



BMW Club of Houston, LTD

BMW MOA #12
BMW RA #287

Vol. 1, No. 3 April, 2005



David Boyles, Robert Stallones and Jim Janssen at the Starlight Theater, Terlingua, Texas.

Big Bend GS Ride

By Robert Stallones

When we rolled into Terlingua's dusty parking lot there was already a small gathering of people. Some were drinking beer on the porch, a few were playing horseshoes, and others were sitting on the wooden benches enjoying the view of the Chisos mountains. Jim Janssen, David Boyles and I rode our GS's six hundred and fifty miles to reach this isolated place. My friend, Roger, has land near Terlingua, and now lives there most of the year. He didn't know that we were coming, so Jim and David stayed in Terlingua while I rode off with hopes of finding Roger.

I was riding down the dirt road leading to Roger's place, trying to remember where the turnoff to (Continued page 4)

Just Ruffin- It: A message from the president.

By Beverly Ruffin

Well, do we have boundless riders or what?

First, we have Morris Kruemcke breaking the record for a documented 48-states ride. He covered more than 7,100 miles, secured the signatures of 96 witnesses, and made at least 48 purchases. And he did it all in 5 days, 8 hours and 52 minutes. Whew. It's tiring just thinking about it.

Next we have Edgar Tanner who'll be headed to the Hyder Seek (48 Plus! Extreme ride) around the end of May. He'll cover all 48 states as well, but when he's finished that, he'll turn due north and end up in Hyder, Alaska—all in 10 days.

Then there is Paul Yeager. If you have not picked up the quarterly publication from Cycle World Adventures, you need to. He authored the article, "Cajun Country" about his recent motorcycle trip there. *Continued page 4.*

Events Calendar

May, 2005

Every Sunday - Breakfast with the Beemers.

May 6-8, Fri-Sun Fourth Annual 'Ride the 3's' BMW Motorcycling Event, Leakey, TX. Headquartered at the Frio Canyon Lodge (FCL) (NE corner of TX83 and TX337). GPS: N29 43.454 W99 45.792. Phone: (830) 232-6800. E-mail: FCL@HCTC.net. Overflow accommodations at Leakey Springs Cabins and River Haven Cabins, 1block South, 2 blocks West of FCL. Phone: (830) 232-5400. E-mail: rhc@hctc.net. Meet for cocktails and discussion of events on the veranda at FCL 5pm on Friday. Saturday evening Cocktail Party @ 5pm then Italian Dinner under the Gazebo at FCL. \$19.50 for catered meal of chicken picata over fettucinni, Ceasar salad, green beans, bread, Italian cream cake, coffee and tea. (Includes tax and gratuities). RSVP to Floyd Crow if you intend to eat. Contact Floyd Crow if you are planning to participate.

May 12, Thu BMW Club of Houston Club Business Meeting, 8:00 PM, Hickory Hollow Restaurant, 101 Heights Blvd, Houston. Members gather around 7:00 PM to eat and socialize before the meeting.

May 15, Sun Monthly Club Ride. To be announced.

June, 2005

June 9, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m. Sue Haley guest speaker on Motorcycle Insurance Policies.

June 12, Sun: Monthly club ride: Kloesel's Steakhouse in Moulton. Beverly Ruffin leading.

June 18-19, Sat-Sun: Annual Summer Solstice ride. 6:15 AM (Sunrise). Leave TX/LA Vistor's Center, mile marker 880. Arrive TX/NM border by sundown. Make reservations at Super 8 Motel (1-800-800-8000) in Anthony, TX (Mile Marker 0). Contact Beverly Ruffin for additional information.

July, 2005

July 14, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m. Club Member Linda Waalen wil provide practical tips for handling roadside emergencies.

Annual Advertising Rate for Display Ads

Business Card:	\$100.00
1/4 Page:	\$200.00
1/2 Page:	\$300.00
Full Page	\$400.00

Classified Advertising:

Classified advertising is free to Houston BMW club Members. Non-members may advertise BMW motorcycle items only. All classified ads run for 3 issues unless renewed.

Monthly rates for Display ads available upon request

July 17, Sun. Monthly club ride. To be announced.

July 21-24 Thu-Sun. 2005 MOA INTERNATIONAL RALLY, Allen Fairgrounds, Lima, Ohio. More info at BMWMOA.

August, 2005

Aug. 11, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m.

Sept, 2005

Sept 11, Sun. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m.

Sept 9-11, Fri-Sun. Bavarian Mountain Wekend. LOE Riders. Sipapu, New Mexico.

Oct, 2005

Aug. 11, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m.

Oct 13, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 8:00 p.m. Premeeting social begins at 7:00 p.m.

Oct 14-16, Fri-Sun 34th Annual South Central BMW Owners Renunion; A Gathering of Fiends and Family, Fredericksburg, TX. Join us for superb fall riding weather in the TExas Hill Country. Home of great motorccling roads. Located at Lady Bird Johnson Park, 4 mi. south of Fredericksburg, TX on Hwy 16. Campoing Fri & Sat night, dinner on the town Fir., catered dinner Sat. Street and GS rides, bike show and vendors. Pre-registration \$20 efor 10/1, \$25 at the gate.

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Vacant position

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BMW Club of Houston, LTD

Treasurer's Report

By Charlie Storer, Treasurer

March, 2005

Balance on Feb. 29, 2005 **\$5,314.20**

Receipts	
Advertising	30.00
Membership Dues	70.00
50/50 Drawing	21.00
Total Receipts	\$121.00

Expenses	
Name Tags	(12.00)
Newsletters	(76.81)
Total Expenses	(\$88.81)

Balance on March 31, 2005 **\$5,346.39**

Spotlight on New Members

By Beverly Ruffin

She began riding in December 2003 after she tired of the view from the "rear window" of a Goldwing. And she did it right by taking the MSF basic rider's course. She started with a 750 Vulcan but before long, she slid onto a Honda 1300 VTX. Then after a few out of state rallies, she realized that touring was her passion. Not only that, but she needed something more powerful with longer fuel range.

So in little more than a year after she started riding, she stepped up to the BMW R1150RT. She has taken it to Louisiana, South Dakota, and Big Bend. By the time you read this, she will have returned from a trip to Georgia and a ride across the Blue Ridge Mountains. She is Linda

Spotlight (Continued.)

Waalén, a Denver, Colorado native who moved here in September 1997. She is single and has been a member of our club since February 2004. Linda is a critical care nurse for Memorial Hospital—a virtual nurse, really. She is the "second set of eyes" monitoring ICU patients at many hospitals around the city from a corporate office. She is responsible for what is termed an EICU (Electronic Intensive Care Unit). Houston was the fifth city in the country to have this type of monitoring; now there are 35.



Linda Waalen.

It is impressive when women take up this male-dominated sport. When that woman is single, well ... it is extraordinary.

Photo by Beverly Ruffin

Wild West BMW



22515 Katy Frwy., Katy,
TX 7450
(281) 392-8850

Big Bend GS Ride

Continued from page 1

his trailer was. When I saw a wooden, howling coyote ahead I knew that I was close. Just past the coyote was Roger's trailer and I was glad to see him there. After visiting for a few minutes and telling him of our plans, he invited us to camp on his land. I quickly accepted his generous offer and rode back to Terlingua to get Jim and David. When I got there, three GS's were in the parking lot. Mike Doyle had ridden up and luckily, found us without any trouble. We then rode our pack of four GS's back to Roger's.



Wooden, howling coyote

We decided that we would unload the bikes, set up the tents, and then go for a ride in Big Bend National Park. After getting our campsites sorted out, we rode to Maverick Junction, the closest park entrance. We paid our \$5/week entry fee and headed south on Old Maverick Road. The road is dirt, but well maintained, so riding was uneventful until a bobcat walked out in front of me. It stood there for a few seconds before it casually ran across the road and disappeared into the brush. Bobcat sightings are very rare, and I felt privileged to see one, especially during the day.

After a few miles of dusty road we reached Luna's Jacal. This rock and stick structure was the home of Gilberto Luna, a Mexican farmer and rancher, who lived in the area with his family until 1908.

Santa Elena Canyon moving Rio Grande the canyon wall. couple that is States for one

Why don't you ride Harleys?

home. The man saw our BMWs and said, "Why don't you ride Harleys? Probably because all Harleys are in Germany. You want BMW here, Germans want Harley." After wishing them a safe trip, we rode towards Cottonwood Campground.

The campground is in a grove of beautiful cottonwood trees, so we rode the loop through the (*continued on page 7*)

Just Ruffin-It

Continued from page 1

And for the first time since Les Rhodes (400,000 Mile Award) and Dan Greenlee (300,000 Mile Award) made the Owners News in 2002, we have members in the High Mileage Honor Roll. Ignacio Flores and Paul & Janice Yeager earned the 300,000 and 100,000 Mile Awards, respectively.

We also have a number of members who have earned the extreme badge, Bun Burner Gold (1,500 miles in 24 hours). But the most recent recipient of this honor is Charles Storer. And unless the IBA website is outdated, Charlie is the new record holder of the finisher on the oldest motorcycle: a 1971, R75/5.

So with all this riding, I wonder why we did not fare any better in the BMW MOA's mileage contest last year.

Texas ranked #8 in the MOA's Top States. But we did not even make the Top Ten clubs. You can count the number of Finishers from our club on the fingers of one hand. And embarrassingly enough, the 10th ranked club had only 24 finishers who averaged about 6,500 miles each. Hell, the top club only had 62 finishers who averaged less than 8,000 miles! We live in a state where we are blessed with year around riding. We boast a club membership of over 150. We have members who are burning Butts and breaking records. And we can't even get our club name in the national magazine? What a shame.

Continued on page 8

Iron Butt 48+ Ride to benefit Medical Bridges

By Edgar Tanner

Now is The Iron Butt Association as we know maintains the standards and records related to many Long Distance rides. The 48+ is the designation given to routes that travel though all the lower forty eight states and Alaska. In 1998 Ron Ayres, after setting a new record for the 48 state run which our own Morris Kruemcke now holds, continued to Hyder Alaska and thus established a route record of 7 days, 0 hours, 25 minutes. Since that time, certification by the Iron Butt Association for completion of this ride requires that a rider complete the 49 states in less than 10 days. A complete description of the ride and the rules to gain certification is located on website: <http://www.ironbutt.com/ridecerts/getdocument.cfm?DocID=14>.

About three months ago in the shadow of the Tsunami, I decided to attempt this ride and to run it as a benefit for Medical Bridges, a not-for-profit organization that solicits and redistributes medical supplies and equipment to clinics and relief efforts around the world. In 2004, they shipped 139 containers of supplies to sites in 46 countries. These supplies were valued at \$4,750,000. Details about Medical Bridges can be found at website: <http://www.medicalbridges.org>. I'm hoping many from our club will consider a small (or large!) donation to them. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Since confirming my attempt and setting the dates of May 17-26, 2005 to accomplish the ride, I've added some equipment to my 2003 K1200LT and tried to link together several 800 to 1000 miles days. I also did a Bun Burner Gold, 1500 miles in less than 24 hours, which included a bunch of rain. I really respect those who have accomplished this feat on motorcycles with less range or comfort. A distance of 8,675 miles is the planned distance for the route I've chosen from Idabel, Oklahoma through all of the lower 48 states, through western Canada, to my final designation of Hyder, Alaska. An interesting feature of this ride will be the

opportunity for those who pledge to Medical Bridges to follow my progress on a Star-Traxx satellite tracking system. It also provides emergency call-out capabilities. Let's hope they won't be necessary.

Although I can talk about this for hours, let me end here with the promise to bring some pictures and a brief report back from Hyder some time in June. All the well wishes and acts of support from our club are especially appreciated.

Thanks, Edgar Tanner

Editor's Corner

April newsletter finally gets to press. We almost had a copy to press late Sunday nite on April 17th before my computer crashed. A few irreverant blessings were directed to my usually stable machine after I realized that the file I was working on was totally corrupted. Your editor has been working out of town which includes weekends. So, it took awhile to get back to creating your April newsletter. I appologize to all for going to press so late. I do thank you for your patience.

Hill Country BMW Riders wrote in advising their club website is up: <http://www.hillcountrybmw.com/>

Thanks to Robert Stallones for his submission this month. May 2005 issue will feature Vince Scippa's ride to Alaska.

**Gulf Coast
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BMW Club of Houston, LTD

Meeting Minutes - April 14, 2005

By Guy Pickrel, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm by the club Secretary, Guy Pickrel, with Beverly Ruffin, club president, presiding. Beverly opened the meeting with a discussion regarding the BMW Motorcycle Owners Association (MOA) annual mileage contest. Prior to the meeting, entry forms were made available to the members. Beverly commented on the BMW Club of Houston's poor showing in previous year for this event. She offered to collect the forms and mail them for the members.

The secretary recognized the guests for the evening: Been Parks, Steve Sasser, Vince & Marion Hefley, Joe Krebs and Bruce & Julie Gustafson.

The treasurer reported the bank account balance as of Feb 29, commenting on transactions and concluded by saying the full treasurer's report would be published in the newsletter. No corrections were identified for the March meeting minutes. Beverly announced that the minutes will stand as published.

Paul Yeager was recognized for his article in Cycle World's quarterly adventure magazine. Morris Kruemcke was recognized for the write-up in Motorcycle Consumer News about his record 48 state ride. Charlie Storer completed a Bun Burner ride on his 1971 R/5, covering a distance of 1500 miles in 24 hours.

Edgar Tanner was given the floor and announced that he will be riding 8,600 miles through 49 states in less than 10 days in what is called the "Biking for Bridges" challenge. The cause is to help raise awareness and funds for the mission of Medical Bridges, Inc. Medical Bridges is a registered non-profit that distributes surplus medical supplies in parts of the world where medical care resources are scarce. More information is available at www.medicalbridges.org.

Robert Stallones announced that he has copies of Danny Liska's book, "Two Wheels to Adventure" available for sale at \$59.95. Danny's daughter, Johanna, gave a slide

show presentation of her father's travels at the March club meeting. Robert is helping her get the word out to the motorcycle community about the book.

Details are available on the BMW Club website regarding the Experienced Rider's Course on Saturday, April 16 and the monthly club ride Sunday, April 17, to Lake Charles led by Mike Murphy. The Texas National BMW Rally will be April 22-24 on Lake Belton near Temple, Texas.

Joe Krebs spent a few minutes talking about his experiences in Afghanistan. Joe told of poppy fields, corruption and lack of governmental control outside of major cities. Joe is also Service Manager for the soon-to-open BMW motorcycle shop in The Woodlands. Their open house is April 28, 29, and 30.

Kirk Oncken took home \$23.50 from the 50/50 raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Wild West
BMW



22515 Katy Frwy.
Katy, TX 7450
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BIG BEND GS RIDE (Continued from Page 7.)

Junction, left the park and ended up back at Roger's place.

Just up the road from Roger's is the sparsely populated near-ghost town of Terlingua. The porch at the Terlingua Trading post is a meeting place for locals as well as visitors. The trading post's refrigerator is well stocked with many brands of beer, so I bought a bottle of Pacifico and stood on the porch, watching the mountains fade into darkness as the sun set. Roger came by and said that it was \$2 margarita night at the Starlight Theater, which just happens to be at the other end of the porch, so we thought about it for ½ a second and headed to the theatre. The Starlight Theater was originally the Chisos Movie Theater. It was built in the 1930's, and provided entertainment for the residents of Terlingua when the mercury mines were operating. When the mines shut down in the 1940's, the theater was abandoned. In 1991 the building was restored, and opened as the Starlight Theatre. That night there was a great band playing, so we stayed there for hours, eating dinner, drinking margaritas, and enjoying the music. We eventually went back to our tents, crawled into our sleeping bags, and fell asleep with a sky full of stars above us and coyotes howling in the distance. *Continued on page 9.*

*\$2 margarita nite at
the Starlight Theater*



Mule Ears View Point: Photo by Robert Stallones

Ruffin-it

Continued from page 4

But there is still time to redeem ourselves. The 2005 BMW MOA mileage contest just started—April 9. Entries must be postmarked by May 15. If you're not a member of the MOA, you should be. Check out their website (<http://www.bmwmoa.org/>) for membership information. And if you are a member, for goodness sake, MAIL IN THAT MILEAGE!

Letter to the Club

Dear All,

It is with deep regret that we wanted to inform you of the death of Jim Watson. Jim was our friend that would bring his restored older bikes to our rally for everyone to see. His wife, Mattie, told me that he was in a solo accident on Thursday, April 14th and the police had no idea exactly what happened but that it appeared he had tried to miss someone as he was traveling on Texas Highway 290. He was in ICU and then expired. The services were held at his home on Sunday in Fredericksburg, Texas. His wife Mattie seemed to be doing well and I wanted her to know how much the BMW Club of Houston would miss his antique bikes. Ms. President Beverly- We might want to put this in our newsletter.

Regards Ron & Dorothy Goodall

BIG BEND GS RIDE: *(Continued from page 8.)*

After having coffee with Roger early the next morning, we rode to the town of Study Butte. There, we filled our bikes with gas and ate breakfast at the Roadrunner Deli. We then rode back into the park and took a paved park road about thirty miles to the Chisos Basin. The curving roads, mountains and trees make the last few miles of riding to the basin a lot



of fun. Since the elevation at the basin is 5,402 feet it is much cooler than the desert below that we were



Bikes at Luna's Jacal. Photo by Robert Stallones.

Luna's Jacal. Photo by Robert Stallones.

riding through just a short time earlier.

On our way to Rio Grande Village, forty miles away, a javalina ran across the road and reminded us to remain alert. Javalina, deer and rabbits can bolt from the scrub brush at any time. After a short break at Rio Grande Village, we started down the unpaved River Road East. The road was in good shape and the first few miles were easy riding. Ten miles later we headed north on Glenn Springs Road. This road was more difficult, but we all managed to make it through the creek beds, sand and rocks without much trouble. While going down one creek bed, I realized that there was a six inch vertical lip on the other side, but I was already headed down, and it was too late to get my 600 pound GS on another track. I cussed as my bike slammed into the lip, but managed to keep moving forward. However, my headlight guard moved forward even faster than I did. It flew off of my bike, landed in the road, and I promptly ran over it. It was mangled, so I put it in my topcase and kept going.

We came upon the ruins of what looked like an old cattle station, so we stopped for a while and ate sausage, cheese and crackers. After our lunch, we rode several more miles of dirt,

sand and rocks until we were back at the paved road. Once again, it was getting late so we took the road back to our camp.

It is difficult to have a bad time at the Starlight Theatre, so we headed back there for dinner. The food was excellent and the Mexican beer was cold, but the guys singing tested my listening endurance.

It's difficult to have a bad time at the Starlight Theater

Earlier, Roger mentioned that a group of local residents were putting on a play. I asked him if it was going to be indoors or outdoors. He said, "Well, a little of both." I didn't know what he meant, but once we got there I understood. Most of the building had a roof, and three sides of it looked fairly solid. The cold desert night made me shiver throughout the play, but the story of a dysfunctional family and love story was very entertaining.

When I unzipped my tent the next morning and looked out at the mountains being lit up by the morning sun, I was thinking about how much I enjoy the Big Bend area. You can see for many miles, watch beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and see incredible stars at night. It was then that I heard howling coming from just up the hill from me. I looked out of my tent and saw Roger, with a steaming cup of coffee in his hand, howling into the wide open desert.

BMW Club of Houston, Ltd.
P.O. Box 7542
Houston, Texas 77270

Website: bmwclub.org

Event Highlights

(See detailed calendar of events on page 2)

May 12 business meeting, Floyd Crow discusses plans for this year's "35th Annual" BMW Owners Reunion rally in October.

June 9 business meeting, Sue Haley from Haley Insurance Agency discusses motorcycle insurance. Haley Insurance Agency is one of the top writers of motorcycle insurance policies in the nation.

July 14 business meeting, Linda Waalen, a critical care nurse and new member will present on management of motorcycle accident scenes before EMS arrives.

Business Meeting - every 2nd Thursday of the Month - 8 p.m. - Hickory Hollow - 101 Heights Blvd.

Social Gathering - every Thurs. 7 p.m. - Hickory Hollow.

Breakfast with the Beemers every Sunday 8 a.m. - two locations: (1) Goode Company Taqueria 4902 Kirby Dr. and (2) Denny's - FM 1960 @ Hwy 290.