



Blues News



January 2009

Blue Knights Texas XXXI
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

Looking back on 2008!

By Sheri Contella

We accomplished many good deeds in 2008. We'd like to Thank all of our members for your contributions to the Blue Knights as well as the communities we serve and reside in.

We attended, hosted or escorted the following rides: Moose Ride Fun Run, Rendezvous Ride, Blessing Ride, Ruckus on the River, Hill Country RGC 2008, Back the Badge,

Cal-Tex Rides, Texas Honor Ride (Montgomery & San Antonio), Texas HOG Rally, Alvin Blue Santa, Toys for Tots, Lonestar Rally, and numerous Patriot Guard Rides. Donations were given to Harley's Angels, Riders for the Cure, Los Carnales, BACA, and many more...

We have laughed together and cried together. Our members traveled from the east coast to the west coast with

many stories to share. We suffered the loss of two members to Heaven One, gained 8 new members to the chapter and our newsletter won the Guy Clow Award at the International Conference. We all have stories to share from IKE and many things to be thankful for. Let's make 2009 a great year...remember to thank a veteran, pray for our troops and as always...RIDE WITH PRIDE!

5th Annual



Words from the President



By DJ Alvarez, President

Well another year has come to a close, and I would like to take time to reflect a bit on the past year. This year was particularly difficult dealing with the loss of 2 friends, who transferred to Heaven 1. Jeff Wyers and Ken Sims were active members, and dear friends. They will be missed dearly by all.

Another setback our club felt was the wrath of Hurricane Ike. Many members were affected by Ike and will be affected for some time. No one could image the effects the storm would have during and after the storm.

With a new year comes the reminder that it's time to renew your dues. Laura Sims is collecting the dues. We will renew most of our members, but will also lose a few. I urge you all to renew your membership.

The world wide camaraderie and networking gained by being a Blue Knight is worth the \$40 renewal. Members have benefited personally and professionally by their affiliation to the organization. Anywhere from a job lead to mechanical help on the road. This is a world wide organization so you never know.

We are planning our annual rides for the year. Roger Byars is working on the logistics. This is your club and anyone can organize a group ride or event. Rides don't have to be on a weekend so if anyone has somewhere they'd like to ride feel free to put one together for the club.

I would like to thank the Board, Road Captain, Quartermaster, Newsletter Editor and core group or regulars from our Chapter for the hard work they do continuously to make this club what it is.


Well I didn't win the election for

International VP but did well in the election. Thanks to Shawn and Sheri for all they did in my campaign. I will be running again next election! In closing I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Ride with Pride!

January 2009

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Remember to:

 Check the website for upcoming rides, photos and special events.



Cal-Tex Hosts Annual Rides

By Melody Toppins

Cal-Tex hosts rides throughout the year. If you aren't familiar, Cal-Tex is a group that was formed over 30 years ago when motorcycle officers from California and Texas met at a police conference. They decided to meet the following summer and have done so ever since. There are no dues, no rules other than you must be an active or retired police officer or the friend or family member of one. Join the mailing list by going to the website, download the registration form and mail it in.



I'd like to share two 2008 rides with you. The spring ride took us to Navasota, Texas. The club fed us for free on Friday night, bratwurst and hotdogs. Boy they were good. The "scenic" ride (aka Poker Run) on Saturday was so scenic there just aren't words to describe it. If you ever want to see some pretty country but don't want to drive very far, head on up to Navasota. It is excellent for a day ride.

Coldsprings is a quaint little town as are several others we passed through along the ride. The police chief and half the force of Navasota were there to say hi and wish us well. But the best part of the whole weekend is visiting in the parking lot in the evenings with everyone. Drinks and stories of all flavors abound.

The annual summer ride was to Colorado Springs. The weather was a bit rough the first day. We ran into some drizzling rain and the temps just kept dropping, but the rest of the trip was just like on the travel channel....beautiful, sunny and mild. A few spent the day riding up to Pikes Peak and the rest of us spent the day walking around Manitou Springs. Now if you ride an 1800 and go up Pikes Peak, expect to lose some coolant, well actually a lot of coolant. We have been up Pikes Peak on a 1500 with no problems at all, but every 1800 we saw lost coolant including our trike. Now the Harleys, they just kept on trucking by and pointing, how embarrassing. But by far the best part of the whole trip was the "scenic" ride.



We saw lots of this beautiful country. The dinner was great, over 250 strong and the camaraderie shared by all was warm and heartfelt. The stories and drinks abounded afterwards, like they always do, until the wee hours of



the morning. Unfortunately, I had to fly home the next day. The rest of my party left later that morning for Estes Park. They drove the back way in through Rocky Mountain National Park, where snow banks on the side of the road were still 12 feet tall. The scenery in Rocky Mountain National Park is by far some of the prettiest I have seen. It compares to Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Montana.

Be sure to check out the website www.caltextriders.com and view the upcoming summer ride too. It will be in Idaho. Now that is place I can't say we have been.

TX-31 Makes a Donation to



Los Carnales Fundraiser

Welcome to 2008 New Members

Tobie Bogue

LaPorte

Michael Massey

Pasadena

Fulton Cunningham TSU

Scott Schafer

Pasadena

Frank Fullbright

LaPorte

Jeffrey Tippit

LaPorte

Sylvester Jones

TSU

James Yoakum

Hitchcock



Proper Braking Procedures

By: Roger "Crash" Byars, Road Captain



Here are a few questions for you. When you have to come to a 'STOP', do you use your front brake, rear brake or both? How much "stopping power" is on the front brake...the rear brake? What would you do if you locked up the front brake...the rear brake?

Well, if you have completed the Motorcycle Safety Foundations (MSF) Rider course, then the answers are simple. If not, then you're probably just guessing, and that could be costly.

When "stopping" you need to practice using both brakes - front & rear. This will give you the best overall braking power...and it will prepare you for an emergency situation where you have to stop quickly. Some of you may have heard that old tale "don't use the front brake or you'll get thrown over the handlebars". Well, that's just not true!

Truth is..70-75% of your stopping power is on the front brake. Now, too much front brake will put you into a locked up skid.. This will pitch you off of your motorcycle.

So, what do you do in a front brake skid? Well, simply release the front brake and the wheel will re-align. Then re-apply the front brake.

What happens if we "lock up" the rear brake. This is a completely opposite technique! If your rear tire goes into a skid stay on the brake, let it "fishtail" and ride the skid out. If you release the rear brake under these conditions there is a VERY good chance you'll do what's called a "high-side". The rear wheel will regain forward traction and will do its best to catch up to the front tire causing a one-way "fishtail" that could violently

throw you off the side of the motorcycle.

I certainly hope that you never have to use any of these "recovery" techniques, but I just wanted you to know about them.

Remember to practice using BOTH brakes ALL THE TIME. Sooner or later the ride has got to come to a stop!

A special "Thank You" to all of our sponsors in 2008. We couldn't do what we do without your support!



4th Annual Blessing Ride January 31

Meet at Texas First Bank
(646 & Hwy 6 Santa Fe)

Safety Meeting 8:45 – KSU 9:00

Destination: Blessing Hotel

Lunch Buffet \$6.95

www.texasbob.com/eats/tbe_blessing.html

Bikes will be blessed by TX-31 Chaplain

(Note: The ride will be cancelled if rain forecast is greater than 50%)



Alvin Blue Santa – Blue Knights win most participation 2nd year in a row!

2009
Rendezvous
Ride

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Round Top, Texas
Town Square 10 am – 2 pm



Instead of packing into the café – this year we'll do it picnic style! Bring a blanket, order your food to go and meet us in the courtyard. We are working on blocking some streets & having a few biker games. 50/50 Drawing and lots of fun! Visit the website for a full page flyer with all the details.



Why do some otherwise intelligent people find it difficult to wear a helmet?

By Rick Singleton

As I was leaving church the other day Father Paul walked up to me, shook my hand and asked "Rick, do you wear your helmet when you ride your motorcycle"? Well, not wanting to lie to a priest I said "yes, Father, I sometimes wear it when I go off the island". He shook his head in disapproval. As I walked away I was reminded of a logo I once saw on a t-shirt, "**I don't ride because it is safe and if I have to explain it you wouldn't understand**".

I recently read an article by Graham Priest entitled "Zen and the Art of Harley Riding". He described what I sometimes feel cruising down country roads. "After a while you cease to think about much of anything. There is just the road, the elements and the ride. You start to feel one with the motorcycle in a way you can never feel in a car. In a car

or wearing a helmet you're hermetically sealed from the full experience." When I'm riding I can shift my weight just one inch to the side and the eight hundred pound machine, affectionately known as "Ruby," magically responds by gliding in that direction. I somehow feel one with it. Not only one with the bike but one with the elements and one with the road. I feel the cool air on my body when the road level drops. I can hear the mellow roar of the pipes as they begin to mix with the low hum of the road. If I take a second to look down I can see the road moving by at an incredible speed only a few inches away. That sort of thing gives me something to think about; something to remind me of the fact that I love life and love the thrill of riding a bit close to the edge.

So, if I love life so much why gamble by not wearing my helmet? Good question. I recently decided to start wearing my helmet again and it had nothing to do with self-preservation. If I were alone I would ride hard, enjoy the full experience and cast my fate to the wind. But I don't live alone. I live with someone who means more to me than my Harley. If I lost her.... Well, you know the rest. I will wear the helmet for her because she told me that if she lost me.... Well, you know the rest.



**Watch for the 2009
Calendar of Events
coming to the website
soon!**

**Please submit dues and any changes to your phone numbers, addresses or emails to
Mama Bear @lsims59@comcast.net**

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Submit to Blues News

Article submissions should be about three paragraphs in length (limited space) and in a Word document. Photographs should be sent in a JPEG format.

Submission suggestions:

Awards you've won, special events or rides you've experienced, Blue Knights events coming up, showcase on your bike, unique or funny stories involving motorcycles, personal news (i.e. promotions, retirement, etc.) Please submit birthdays & anniversaries as well.

All ideas are welcome.

We will begin incorporating sponsor information in the newsletter.

Submit articles and photos to **Sheri Contella** via email (listed at right). You may also provide a printed Word file in person. Submissions are subject to editing and will be used based on space availability.

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