



Blues News



March 2009

Blue Knights Texas XXXI
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Rendezvous Ride 2009

By Roger "Crash" Byars



The 2nd Annual Rendezvous Ride was another huge success. On Sunday, March 29 approximately 30 Texas 31 members headed to Round Top Texas where they were welcomed by a "Welcome Blue Knights" sign at the city limits. The Round Top Chamber of

Commerce welcomed us with open arms. A special thanks to our hostess Laurie and the entire staff at Klumps Café for making us feel so welcome. After the dust settled and we reached our rendezvous point we totaled 106 motor-cycles and approximately 135

people all of which were fellow Blue Knights. Our presence tripled the population of Round Top whose population is only "77". Three chapters donated door prizes and I walked away as the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

New Member Spotlight Chris Hines

Officer Chris Hines joined the Blue Knights in January. He is currently with Hitchcock Police department and has been an officer since 1985. Chris and his wife Jan have four children. His youngest son served with the Marine Corp 2nd LAR with two tours in Iraq where he received an Achievement Award with Combat V and a

Purple Heart. His first bike was a Sears 125cc at age 15. He enjoys hunting, shooting, metal work, cold weather camping and of course motorcycle riding. Chris has now graduated to a 97 Harley Super Glide and an 05 Ultra Classic. The bike of his dreams is a custom chopper with lots of chrome and ear bustin pipes.



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Sweet T's Adventure

By Teresa Garrett
"Sweet T"

The ride had been planned for months and the Blue Knights were ready to accept the challenge of winning the Alvin Blue Santa 2008 trophy for most registered bikes for the second year in a row. This was going to be my first ride since Hurricane Ike hit Galveston in September. My bike had been stored in a garage during the storm. We were to meet at Kelly's in LaMarque and ride to Alvin for the Toy Run. My first mistake was not checking my fuel tank before leaving the house but I remember

filling up before the storm and my odometer showed the trip to be 000, so I must have gas. Hey, I'm naturally blonde and had slept since then, so give me a break. Off I ride to Kelly's. Rounding the corner at the traffic light I hear a ping sound, bike is running good and so I ride on to 145. Riding up 145 north I find myself behind a trash truck. A large trash truck with lots of hurricane debris and not well covered. The motorcycle safety manual say's nothing about "don't ride behind a trash truck", but believe me when I say "it should". (Continued on page 2)

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



Message from the President

By DJ Alvarez, President TX-31
RGC International Rep

We have several rides planned this year some locally and some road trips. The RGC will be in Tyler, Texas on May 21-24. Last year we had quite a showing, and everyone had a great time, so mark your calendars and make your room reservations soon.

The 35th Annual Blue Knights International Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 19-24.

I will be attending and it would be nice to have a group go. Looking at the map, I am thinking about hitting the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Tail of the Dragon before heading to Louisville.

The riding and scenery will be awesome! I have asked the club to cover the conference registration for any member who plans to attend the convention. I may try to drag the sack for donations to cover the fuel cost as well. If you think you may want to ride

please get with me so plans can be made ahead of time.

Well that's all I have for now. I would like to thank each and every member of Texas 31 for making our chapter successful. For the active members that make things happen, thank you. For the members who aren't active, remember, this is your chapter, and you can make a difference by becoming involved.



Gadgets and Preparing for That Long Ride

By: Roger "Crash" Byars, Road Captain

We are very fortunate here in Texas, we can ride almost all year round, but the "real riding season" is upon us. You know, that time of the year when we take our long distance vacation rides. We all know the saying; "It's not the destination, it's the journey".

Well, I believe that, but the journey does have a destination. I'll be the first to admit that I've never been a fan of "gadgets", but they can make life a little less stressful.

Take the "GPS" (and yes I broke down and bought one). It can make your journey to that hotel, that restaurant or that special dealership in an unfamiliar city a little more relaxing. It even helps you find that gas station

since you've been running on "reserve" for the past 20 miles). God knows, we're NOT going to stop and ask for directions. After all, we're COPS, we know everything! The market is full of a variety, from a couple hundred dollars to several hundred. So, shop around before you buy.

Now I'd like to take just a moment to remind everyone its time to do a pre-ride inspection. Of course check your your motorcycle but this time I'm talking about things like your first aid kit, flat fix, tire gauge, tire pump, tools, tape, zip-ties, bungee cords, helmets, gloves, glasses and all those other little things that make us say: "Damn, forgot my ?????!"

So check 'em out. You'll need them sooner or later. RIDE WITH PRIDE, but do it safely and prepared.



Police Escorts Needed

We are continuously being asked if the Blue Knights will assist with a benefit/charity "police escort". If you would be willing to give some time as "police escorts" please contact "Crash". You must be uniformed and have a police equipped motorcycle.

Sweet T's Adventure continued from Page 1

The motorcycle safety manual say's nothing about "don't ride behind a trash truck", but believe me when I say "it should". I was just about to go around the truck and the smell when a large piece of aluminum blew off the top of the truck. The wind starting blowing it high up in the air, swaying left, then right, then back again. It almost looked like it was floating in the sky. Trust me when I say, it only looked like it was floating. That big piece of metal started coming straight for me, I quickly moved around the trash truck and continued on my journey. As I parked at Kelly's I noticed the side cover on my bike was missing. That must have been the "ping" sound I heard earlier. I thought, no big deal, can't cost much for a

small plastic cover, right? More about that later. After eating breakfast and giving my new found knowledge of "don't ride behind a trash truck on a motorcycle" speech it was back to the parking lot to gear up and head to Alvin. Now my bike won't start, it sounds like a dead battery. I wait a couple of seconds and try again. She starts up reluctantly and off we go to Alvin. Ten miles into the ride and my right side mirror comes loose and starts to spin on the bike, I attempt to spin it back on tight but have to take my right hand off the throttle to do so. This is not as easy as it looks. I get the mirror back on tight; can't use it as it is now facing backwards. We make it to Alvin and wait for the ride to start. Meanwhile, the mirror gets fixed by a

fellow Blue Knight. The ride starts and all is going well until the last 30 miles of the ride when I run out of gas. I hit the reserve and know that I have 30 miles give or take a few... I finished the ride with fumes left in the tank. I know now that I can go at least 32 miles on my reserve tank. We won the trophy again and lots of boys and girls were going to get a new bicycle for Christmas. Oh by the way, that cheap piece of plastic side cover that fell off the bike, Honda dealership wanted \$150.00 for the one piece. I ordered two after markets for \$100.00 and marked it up to experience. It was a great ride with no injuries, so I guess I really do have "luck of the Irish".



Counting Our Blessings...



4th Annual Blessing of the Bikes Ride



A total of 65 riders participated in the annual event. Thanks to Chappy for performing the ceremony and congratulations to Regeana "Hook" Cagle who won \$105 on the 50/50 drawing.

God's Protection

By Mike "Chappy" Waldrop

Vacation was over so Cindy and I folded up camp and headed home. We'd spent a great two weeks catching up with old friends and riding the Hill Country. We hooked up the fifth wheel with the bike trailer behind it loaded with motorcycles and bicycles and hit the road.

Everything was fine until we hit Beltway 8. As we approached Westheimer, a vehicle passed us waving frantically and pointing behind us. No big deal, one of the tie downs probably came loose (or so we thought). I pulled over onto a very narrow shoulder, walked around the front of the truck and down the passenger side to the back of the fifth wheel. And there I stood, staring. Cindy following behind me asked, "What's

wrong?" "The trailer's gone!" I answered as I looked up Beltway 8 to see if it was littered with motorcycle debris, a wrecked trailer, or other evidence of a major disaster. When I got to the back of the fifth wheel it's bumper was gone along with the hitch, the motorcycle trailer, both bikes and our bicycles. Not only were they gone, there was no evidence of where they might be.

I went running up the beltway looking for the wreck. As I topped a rise I couldn't believe my eyes...there was my



trailer with everything on it sitting quietly on the shoulder still hitched to the bumper. There was small damage to one of the motorcycles. We hooked up the trailer and got everything home safely. The bumper had broken the welds and dropped off the fifth wheel and the whole rig slid across the three lanes of traffic at 65 mph coming to a rest against the guard rail nearest the feeder road. What a miracle! So many things could have caused a major tragedy and yet God, in His grace, protected us and all those around us.

Even though it sometimes seems that things have broken loose and are going astray (like my trailer), God directs our paths and never loses control. What a blessing to recognize His protection.

TX-31 Sign Survives IKE

By Rick "Gator" Kershaw

It took me awhile to submit this article because I wanted to include a photo of the item that I'm about to tell you about. Unfortunately, I could not locate one so here's the jest of it anyway.

On September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike strolled through Galveston and left quite a mess behind. I was on duty and assigned to supervise the west-end of the Island. As I attempted to drive down the only two roads to the west, I found debris everywhere. I couldn't get past Jamaica Beach until a day and a half after the hurricane. Not even to check on my home.

Most of the supplies, tables, banners, and ice-chests we use at BK31 functions were stored in my garage. When I finally got to my home, I discovered the entire garage level was gone. I mean walls, garage doors and everything else, including BK31 items.

Three days later, I was driving down FM 3005 when I saw a familiar object in the ditch. It was our BK31 sign that our Heaven-One member "Slims" had built for the club. This sign is about four foot by five foot and is made of aluminum and is pretty heavy. It was leaning against a telephone pole in a ditch with three foot of water. I checked on it every day waiting for the water to

Recede enough for me to put on my rubber boots and retrieve it. Yes, for those who know me, the water was now only a foot deep. As I drove back to my house with the sign sticking out the trunk of my patrol unit I set the odometer. The sign had traveled over a mile. It was pretty fortunate we found it because the claw trucks were grabbing everything in site.

I like to think of the sign as sort-of an object of survival. One thing is for sure, at least for some of us, the sign was cared for by members of "Heaven One". Heck, they may have had a hand in leaning it against the pole for us to find.



Healthy Living

By Sheri Contella

As you all know Terry and I both work at MD Anderson. I started a new job in the Public Education Office about 4 months ago. The mission of my department is to educate the public on cancer prevention. I'm learning wonderful things and want to share them with you. I am adding this section to give you the latest and greatest information on living a healthy life and tips on preventing cancer. Unfortunately, cancer can sneak up on any of us at any time.

This month is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Nutrition Month. Did you know that eating a combination of the right fruits and vegetables can add nutrients to your diet that may reduce your risk for colorectal cancer?

Would you like the facts on Colonoscopy vs Virtual Colonoscopy. If you're age 50 or older, you may already know you need to be screened for colorectal cancer, but what exam should you get? Unlike other more common cancers, colorectal cancer has several screening exams to choose from. Learn about the advantages and disadvantages of the most widely used exam, colonoscopy, and virtual colonoscopy which is the newest available option by visiting the MD Anderson "Focus on Health" website at <http://www.mdanderson.org/focused>.

I encourage each of you to subscribe to this website for a monthly update of what is new in cancer prevention.

Be sure to get your rainbow each and every day.



Harley's Angels Benefit

The turnout was great in spite of the 40 degree weather. The official bike count was 189. Texas 31 had five members present and were the only Blue Knights chapter represented. We made a total donation of \$175.

Now here's the really neat thing, they ran out of "arm bands"....so they had to make do with what they had...and what they had was "arm bands" left over from the Jeff Wyers benefit. So, "in spirit" lets add another Texas 31 member to this ride!

New Member Spotlight Chris Hines Continued from Page 1

Chris' most memorable motorcycle trip was to New Orleans Mardi Gras in 1972 on his Kawasaki 750 H2. This turned out be a 12 hour ride due to all of

the little "joints" they stopped at along the way.

Chris joined the Blue Knights for more road trips, brotherhood and riding

buddies and to be part of an organization that does a lot of good things for others. Please join me in welcoming Chris and Jan to Texas 31.

**Please submit and any changes to your phone numbers, addresses or emails to
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Submit to Blues News

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.), birthdays, anniversaries and we always need more pictures. All ideas are welcome.

Submissions are subject to editing and will be used based on space availability.

Remember to Thank Our Sponsors

If you have sponsors that are donating to the Blue Knights please let me know and we can run advertisements for them in the newsletter. Just another added benefit for donating to us.

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Blue Knights Texas XXXI



2009 Ride Schedule

MARCH

18	Wed	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Monthly Meeting
21	Sat	Back the Badge Ride		Community Event
22	Sun	Flores Benefit Ride		Community Event

APRIL

4	Sat	Dogwood Festival Ride	Woodville	Chapter Event
4	Sat	Cody's Field of Dreams Fun Run	Dickinson VFW	Community Event
18	Sat	Chapter Meeting w/Day Ride	LaPorte, Battleship TX	Monthly Meeting
26	Sun	Cody's Field of Dreams Camp	Deer Park	Community Event

MAY

02-03	Sat/Sun	Ride for the Fallen	Austin	Community Event
2	Sat	5 th Annual Ride for the Rose	Houston	Community Event
14	Th	Chapter Meeting	Galveston	Monthly Meeting
21-24	Th/Sun	RGC Convention*	Tyler	All Chapter Event

JUNE

11-14	Th/Sun	ROT Rally	Austin	Community Event
15	Mon	Chapter Meeting	League City	Monthly Meeting
24	Wed	Day Ride	TBD	Chapter Ride

JULY

04	Sat	Independence Day Picnic Ride		Chapter Ride
14	Tues	Chapter Meeting	Honorary Members	Monthly Meeting
19-24		International Convention	Louisville, KY	All Chapter Event

AUGUST

3-9	Mon/Sun	Rally In The Black Hills	Sturgis	Community Event
19	Wed	Chapter Meeting	Pasadena	Monthly Meeting
28	Fri	Day Ride		Chapter Ride

SEPTEMBER

TBA	Sat	Texas Honor Ride Fundraiser	Magnolia	BK Event
17	Thurs	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Monthly Meeting
19-20	Sat-Sun	Alvin Blue Santa Event	Alvin	Community Event

OCTOBER

TBA		Tail of the Dragon	Tennessee	Chapter Ride
17	Sat	Chapter Meeting / Day Ride	TBD	Monthly Meeting

NOVEMBER

5-8	Th/Sun	Lone Star Rally	Galveston	Community Event
TBA	Sat/Sun	Texas Honor Ride	San Antonio	BK Event
16	Mon	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Monthly Meeting
29	Sun	TX31 Toy Run		Chapter Event

DECEMBER

19	Sat	Chapter Meeting/Christmas Party	TBD	Chapter Event
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Visit the website for more details on all of these events.

If you would like to add rides to the schedule please email Sheri @ terry-sher1@comcast.net
and Shawn Lootens at joker@blueknightstx31.org