



# Hill Country BMW Riders

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

Vol. XXV, Issue 9 **“The Newsletter”** January, 2006

## From the Prez...



Wow! What a great party, what great gifts and prizes, what a great guest list! For details, see the Christmas Party report [page 3]. I was pleasantly surprised to see Mike Moon from the BMWDFW Club show up. Very special thanks go out to Eric and Connie Brubaker for their hospitality and to Lone Star BMW/Triumph for the door prizes. I believe I could confidently predict the location of next year's party.

This was a great year for the Club. We have a very active membership, traveling to a diversity of motorcycling events all over the country. Once back home, members readily shared their adventures with the membership through written reports in the Newsletter and verbally at our meetings and other gatherings. Occasionally, we were treated to multiple reports on the same event, with some amusing anecdotes about how storylines do or do not converge. Something about cell phones and Ohio comes to mind here. And then, there was the ubiquitous heat in July. Seems everyone had something to say about it, whether they ventured out or not.

Speaking of heat, this may likely be a central topic of discussion at the first rally of the year. The White Stag Rally rolls out on January 27-29 in Beatty, NV. This rally has a history of bone-chilling cold and snow; no surprise there. But, I mention this because rumor has it we're being represented there by our very own Kerrville contingent, Bill Vaughn and Bob Buffington. Godspeed guys and we'll be looking forward to the photos.

Information about upcoming events is kind of sketchy presently, but is beginning to trickle in. For example, the AMA Superbike event at Barber has a date, April 21-23,

2005 HCBMWR Officers		
President:	Tom Soutter	Tom
Vice President:	Eric Brubaker	Eric
Secretary:	Carla Cay Krull	Carla Cay
Treasurer:	Ken Korn	Ken
Sgt. at Arms:	Del Grosenheider	Del



but there're no details and you can't get tickets yet. So, keep an eye on the Calendar on the website. We'll try to keep it timely.

As our membership has grown, it's brought us a broader set of interests and expectations. I'm anticipating another year of continuing expansion in Club activities to satisfy these expectations. We'll be getting together more often and organizing some interesting new events, or perhaps resurrecting some older ones. The Special Olympics and Oktoberfest are repeat candidates. We're also looking into redesigning our self-paced bonus-hunting rally. All this increase in activity will necessitate more efficient communication, which leads me into the following.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be revamping the Club's discussion group on Yahoo. Many members have asked for a list of email addresses of the membership. The Yahoo group will provide individuals with the ability to easily communicate with other individuals, or with the entire group. There are some personal security issues to work out, e.g., we don't want to inadvertently expose the members to spam, subscription must be voluntary, etc. So, it will take a little time, but it's on its way.

Our next regular Monthly Dinner Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3rd, 7:00 PM, at the IHOP on Research Blvd. near Duval Rd. See you there.

Ride safe, enjoy the ride,  
Tom Soutter

**You can go out, you can take a ride.  
And when you get out on your own,  
You get all smoothed out inside  
And it's good to be alone.**

*FACE UP, 1991*

## THE IHOP REPORT... or... What and Who Attended the Club Dinner Meeting



In lieu of the monthly meeting, we gathered at the home of Eric and Connie Brubaker for the Club's Christmas Party. See "**Club Christmas Party Report**" [page 3]

### Upcoming Events...

- ☑ **January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday 7:00 PM**  
**Regular Monthly Club Dinner Meeting**



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

- ☑ **January 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 9:00 AM**  
**Traditional Club Breakfast**  
Ross' Old Austin Café, 11800 N. Lamar Blvd.

### Planning Well Ahead...

- ☐ **March 13-17, 2006**

Bob Cromby and Christopher Ross will be taking on a 50cc ride inside a SaddleSore 5000. In English, that means riding from one coast to the other coast in under 50 hours (Savannah to San Diego), during a 5 day ride which covers at least 5000 miles. Both of these are advanced Iron Butt Association rides. Anyone who has completed an IBA ride and is interested in possibly going should contact Christopher at (512) 653-8852 (Bob will be working hard in Hawaii for the next couple of months).

- ☐ **April 21-23, 2006**  
**Annual Geezers and Scalawags Hill Country Tour, Junction, TX.**

This is an annual get together, primarily of the Dust Bowl Beemers club from Lubbock. Anyone interested in going, and enjoying the best that the hill country has to offer (335.336.337,16), and meeting some wonderful BMW riders from West Texas is welcome to ride out with Christopher Ross. It'll be a weekend of hard riding and hard rallying.

## Around the World

by Carla Cay Krull



On Monday, December 12 we had a most interesting call. A foreign voice was asking if he could stay over night with us. He got our name from the BMWMOA Anonymous Book He was from South Korea and was riding around the world. Our answer..."Well sure!" We

met Kang, Se-Hwan an hour later in Leander. We treated him to a Mexican dinner. He loved the quesadillas but not the beans and rice! I knew I was gonna get along with this guy!

Se-Hwan bought his '05 F650GS in Australia. He proceeded to ride around that country, ship his bike to L.A. and then rode up to Alaska, across the Yukon to Newfoundland, down the coast to Florida, stopping along the way for many



various reasons: accidents, repairs, rest, sightseeing and in New Orleans, volunteering his help with clean-up. Oh, and did I mention that Se-Hwan hadn't ridden before he started this little jaunt? Amazing! In Houston he called 20 people before #21 said sure – stay with us. In Austin, we were the first and last he called for a room. This time of year, you bet there's a room at our inn!



Come to find out, he had already called ahead to the local BMW shop and talked to a "Denise" about something he would need. He was so excited to learn that he was actually staying

with one of the owners! The next day Se-Hwan and I rode into Lone Star where he received a very warm greeting. Se-Hwan was planning to head to Mexico and on down to South America so we hooked him up with friends, Stuart and Araselli, who are from and lived in Mexico. They even took him to the Mexican Embassy to help with his paperwork. Along the way, he met some fellow countrymen and the story goes on and on. Se-Hwan called to tell me all that had happened to him since he

*continued on page 5*

**Club Christmas Party Report...**



Host and hostess, **Eric & Connie Brubaker**, did a fabulous job of making everyone feel welcome, well-fed and entertained. Connie fixed up some yummy Tex-Mex dishes and snacks. **Becky Soutter** contributed four luscious pecan pies & some yummy brownies. Martha Stewart has nothing on these gals! Thank you ladies!



As for Mr. 50/50, Eric, he did a marvelous job of passing out the door prizes that were graciously donated by Lone Star BMW/Triumph. He was so good at marketing I wanted Robert to hire him!!

The Prez was very good about writing a list of those in attendance but the clutter on my desk, my business and any other excuse I can think of... well... I lost the list! If you were at the party I'm sure you'll remember being there, having a fun time, and we're glad you came. If you weren't there your name wasn't on the list anyway and you missed a good time!



There was the usual White Elephant Exchange with



**Christopher Ross** being the first and last to pick a gift. He left poor **Del Grosenheider** with a paltry ornament of a rat bike!



Some of the group was fairly serious about this gift-stealing thing – they took such pleasure in it! Mmmmm.

We were very pleased to have **Mike Moon** make it to our party. Actually, he was being a social butterfly as he'd also been to a few other Club parties. Way to go Mike! Others that I do remember adding to

the festivities were: **Bob Cromby, Lew Gibb, Kevin Phelan, Bruce & Sonya Thompson, Les Wade, Lee Tidwell & Christy Griffin, Dan & Rose Risler, Ken & Marilyn Korn, Robert Krull and Tom Soutter.**

Check out our website to view **all** the great pictures. They speak for a fun time and great participation.



**New Members....**



What? No new members to report? “Madam Secretary, are you sure of that?” “Madam Editor, I am almost sure!”

Oops... Just received from Ken Korn by way of messenger, Robert Krull, new member application from **Eric Barnes**. Eric is serious about his riding as he has a choice between a '98 K1200RS and a '05 R1200GS. Probably has a heck of a time deciding which to ride!! Welcome to the Ride, Eric!



**Trivia Test**

In what year was the Beatles' song “Hey Jude” released?

**And the Answers Were...**

- ✎ Was released in 1968. It was recorded in Trident Studios in London on July 31 and August 1, 1968. By the end of the year it sold over 5 million copies. ~ Robert O.
- ✎ August 26, 1968 - I remember it almost as if it were “Yesterday!” ~ Francis D.



## A Ride to Paris...

France? Arkansas? Iowa?  
Idaho? Illinois? Kentucky?  
Maryland? Maine? Michigan?  
Missouri? Mississippi? New  
Hampshire? New York? Ohio?  
Pennsylvania?  
**No... Texas!!!!**

December 4, 2005  
By Christopher Ross

This past summer I encouraged a co-worker and friend, CJ Salgado, to buy her first motorcycle, promising that "nothing would ever be the same again". CJ had been looking at used bikes for a while, and was able to score a test ride on



an R1100R with Gary at Lone Star. The test ride was a good experience for her, and was appreciated, but the bike that she decided on was a Suzuki SV650. I checked out the bike and rode it, gave it a thumbs up, and CJ was off and riding. Months went by, with CJ showing up for work almost daily wearing a Joe Rocket jacket and carrying a helmet. Then one day she let it slip. "I want to ride to Florida next summer" she said. When I hear even



a mention of a dream or goal from someone I know, I encourage it. Maybe even push for it. I asked her what her longest day to date had been (200 miles), and decided a longer day was in order. I figured that a ride on back roads to the Oklahoma border

(state line for those of you in Welch or Union) would be a good 700+ miles round trip, and we could see the cowboy hat wearing Eiffel Tower in Paris, Texas along the way. I called up Bob Cromby and the ride was on for the following Sunday.

CJ and I met at the 620 Café in Round Rock, and headed north on I-35 around 7:30 am. An hour later we met Bob just past Temple, in Troy, TX. It was a very chilly morning. We did introductions, shared Bob's donuts with him, and then headed east. The route selected was scenic and clear of traffic. There were many long clean curves to race through, and many rural cemeteries

were noted (in preparation of next year's rally). We rode through Kosse, Mexia and Corsicana, before arriving in Athens, TX (while we're on this European capital theme) in time for lunch at a KFC. By this time it had warmed up at least 10 degrees. Once back on the road, we took Hwy 19 north through Canton and Emory. Soon after Emory, I branched off and led us down a couple small back roads. Back on the curves, I took off, leaving CJ and Bob behind. Once sure I was out of their visual, I turned off and hid. They raced by unaware. Then I floored it to run up their backside. (Juvenile I know, but always fun to me). While following Bob into Sulphur Springs, we beat a yellow light at an interesting intersection.

Interesting in that it has a very serious dip right before a railroad track rise. Bob's rear wheel caught at least 12" of air, and his RT's right side mirror popped off. CJ and I saw Bob's jump and hit the brakes. We stopped just past the railroad tracks and looked for any damage. And tried to calm down. Bob worked the mirror back in place (the wires kept it from the pavement) and I checked out his wheels for any damage. Everything seemed okay and we set off, again riding north on Hwy 19. Once in Paris, Bob's GPS took over and guided us through some beautiful neighborhoods, complete with front yard car repair and collapsed front porches. Oh, and a stray dog that chased us. Finally at the civic center, we rode up under the tower for a picture. After the group picture (and pictures of me climbing up toward the top of the tower by the hat, and of the sign that says to not climb on the tower), we made the 12-mile run to the border. Parked on the shoulder by the big Oklahoma sign, CJ and Bob posed for a picture. Walking across the lanes of traffic, I took the pictures (I already had this state sign in my own photo collection). We mounted back up, ran across the grass median, and repeated the same process in front of the Texas state sign. From there, we gassed up, ran south to connect with I-30, and headed for Dallas. It was again turning pretty cool outside. By the time we reached south Dallas it was dark and cold. We stopped for dinner at a Chili's on I-35, and several calls were made to insure that Survivor would be taped for Bob. After a good dinner and good conversation, we made a move for home. Bob exited at Temple and CJ and I continued to our homes.



*continued on page 5*

## Book Review Corner

### Ghost Rider

by Neil Peart, 2002



I may have a bias concerning this author, as I have been a fan of Canadian rock band Rush my entire life. That said, this is one of the best books I have read this year. And you are in luck, because it happens to pertain to riding a motorcycle. Neil Peart has been the drummer and lyricist for Rush since the band's beginning. In the nineties he caught the motorcycling bug, and began trailering his bike behind the band's tour bus, and riding from concert to concert. Then when Neil's life is turned upside down, the bike is the one thing that helps him move on.

Ghost Rider begins in 1997. Neil and his wife are at home in Toronto waiting for their 19-year-old daughter to arrive. Instead, an officer with the Ontario Provincial Police shows up. Their only child has been killed in a car accident. From there, things get worse. Neil's wife is unable to deal with the tragedy and doesn't eat or leave the house, and then is diagnosed with cancer. She dies ten months after their daughter's accident. Neil is exhausted from caring for his wife, and is alone to deal with the two tragedies. He moves out to their secluded lake house and finds escape in alcohol and drugs. He eventually decides that staying in motion is the one activity that may save him. He is not sure why he wants to save himself, but he leaves his Toronto home in the hands of a friend to sell, and sets off on his R1100GS motorcycle with no particular destination.

Ghost Rider is the story of 55,000 miles of wandering around on two wheels. Neil rides across Canada to Alaska. From there his ride covers the West Coast, Baja, Mexico and Belize. This is not a planned journey, but rather a winding and occasionally backtracking ride. Neil takes on the persona of the Ghost Rider, and opens himself up as he searches for reasons to continue living. While on the road, he is told by phone that his dog has died. And his friend Brutus has been arrested. Neil's anger

and loneliness and self doubt are all laid bare, as well as the way he is perceived and treated by the strangers he comes into contact with on the road. The events of the journey are painted in powerful and lyrical language. There are exciting times, as when Neil first experiences an attraction towards a woman he meets while on the road. There are also cold and wet and miserable times, with lessons to be learned. Ghost Rider is also a wonderful travelogue, providing rich descriptions and histories about the places visited. In the end Neil finds reasons to continue living, and after 14 months he hangs up the hat of the Ghost Rider, finds love again, and gets back to work with Rush.

If you would like to hear Neil Peart read a chapter from his book Ghost Rider, here's how: Go to [www.rush.com](http://www.rush.com), the band's official web site. Under "Band", select "Neil". Neil reading from chapter 3 is one of the selections you can choose.

~ Christopher Ross

---



---

#### A Ride to Paris... from page 4

It was a good day of clear weather and varied riding, and Bob got to use his new Widder Lectric vest, which he loved. The following day at work I mentioned to CJ (who drove the car that day)



that by doing what we had done, 2 days in a row, she would make Florida. I hope she does it.

---



---

#### Around the World from page 2

called us. Every other comment was, "I love Austin!" If you'd like to view his pictures check out his blog at: [blog.empas.com/motoride](http://blog.empas.com/motoride) And whatever you do, if you're in the Anonymous Book and some stranger calls wanting a room – don't turn them down. You'll miss out on a whole lot of interesting fun and new friendships!



### DUH... Remember this...

#### "NEW ITEM COMING... PICTURE OF THE WEEK"

Do you have an unusual, funny, scenic, or weird photo? Must include a motorcycle in the picture. Submit it for review and your photo may be the one featured in the next Newsletter!

### Guess who's the winner for this month???