



SAN ANTONIO BMW RIDERS

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November/December 2006

President's Notes

by John Dunn

We have had some wonderful trips lately. We have missed you if you have not been able to go. In September, we had about 12 riders from here and Austin go to the Sippapu rally. Hot here, and low 40s and rain at the rally when I got there on Friday – Brrrr, especially when it is such a difference in temperature. We stayed at the El Pueblo Lodge on the north side of town. There was a chair there that would collapse with enough weight in it. Joe & I managed to get it to the ground. So we set it up for Helen and she was too light to get the chair to collapse – much to our chagrin as we spent considerable time getting it all set up for her.

We then walked down to the Bistro there in town (about a mile walk at the Taos elevation) and had a wonderful dinner. Mike, Graham, & I had to return on Sunday so we left on Saturday and made it back in two easy days of riding. Ask Graham how many feathers he swallowed when he nailed that bird.

The Big Bend trip saw 25 bikes – a great showing. We even had a Harley and a Triumph on this trip. First day was uneventful, but good ride down and dinner at the Hotel Limpia was better than dear Mom used to cook. We had the whole upstairs for our party only and we were treated exceptionally well. The first day ride for most of us was down into Mexico. We crossed at Presideo and rode about 30 miles inland to a monument to something (it wasn't well marked) and a great view of a canyon and local mountainous terrain. Great road. The trip back to Texas was mostly OK, the Mexican guard dropped the crossing arm right in front of Paul after he said go and Michael had to open his saddlebags for an inspection. Most of us made it back before the hail and thunderstorm and the following Pizza party was broken up by a power outage and a night long storm.

Power was restored on Sunday morning and the remaining riders went to the park, had a hike or went to the Stillwell ranch. On the way back from the park, Rick had a large bubble on his tire that was rubbing the chassis every time the tire went around – not good. Cheryl rode in to Alpine with Paul and unbelievably; Rick was able to get a used tire mounted on Sunday afternoon in Alpine! It allowed him to ride it home and save the expense of a u-haul.

Needless to say – we had a great time and stayed dry despite the evening storms – make our next trip if you can.

Elections are right around the corner. Think about who you would like to nominate for President, VP, treasurer, and newsletter editor.

Ride safe & keep the rubber side down.
John Dunn

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Club dues are \$12 single, \$18
w/associate(s).

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Safety corner

Everybody knows to watch out for the deer. They will be getting progressively worse as it gets cooler. We saw a new twist to the threat on one of the Sunday breakfast runs.

Two deer were running in the same direction we were riding but on the opposite side of the road. There was a car coming the other way. Evidently the guy coming the other way never saw them so he never slowed down. After we were past the deer, but before the car got to them, one cut to cross the highway and was struck by the car at full speed. I could see the deer flying across the highway (across our lane) in my rear view mirror. If we had been back there we could have been struck by the deer as it flew across the road after the car hit it.

Lesson here; watch the deer but watch out for cars coming the other way that may not be paying attention. Nothing worse than missing a live deer, only to be hit by a flying dead one.

Graham Littrell writes - I wanted to have day and night visibility reflectors on my bags, could not find them, so made my own. 3M Scotchlite Plus 680 Series Reflective Sheeting with Controltac adhesive is what was used. Next I found a sign shop that ordered it for me, they carried a generic product that looks the same and may be, but I went for the real deal, it was @\$30 for a yard of material, which is plenty.

The sign shop is Circle H Signs and Banners, 113 Plant St, suite G in Boerne, phone 830 816.7446.

Costs

Materials \$30

Labor @ 20 hours trying to find the material and a place to get it. Made a template from a sheet of legal paper and spent 10 hours trying to figure out what else I wanted to reflect, (does not adhere to body parts). Labor should be @ 1 hour, 30 minutes to make the template and 10 minutes application time.

Results -Very satisfied with the day and nighttime visibility.

FOR SALE

First Gear women's vented riding jacket size Medium. Textile with leather padding on the shoulders, elbow and back. Red, Black and silver. Excellent shape \$100

Contact Jackie at pmulhern@swbell.net or 210-650-9703



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Club Christmas party Sunday December 3rd

Here's the schedule for the Christmas party.

Setup 5:30 PM, 6:00 to 6:30 PM Social Cocktails and Appetizers, 6:30 to 8:30 PM Dinner, Business Meeting 8:30 to 9:00 PM.

Details: We will be in the Amistad room at the Scenic Loop Café, 25615 Boerne Stage Road. The Amistad room has a fire place, table cloths, center pieces, gift table, and projector screen. There is room for 30-40 guests. We will have a cash bar. We will order off the regular menu and each person/couple will be responsible for their own checks (gratuity will be added). A club business meeting to follow dinner (election of officers), Bring gift of approximately \$10 value (preferably motorcycle related) if you wish to participate in gift exchange. Bring an unwrapped gift for children's home if you wish to contribute.

Please RSVP to Woody or Karen no later than Nov. 25th. We will do a member call to all that have not responded. If they do not want to be contacted they should call or email and leave voice mail for Karen at 210-722-1907 or email at nazabell@att.net

Election for new club officers

As is the custom we will have elections for club officers at the upcoming Christmas party. In addition to officers we are also seeking a new newsletter editor. All of the current crop of officers have served before (many several times) and I know of at least a couple who will not stand for office again.

As a club we need individuals who are willing to share in the leadership of the club. I know it's easy to sit and let someone else run the show while you enjoy the benefits but at some point you need to step forward and do your part.

In past year's I have spent a lot of effort (or hot air) encouraging people to help out but I have to admit I'm tired of trying. Myself, and several other individuals have stepped up many times to fill the gaps left when others refused to help carry the weight. I very much enjoy the time I get to spend with the club and its activities and it is for that reason that I have been willing to contribute my time and effort to help out. But, like most people at some point I feel that I've done all I can and if no one else is willing to step up then...

And that's the question. What happens if nobody cares enough to get involved?

SABMWRA Club Activity Calendar

November

Thur 9th – Social 7PM – Chris Madrids, 1900 Blanco Road.

Saturday 18th – Third Saturday ride. This is the BIG ONE, the Lowake Steak Run. Bring a serious appetite and something to carry the leftovers in.

We will meet at the Exxon at 1604 and Hwy 16. Plan is depart between 7:30 and 8am so don't be late. We will travel Hwy 16 to Fredericksburg. There we will take a break and, hopefully, link up with some Austin riders. From there we will take Hwy 87 to Eden. At Eden we will turn onto Hwy 83 towards Ballenger. Off 83 we'll turn onto FM1929 to the steakhouse. We plan to arrive at the restaurant between 12:30 and 1PM. One way miles (from the Exxon) are 245 so you can expect a 450+mile day, depending on where you live.

The ride will not be called on account of weather, unless it is dangerous weather. Come prepared for all types of weather!

December

Sunday 3rd – Club Christmas party (details in newsletter). Last official club event of the year.

Saturday 9th – Lone Star BMW Annual Holiday Open House. Food, prizes, food, friendship, food. An event not to be missed. Food serves 11:30 to 4pm. Come early to get some great chow and a parking place. Bring your wallet 'cause they'll tempt you with all kinds of goodies. Did I mention the food is free? Bring canned goods for donation to local food bank. Details at <http://www.lonestarcycle.com/open2006.htm>

The road less traveled

by Paul Mulhern

On Monday, October 16th, when everyone else started home from the Fort Davis trip (at least those who had not fled the weather on Sunday), Jackie and I headed west for Arizona.

The plan was to pickup a road out of El Paso (NM 9) that cuts across southern New Mexico so we could avoid I10. Coming into El Paso we picked up loop 375. Loop 375 goes north and west avoiding the bulk of El Paso completely. The road goes over the top of Mt. Franklin, which gives you some fantastic views of the area. El Paso is only growing and the traffic on I10 through the city is only getting worse. Loop 375 is longer than taking I10 but much less traffic.

The plan was to take this loop around town and then pickup NM 9 but we got lost and missed it so we ended up on I10 all the way to Tucson (with 20-30MPH headwinds the whole way).

The next morning we left Tucson and rode to the top of Mt. Lemmon. Just outside Tucson this is an 8400 ft mountain that rises out of the surrounding high desert. The road to the top (and back down) is a fantastic ride with some great scenery. The day we went it was in the 70's that morning in Tucson and about 40 degrees at the top of the mountain.

From Mt. Lemmon we headed to Hwy 83 south to Sonita where we took hwy 82 to Nogales. This is a scenic byway so have your camera at the ready. In Nogales we stopped at a small Mexican restaurant for lunch. The Mexican food was different than what we are accustomed to, but still very good, and cheap.

From Nogales we backtracked on 82 (there only two roads into and out of Nogales) to hwy 90 south. We could have continued on 82 to Tombstone but decided instead to end up in Bisbee. Bisbee is an old copper mining town that closed down in the 70's (parts of it have since been reopened). The town is full of B&B's, restaurants and artisan shops. It's a great place to spend a night or two and would be a great base for exploring Southern Arizona. We spend the night at the Castle Rock B&B, so called because it sits across the street from this huge, projecting rock formation. Everything in this town is built on the side of a mountain with narrow streets so don't plan on driving everywhere. Find a place to park (if you can) and walk. We walked the town that evening, had a beer (the local microbrew is very good) at the stock exchange (the only one between New York and San Francisco) and dinner at a Mexican food restaurant.

Since we had missed finding NM9 in El Paso we planned to head east to Douglas, AZ. and continue up hwy 80 north. 80 crosses into New Mexico and NM9 intersects 80 about 55 miles north of Douglass. From there to El Paso is about 210 miles. About the only place to get gas in between is Columbus, NM (site of infamous raid) so make sure you start this trip with a full tank.

NM 9 skirts the border with Mexico, at some points being only ½ mile away, so expect to see lots of border patrol.

Did I mention that it started raining just as we pulled out of Bisbee that morning? The rain continued, in varying degrees of intensity, all the way to El Paso. For that reason (and that fact that we arrives right at 5pm) we changed our plans and spend the night in El Paso.

The next day we jumped on I10 and headed home. The new 80 mph speed limit allows you to make better time in West Texas but a headwind (again) cut into our gas mileage so it was a tradeoff. If you are headed west, taking NM9 across New Mexico to Southern Arizona is not as fast as I!0, but much more pleasant. And, if you're in that area, make sure to schedule a night in Bisbee. I think you'll enjoy it.



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**Please RSVP for the club
Christmas party by Nov. 25th.**

**Check your mailing label.
Most club memberships expire
in December.**