



Northshore HOG News

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 15 & 16, Bayou Thunder, NSHD.
- Mar. 19-22, LA HOG Rally, Shreveport.
- Mar. 28, Ride to Cabellas, NSHD @ 9:30 am.
- April 4, Chapter Meeting & Ride, NSHD @ 9:30 am.
- April 24, Ride to Covington Block Party,, NSHD @ 9:30 am.
- May 2, Chapter Meeting & Ride, NSHD @ 9:30 am.

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ISSUE 57

APRIL, 2009

ESCAPING MARDI GRAS MADNESS

By Dan Wehr

Photos by Dan Schewe, Greg Peterman, and Carl Hill

At 4:00 am on Saturday, February 21, my alarm clock sounded its 'beep, beep, beep,' rousing me from a short night's sleep. I had packed my bags the previous evening, so all I had to do was shower, shave, and suit up for this year's Mardi Gras ride. Carl Hill organized this trek and previously informed its participants that we would meet at the TA Truck Stop in Slidell at 5:30 am, to begin our escape from the madness of Mardi Gras.

It was damn cold that morning — 28 degrees! I donned my chaps, Gerbing jacket liner, electric gloves, scarf, and jacket, and rolled the scooter out of the garage. By the time I put my goggles and helmet on, I was perspiring. Plugging in my electric clothing, I brought my big two-wheeler to life and started on the first leg of our trip — destination, the TA truck stop, only two and one-half miles away. Due to the difference in temperature between my electrically warmed body and the surface of my goggles, they immediately fogged up diminishing my visibility to about 20 yards! Using my imagination and poking my head over the windshield to vent my goggles, I was able to meet up with the rest of our crew, Carl Hill, Dan Schewe, and Greg Peterman, for a cholesterol-filled, but very satisfying breakfast (aka, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, and more) at the truck stop.

With our bellies full, we departed Slidell at 6:45 am and traveled west on I-12/I-10 into Texas. The temperature gradually warmed, but the sky was punctuated with ominously dark clouds covering the horizon to the west and north.

Crossing the Texas border, we traveled northwest on Route 105 at Beaumont and motored our way toward Cleveland. A few miles southeast of this small town, we encountered a fast-moving line of thundershowers that thoroughly drenched us before we were able to put on our rain gear. Soaked, cold, and dirty, we rolled on into the City of Conroe.

It took over an hour to get through this town. Ironically, our progress was impeded by nothing other than a Mardi Gras Parade, for which the local authorities closed all access to Route 105 for about one mile!



DEPARTING TA TRUCK STOP FEB. 21

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(VACANT)

From the Editor

Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

March and April are going to be an eventful months. On the 15th and 16th of March, Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley-Davidson will be hosting the Bayou Thunder event, with live entertainment and activities for riders and their family members of all ages. It all starts at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 15, at the dealership. The North Shore Chapter of HOG has committed members to make this event a success. All that is needed is your participation.

March 19 marks the first day of the Louisiana State HOG Rally. It is being hosted in Shreveport this year. The host hotel is the Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, telephone number (318) 698-0900. I believe rooms are still available. Our Chapter has a group ride planned. The staging point is the Chevron Station on LA 434 (the Lacombe exit from I-12). Kickstands up at 9:30 am on Thursday, March 19, 2009, for a group ride to the Hilton. I will be going and hope to see many of you there.

On March 28, our Road Captain, Dave Authement, has scheduled a group ride to the Cabellas Bass Pro Shop in Gonzales (Baton Rouge). It will depart the dealership at 9:30 am. The ride is expected to end at 3:00 pm that same day.

Additional rides are planned for: April 4th (date and time of our next meeting), and April 24 (ride to the Covington Block Party departing at 6:00 pm from NSHD).

ARTICLES NEEDED

You may have noticed over the last two and one-half years that the majority of articles in this newsletter reported information about rides in which I have participated. I am sure that there are many of you who have similar riding experiences of interest for the rest of our chapter. All you have to do is to send an e-mail to me with your article as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, and any associated photos as "jpg" files, in original format. I assure you that I will publish anything you send me. So, immortalize you riding experiences through our publication and share your experiences with your fellow Chapter members.

If you are not a current member of the Northshore HOG Chapter, or you forgot to renew your membership in January, simply fill out an enrollment form (available at the dealership or on the website, see "Downloads").

A Message From Terry Forrette

Storm Warnings Ride and Event

At the March 7 Chapter Meeting I discussed an upcoming event that the Chapter has been invited to participate in. America's WETLAND is organizing its 4th annual Storm Warnings event on May 30 and 31, 2009. The following is short summary of the event.

This 4th annual *Storm Warning* will demonstrate what will be lost if nothing is done to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. On Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, 2009, residents will join together in a variety of marine vessels, pleasure craft, fishing boats, barges, work boats, and sailboats, to jointly celebrate the value of all that is America's WETLAND and to warn the nation about the consequences of its loss.

The festivities will begin on Saturday, May 30, 2009, 5:00 p.m. at the Port of New Orleans and the new Mardi Gras World with a rally style concert featuring, interactive demonstrations, festival cuisine, a water show, and performances from local bands including Irma Thomas and Rockin Dopsie, Jr. That evening, at 8:00 p.m., a lead vessel will depart the port and journey to Larose to meet participants for a flotilla to Houma.

On Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., local boat owners and operators are invited to join the lead vessel and U.S. Coast Guard at the intersection of Bayou Lafourche and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Larose for a blessing of the fleet and a cruise westward to Houma. Simultaneously, participants in Morgan City will embark on a 2nd flotilla eastward along the Intracoastal Waterway to Houma. Once gathered in the Houma's Downtown Marina, boats from Larose and Morgan City flotillas will meet watercraft and land-based participants in Houma for the *Last Stand for America's WETLAND* festivities.

In Houma at 2:00 pm the sound of boat and foghorns will signal the warning as the gathering will hold reflector panels and hurricane flags to create illuminate the scene and spot for media coverage. The Houma event will feature live music by local celebrities, contests for best-decorated boat and a boat parade finale.

I am urging the Chapter to organize a ride down to Houma on May 31 and perhaps involve the Hammond, New Orleans and Houma Chapters. If this can be arranged, we would leave Northshore around 10:00 AM on Sunday, picking up other interested riders along our route.

Please let Vick or myself know if this something that you would be interested in participating in. I need to get back to the event organizers by early April and let them know about our involvement.

Thanks, Terry Forrette

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Last Month's Minutes By PAT SCHAEFER

March 7, 2009

The Northshore HOG Chapter outdoor social get-together/meeting began at 9:30 AM.

"Vic" Vicnair, our Chapter Director, reminded everyone that our Chapter is still looking for volunteers to sell water during Mike Bruno's BAYOU THUNDER BIKE FEST, next weekend, March 13-15. Proceeds from our water sales will be used to defray Chapter expenses. The Chapter has a small operating budget and these water sales can be a big boost

to our Chapter's treasury.

Vic also reminded us, that in spite of the world economic situation, we are relatively fortunate in having our bikes and the opportunity to ride and have fun. He also discussed the possibility of donating some Chapter funds toward a worthy charitable cause around Christmas time. Nothing will be done without membership approval and input.

Vic also reminded everyone that raffle tickets are still available for the 2009 H-D Fat Boy to be given away during BAYOU THUNDER.

He also discussed tentative plans for an overnight ride, to be scheduled in May or June. The ride would leave on a Friday, combining an overnight in Houma, with a scenic route toward Lake Charles and return Sunday.

For those members leaving Thursday March 19th for the Louisiana State HOG Rally in Shreveport, it will be Kick Stands Up at 9:30 AM from the Chevron station at Highway 434. Sonia will be taking the van; so if anyone would like to lighten the load on their bike; there will be some space available in the van for extra gear.

Mike Werda, our Assistant Director briefed the members about available HOG Safety Rider Skill Program, including a \$50.00 credit toward H-D purchases, following completion of a course.

In the absence of Dwight Bradbury, our Chapter Treasure and Webmaster, there was no Treasurer's Report at this meeting.

Ray Greg, our Activities Officer, briefed the members on upcoming events, which will be posted in the Chapter Forum. Everyone was also reminded that member articles are always welcome by the Chapter Editor "Danno" Wehr.

Terry Forrette, our Safety Officer, briefed on an upcoming America's Wetland event to be held in Houma, LA on Mat 30-31, entitled "Storm Warning". Riders are desired to participate on a Sunday morning ride to Houma for the "Storm Warning" event.

Terry also provided some safety thoughts: like carrying a small bottle of water at all times for washing out your eyes if necessary. He mentioned carrying some ear plugs to prevent fatigue, especially for your passenger when you are two up. He also discussed his personal policy of stopping every 100 miles to stretch muscles and take a brief break as a means of staying alert.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned so that the Chapter could take advantage of the fine weather for a brief 50 mile loop to build everyone's appetite for the Chapter crawfish lunch at the end of the ride.



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After traveling over local streets to bypass the parade, we continued on 105 until we hit the Texas hill country near Brenham, where we turned our big two-wheelers westbound on US 290. This is a great road for a relaxing ride and to soak in the natural beauty of this part of the state. For the most part it is a four-lane divided highway with gently rolling hills and long-radius, banked turns providing the rider with the opportunity to divert his or her attention to enjoy the great views.

By sunset, we reached our destination for the day, Elgin, Texas, about a dozen miles east of Austin. Total distance for our first day was approximately 570 miles. We stayed at the Holiday Inn Express on the west side of town. This turned out to be a good choice. The Inn sits at the end of strip mall housing an excellent Mexican restaurant, the name of which I cannot recall. After off-loading the bikes, we enjoyed margaritas and stuffed ourselves with fine Mexican food at this establishment.

After dinner, the weather turned much colder (mid-30s), with steady 30-mile-per-hour winds out of the west. We retired to our rooms for nightcap, a look at the weather channel, and some much needed sack time.



ARRIVING AT LUCKENBACH

The following morning, Sunday, we were kickstands up at 7:00 am. The temperature was 28 degrees and the winds had not abated since the previous evening. Continuing west on US 290 we skirted the northern edge of Austin, encouraged by rapidly rising temperatures and clear blue skies, the four of us motored our way through Dripping Springs, and Johnson City (290 follows the southern boundary of the LBJ Ranch here). At this point we diverted south on Ranch Road 1376 for a few miles and stopped for a short visit at Luckenbach, a well-known tourist attraction. It consists of a short-order restaurant, general store, saloon, hat shop, and three entertainment venues for staging concerts.

After about an hour of photo opportunities, we continued on through the picturesque and historic town of Fredericksburg. While one could spend a day in this community and not see all of the antique shops, art galleries, and curio merchants, we pushed on through without stopping, then south through Bandera, Medina, and

into Leaky, our destination for that day.

Leaky (pronounced "Lakey") is a favorite Hill Country destination for motorcyclists. It is located at the confluence of "The Three Sisters," Ranch Roads 335, 336, and 337, all of which are mountainous two-lanes occasioned by unending twisties, switchbacks, steep grades, and fantastic views. It is also the home of the D'Rose Inn, a resort for only two-wheeled travelers, operated by Deb Rose who steadfastly refuses to provide accommodations to anyone not riding a motorcycle or bicycle. Texas Rider Magazine rates D'Rose Inn the number 1 Hill Country motorcycle resort.


Our final approach into Leaky was one of the Three Sisters, RR 337 from Medina — a thrilling 36-mile run. Riding over several mountain ranges, we passed through Vanderpool enjoying some the most spectacular views on the trip and, by 3:30 pm, arrived at the Inn. Deb greeted us with Mardi Gras beads and gave us adjoining suites in the main Lodge.

Shortly after arriving, an old friend and riding buddy of Dan Schewe, Kevin Smith, showed up. By prearrangement, Kevin would accompany us for remainder of our tour of southwest Texas. Kevin resides in the metropolitan Dallas area.

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Update Your Profile

Many of us have had a change in address, telephone number or email. Please go to the website www.northshorehog.com and update your profile. Don't forget to do the same thing when renewing your 2009 membership.

 <p>AZALEA ESTATES</p>	<p>Linda Timberlake Executive Director</p>
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ARRIVAL AT D'ROSE INN, LEAKY, TEXAS

After settling in, we converged on the covered patio/pavillion located in the center of the resort. Dan fired up one of the barbeques/smokers and started cooking our dinner. At the outset of the trip, Carl packed six large, marinated New York Stip stakes in a cooler strapped to his back seat. Deb provided wine, fresh prickly pear cactus pads (from her garden), onions, and sweet potatoes. It was a great meal. If you have not had prickly pear cactus, the taste is pleasantly unique. It's a combination of green beans, peas, and spinach all in one. The secret in preparing this dish is to take all of the skin (and spines) off of the pads before cooking them.

After the sun descended below the mountains, the temperature dropped like a rock. By 7:00 pm, it was in the high 20s. We were presented with a dilemma, due to drought conditions, there was a burn ban throughout

the state of Texas. However, we had a large barbeque/smoker under roof. Our solution was to load it up with mesquite, pine and other assorted logs and stand around this make-shift stove. It worked. For the rest of the evening we enjoyed bourbon, cigars, war stories, and each other's company around our improvised heat source.

The next morning was another cold one. The five of us departed the Inn at about 7:30 am. We took RR 337 into Camp Wood, Texas. The ride consisted of 40 minutes of narrow mountain roads with extreme switchbacks, cold temperatures, and great views. When we reached State Route 55, we turned right and arrived at BJ's Café and Sweet Shop within seconds. BJ's prides itself for large portions of home cooked meals and home made pies. Their breakfasts are 'to die for.' We all had variations of eggs, sausage, bacon, pork chops, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, and pancakes. With our guts busting at the seams, we mounted up and continued our trip to the next attraction, Big Bend National Park.

Traveling north on Route 55 through Barksdale, we meandered our way to Del Rio, where we picked up US 90 to follow the north bank of the Rio Grande to Big Bend. The most remarkable part of this trek was crossing the Pecos River. The Pecos is similar to the Colorado River, as it cuts a deep swath. It is bordered by steep, 90 degree escarpments, that extend 200 feet above the water. The US 90 Bridge connects the river's east and west banks — a span of approximately 250 yards. The view over the sides of this structure were breathtaking. We continued through Langtry, Dryden, and Sanderson, to Marathon, Texas. By this time, the temperatures were in the low 90s. Gassing up and shedding all of our cold-weather clothing, we headed south on US 385 into Big Bend. After 40 miles of narrow two-lane desert roads, we entered the National Park.

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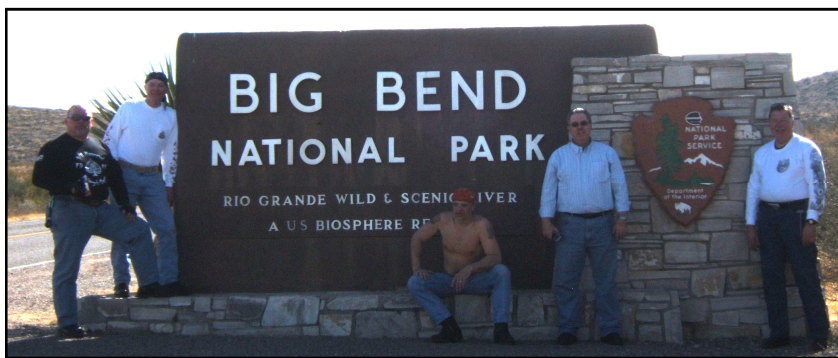
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The ride was confined to the valleys between mountain ranges that extended as much as 7,000 feet above our level. Our 53-mile ride through the park was spectacular. The skies were a cloudless deep blue; the mountains shown hews of green, brown and purple. At Sturdy Butte, we turned south on Ranch Route 170, rode through Talingua to Lajitas, that night's destination. We arrived at about 5:00 pm.

Lajitas is a privately owned, high-dollar resort. Carl made reservations for adjoining rooms, but the hotel messed up and we were separated by several rooms each. After making his displeasures known to the management, the hotel agreed to "comp" our dinner that evening. Needless to say, we took advantage of this situation. We dined on filet mignon, shrimp, and other delectable entrees at Lajitas' expense.

Since Greg Peterman and I had to be back in Slidell by the afternoon of Tuesday, February 24th, we had to part company with Carl, Dan and Kevin the next morning, Monday, February 23rd. We left before sunrise, taking State Route 118 to Alpine, US 90 east to US 67 north, to Interstate 10 eastbound. Greg and I traveled 570 miles to Elgin, Texas, staying at the same Holiday Inn Express. The following day we retraced our steps back to Slidell. Altogether Greg and I traveled 2,200 miles during this four-day excursion. Carl, Dan, and Kevin logged many more miles during the next few days of their journey.

It was a great adventure that will be remembered for a lifetime. I look forward to the next one.



GREG, ME, CARL, KEVIN, & DAN ARRIVING AT BIG BEND

More Snapshots of Our Excursion:



CARL TOOK THESE ON ROUTE FROM LEAKY TO BIG BEND

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VIEW FROM LAJITAS RESORT



SUNRISE AT LAJITAS, FEB. 23

Northshore HOG
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