



Vol. MMVI, Issue 2

“The Passing Lane”

February/March, 2007

from the Prez



Our first visit to the Monument Café in Georgetown on February 17th was a big success with about a dozen members showing up for breakfast. So, we'll be returning on Saturday, March 24th. That's the same day as the Rendezvous at Westphalia for lunch at the Old Store. From the Monument to the Old Store is a little over sixty miles; we should be able to put together an interesting ride. The Rendezvous is a multi-club event put together by Mike Moon of the BMWDFW club.

The upcoming Leakey Overnight ride is set for Saturday & Sunday, April 7-8. The ride starts with a rendezvous breakfast at the Del Norte in

Kerrville at 9:00AM. From breakfast, we'll set out to explore the Hill Country with a second rendezvous around 2:00PM at the Lone Star Motorcycle Museum in Vanderpool. There's a café in the museum, in case you need a little something to tide you over. From the museum, our Hill Country exploration continues throughout the afternoon. Later Saturday evening, we'll get back together at the Frio Canyon Lodge in Leakey for lodging and dinner at 7:00PM. The lodge has a large courtyard and pavilion where we can relax and exchange tales of the day's rides. Sunday morning, the restaurant at the lodge opens at 7:00AM for those who would like to regroup before heading home. Individuals will need to make their own reservations with the Frio Canyon Lodge for Saturday evening. The room rate is \$75, for singles and doubles. Telephone number is 830-232-6800; leave a message, they will return your call, most likely that evening. Also, mention that you're a member of the Hill Country BMW Riders, as they're holding a number of rooms for us. [For folks not going to Leakey that Saturday, there will be a regular Saturday Breakfast at the Waterloo Ice House in Austin.]

The Big Bend/Alpine Weekend is firming up for May 4-6; that's a Friday thru Sunday event. We will be returning to the Antelope Lodge again this year, a block of rooms has been set aside for us. You'll need to call to make your own reservations, telephone 800-880-8106, or 432-837-2451. Rates are

HCBMWR Officers

President:	Tom Soutter
Vice President:	Eric Brubaker
Secretary:	Kevin Phelan
Treasurer:	Ken Korn
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bob Cromby
Historian:	Brough Bailey
Editor:	Robert Odendahl
Webmaster:	Webmaster

\$45 for single, \$54 for double; don't forget, it's two nights, and mention the Club. There'll be more details on the website, soon.

At a recent breakfast gathering I was asked what type of security measures I employed for the bike when traveling. In a nutshell, I don't do very much, probably not enough. Worse yet, I've been guilty of leaving the key in my top-box! But the question stuck in my mind, and while browsing the web one day I came across "LoJack" for bikes. You can check it out at www.lojack.com/bike. In addition to the original Stolen Vehicle system, they also have an optional Early Warning feature that will call you whenever your bike is moved without your permission.

Kevin is busily working on email for the entire membership on the Club's website. Having personal email addresses "@hillcountrybmw.com" will make it much easier for members to reach out to each other. On the receiving end, your "@hillcountrybmw.com" email will be initially setup to forward to your current email address, at RoadRunner, Gmail, or wherever. Kevin will be sending out a note when it's all ready to go.

Our next regular Monthly Dinner Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6th, 7:00 PM, at the IHOP on Research at Duval. Hope to see you there; and as always, guests are welcome.

Ride safe, ride more,

Tom Soutter

Hill Country Featured in Texas Highways

submitted by Kevin Phelan

Glen Worley reports that this months issue of Texas Highways has an article about motorcycling in the hill country. It is "the first ever" such article and it is written by a BMW rider. The back cover photograph features a BMW.

Membership Renewal

Attention All Renewing Members,

It's that time of year again. Every April 1st, we conduct our annual membership renewal. Please take a little time to consider signing up for another year with the Hill Country BMW Riders. We've kicked the activity level up another notch this year. Hopefully, you'll find our planned rides and other activities to your liking.

We'd appreciate everyone filling out a fresh application form, so as to update our Club records. The application form may be obtained from our website or by just click the following - HCBMWR Application Form .

Instructions are included on the form, including the Club's mailing address. Note that if you joined the Club after January 1st, there is no need to fill out an application, or pay additional dues; you're membership is valid until next year.

Looking forward to another good year's riding,

Kevin Phelan

Get Together



11654 US 183,
Research Blvd,
near Duval

Club Meeting: March 6 at the IHOP

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: March 3, Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Rd, Austin

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: March 17, El Rancho Restaurant, 408 N. US-281, Johnson City

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: March 24, Monument Cafe, 1953 S. Austin Ave, Georgetown

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: March 31, Sunset Restaurant & Bar, 419 3rd, Blanco

Club Meeting: April 3 at the IHOP

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: April 7, Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Rd, Austin

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: April 14, Blue Bonnet Cafe, 211 Hwy-281, Marble Falls

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: April 21, City Cafe, 19 N Main St, Elgin

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: April 28, Ed's Old Windmill, FM-306 at Regal Dr, Canyon Lake

Saturday Breakfast & Ride: May 5, Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Rd, Austin

Club Meeting: May 1 at the IHOP

Club Meeting: June 5 at the IHOP

Club Picnic: To Be Announced, first week of July

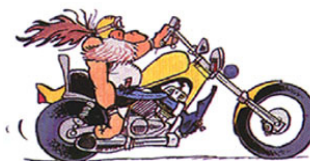
Club Meeting: August 7 at the IHOP

Rallies:

37th Annual BMW RA Rally: June 7 - 10, Asheville, North Carolina, at the Biltmore Estate, an outstanding location consisting of 8,000 acres. More information at BMR RA web site.

4th Annual Black Hills BMW Stampede: July 6 - 8. The theme of the rally this year is "On the Way to the MOA". The rally is held at Chris' Campgrounds in Spearfish, SD. Registration is available on line at the Black Hills BMW Stampede web site.

35th Annual BMW MOA Rally: July 12 - 15. West Bend, Wisconsin. Registration is online at the BMW MOA web site.



from the saddle . . .

by Robert Odendahl

Spring is here. This past weekend was beautiful riding weather. Not too hot. Just a little bit cool.

In Texas, we are fortunate to have good riding weather all year. Northern riders are not so fortunate. Many store their bikes during the winter. This means that they put the battery tender on, put gasoline stabilizer in the tank, and change the oil. All that just to store the bike for up to four months. Of course not everyone stores their bike during the winter. Some do ride, braving freezing temperatures, ice and salt.

Despite the advantages Texas provides to the avid rider, there are some who will not come south and take advantage of what the South in general and Texas in particular have to offer. Recent comments on the BMW MOA forum consist of a couple posts by people stating that they will never visit Texas. Also, there is the issue of the location of the BMW MOA rallies. Once in a while, the MOA will hold a rally in the southern part of the US. By the way, the BMW MOA calls their rally the "BMW MOA International Rally." I do not understand that naming convention. Only once has it been held outside the US. That was in Ontario, Canada. This reminds me of major league baseball's World Series between teams in the United States. Last I checked there is a lot more to the world than the good old US of A.

Anyway, back to the BMW MOA International rally. Historically the BMW MOA has held their rallies in states close to the Canadian border, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Vermont to name a few. Occasionally, the MOA rally will be a bit farther south such as in West Virginia (not much), Florida, California, Colorado, Texas, and a few other places that does not require a trip across the United States from the traditional southern states to get there. I don't mind the long ride. I have done several Iron Butt rides. It is the time factor. I do not have a lot of vacation time to devote to a single rally most of which would be travel time.

So how does the MOA select a rally site? There must be a certain number of hotel rooms in the area. The rally site grounds must allow camping, including RV's. The grounds must have a certain square footage of covered area. The grounds must be a certain size and allow only limited access for registered, make that paying, rally participants. The Travis County Expo , off of US 290, will fit the size requirements and the City of Austin does have enough hotel rooms. I brought this up twice on the MOA forum. Once I was ignored and the other time I was told that the most probably the rally will never return to Texas. So fitting the size requirements is not the only criteria for selection. There must be some untold other requirements that polite company does not talk about with strangers.

Nobody will explain them. My wife says it is because people think it is too hot in Texas in July. My experience is that it is just as hot and sometimes hotter in South Dakota in July. I guess the MOA rally will not return to South Dakota either. I think the weather is an excuse to keep the rally in the north close to the officers and board members of the MOA. If so, it's time for regime change and vote in new blood who understand representation of the whole.

Big Bend Weekend

The Big Bend / Alpine Weekend is set. This Club ride to Alpine is a three-day event, Fri-Sun, May 4-6th. This schedule allows us a full day, Saturday, to ride the Davis Mountains and/or Rio Grande Valley. We'll be staying at the Antelope Lodge in Alpine on Friday & Saturday evenings [see lodging details below].

The weekend begins with a rendezvous breakfast at the Del Norte Restaurant, 710 Junction Hwy. (SR-27), Kerrville, on Friday, May 4th, at 9:00 am. Following breakfast, riders may design their own individual or group rides from Kerrville to Big Bend and points west.

Our Friday evening rendezvous is at the Antelope Lodge, around 6:00 pm, after which we'll do a local supper in Alpine. The Antelope Lodge is located at 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine (800-880-8106). Rates are \$49 +tax (single), \$54 +tax (double) . We have reserved only ten of these rooms, so solo riders may want to arrange for a room-mate. When you call the Lodge to guarantee your room, be sure to mention that you're with the Hill Country BMW Riders.

Saturday morning we'll get together for a breakfast in Alpine [time & place to be decided Friday evening], and make plans for the day's adventures. Bring your maps, etc.

Saturday evening we'll rendezvous at Murphy's Pizzeria and Café, corner of Highways 17 & 118 in Fort Davis. This is a biker-friendly place, with a cozy patio and great Chicago-style pizza! They also serve vegetarian dishes, salads, burgers, sandwiches, pasta dishes and more.

Before heading home Sunday morning, we'll rendezvous one last time at Penny's Diner, 2407 E. Hwy 90, Alpine around 7-7:30 am. Again, as on Friday, following breakfast, riders may design their own individual or group rides back home.

Ride Safely,

Kevin Phelan
Club Secretary

Ardys Does It Again

Ardys Kellerman has set a new BMW MOA mileage record during the annual distance contest that runs from April 15 to October 15, 2007. Ardys covered 80,116 miles in six months. Ardys is trying for the Iron Butt Association 100,000 miles in one year.



Going Somewhere?

I have attended many rallies the past 8 years. Most have been HOG rallies in Texas and Louisiana. In 2003, I went to Sturgis and completed my first Iron Butt Association Saddle Sore 1000. For me rallies have been an excuse to ride long distances and see parts of this country that I never get to see otherwise. I travel a lot for work to the usual places, New York City, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New Jersey, Denver, San Francisco. But I do not get to see much on the trip because I travel by air.

Riding rather than flying, I see things that look like dots at 35,000 feet. Most places that I have found and visited are not on any tour guide. I found them from reading about IBA rallies. I found such places as Chimney Rock in Nebraska, the geographical center of the US, Midway USA - Kinsley, Kansas, Cathedral of the Plains, Garden of Eden, Car Henge, World's Largest Hand Dug Well. Many are in Kansas which is surprising. Closer to home, in Austin, Texas are the painted churches in Texas, The Alamo, Luckenbach, a statue of Lenin in Dallas, San Jacinto State Park outside Houston, the USS Texas (battleship), Acadian Village, Avery Island, Barataria National Park, Chalmette Battlefield, and Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville.

This year I plan on returning to the Black Hills BMW Stampe, in Spearfish, South Dakota. I have been to the Black Hills four times and have yet to see all the sites there. The BMW MOA is the following weekend and I plan on attending that too since I will be "in the neighborhood." Usually the MOA rally is too far, time wise. I don't think it will be any closer to Texas any year soon and I want to attend one before my riding days are much shorter. I don't know what unusual sites there are in Wisconsin near the MOA rally. I might go to the geographical center of North America in Rugby, North Dakota on the way from Spearfish to West Bend, Wisconsin.

One resource I found for locating those small out of the way sites on the Road Side America web site.

I would like to hear from you, anyone, about where you are going or where you have been.

The Editor

