkids the youngest of which I hadn't seen yet. My plan was to start at noon and stop over night for about 4 hours and then continue on the next day. I left Austin about 1 o'clock out 290 west toward I 10. My body wasn't cooperating and I had to stop about 3 or 4 times before I reached it. Then I ended up stopping several times after that. Eventually I got up to about 150 miles without stopping. Well, it got so cold that by the time I got to El Paso I was looking for a room. This would still have worked out time wise, but I ran into an hours delay in the mountains this side of Tuscan, AZ. It was backed up for miles. Finally I went down the side past all the cars to the front and there was one lane passing by the over turned car. I guess the police were so busy they didn't notice me. After that it was a race of time. As I neared Phoenix I was looking at the time and at my odometer and scanning for a gas station to get the last receipt. My time was running out fast. Finally, I spotted an exit for gas only to come upon a ma and pa station that did not offer a printed receipt. So, I went on down the road and found one that would. I frantically put a gallon in the tank and got my receipt. Wala, one minute over 24 hours. Then I sat in the station tallying all my receipts and figuring the mileage, and it seems I was about 30 miles short according to the maps even though my odometer said 1030. What a let down.

Well, I reported all this at our gathering of the Gutter Gang at Lone Star BMW and the Iron Butt Queen, Ardys, told me it was pretty stupid to start out at noon and I was a "wus". Well, so much for Iron Butt medals. But I don't feel bad, I almost did it and I discovered some things about myself and biking and that is I don't like forced riding. If I decide to ride any long distances in the future, I'll take my time and smell the roses and take more pictures.



"wus" ???

Speaking of pictures, I've included a few I took on my way back. I did take a little more time on the return trip.

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## Arkansas Moto Guzzi Rally

I left my home in Austin at 5:45 AM on Friday, June 17 and rode over to Eureka Springs, Arkansas to a Moto Guzzi rally, getting there at approximately 4:30 PM. I turned in 640 miles for the longest distance competition, but most likely rode more than that as I took a 'detour' in my original planned route. I didn't take a heavy scenic route, as I was unfamiliar with NW Arkansas and the location of the KOA campground and wanted to make sure I got there before dark. I'm still not facile with setting up my pup tent and didn't want to do it in the dark! No traffic problems to speak of, just dealing with late AM Dallas rush hour, and some rain as I approached Denton, and on I went through OK toward MacAlester. On the way, I went through Durant, OK and resisted the urge to take a picture of my bike at the town sign. I actually believe that I am a distant relative of the town's founder, based on family history and lore, though I don't know much about that little Oklahoma burg, and that's beside the point anyway.

By the time I reached MacAlester, I had made pretty good time and gave in to my urge to venture off the straight shot roads and headed east out of town and found some nice twisty US highways through eastern OK and into Arkansas. I went through Warren Spahn's hometown, but nothing very exciting about that area, but it was my first time riding in OK and I was struck by how hilly and scenic it was. Came very close to the Tellamina Scenic Drive, but felt like I couldn't take the time to go that way. I did stop in AR to put on my rain suit, and didn't think enough to wait until I got under an overpass to do it, thus getting wetter than I would have if I had simply kept riding. Chalk it up to a rookie mistake as I have only 21,000 miles experience at this point.

If you ever go through tiny little Y City, AR, have lunch if you can at the BBQ joint next to the Citgo on the main highway. Can't remember the last time I had fresh cut French fries, and the pulled pork BBQ was exquisite (so to speak). I was a bit worried about the health effects when I heard the waitress say they had been without water for nearly a week, but I didn't seem to suffer any. Speaking of gassing up, I did notice a sharp looking ball cap for sale at the Citgo station, but resisted buying it, though I was intrigued by the 'Git R Done' message it carried. I guess it was expressing an Arkansas motivational theme, much like the sappy posters we might see in some corporate America corridors imploring you to soar with eagles and such.

The Guzzi rally was almost a non-event with only 75 bikes there. I was hoping to see some Ambassadors and

El Dorados, but they were scarce as hen's teeth. There were two Ducatis and a handful of Beemers as well as Guzzis. I find that MG riders are so lonesome, that they welcome most any other rider, regardless of the brand of two-wheeler! There were several California bikes of various ages, many of which were equipped with hitches, and their riders had pulled small campers or trailers behind them. I did talk to the owner of an MG convert, which is the torque converter automatic in the Guzzi line of several years ago. I learned that you just roll on the throttle and wait for it to kick in. The fellow rode it to Sturgis last year and suffered none of the clutchitis that most other bikers had in that mob. While that's a plus, he told me you don't get engine braking, so you have to get on the brakes earlier than with a standard transmission bike. I won the longest solo rider with my 640 miles (that wouldn't have worked at a BMW rally, I bet!) and 82-year-old JN Smyth and his wife rode nearly 150 miles to claim the 'oldest' certificate.

While looking at JN's California, he warned me to be careful in back of it as it might kick me. He explained that 'it pulls like a mule and it might kick like one as well!' The Smyth's were from OK, but I heard some interesting remarks from other attendees as well. One fellow, Lee from Jackson, Tennessee remarked that 'a Moto Guzzi just eats up the miles like a hog eatin' slop from the trough. Neither one can get enough!' I had never thought of my bike in that manner, but I really couldn't argue his point. Many Guzzi riders, I'm finding, are rather simple folks, kind of like the bikes.

I did discover at about 10:30 Friday evening that I had forgotten a towel. So I dried off from my shower using

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## Jail House Rally Report...

Bill Vaughn and Bob Buffington are really hitting this hard, folks. Here's a bit of info you may wish to use when you're out there hunting down those elusive jails.

"Bob & I had a difficult time finding this jail and finally located it in Anderson, which is 10 miles from Navasota. Navasota Jail is not located in Navasota, but is located in Anderson. The original jailhouse was torn down in 1956, but you can find a brick from the original jail and picture in the foyer of the new jail".

Current Jail House Rally participants include: Bill Vaughn, Bob Buffington, Bob Barnett, Eric Brubaker, Bobby Jones. It appears that only those with the letter B somewhere in their name are registering! How strange is that?

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

The June Brainteaser was: What is the most common cause of tire failure while riding?

Evidently everyone is out riding, tired of responding, or just forgot, as we had no responses to the Brainteaser. Bummers! Well, for those enquiring minds that want to know... email: carlak2@texas.net

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the automotive waxing towel (oversized wash cloth) that I had for bug removal purposes. Thank goodness the bugs weren't very thick on the way up! I did make a stop at Wal-Mart the next day for a camp towel. Pete Evans had given me his trip prep list last year, but I hadn't used it in packing for this trip. 'Prep list? I don't need no steenking prep list', I thought. The towel incident did motivate me to put my own list together when I got back and I will refer to it next time.

I shared a campsite with Karl Werth who is somewhat of a legend in the tiny MG world. He has a Moto Guzzi T3 with 462,000 miles on it. He had the jugs and pistons replaced at around 200K, as it was using some oil. He upgraded to the nikasil lined cylinders, but other than new wiring, hasn't done anything else to the bike. This 90-degree V twin motor was designed for police duty and while most don't make this type of mileage, they are known for durability and reliability. I had no trouble with my bike and I am enjoying more and more the Guzzi character and soul. I only wish it had a bigger gas tank (air box in the later Cali's cut into the tank size) and I'm going to have to spring for a custom seat. Those are the two common complaints from riders of the newer Cali's.

For anyone who hasn't ridden northern Arkansas, you really ought to consider it. The Ozarks are beautiful and plenty of twisty roads to be found. State Highway 23 into Eureka Springs was very enjoyable on the way up, particularly going through the state forest, which included several miles over some nice sized ridges. A couple of rally attendees encouraged me to try SR 7 on the way back to TX, but I decided to make time and mostly retrace my original path home. Given the heat, that turned out to be the best, as my flip face modular helmet didn't allow me to use my camel back hydration unit, but that's another story. I did parallel US 71 south while riding on I - 540 down to I - 40. US 71, I'm told, is also some excellent riding, but I'll save that for another trip.

~ Chuck Durant

## Heard it through the Grapevine...

Can it be true? After all these years, two major "biker" hangouts will be closing. June 30 was the last night for *BIG DAVE'S DAMN SALOON*. I understand it's been bought and will be undergoing a huge remodel - to what I don't know. The other major closing will be Beverley's in December of this year. It's going to be replaced by an Exxon Station ... not all that different - gas will still be flowing - just in a different form.



Ardys is terrorizing her children/grandchildren up in the northeast ... note picture.



*Ardys and Grandson Jared*

Note the huge smiles on their faces - proud grandma and excited grandson...

## Upcoming Events...

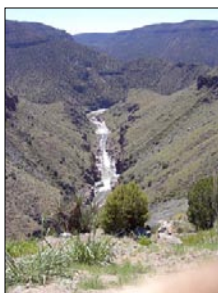
- Register Now - Jailhouse Rally '05**  
 Pick up info at Lone Star or  
[www.hillcountrybmw.com](http://www.hillcountrybmw.com)
- July 9th - Saturday 9:00 AM  
Traditional Club Breakfast**  
 Ross' Old Austin Café, 11800 N. Lamar Blvd.
- July 12th - Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Club Supper/Meeting**  
 Threadgill's, 6416 N. Lamar Blvd.  
*This meeting will be having a special guest  
and speakers. Come on out to see what it's all  
about!*
- July 14th-17th - Top 'O the Rockies Rally**  
 Paonia, CO
- July 21st-24th - MOA National Rally**  
 Lima, Ohio -

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Although I picked up a warning ticket in AZ in a real pretty area with nice curves. Right after that I stopped at the Salt River bridge and park. Very nice. Then drove through Salt River Canyon. All this in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Also went through some snow on the field next to the road on the Mt. Baldy pass in the white Mts. After that I dropped down in elevation and went by the VLA. Next on to Carrizo for the night in a nice little local motel. The next morning I drove through some mountains into Ruidoso. I hung out there all morning, mostly on Mt. Sierra Blanca. This was the



Salt River, & Canyon



Mt. Baldy Pass

through some mountains into Ruidoso. I hung out there all morning, mostly on Mt. Sierra Blanca. This was the



Mt. Sierra Blanca



Looking for E.T.



most enjoyable part of the whole trip. Then I took off for home about noon. I should have taken one more day as the ride home took another 12 hours. Phew.

Post script: After several visits to my Chiropractor and some down time my body has fully recovered. And I thought I was in pretty good shape. I still love bikes and biking, but I'm going to look closely at what kind of biking I will do in the future.

~ Harley Blake

## SS1000 Report

Hey, Guys! Thought you might be interested in our latest adventure. Sat. June 11, Mike and I participated in the Motorcycle Tourers Forum (MTF) Regional Saddle Sore 1000. We rode from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and back to Wichita Falls, "official" miles 1033 in 16.5 hours. Mike rode his 2004 BMW R1150R Rockster and I rode my 1997 BMW R850R.

Most of the day the weather was good. But after going through Amarillo in the morning, we rode through about 20 miles of dense fog. Then coming back through Amarillo, we encountered rain, sleet, hail, and forming tornadoes. When we stopped for gas in Clarendon, we found out that we just missed a tornado. Then the weather was perfect again.

After I got my last gas receipt at 9:45 p.m. at Wichita Falls and pulled out of the gas station, my 850 stalled -- wouldn't restart. Thankfully, I finished the ride and help was available. The local site coordinators stored my bike for me until I could come back to get it. Mike and I rode home 300 miles 2-up on the Rockster -- FUN!

Then I had the pleasure of making the 630 miles round-trip back to Wichita Falls in the truck with the trailer to pick up my bike. And THEN I rode 400 miles round-trip with truck and trailer to Austin to my favorite BMW dealer -- Lone Star BMW -- to deliver the sick 850 to get her fixed. While I was at Lone Star, I spied a beautiful blue 2004 BMW R1150RS with only 4000 miles on it and told them to just go ahead and load her on my empty trailer. Yeah!!! (This will be a co-owned bike with Mike.)

It turned out that the 850's fuel pump gave out and had to be replaced. Got her picked up this past Sat. and is now running great.

The SS1000 was quite a challenge and don't know how but ... I DID IT!

Stay tuned for my next interesting adventure "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" on their Blazing Saddles 2005 tour of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland coming up in July (led by the leading lady long-distance rider, Voni Glaves.)

~ Frances Dear



### June Club Supper Meeting

Harley selected Burger Tex for June Club Supper and a fine job he did except Harley wasn't there! Regardless, Harley, you did a great pick and we had a super turnout and you were missed. The gang is growing!

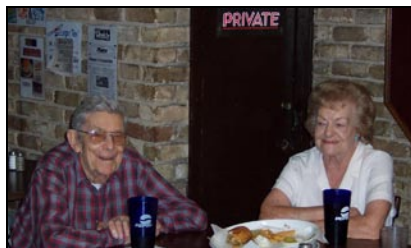
Those pulling up to the table this month included the following: Brough Bailey, Eric Brubaker, Bob Buffington, Del Grosenheider, Ken Korn, Carla Cay Krull, Mike Merkelbach, Robert Odendahl, Jude Schexnyder, Tom Soutter, Bill Vaughn and Life Members Slats & Betty Tennis. Holding down the title of “Most Frequent Guest”, Marilyn Korn! A new member joined the group that evening as well, Robert Cromby. Welcome to the ride, Robert!



Robert Cromby

The Prez actually had the Secretary read the May Secretary's Report! Plus, the Treasurer gave his report. Wow! We are getting so official and it's great to see so many of the members participate. As of today, we have 43 paid members and a strong core group meeting every month. Way to go folks! You are the ones making this club come together along with the Prez's vision and direction.

It was great having Slats and Betty join us – always a special evening when the Tennis' can make it out. Since the Club Supper/Meeting, Slats has fallen and been hospitalized and will eventually be moved to a nursing facility. I'm sure Betty would appreciate getting cards and calls of encouragement.



Slats and Betty Tennis

The Tennis' address is: 2308 Trafalgar, Austin, 78723.

Ken Korn gave a report on his ride to Illinois to check out the Springfield Mile. (Springfield was my stopping grounds for 22 years and while there attended many of those races!) He had a great trip and a good time at the races. Marilyn enjoyed the house to herself!!

**Newsletter submission due the Friday after the Club Meeting.**

Submit to Carla Cay Krull at [carlak2@texas.net](mailto:carlak2@texas.net)

Here's a few pictures taken during the evening...

