



Hill Country BMW Riders

It's all about the ride...

Vol. XXV, Issue 5

"The Newsletter"

September, 2005

From the Prez...

On behalf of the Club, I received a "Thank You" note from Betty Tennis. In it she says, "What a wonderful tribute, the escort of Slats BMW motorcycle friends leading him on his last ride. What a fantastic honor." I'll have Betty's note at the next Club meeting for all to see.



On August 6, 2005, fifteen riders assembled to lead Slats' funeral procession from Cook-Walden Funeral Home up Lamar Blvd. to his final resting place in the military section of Memorial Hill Cemetery. As the procession passed Lone Star BMW, all employees were out front at street's edge in honor of an old friend. We've included an article with personal memories of Slats in the Newsletter [page 3].

Our Club ride to San Saba and the Regency Bridge went very well. We had eleven bikes out of Ross' to Lampasas, where four chose to leave the group due to time constraints. We proceeded to San Saba with seven, inadvertently finding ourselves on a county road between Bend and San Saba which exercised our riders' patience and riding skills - it was dirt with copious amounts of gravel. Glenn Morris, on his F-650, loved it, and asked for more! There will be more Ross' breakfast rides, but I wouldn't bank on seeing a lot of gravel... ☺

In San Saba, people really enjoyed the Beveridge Bridge, walking the bridge [it's closed] and taking lots of photos. Then, on to the Regency with more dirt roads and cattle giving us the eye. When we rode across the Regency, we were invited into a camp there; had some cold drinks and cooled down a bit - friendly folks. Again, the group had a good time walking the bridge and taking photos.

Leaving the Regency, two riders took a direct route toward home. The remaining five went back to San Saba

for a bite to eat, ending up at the Sante Fe Crossing BBQ - a small ma & pa place with great food.

On the Club dinner ride to Cooper's Bar-B-Que, we had nine bikes and fourteen people. Great participation considering the intense heat! Del decided that a brisk pace over a relatively direct SR-71 would be a wise strategy under the circumstances. Thank you, Del...

The food at Cooper's was excellent as always, and we managed to seat the entire group at one long table. Eric Brubaker gave me a bad time about not taking more photos, but other than that everyone had a great time. A parcel of bones went home with Del for his dog, with a subsequent email from Del saying, "My dog enjoyed the bone immensely!!"

Our Club dinner ride in September is being planned as a rendezvous with the Houston and DFW Clubs. The rendezvous will be for lunch at Perini's Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap, just southwest of Abilene, 200+ miles from Austin. The Houston folks are planning an overnight stay, and tailgate party, in Hamilton following the lunch. As I receive them, I'll be posting details on the website.

On October 1st, the 2nd Annual "Heaven to Hell Ride" is being conducted on the Texas Mountain Trail, some 350 miles from the Davis Mountains to the Rio Grande and back. We'd like to make this a Club oriented event. If you're interested, drop me an email and I'll coordinate. This is an all day event, so we'll need to make arrangements for lodging in Fort Davis or Alpine.

The IHOP was such a success that we've decided to make it our permanent meeting place. Hope to see you there.

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

Wanted:

Willing volunteers (2-3) to submit a monthly Newsletter column within a particular venue. You may choose to do articles on "safety", "touring" "gadgets" or "great reads" - you pick the topic. Even cartoons that are motorcycle related would be fun! Help support your Newsletter (and Editor) by making this commitment. It would be much appreciated by the membership! ~ The Editor

Vehicle Emissions Testing in Texas - Highlights of I/M Program

Testing will begin September 1, 2005 in Travis and Williamson counties.

Austin and Round Rock Emissions Testing Program

- **Timing:** Testing begins September 1, 2005 in Travis and Williamson counties.
- **Subject Vehicles:** All 2-24 year old gasoline vehicles (excluding motorcycles) are subject to an annual emissions test beginning with the vehicle's second anniversary.
- **Test Method:** MY 1996 and newer vehicles will be subject to On-board Diagnostic (OBD) testing and MY 1995 and older vehicles will be subject to Two Speed Idle (TSI) testing.
- **Test Fees:** In the Austin and Round Rock area, not to exceed \$16.00 for a TSI or an OBD emissions test plus \$12.50 for the safety test, total not to exceed \$28.50.
- **State Administration Fees:** \$2.50 from all emissions inspections for the TCEQ/DPS administration of the I/M program; additional \$2.00 to fund the Low Income Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program LIRAP. The cost of inspection stickers to inspection stations will be \$10.00.
- **Testing Network:** All inspection stations to offer TSI and OBD.
- **Waivers:** Program requirements are waived if:
 - o the registered owner of the vehicle cannot afford to comply with the program, based on reasonable income standards;
 - o a vehicle cannot be brought into compliance with emissions standards by performing repairs;
 - o a vehicle on which at least \$100 has been spent, has been driven fewer than 5000 miles since the last safety inspection and will be driven less than 5000 miles before the next safety inspection; or
 - o if parts are not readily available for a vehicle.

For information on Austin Program area Test Equipment click here

For information on program participation

Upcoming Events...

- ☑ **September 6th - Tuesday 7:00 PM**
Regular Monthly Club Supper/Meeting



IHOP, 11654 Research Blvd.
[US-183, near Duval Rd.]

We've tentatively scheduled a guest speaker for this meeting. Should be interesting, come on out and hear what it's all about!

- ☑ **September 9-11th - Friday-Sunday**
Bavarian Mountain Weekend
Sipapu Ski Area, Carson National Forest, NM
- ☑ **September 10th - Saturday 9:00 AM**
Traditional Club Breakfast
Ross' Old Austin Café, 11800 N. Lamar Blvd.
Club ride after breakfast to Stonehenge II, near Hunt. Round trip - 280 mi.
- ☑ **September 17th - Saturday 1:00-2:00 PM**
Club Dinner Ride / Tailgate Party
Perini Ranch Steakhouse, Buffalo Gap, TX, rendezvous with Houston and DFW clubs.
Departing from IHOP on Research, 9:00 AM One-way to Perini's Steakhouse- 210 mi.
- ☑ **October 1st - Saturday 7:00 AM**
2nd Annual "Heaven to Hell Ride"
Texas Mountain Trail, Alpine, TX
- ☑ **October 6-9th - Thursday-Sunday**
Celebration RA, BMW RA Nat'l Rally
Shelbyville, TN
- ☑ **October 4th - Tuesday 7:00 PM**
Regular Monthly Club Supper/Meeting



IHOP, 11654 Research Blvd.
[US-183, near Duval Rd.]

Jail House Rally Report...

Just had another Rally App turned in for the Jail House Rally – Kevin Phelan. That brings our total rally number up to 6. Six? Surely we have more riders than that interested in this history-gathering event? Rumor has it that the Kerrville Gang, Bob & Bill, are the front-runners. But hey, they have nothing better to do with their time! Go boys!



MEMORIES OF SLATS

Slats was the first person to greet me at the first HCBMWR club meeting I attended. I'll never forget him sticking his hand out and saying "Hey, man!" I remember that he was always up for a ride, no matter what the weather. I also remember someone saying "Slats can ride almost anyone into the ground. He just keeps going!" Slats was a great guy and I'll miss him. ~ Glen Worley

Funny...it's hard to remember stuff back very far.

Seems like the first real memory was of a drive out to Bittick's Road Kill Chili event. Marilyn and I were driving west on 290 in our car, not far from the rest area, and a terrible car accident occurred almost in front of us. It was Slats and Betty colliding with a car that came from the eastbound lanes. Slats had re-broken his arm and Betty was quite shaken. Marilyn and I stopped and kind of comforted them until the emergency crew arrived.

That started a closer relationship with them.



Slats Tennis, with Joss

Another memory was in January 2004. We had Betty and Slats over for dinner as I recall. Slats and our old Lakeland Terrier Joss really took to each other. I'm attaching a picture I call the "Two Old Guys". Seems ironic that only months later Joss was gone...and now Slats is gone too.

Another time, Marilyn took Betty to an appointment and I took Slats for a few hours. We drove over to Lone Star to look at bikes. Then we went up to Ross Cafe and had a cup of coffee. Slats was already at the point where he didn't remember much about bikes or Ross Cafe, but he was his usual self...friendly and smiling at folks and shaking hands.

One other, back further...Slat's 80th birthday party. Betty had presented Slats with his new R80RT. What a surprise! Normally Slats was always talking...telling stories and joking...but that evening he was so blown away about the present that he was at a loss for words. ~ Ken Korn

I can't think of Slats without including his bride, Betty. They were quite the couple! How wonderful to be invited to help them celebrate 50 years of marriage and hear stories on each of them. So many memories...but I'll always remember Slats for his great hugs! He always greeted me with a hug and some snappy comment. His positive, happy-go-lucky way and hugs will be sorely missed but always remembered. ~ Carla Cay Krull

10 Years Ago This Month

After a few weeks of reading through old newsletters I'm finally playing a little non-riding 'hooky' from work to take my first stab at an article related to the club history. I thought it would be kind of interesting to do a short column on past club activities. The newsletters were a little sporadic during the 80's but were very professional during the mid-90s (Dave Peckham did a great job), so I've opted for 10 years ago this month:

HILL COUNTRY ROAD NEWS - September 1995
"Eat to Ride, Ride to Eat"

FROM THE PREZ: Pete Evans reported on the MOA National in Durango and the Nebraska Corn Husker Rally. A club ride to Gruene included such notables as John Marshal and Denise Purcell.

EXHAUST: Glen "Wrongway" Worley's great essay on the joys of motorcycle related tardiness.

MORE NEWS: Jack Bellinoff related additional details on the MOA National including club member Carl Lindeberg winning a R1100R. I guess it does pay to buy those raffle tickets.

STUFF: Robert Krull reported on various topics of particular note was that Carla Cay had not fallen or gotten a speeding ticket in over a year!

RUMORS: There were rumors that Slats Tennis was flirting with the nurses in pre-op before his pacemaker operation.

MAKE A RUN FOR THE BORDER!: Dan Rosen's article on his August trip through Mexico.

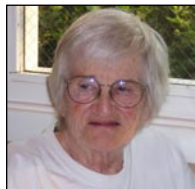
Working mostly from the archived newsletters and minutes I'm trying to get a handle on the chronology. If anyone would like to contribute information they can reach me at brough@castleberrysurveying.com

August Club Supper Meeting

IHOP is the new happenin' place for our monthly club dinner/meetings. We've tried several locations considering many preferences: variety and quality of food, central location, somewhat of a private meeting area. Well, IHOP fits the ticket! We have a large private room, designated wait-staff, and wide selection of food choices and did I say a large, private room! Plenty of room to settle our riding gear, walk around and visit and chow down. The only problem I saw at this meeting is The Prez trying to control the group! The more the core group gels – the "funner and rowdier" the meetings. We even manage to get business accomplished and hear about recent rides from our members.

This is what I noticed about our first meeting in our new location – people hung out and visited even after the food was gone and the meeting concluded! Wow! Now that was a first. Usually everyone is out of there like a horse at the starting gate! For those that weren't at the meeting, we learned the local Goldwingers and Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) clubs meet as well at IHOP. The Goldwingers club started with about 15 or so and is now up to around 40-50. CMA has around 25 at their meetings. It's our vision and hope that we'll be getting participation to increase since we've settled in to a good spot with lots of room to grow! So come on out and help us grow!

Those faithful attending our first gathering at IHOP included: **Del Grosenheider, Carla Cay Krull, Brough Bailey** and his nephew **Brian Gilmore**. Our perpetual guest, **Marilyn Korn** and her sidekick, **Ken,**



shared a table with **Robert Barnett**. Seated at another table and sharing war stories was **Les Wade, Eric Brubaker, Mike Merkerlbach** and **Ardys Kellerman**. Last but not least, **Glenn Morris, Jude Schexnyder, Becky** and **Tom Soutter**.

Del and Eric provided those that didn't attend the Beemerville Rally in Lima, Ohio with trip reports. Something like 5000+ bikes with attendance at 8048. Wow! I can remember when I was going it was 2-3 thousand and we thought that was a lot!

Glenn Morris gave a trip report on this Top of the Rockies ride. So much for cool temps in the Rockies: 103-104 degrees and windy!

Eric got a little ribbing for inviting a guest to the July

meeting and then not showing up himself but his guest did! Eric made the statement that, "next time he invites a guest he'll show up!" Well ya that would be the decent thing to do!!



And folks – we now have club hats! And like all our other fees, membership and T-shirts, the hats are \$12.00. We like to keep it simple for the treasurer not having to remember lots of different prices. A special thanks goes to Les Wade for his work on this endeavor.



New and Returning Members...



Välkommen

Kane Carpenter of Kyle rides into the Club on his '99 R1100RT. His email address includes the phrase, "racetouring"... now that sounds interesting!

Lee Tidwell, of Austin, will be joining us on his '04 K1200GT.

And returning (after much badgering), long-time member, **Glen Worley**. Glen has a '72 R80/7 and a '94 R1100RS (my personal favorite!).

Välkommen to the Ride!

Membership as of August: **50!**

Luckenbach, Texas

by Robert Odendahl

In 1977, the song "Luckenbach, Texas (Back to the Basics of Love)" sung by Waylon Jennings was 25th on the Billboard record chart. I always liked that tune. Still do. When I moved to Austin in 1998, I asked where I could find Luckenbach. The only people who knew were motorcycleists. I did not own a motorcycle at the time, so I forgot about it. Then July 4 came around and Willie Nelson was having his annual picnic in Luckenbach. I didn't go and I sorry that I missed it. That was the last year Willie held that picnic in Luckenbach.

In August 1999, I bought a Harley and began riding in the Texas Hill Country. The first place I discovered was Wimberley. The second was Luckenbach. Rather than get there on US 290, I rode the back roads using a South Central Texas map as a guide. For the first timer on his own, Luckenbach is not easy to find. You have to be looking for it to find it because it is in the middle of nowhere.

The General Store is unique. At first glance, it appeared to be an old unpainted building housing a bar and souvenir shop. Many of the sights are in the rafters. If you look around will find a dubious collection of hats, signs, photos, flags, stuffed animals, police and firefighter patches from around the world, a ton of dust, and a coffin.

According to Marge, Sheriff and bartender, Luckenbach was never a town. Luckenbach was the name of the post office originally located in the Engel house on Luckenbach Town Rd near 1376. The General Store was first opened in 1886 and the post office was moved there. It still stands and houses the beer



joint and the souvenir shop. Luckenbach post office was established in 1849. One of the first settlers in the area was Jacob Luckenbach but he is not credited with then naming. Rev. and Mrs. August Engel bought the land and moved there from Fredericksburg. When the Engels applied for a post office, Wilhelmina Engel selected the name of her finance', Carl Albert Luckenbach who was the son of Jacob Luckenbach. C.A. Luckenbach is also credited with naming the town of Albert, TX a few miles south of Stonewall, TX.

The Trading Post/General Store was said to have catered to area farmers and Comanche Indians alike. In 1879, a steam-powered cotton gin was built along Grape Creek, which runs through present day Luckenbach. It fell victim to a flood in 2002. The town also had a blacksmith shop and a school. The 2002 flood, also heavily damaged the blacksmith shop with stood across Grape Creek from the cotton gin. The school still stands on Luckenbach Road north of 1376. It was closed in 1967.

In 1970 the Engel family, which owned the property all those years, put the place up for sale in a local paper. Hondo Couch, Guich Koock and Kathy Morgan bought the 10 acres of land including the General Store, bar, dance hall, cotton gin, blacksmith shop and what became known as the cellular pone booth. Then the fun began. Hondo proclaimed himself Mayor, Marge the Sheriff, Guich the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ray Petsch the Minister of Agriculture. He also appointed ambassadors to foreign countries. Luckenbach hosts various fun events such as St. Valentine Hug-Ins, Luckenbach World's Fair, a chili cooking contest sponsored by the Luckenbach Ladies Lynchin' League, a Mud Dauber Festival, the Hill Country Run, Willie Nelson picnics through 1998, and the annual 150th Luckenbach Anniversary, since 1999.

Luckenbach is a destination for motorcycleists. Motorcycle only parking is provided across from the General Store under a large live oak tree. The bar provides beer, soft drinks and water. There is a food stand at the end of the dance hall.



How do you get to Luckenbach? That depends on whom you ask.

My directions -

- o From Austin, travel south on Mopac to its end.
- o Turn left (West) on 1826. Pass Salt Lick to 150.
- o Turn left on 150 through the small town of Driftwood to Hays City.
- o Turn right (West) on 3237 at the Diamond Shamrock.
- o At Wimberley, turn left (South) on 12 to 32.
- o Turn right (West) on 32 and you ride the Devil's Back Bone.
- o Continue on 32 to its intersection with US281 just south of Blanco.

continued on page 6

ERC Special for Hill Country BMW Riders!!!

October 9th - for a group of 4-8, Moto Fun will offer a reduced rate of \$65.00 per person - normally \$75.

This is a Sunday afternoon class (Noon-5) using your own bike. Along with sharpening your riding skills it is also good for possible ticket dismissal and insurance discount rates with most motorcycle insurers. Location is the Pflugerville H.S. (301 W. Pecan) parking lot.

Contact Moto Fun at www.motofun.net or call Cindy at 512.341.0930. Let Cindy know that you are with the BMW club.

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

No responses to the

August Brainteaser...

In a swerve, how should you lean?

Rats!! Care to try it again for September?

Don't hesitate - email responses right now to:
carlak2@texas.net

Luckenbach from page 5

- o Turn right (North) on US281.
- o In Blanco, turn left (West) at the light onto 1623.
- o Turn left on 1888, 5 miles West of Blanco.
- o At the intersection of 1888 and 1376, turn right on 1376.
- o Luckenbach is approximately 25 miles from Blanco.

You could follow Hondo's directions:

- o "You get on I-10, go to 87, get off on 290, you know... where the dead deer is in the ditch.
- o "Then you take a right on the farm-to-market road. You know, where the cattle guard is? And that mawkin' bird nest?
- o "Then take a left, go through the bump gate, two wooden gates, and wire gap.
- o "Then you'll find Luckenbach in the canyon. No, well, it's more like a rut."

Maybe you should use the South Central Texas map and find your own way there.

For more on Luckenbach visit www.luckenbachtexas.com the information source for this article.

Product Review:

Brake! LED Taillight Conversion

I'd been interested in a pulsating brake light since the purchase of my R1100S last May. The "S" taillight is rather small by modern standards and I'm always a little paranoid about someone running into the back of me at night.

There are several products on the market that increase taillight brightness or modulate the light while breaking. Most seemed to require some type of modification in terms of brackets and wiring or required removal of the side panels to access the electrical harness.

Denise received a couple of Brake! LED taillight conversion kits and asked me if I was interested in trying one for the "S". I wasn't completely sure until she told me the whole unit fit inside the taillight assembly and there was no wiring involved. Well that's my kind of installation so off I went to upgrade.

The instructions call for a Phillips screwdriver and hands (x2). The replacement consists of a circuit board with eight LEDs, a microswitch to select one of four strobe settings, and a jumper configuration for BMW ABS equipped bikes. The circuit board is cut to fit inside the taillight assembly depending on the model (there is also a universal model and the website has templates available for various bike models). After selecting the strobe/ABS settings, simply remove the two screws holding the taillight assembly and remove the stock bulb (I still have mine in my tank bag just in case). To install the LED assembly, insert the plug into the existing bulb socket, place two grommets on the ends of the assembly and slide over the taillight housing screw posts and reinstall the taillight lens. It took me about 10 minutes in my driveway to complete the installation.

The BMW specific kit lists for \$120 and for further information contact www.homebody-design.com or Denise at Lonestar.

~ Brough Bailey

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

Submit to Carla Cay Krull at carlak2@texas.net