



Northshore HOG News

UPCOMING EVENTS

(CLOSED UNLESS
OTHERWISE
NOTED)

- **May 5 Chapter Meeting and Ride, 9:00 am**
- **May 19, Progressive Dinner Ride**
- **May 25 Bike Night, NSHD, 6pm-9pm.**
- **June 2, Chapter Meeting and Ride, 9:00 am**
- **June 9, 'Calling All Hogs' overnite ride to Meridian, MS, Departs 9:00 am, NSHD.**
- **June 29, Bike Night, NSHD, 6pm-9pm.**
- **See the web site for a complete listing of events**

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ISSUE 38

MAY — JUNE, 2007

ESCAPE FROM MARDI GRAS

By Dan ('Danno') Wehr

For the past couple of years, Carl Hill has organized an annual, week-long ride to get away from the craziness of Mardi Gras. According to tradition, the destination is determined by the whim of the riders and the weather. This year, the ride started at the "LA Pines" Cafe', in Slidell. At 7:30 am, on Sunday, February 18, Carl, Dan Schewe, and I met at the eatery to determine the direction of this year's ride. After a hearty breakfast and a review of projected weather maps provided by Carl, we decided to head west -- our goal being the Texas Hill Country. We departed north on route 11 facing a strong head wind which chilled the 31-degree temperature to a depth that made one's teeth hurt! At this point, I should mention that Carl and Dan used conventional, layered clothing for protection against the elements, while I had an electric jacket liner and gloves. Throughout the trip, I dialed in my comfort level, while they complained it was "not right" to do so.



31 DEGREES AT LA PINES CAFE

Determined to avoid the interstate, we rode a meandering course for the next seven hours through some of the most beautiful parts of the southern half of our state, arriving in Natchitoches, LA, for our first over-night. Carl, who brought his lap-top with him, consulted the cyber-weather sources and proclaimed we were going in the right direction.



Monday morning, we were off again, crossing the Texas border, gassing up in Nacogdoches, TX, and pushing our way through the flat lands of our huge sister state. When we reached Temple, TX, we decided to visit the "Horney Toad" Harley-Davidson dealership to pick up some extra tee-shirts and advice for exploring West Texas. Unfortunately, the staff could not provide any guidance, but was most willing to take our money for the extra clothes. Two hours outside of Temple, we settled in for the evening in Lampasas, at the Country Inn Motel.

At the Country Inn, after dinner and some libations, Carl used his lap-top to find a destination for our trip -- the D'Rose Inn and Cabins, in Leakey (pronounced 'Lakey'), TX. We made

reservations for two nights and turned in, after more parking lot toasts and war stories.

The next morning, based on a tip from the proprietor of the Country Inn, we traveled south on US 281 to Marble Falls, for breakfast at the Blue Bonnet Café. Contrary to the previous 2 days, which were occasioned by cold temperatures and cloudless skies, it was overcast and windy, with moderate temperatures. Sixty miles later, we arrived at the Blue Bonnet. This restaurant is noted for its home-made pies, hearty breakfasts, and otherwise good home cooking. For seven bucks, I had a slab of country ham that covered half my plate, hash browns, two eggs, toast, coffee, and juice. Marble Falls appears to be a destination for the moneyed few who can afford a home along the Colorado River, some of which exceeded 10,000 square feet along the bluffs overlooking the wide girth of that waterway. It was here that the topography changed from rolling plains to mountainous roads with gentle upgrades and moderate switch-backs.

From Marble Falls, we continued our ride to Fredericksburg, TX, a town sporting many restaurants, gift shops, and antique emporiums. The threatening sky softened to clear blue and warmth. We spent an hour walking the streets and agreed it would be a great place to let our wives sojourn for shopping. This place had the atmosphere of a bustling mountain tourist destination with the charm of a small desert southwest community.

We departed Fredericksburg and headed south. After an hour or so, we arrived in the fabled town

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From the Editor

Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

MIKE BRUNO'S 'LOYALTY RIDER PROGRAM' TO START SOON

For those of you who have not attended the last couple of Chapter meetings, Mike Bruno announced the establishment of his 'Loyalty Rider Program,' whereby those who participate accumulate points for every dollar spent at the dealership, and for participating in Dealer/Chapter sponsored events. Membership in the program is free to **new bike owners** and **active HOG members**, or may be purchased for \$19.95. Active HOG members will be given a Loyalty Rider Program membership card (similar to a credit card) which will be used to track each member's purchases and accumulated points. Members may redeem their points for purchases of products and/or services at the dealership. This new program will become effective when the new cards are received from Mike's vendor. For an outline of the criteria for earning and redeeming points, see the outline on page 4 of this newsletter.

This program has been in place at Mike's Houma dealership for some time and has received high marks by those who take advantage of it.

CHAPTER BY-LAWS APPROVED

By the unanimous vote of the members attending the April 7, 2007, Chapter membership meeting, The proposed by-laws (published in the last newsletter) for the Northshore Chapter of the Harley Owners Group were approved. We now have formalized procedures for, among other matters, the annual nomination and election of officers. Thanks to all of you who made this important step possible.

If you are not a current member of the Northshore HOG Chapter, or you forgot to renew your membership in January, simply fill out the enrollment form available on the website or at Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley-Davidson. Get a \$5.00 discount on your full membership if anyone (other than a member of your household) joins on the basis of your referral.

From the Director's Saddle

Hello Everyone,

Well, the Louisiana rally is over and those of you that attended probably have mixed emotions about the event. The Thursday ride down to Houma with friends was of course a pleasant ride, weather nice and the streets not as crowded as on a weekend. Once at the rally I found the registration to be well organized and it was only a matter of a few minutes to get the wrist band and accompanying papers, t-shirt, etc. The rides down the bayou the next days were equally fun and interesting. For me, that grew up in Houma, it was the first time in years

Have an idea or opinion? Let us know.
Contact the editor at
danielwehr@charter.net



3154 Pontchartrain Dr.
 Slidell, Louisiana
 (985) 643-6133

Bike Nite
Every Wednesday Night



Restaurant Hours

Monday - Saturday: 11 AM to 10 PM
 Fridays: 11 AM to 11 PM
 Sundays: Noon to 8 PM

(decades) that I had seen the towns of Theriot, Chauvin, Dulac and the rest. The growth was what was to be expected, but sad when one thinks about childhood memories and the "good times". The bike games on Saturday were equally interestingas a spectator. The down side of the event, in my opinion, was the food vendors. The advertisements all boasted of Cajun or southern food. I went to several vendors and was disappointed every time. The gumbo served by one vendor was nothing more than a clear broth over rice. There were additional issues with the vendors from both a HOG standpoint and convention center officials. I can go into detail with anyone interested. My hat does go off to the rally committee. Having to plan this event only to have it delayed by a year shows the dedication they had to continue to give time and energy to make this rally all that it was.

Next years' Louisiana HOG rally will be in Baton Rouge May 27th – June 1st 2008. The chapter presented their bid and it appears they have the full support of the community, including the mayor, the sheriff, the chief of police and the Baton Rouge RiverCenter staff. The chapter will get the RiverCenter at no charge. The bid was accepted by HOG. There were no other presentations. The only discussion was that Louisiana usually takes pride in being the first state rally of the year; but after a brief debate, was decided that the above dates were acceptable. For many, next years' event should be great for our membership. The distance can be covered in little over an hour allowing many to attend and return home for business or other commitments.

Rolling Thunder is around the corner. Some of us have already committed to this, so if anyone else is considering this event, please let me know.

Good Luck Terry and your Ride the Rim. We all wish you a safe journey and expect a full debriefing upon your return.

Ray Gregg

LOYALTY RIDER PROGRAM

OUTLINE

(SEE RELATED ARTICLE, PAGE 2)

Members earn points as follows:

- Membership is free to New Bike Owners and Active HOG Members, or may be purchased for a one-time fee of \$19.95.
- Points are awarded for every \$ spent at the dealership as well as for volunteer work during some HOG functions.
- Members who volunteer to work at Sponsored HOG events earn 250 pts. Per event—minimum of two to receive credit.
- Members volunteering to work at Saturday Ride/Cookout earn 100 pts. Per event—minimum of two to receive credit.
- A member who volunteers to DJ on Bike Night (3rd Friday of each month) earns 500 pts. Per event—minimum of two to receive credit.
- Chapter members who attend half of the monthly meetings during earn 500 pts.

Redemption Criteria:

1,250 Pts.— \$50

2,500 Pts.— \$100

3,750 Pts.— \$150

5,250 Pts.— \$275

6,750 Pts.— \$350

Points have no expiration date.

Update Your Profile

Many of us have had a change in address, telephone number or email. Please email those changes to the Treasurer. Don't forget to do the same thing when renewing your 2007 membership.

Diet Website

For those of you who have a slow connection to the internet (any dial-up connection), you may be in need of a No-Frills version of website "**NORTHSHOREHOG.COM**". You may need a Sportster rather than an Ultra. At last we can offer you exactly what you have been waiting for. We are introducing our new Diet Website with no bells and whistles. Go to "**NORTHSHOREHOG.COM**" and select "**LOW SPEED.**" This new site has all the same info as the regular website but without all the flashy features. Of course, our regular website will be there as well. High Speed users should select "**HIGH SPEED.**"

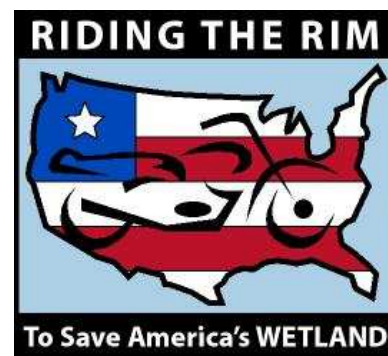
Be sure to occasionally visit the Chapter Website. There are many new events being planned and proposed for the new year. Be sure to check the Calendar and Events to keep abreast of what is happening and to help plan your schedule.

Dwight Bradbury

Membership Renewal

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership before it is too late. Renewal forms can be obtained next to the Northshore HOG dropbox at the dealership or on the website under the "Downloads" link on the left side of the home page.

 <p>AZALEA ESTATES</p>	<p>Linda Timberlake Executive Director</p>
<p>Assisted Living and Retirement Community</p>	<p>354 Robert Blvd. Slidell, LA 70458 985/641-2827 (ph) 985/645-0659 (fx) aeslidel@bellsouth.net www.azaleaestates.com</p>



Get Involved and Support Wetlands and Coastal Restoration.
www. ridingtherim.com
985-624-9640

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of Luckenbach, TX – population 3. Parking the bikes, we entered the general store, post office, and saloon (one of maybe five buildings in the community). We walked through the store and post office to the bar, where we were greeted by the bartender and three locals. For some unknown



reason, a white-bearded guy sitting on a bar stool asked if we were law enforcement. Dan informed him that he was with the Slidell Police Department, and I said I was retired FBI. He told us he had us pegged the moment we arrived! It turns out he was a Deputy Sheriff for the county. After a drink and some photo opportunities, we departed for our destination for the night.

The last part of our ride included one of the ‘Three Sisters.’ The Three Sisters are serpentine routes -- Texas 335, 336, and 337. That evening we took 336 into Leakey. It’s a two-lane highway that traverses several mountain ranges and valleys. We were taking this route at, what I thought, was an aggressive 45 MPH. The last leg of the trip was a 30-degree down-slope ending with a 10-mile-per-hour switch-back to the left. About 50 yards before hitting the switch-back, we were passed by a Japanese sport bike traveling twice our speed. He almost wiped out at the switch back, with his rear wheel elevated several inches above the pavement at the turn. He made it to the valley and pulled off to the side of the road. When we passed him, he was kissing the ground and gave us the high sign as we passed.

We arrived in Leakey, TX, at about 3:30 pm and checked in at the D’Rose Motorcycle Resort. It is run by one woman, Deb Rose, who manages, maintains, and operates this mecca for two-wheeled enthusiasts. There were 3 suites with queen or king-sized beds, ten cabins, each with a bath that slept three, a pool, and a covered pavilion. We decided to take the three suites. Deb suggested that we have dinner at Vinney’s Italian Restaurant.

We followed her advice and had a great meal. During the final course, the owner, Sal Vetrano, visited our table and asked if we liked our meal. We responded in the affirmative. He sat down with us and we exchanged information about our past and our plans. It turns out that Sal was associated with the organized crime elements of New York and Arizona. He was close friends with an FBI Agent in Phoenix, AZ, whose name he could not remember, and with whom I had been associated during my early years in the FBI. After getting the description of the Agent, I suggested the name of ‘Vern Tuckey’, and he immediately lit up. It turns out that Sal and Vern were friends in Phoenix. After much discussion, we found out that Sal’s Mother, a native of the Bronx, NY, was the mid-wife for, and assisted in the birth of Joe Bonanno -- the Godfather. It is truly a small world!

On our second day in the Hill Country, we decided to ride the remainder of the ‘Three Sisters’ and did so. We hit Routes 335 and 337, as well as other two lanes taking us through Uvalde, TX, where we visited the only Liquor Store/Gun Shop I’ve ever seen! Yes, it was a liquor store through which you entered a gun shop – a truly remarkable and potentially deadly combination.

The weather was great -- blue skies, moderate temperatures, and no rain. After logging about 200 miles, we decided we had not had enough, and were determined to stay another night. That evening, we went to the only grocer in the area and purchased four, 16-ounce-plus steaks, potatoes, onions, and all the other fixings for a hearty meal. Thereafter, Dan, Carl, Deb and I thoroughly enjoyed an outstanding meal prepared by Dan Schewe over an open grill (marinated steaks, baked potatoes, etc.). We also reserved a third night at the Inn.

Our final day and night in southwest Texas were truly eventful. Departing Leakey the following morning, we headed south for several miles, then east, meandering to the Guadalupe River, and followed it’s eastern bank through Kerrville, Ingram, and Hunt, TX. The Guadalupe is flanked by high cliffs on its west bank, and rolling hills on its east side. After hitting Ingram, we averaged 40 MPH taking in the spectacular sights of the river to our left and beautiful homesteads to our right. Leaving Hunt, we continued on Route 39 to US 83, for our return to the D’Rose Inn – altogether, a ride of about 180 miles.



LAST NIGHT IN LEAKEY—VIEW OF THE SUITES

After packing our bikes and bidding our good-bys to Deb, we set out for our return to Slidell. Donning rain suits, we headed south on Route 83, determined to ride 500 miles that day. At Uvalde, we connected with US 90 and headed east. Continuing through Castroville, we took the interstate, by-passing San Antonio, navigating through Houston, and arriving at the Sulphur, LA, Holiday Inn Express, by nightfall – about 500 miles later.



VIEW FROM TX ROUTE 336

Upon arrival at the Inn, we were greeted by the awesome tunes of Bobby Austin and his group, rehearsing for an upcoming concert on the D’Rose pavilion. During the day’s ride, we ordered two, 20-inch pizzas from Vinney’s Restaurant. Deb picked them up and provided a bottle of wine to top off the meal. The rest of the night was spent listening to great music, eating terrific pizza, dancing, and drinking wine. It should be noted that Deb did not know how to dance. Since we had the pavilion to ourselves, and since yours truly was an experienced 2-stepper, I convinced her to “cut a rug” with me. Bobby’s music, friendly conversation, and riding stories punctuated the remainder of the evening. Before turning in, Carl consulted the weather gods and pronounced that we would be in for some rain on our return trip.

The following morning, before dawn, we awoke to a light rain and heavy overcast.

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The next morning, after a complimentary breakfast, we departed Sulphur, heading east on I-10, still wearing our rain suits. About 250 miles later, we were home.

The trip ended abruptly for me, I was ready to ride another week or two. When I checked my odometer, I had logged 2,010 miles during the trek. More importantly, my fellow riders and I accumulated memories that will last a lifetime.

Rumor has it that Carl is planning another trip to the D’Rose Inn next Spring. I will try to accompany him. If the readers of this are so inclined, I suggest you do whatever is necessary to make this trip. You will be rewarded by great riding, good company, outstanding scenery, and bragging rights for experiencing the challenges and awesome topography of the Texas Hill Country.



**BOBBY AUSTIN JAMMIN’ WHILE DEB AND DANNO
ARE DANCIN’**



**OUR LAST NIGHT, ON THE PAVILLION. FROM LEFT,
CARL, DAN, MYSELF, AND DEB**

Mike Bruno’s Northshore HOG
791 West I-10 Service Rd.
Slidell, LA 70458