



Northshore HOG News

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 25-27, LA
State HOG Rally,
Hammond, LA.
- April 3, Chapter
Meeting & Ride,
NSHD @ 9:30 am.
- April 10, VFW
Post 3652 Poker
Run, Hammond
H-D.
- April 17, Chapter
Ride -Lagniappes,
NSHD @ 9:00 am
- April 24, LOH
Ride to Anjac's
BBQ, NSHD @
9:45am.
- See the web site
for a complete
listing of events.

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ISSUE 68

APRIL, 2010

ESCAPE TO THE HILL COUNTRY

By Dan Wehr
Photos By Greg Peterman

Each spring a small group of us embark on a two-wheeled escape from the madness of Mardi Gras – a “Mardi Gras Ride.” Due to scheduling issues, we were unable to depart until February 22nd, well after the close of the season of parades and excessive consumption.

This year, four local riders committed to participate in this adventure, Carl Hill, Greg Peterman, Dan Schewe, and myself. Additionally, Kevin Smith, Dan Schewe’s riding bud from Dallas, agreed to join us in Texas. Our initial plan was to take the back roads through Alexandria and into the Piney Woods area of The Lone Star State with stops in Lufkin and Fredericksburg before arriving in Leakey, TX, our base of operation for touring the Texas Hill Country. This was not to be!

Shortly before our departure, weather reports indicated that the northern half of Texas was expecting heavy snowfall with accumulations of up to several inches as far south as Austin. Consequently, we decided to avoid this mess by traveling west on the interstates to Beaumont, Texas, then head south, following the Gulf coast through Galveston to Angleton, taking a southerly route to our destination.

On the morning of the 22nd, Carl, Greg, Dan and I met at the TA Truck Stop in Slidell at 6:00am. The temperatures were milder than expected (the upper 30s) with an overcast sky. After a hardy, cholesterol-filled breakfast, we took off. Our westbound trip on I-12 was uneventful until approximately 15 miles east of Baton Rouge where the traffic came to an abrupt stop. Due to a multiple vehicle accident in the city, our trip was impeded by stop and go traffic from Denham Springs to Baton Rouge. It took over an hour to make our way through Louisiana’s capital city.

We continued west to Beaumont, stopping for an outstanding lunch at the Papadeaux Seafood Kitchen. After stuffing ourselves with some outstanding culinary delights, we traveled south on TX Route 124 to State Hwy. 87. The highlight of this part of the trip was the ferry ride across Galveston Bay. The temperatures were in the mid-40s and the skies had cleared up. It only took about five minutes to board the ferry and another 20 minutes to cross the bay. The views on this voyage were spectacular with a panoramic vision of the Gulf, punctuated by many deep water ships to the east, and a view of the skylines of Texas City to the west, and Galveston to the south.



FERRY TRIP ACROSS GALVESTON BAY

After our debarkation, we continued south to Freeport, then north to Angleton, Texas, where we stayed the night at the Best Western Angleton Inn. After offloading the bikes, we walked to a nearby steak house for dinner. That evening, as the temps dropped into the 30s with a strong north wind, we spent half of the evening studying the weather conditions.

Frozen precipitation was approaching from the north and rain was headed in the direction of our travel. That night, as we indulged in the sipping of sour mash whiskey and cigars, we decided to push on the following day ahead of the cold front from the north and the wet weather

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From the Editor

Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

So Much to Do - So Little Time

Now that the inclement weather of the coldest and wettest winter in memory has past, I am faced with some serious yard work. I can't walk on my grass without leaving deep impressions; half of my plants have been burned by the succession of nocturnal sub-freezing temperatures requiring some serious pruning; and the unrelenting rains of December and January (almost 40 inches) caused subsidence in several parts of my yard necessitating copious deposits of soil and sand. Needless to say, I will be preoccupied with these issues for the next couple of months. I am sure you are facing the same challenges.

Nevertheless, we need to keep our perspective and our priorities straight. While I plan on addressing the foregoing problems, I have set aside time to enjoy my two-wheeled passion and participate in our Chapter's formal and informal events. Please try to do the same.

There is a lot going on right now. The Louisiana State HOG Rally will take place in Hammond this year, from March 25th through March 27th. Our Chapter has rides planned for April 3rd (meeting ride), April 17th (Chapter ride to Lagniappe's in Springfield), and April 24th (Our Chapter's LOH ride to Anjac's BBQ in Gulfport, MS). Please take the time to participate in one or all of these events. Remember, on your death bed, you will never regret not having spent more time at the office or trying to accomplish everything listed on that 'honey do' list.

Ride safe and often.



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").

(HILL COUNTRY—Continued from page 1)
from the southwest.

The next morning we were greeted with near freezing temperatures, a muddled sky, and a strong north wind. We traveled southwest over some of the most boring flatlands in the state through Victoria, Texas. At this point, we encountered moderate to heavy fog as we trekked southwest on US 59. The combination of near rain conditions and cold temperatures made for a rather uncomfortable ride. After traveling approximately 180 miles that day, we put up for the night at the Best Western Texas Inn in Beeville. Shortly after putting our kickstands down and unloading the scooters, it began to rain heavily. Thankfully in the shelter of our rooms, we ordered in pizza and turned in early.



The following morning, while cold, was the picture of good weather - cloudless skies and dry pavement. We traveled west to I-37, then north to State Route 173, to US 90 West, to US 83 North. Throughout the day, the topography progressively changed from flat lands to near mountainous hills as we approached Uvalde.

The trip through Uvalde was occasioned by an endless stream of traffic lights traveling northbound. As we reached the north end of town we were enticed to stop at an establishment which bore a large sign that read, "LIQUOR - GUNS!" This kind of establishment could only exist in Texas - a well stocked liquor store and gun shop (an explosive combination to say the least!). After making our purchases of enough bourbon for the rest of the trip, we made our way north on US 83 for another 43 miles into Leakey.

After an unremarkable lunch at the only eating establishment open at 2:15 pm, a Subway Shop on the south side of town, we reached our destination for the next two nights, The D'Rose Inn. By way of background, Leakey is a Mecca for motorcyclists in Texas. It is located near the vortex of three well known "Ranch Roads (RR)," RR 335, RR336, and RR337, informally named by the cycling community as "The Three Sisters." The attraction of these three roads is that they traverse some of the most beautiful parts of the Texas Hill Country, are challenging to ride given their severe "twisties," and are virtually uninterrupted by cross roads or driveways, lending themselves to be ridden at extreme speeds and lean angles. The D'Rose Inn is a cyclist's resort which accepts only those patrons who are on two wheels. The Inn is a compound consisting of a main building containing the Inn's offices and three suites, several outlying cabins that sleep 2 to 4 residents, swimming pool, covered pavilion, and a large fire pit. The sole proprietor of this fine establishment is Debra Rose.



CABINS AT THE D'ROSE INN



FIRESTARTER CARL OBSERVING HIS CRAFT

Shortly after we arrived, Kevin showed up on his Yamaha Star. Kevin, Dan, and Carl occupied one cabin, while Greg and I settled in another.

That evening, the relentless winds from the north and near freezing temperatures motivated us to make good use of the Inn's fire pit. Carl built a raging fire which we all enjoyed with cigars, bourbon, and war stories.

The next morning all of us were up at the crack of dawn. We were greeted by a heavy frost on the scooters, extreme north winds, but a cloudless sky. After consuming a terrific breakfast at a local eatery, we were on our way to riding some of the best roads in Texas. Since Kevin was more familiar with the area than the rest of

us, he led the way. We had four "must see" destinations for the day, The Apple Store in Medina, the legendary community of Luckenbach, The Alamo Springs Café (location of the best hamburger in Texas), and the Guadalupe River run (State Route 27 from Comfort to Hunt).

The road to Medina, RR 337, is a narrow two lane that ascends from sea level to about 2000 feet in less than two miles. Its switchbacks and undulating pavement presented such a challenge that I had only brief moments to enjoy the spectacular scenery on this leg of the trip. After arriving at the Apple Store, while the



CARL'S FROSTY TOUR PACK

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Last Month's Minutes By PAT SCHAEFER

March 6, 2010

The monthly HOG Chapter social gathering/meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Vic, our Chapter Director, briefed on room availability for the State H.O.G. Rally in Hammond. He also thanked all the volunteers who made our Children's

Hospital Charity Poker Run a success; even though rider turnout was lower than anticipated. The food committee and poker committee, and especially Bobby Lishman were key players in making it a successful and fun Chapter event.

Mike, our Assistant Director briefed on our Chapter's assistance to the Hammond Chapter conducting bike games Saturday, March 26 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM at the State H.O.G. Rally. We can still use a couple of more volunteers. We will be working the Slow Ride and Bike Wash. All Rally events will be at the University Center except the Dealer's Welcome and the Bike Show, which will be at the Hammond dealership. Check the H.O.G. website for more details.

Ray, our Activities Officer, has posted next quarters schedule on the Chapter bulletin board and will post it the Chapter website. Ray is looking for member inputs for suggested rides, especially for an overnight ride.

Terry, our Safety Officer, briefed on a recent incident where someone's rear sprocket bolts came loose and began backing out. Something to check visually on your bike and to have them properly torqued during your next service! Terry also suggested that, prior to making a long trip, load your bike for the trip a day or two earlier and take a test ride on some familiar local route to establish the "feel" and handling of your bike with the additional weight.

Bill, our Web Master briefed on our web site and 2-mail issues. All members with e-mail addresses should be getting Chapter e-mails.

Dwight, our Treasurer, provided his Treasurer's report. The Chapter has \$2770 in the bank and raised \$378 for Children's Hospital.

Mike Bruno briefed the Chapter on future plans and about the Northshore H-D 2010 Dyna Raffle Bike, with all proceeds going to Children's Hospital. The bike is to be raffled during Bayou Thunder. It was voted that the Chapter would buy 15 tickets in the Chapter's name. If the Chapter wins, he will buy the bike back for \$10,000 and donate \$5,000 to the Chapter and \$5,000 to Children's Hospital. If we don't win, the ticket proceeds will go to the Hospital.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned to get ready for the Chapter ride to "Friends" in Madisonville.



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(HILL COUNTRY - Continued from page 3)



ARRIVING AT THE APPLE STORE

rest of us partook of the free samples, Greg bought some apple butter – a favorite of his better half, Melodie.

Thereafter, we made our way to Luckenbach (population 3), to take in the local color and to purchase some jewelry for Dan's spouse, Kaye. I tried to



find a cowboy hat to fit my fat head, but they were all too small.

With some specific directions from the proprietor of Luckenbach's General Store, we found our way to the Alamo Springs Café. We tried finding it on our own without success. Per the Proprietor's instructions, from Luckenbach, we rode north on Ranch Road 1376 for about 1/10 of a mile to Grapetown Road. Upon which we turned left (west) to Old Route 9 (Grapetown Road is a single lane, semi-paved, 5-mile path that connects with Old Route 9). We then traveled south on Old Route 9 past Grapetown to Alamo Road (on which the café is located). After our arrival, we found out why we could not find the place ourselves. The street sign for Old Route 9 had been removed from the road and was displayed in a prominent location at the restaurant!



The burgers at this place are to die for! My standard cheeseburger served with mustard, mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickles was a meal by itself and well worth the \$6.50 price. The rest of the group ordered sides and add-ons, but could not finish. If you are in the area of Luckenbach, you must lunch at the Alamo Springs Café. It is open six days 11:00 am to 9:00 pm and closed on Tuesdays.



Having gorged ourselves with a red meat lunch, we meandered our way to the Guadalupe River Run. Route 27 from Comfort to Hunt is a spectacular two-lane, low speed ride that borders the northern shore of the Guadalupe River. On our journey we had outstanding views of the cliffs on the south shore of the river that rose up to 1000 feet above its banks. On the north (right side) of our ride we took in the sights of majestic ranch houses and rolling plains.


From Hunt we rode State Route 39 to RR 187 into Vanderpool, where we picked up RR 337 west back to Leakey and the comforts of The D'Rose Inn.

That night we had another bonfire at the fire pit and managed to burn up the rest of Deb Rose's fire wood bracing ourselves against the cold north

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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.



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(HILL COUNTRY - Continued from page 5)



CARL'S IMMOBILIZED ULTRA AT BJ'S

wind. We were also warmed by each other's company, some fine bourbon, premium cigars, and colorful recollections of the day's activities.

The next morning we checked out of the Inn at approximately 7:00 am. The north winds were still raging and the temperature was just above freezing. We rode west on RR 337 toward Camp Wood. This was a 21-mile trek over some of the more challenging switchbacks of our entire trip. Our destination was BJ's Café, a well-known eatery that caters to bikers and local cowboys who enjoy hardy breakfasts cooked to order.

Upon our arrival, parts started falling from the rear of Carl's Ultra. A bolt, a bolt head and a couple of washers fell to the pavement. Carl got on his radio and said he could not move his scooter. Close inspection determined that his rear sprocket bolts had loosened, damaging the sprocket and the rear wheel. One of the bolts had jammed against the swing arm immobilizing his motorcycle. The damage was so extensive that Carl's bike could not be ridden.

After a solemn breakfast at

BJ's, we called the closest Harley dealer, Javelina Harley-Davidson, in Bourne, Texas, approximately 85 miles away. The dealer dispatched a wrecker which arrived about 3 hours later. It had a special rig that loaded Carl's bike onto the wrecker's tilt bed effortlessly, and he was on his way. The rest of us decided to take the scenic route to Bourne to meet up with Carl at the dealership.

The wrecker headed south on State Route 55. The rest of us headed north riding to Rock Springs, connecting to Route 41 East, to I-10 East into Bourne, Texas. Unbelievably, even though we rode about 150 miles, we arrived at the dealership at precisely the same time as Carl and the wrecker.

The dealership did an outstanding job of repairing Carl's bike. Within 2 hours we were on the road again. Additionally, the repairs were made free-of-charge. Carl only had to pay the towing bill, which was not insubstantial.

That evening we obtained rooms at a Hampton Inn on I-10. Shortly after checking in we got a referral from the desk clerk to the "best Barbeque place in town." Believe it or not, it was at a Shell Station on US 87 in Bourne. I must say that the BBQ ribs, turkey, chicken, and brisket (more than I could eat) that was included on my combo plate was the best I've ever had. All for nine bucks!

That night we turned in at a decent hour, sobered by the realization that our adventure was nearing its end.

We left Bourne early the next day and took the shortest route eastbound without going through Houston (SR 46 East to I-35 North, to SR 21 East, to US 290 East, to SR 105 East), ending up in Orange, Texas, that evening.

The following morning we had a straight, 250-mile shot back to Slidell on I-10/I-12 East. Our total distance traveled for our six-day excursion was about 1850 miles.

It was a great trip characterized by anticipated pleasures, unexpected surprises, and memories that will last a lifetime.



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