

GWRRA CHAPTER - M

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION "H"

TEXAS DISTRICT

ARLINGTON, TEXAS



THE MOONLIGHTERS

SEPTEMBER 2006



§§ OFFICERS §§

CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Gary and Beverly Lewis
817-279-9804
garydlew@aol.com

ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Jim and Sandy Lindsay
817-478-9188
jdsslindsay@charter.net

ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Marvin and Sylvia Andrews
972-647-8395
marsyland@sbcglobal.net

ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Rowdy and Joanne Hickox
817-447-1101
jhickox95531@msn.com

ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Don and Charlene Vickers
817-483-1257
sprint64@swbell.net

CHAPTER EDUCATORS
Bill & Alicia Koegler
817-453-9288
bkoegler@kpak.com

COY
TBD

CD's Corner

The Chapter M fund raising event was conducted on 12 August even with a storm looming to the North. We had a good turnout for the Fun Run. I would like to thank all the green shirts for turning out to make it a success. Thanks to Sam for the public address system. It was a very important tool in keeping the event flowing smoothly. Thanks to all the ones who donated door prizes; I think that this was a good addition to the

event.

I am sure that there will be improvements made for next year, as this year's format was new. I think that we provided an event that people enjoyed even with out playing cards. I have always believed that they came for the ride. The prizes are just an extra incentive to enhance the event.

We were so glad to see our District Directors at the Fun Run. I really feel that is was an honor that they chose to come all the way from San Antonio to

§§ STAFF §§

TREASURERS
Craig and Mary Watkins
940-648-2028
watkinsc@gte.net

WEB PAGE
Bonnie Lowery
817-516-7018
blgllowery@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Gene Lowery
817-516-7018
blgllowery@comcast.net

RIDE COORDINATOR
Sam Smith
817-477-2630
smithauctionmgt@swbell.net

PHONE TREE
Sandy Lindsay
817-478-9188
jdsslindsay@charter.net

HISTORIAN
Sheila Penney
817-444-3134
sheila@dpenney.net

SUNSHINE LADY
HAROLYN ELLIS
817-472-8958
ellisbikerbabe@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP COORD
Marvin and Sylvia Andrews
972-647-8395
marsyland@sbcglobal.net

WEB PAGE: <http://www.moonlighters.name>

participate in Chapter M's fundraiser. As you all know by now, there was a tragic accident that occurred as John and Bonnie headed back home the next morning. Bonnie didn't make it back home and this left a cloud over this year's event. I know that Bonnie will live on in the hearts of all that knew her. GWRRA has lost a great person who has given so much for the success of our Texas District. I can only imagine the loss and grief that her family is enduring. I know that all of the love, thoughts and prayers of their GWRRA family are with them. We lost a good friend; Bonnie was a bubbling spring of enthusiasm for GWRRA and she will be sorely missed. I think that I know her well enough to say that she would want us to continue on with our friends for fun, safety and knowledge.

As we look to the rest of this year, there are still some great things being planned. There is a group of about ten bikes going to the Grand Canyon the first week of September. Don't forget that September's meeting and staff meeting has been moved one week later than usual because most of the staff will be gone to the Ditch. There will be a LCR Ride, a Hill Country Thanksgiving Ride and a Christmas Party. Of course there will be many other Rides in between.

Bill is in the process of setting up another ERC Course. Even if you don't want to participate in the rider level program, it will be worth your time to take this course. Riding your motorcycle is a lot of fun but it can also be a dangerous activity. What you learn in this course could save

Note the Chapter and Staff Meeting Changes for September only!

Ye Ole Ride Schedule

September

Brunch Ride to Edom - Jim Lindsay	Sat	2 nd	LV FINA	7:00 AM
Chapter M Ride to Grand Canyon	Sat - Sat	2 - 9 Sept	LV Big Willies	7:00 AM
Ride to Chapter R Rally in Keller	Sat	9 th	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Chapter Meeting	Thurs	14th	Spring Creek	7:00 PM
Ride to Chapter Y2 Rally - Canton	Sat	16 th	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Cancelled		17 th		
Staff Meeting	Wed	20th	Fire Mountain	7:00 PM
Ride to Los Coyotes - Jim Lindsay lead	Sat	23 rd	LV FINA	3:00 PM

October

Breakfast Ride	Sun	1 st	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Chapter Meeting	Thurs	5th	Spring Creek	7:00 PM
Dinner Ride	Sat	7 th	LV FINA	6:15 PM
Ride for Kids	Sun	8 th	LV FINA	8:00 AM
Staff Meeting	Wed	11th	Fire Mountain	7:00 PM
Lunch Ride	Sun	15 th	LV FINA	11:00 AM
ERC Course at Tarrant County JC Sign up for course through the college	Sat	21 st	TCJC	Adlib
Dinner Ride	Sat	28 th	LV FINA	5:00 PM

FINA Station - 1721 FM 157 West of US-287, Mansfield, TX

Chapter Meeting 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM,

Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM

Spring Creek Barbeque, 1724 HWY 287 (at Debbie Lane), Mansfield, TX



SEPTEMBER 2006

GWRRA CHAPTER M EVENT CALENDAR



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday																																																																																																										
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Aug 2006</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Aug 2006							M	T	W	T	F	S	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Oct 2006</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Oct 2006							M	T	W	T	F	S	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						1	2 7:00 AM @ Fina; Brunch ride to Edom; Jim Lindsay leads		3
Aug 2006																																																																																																																
M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																																										
1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																											
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																										
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																										
28	29	30	31																																																																																																													
Oct 2006																																																																																																																
M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																																										
						1																																																																																																										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																										
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																										
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																										
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																										
30	31																																																																																																															
Chapter Ride to Grand Canyon																																																																																																																
4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9 8:00 AM @ Fina; Ride to Chapter R Rally; KC Hall Keller																																																																																																											
Chapter Ride to Grand Canyon																																																																																																																
11	12	13	14 7:00 PM - Chapter Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ; US 287 and Debbie Lane, Mansfield		16 8:00 AM @ Fina; Ride to Chapter Y2 Rally, Canton																																																																																																											
18	19	20 7:00 PM - Chapter M Staff Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ, HWY 287 and Debbie Lane, Mansfield		22	23 3:00 PM @ Fina; Ride to Loco Coyotes, Jim Lindsay leads Autumn begins																																																																																																											
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																											



OCTOBER 2006

GWRRA CHAPTER M EVENT CALENDAR



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday																																																																																			
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <caption>Sep 2006</caption> <tr><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>		M	T	W	T	F	S	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <caption>Nov 2006</caption> <tr><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		M	T	W	T	F	S	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>8:00 AM @ Fina; Breakfast Ride</p> </div>
M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																			
				1	2	3																																																																																			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																			
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																				
M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																			
			1	2	3	4	5																																																																																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																			
27	28	29	30																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																			
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>7:00 PM - Chapter Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ; US 287 and Debbie Lane, Mansfield</p> </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>6:15 PM @ Fina; Dinner Ride</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>8:00 AM @ Fina; Ride For Kids</p> </div>																																																																																		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																			
<p>Columbus Day (Observed)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>7:00 PM - Chapter M Staff Meeting at Fire Mountain</p> </div>					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>11:00 AM @ Fina; Lunch Ride</p> </div>																																																																																			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																			
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>ERC Course at Tarrant County JC Northeast Campus; Register at College</p> </div>																																																																																				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																			
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>5:00 PM @ Fina; Dinner Ride</p> </div>	<p>Daylight Savings Time Ends</p>																																																																																			
30	31																																																																																								
		<p>Halloween</p>																																																																																							

SPECIAL DATES

September 2006

Birthdays

Pam Furr	4th
Joanne Hickox	5th
Kim Lynch	5th
Craig Watkins	8th
John (H.D.) Shumaker	9th
Mary Reedy	10th
Bill Lawrence	11th
Randy Scoggins	14th
Dick Reedy	15th
Alicia Koegler	17th
Charles McConnell	28th

Anniversaries

Daryl and Anita Embry	4th
-----------------------	-----

your life or the life of someone else. All the classes and training that is offered is done so for our safety. Learning to ride in a group, the correct way, will make a safer ride. I personally believe that riding with at least two or more bikes is safer than riding alone. People often don't see one bike but will nearly always see a group. I am sure that, after what has happened so close to home, that more emphases will be placed on safe riding.

Ride often and ride safe,
Gary and Biker Bev

SUNSHINE REPORT.....

HELLO Fellow Moonlighters.... !!!

Lonnie and I have been checking in with various folks to see how they are recovering:

Thus far Pam Furr is doing well, but is missing the fun of being with the group. Hopefully, she will get a partial release soon and will be able to ambulate more. pfurr@sbcglobal.net

Rhonda J. was able to get out of the house over the weekend and went to check on her mom... who is also better... hats off to Larry who stayed home a whole week to "baby" his baby!!!!
goldwing@flash.net and leestar@flash.net

I have heard from Randy Simpson and Shirley is cleared to drive again and is enjoying some time with her mom out of state. They are EAGER to get back "in the saddle" again...
randys1954@hotmail.com

I have not heard back from Susie or Butch re: the state of Susie's mom, who had a stroke last week. I understand she has been spending most of her time with her mom. I just learned of this Saturday and regret I was not able to receive a confirmation yet, and I can well imagine the concern and stress she is experiencing at this time.... please keep her in your prayers as she cares for her mom...
darhic4@yahoo.com

Also, Scotty (C.L.) Scott is on his way to Amarillo to meet his mother at the hospital. She has been declining and they have concerns re: possible cancer relapse. Lonnie talked with him today and assured him that we will lift he and his mother up in prayer. clabernsco@msn.com

I have included the email addresses of these Moonlighters to make it easier for you, if you want to send them greetings.

PLEASE let us know if we can in any way help the Chapter participants.... Chapter M is such a caring, supportive group!!!

On a more personal note: Lonnie and I were very pleased to be able to attend the memorial service for Bonnie, our District Director. It was so amazing to see the outpouring of love to John from so many GWRRA folks across several states. We knew so many people there and it felt very much like a family gathering. We of course, were partial to those "other" green shirts that walked in the door and we enjoyed sometime with our Chapter M family. (Ron & Faye, Gary & Bev, and Rowdy & Jo Mama). We assured John that Chapter M would continue to keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Signing off for now.... Sunshine - Harolyn Ellis

LIFE: Too precious to waste a minute!!!!

Find your GWRRA Number in this Newsletter and you can win a free Raffle Ticket if you show a current GWRRA Membership card to the CD at the Chapter M meeting. There are two GWRRA numbers in this newsletter.

King-of-the-road coverage
shouldn't cost a king's ransom.
That's our stand.



Call me today for our new policies that cover more
bikes at lower rates.

(972) 206-0920

Anita Embry

2985 S Highway 360
Grand Prairie
AnitaEmbry@allstate.com



Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Call or stop by for a free quote

Insurance and discount subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company: Northbrook, IL. ©2006 Allstate Insurance Company.

CALL ANITA EMBRY AT 972-206-0920 FOR

**WIN
A FORD F150 TEXAS
EDITION**



PRESENTED BY



Allstate.

STOP IN FOR AN INSURANCE QUOTE AND REGISTER TODAY.

This contest is not affiliated, connected, associated with, or in any way sponsored by the Ford Motor Company or any of its dealers.

ALLSTATE F150-FA-02 2

71061 40028M

EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM

HONDA

- Come see the ultimate in Luxury & Sport Touring Bikes
- Complete line of Honda Motorcycles, Scooters & ATV's
- Huge inventory of Honda parts & accessories

Max's
YAMAHA - HONDA - KAWASAKI
673-4636 1-800-777-0214
941 N. Mockingbird • Abilene • www.maxscycle.com

Moonlighters in Maypearl

It was on a dark, warm summer night; the Moonlighters set out for another country ride. The sky was clear and the engines hummed as we glided down the tree covered lane; all of a sudden we started slowing down. As we looked beyond to the next group of riders, we noticed flashing lights. The kind on police cars....hummmmmmmmm

Group 1 was surrounded by 5-0's.....They were coming out of the woodwork with their guns drawn. They were everywhere. There were even snipers up in the trees....We were shocked. Group 1 had huddled in the middle of the road, all of them. Group 2 stopped about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and slowly dismounted. Of course we were innocent of any wrong doings, Group 2 that is; we can't vouch for Group 1. They were always the rowdy bunch, the hot-doggers, so to speak. You know the kind, fast cars, fast bikes, and fast women.

After Group 2 dismounted our iron horses, we hunkered down behind them. We were pretty sure we heard gun shots and screams. We stayed down for a few minutes until Larry Jennings popped his head up and yelled.....I ain't skert. Let's go in and show 'em how it's done. What was he thinking? We began to hear more screams...lots of screams. It was Rowdy.....Rowdy was screaming.....Somebody please go help Rowdy.

We mounted up and rode closer to Group 1. They appeared to be ambushed. My heart sank as I saw Jim and Vicki being handcuffed. Something must be terribly wrong. What could have happened? Then I noticed Craig and Mary being taken over to a paddy wagon. Off they went to the pokey.Biker Bev

and Gary were being searched. Gary was smiling. Why was this happening? Could this really be happening? Oh, yeah.....it was happening. It seems Maypearl PD doesn't like for you to do a rolling stop at a stop sign.

Barney Fife was in charge. He was throwing his weight around.....It looked like all the Moonlighters were on their way to the big house until Ken Olsen came to our rescue.

Ft. Worth PD has more pull than Maypearl PD even in Maypearl. After Ken flashed his big ole badge, Barney tucked his tail and ran. Actually, he just went back to his car and stayed there until we all passed him by. I really wanted to honk my air horns at him but Marvin wouldn't let me.....He said to keep a low profile....

So let's see.....This was Jim's second attempt to lead the Moonlighters....

The moral of the story is.....Lead us not into temptation, Jim.....Repeat after me, we must stop at all stop signs..... We made sure that you won't have to go through the embarrassment of being pulled over by the police in Maypearl again.....

Marvin and Sylvia Andrews
ACD/MEC

GRANDMA'S CURES

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately - without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional "pain relievers."

Other Area Chapter Meetings

- "B/N" 7:30 PM on 1ST Tuesday, Raymond's BBQ, 10920 Garland Road, Dallas
"F2" 7:00 PM on 1st Tuesday, Luby's Cafeteria, 251 University Dr., Ft. Worth
"P" 7:00 PM on 2nd Thursday, Golden Corral, 1300 S. Morgan (HWY 144), Granbury
"R" 7:30 PM on 4th Tuesday, Fuddruckers (near Bass Pro Shop), Grapevine
"U2" 9:00 AM on 3rd Saturday, Golden Corral, 1120 William D. Tate, Grapevine
"W2" 7:30 PM on 3rd Thursday, Fire Mountain, 1400 N. HWY 77, Waxahachie
"Z2" 7:00 PM on 4th Thursday, Steak Kountry, 153 Westgate Shopping Center, McKinney

The Road to Wing Ding 2006 for the Directionally Challenged By Bodil Overtree

James kids me - quite often - about my inability to tell north from south, left from right, little things like that. But our circuitous route to Wing Ding this year was not my fault! It was all very carefully planned.

We hoped, this year, to see the rhododendrons in bloom on the Blue Ridge Parkway. In the past, we have gone to Wing Ding and then ridden the Parkway; and just missed the best display. So, this year, we traveled from Arlington to Nashville by way of North Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania (which happens to be the home of two really cute grandchildren). Sounds like the perfect route to me.

Day 1 - Setting Out

Thus it was that we set out on June 14 for an event scheduled to begin on July 3. As usual, it was a long haul around Dallas to the first rest stop on I-30, but, hey, it's a big state. The official Texas attitude toward rest stops seems to be, "If travelers want to rest, they should visit someplace smaller, someplace where things are closer together." The restroom was at least nice and clean!

We did pass a few interesting things our first day on the road; an old Ford pickup truck with a Michigan plate on the front and a Kentucky plate on the back. Hmmm. And then, there was the semi that blew a tire just as we were passing it; seemed to impress us a whole lot more than it did the truck driver. He just kept going, spewing rubber and an interesting burning odor. James

just kept going too, and quickly. The 'Wing can move out in a hurry when required.


I was glad to get the first day of the trip behind us - it is my least favorite. Not only do we have to drive the Dallas International Speedway, but the bike is also newly configured for traveling. (Is everything secure? Is the suspension properly set? Gosh, I don't know. Let's just test that out in heavy traffic . . .)

Days 2 through 4 - Just Us and the Big Rigs

We traveled through Arkansas and Tennessee on I-40, the primary truck route across the south, to reach the Parkway.

Just north of Little Rock, the second day out, we met another 'Winger at a rest area. (He was not on his bike this day, but traveling on business.) A very nice man, one who is newly returned to motorcycling, he has a daughter just turned 18. Pretty much the usual story - sold the bikes when the family came along, but has bought one again now that the least one is ready to leave the nest. He said he would be at Wing Ding.

We spent our third and fourth days crossing Tennessee. The topography changed quite markedly as we went along. From gently rolling hills in the west, to much hillier land around



SENTRY
INSURANCE



FOREMOST
INSURANCE GROUP



FRED WORTHEY INSURANCE AGENCY
700 Highlander Blvd., Ste. 402
Arlington, TX 76015

E-mail: fworthey@farmersagen.com

Toll Free: 1-800-582-8462
Fax: 817-465-4445



**SPECIALIZED
INSURANCE SERVICES**

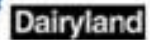


Your Motorcycle Insurance Professional

Contact Kevin M. Lynch, GWRRA Member, at Specialized Insurance Services, LLC for all your insurance needs.

Kevin offers motorcycle coverage through the top insurance companies available in Texas.

Specialized Insurance Services, LLC is a full service, independent insurance agency owned by Texas Trust Credit Union.



972-595-1780 (Phone) 972-595-1781 (Fax)
klynch@texastrustcu.org



Nashville, to sort of a plateau region in the middle of the state, to very hilly (up to 1900 feet) land in the east. The farther east we went, the cooler it got. It must have something to do with the altitude.

At one of our rest stops, we met a Missouri couple on a Harley who were on their way to a rally somewhere in middle Tennessee. They were wondering if we had heard about the Tail of the Dragon, which they thought might be around Gatlinburg. The man said that he intended to ride the Dragon. They had not heard of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, or the Cherohala Skyway. James took care of that! Not that it did much good; the man seemed singularly unimpressed. Just the Dragon.

As we traveled across Tennessee, the rock strata appeared to be mostly horizontal. But as we neared the border with North Carolina, the strata started to show a high degree of tilt. And then we started seeing smoky, gray mountains in

the distance. Ah ha!

Days 5 through 8

On the Parkway at last; and blessedly cool. First, the bad news; well, sorta bad; I mean, it's the Parkway after all! Once again, we seem to have missed the rhododendrons in full bloom. We probably had arrived just a hair too early this time, because many of the bushes appeared ready to burst into full flower. So, we didn't see a whole mountainside turned pinkish purple. The good news? Everything else! A little farther along the road, at a slightly lower altitude, we did see plenty of bushes blooming.

We stopped at Linville Falls and walked the trail from the visitors' center (the newly reconstructed center, since Hurricane Frances wiped out its predecessor) out to the falls. The falls are beautiful (inadequate description), and the walk was good exercise. It seemed to be one of those trails that runs uphill both outbound and

on the return. That can't be easy to achieve

A short distance north of there, the Parkway was closed for repair. We took a short detour on Highway 221 - a much shorter detour and a much better pavement than we encountered last year. Thank goodness! It was interesting to see just how populated the area immediately adjacent to the Parkway is.

Our second day on the Parkway was another beautiful, cool delight. At the higher elevations, it was even a tiny bit nippy early in the day and our long-sleeved shirts were welcome all day long.

In the morning, we stopped at a beautiful overlook, where we met a group of motorcyclists (even 'Wingers!) from Indiana. They admired the bike and asked about various and sundry features that James has added to it. Later in the day, near Glenwood Springs, we encountered an English couple and talked to them for a while. In the afternoon, at yet another stop for yet another beautiful view, we met more 'Wingers, parents (on the new bike) and son (on their previous bike) from Michigan. Perhaps we would cover more territory if we didn't see so much beauty or meet so many nice folks. But why would we want to do that?

We did see a deer. Just past an area that went up vertically on one side and down vertically on the other side - not prime deer country, one would think - there it was, right at the side of the road. And though I was watching for deer all day, James saw it first! I know that must be a terrific comfort to him. I did spot several suspicious clumps of dead grass, a cow grazing beside the road, and a groundhog before he did.

Travel the next day was mostly through alpine meadows - not as many trees and sweeping mountain views as in some places along the Parkway but still very, very beautiful; and, where farmers were actively cutting the hay, wonderfully fragrant.

We stopped at Mabry Mill, although we didn't take any pictures because it was a cloudy, overcast day and the light was wrong. We met some more nice 'Wingers (of course) and talked with them a bit. We also walked around the cabins where park rangers and/or volunteers were demonstrating basket weaving, chair caning,

spinning, and so forth. We then visited the inside of the mill to look at the various machinery the water-powered wheel could operate (grist mill, lumber mill, woodworking tools). Though the light wasn't right to provide good photographs, our eyes could take it all in quite nicely.

Later in the day, we stopped briefly at Virginia's Explore Park. This facility is not part of the national park, but operates in conjunction with it and the state and the county. Among other things, the park provides a look at Virginia history, from an Indian village to a flat-bottomed boat to a family farm.

By the time we left there, the afternoon sun was slanting across the road, enlivening the native deer and groundhogs and perhaps something else or something more around the next bend. (We had seen a wild turkey earlier in the day.) We decided to call it a day.

On our final one on the Blue Ridge (for this trip), we passed the highest point on the Virginia portion of the Parkway and the lowest. They aren't that far apart. The scenery was quite spectacular.

At one of the rest stops where we paused, the Park Service had reconstructed a portion of a logging railway. Drifting down to it was a little stream - with a series of cascades added as sort of a throwaway attraction. Not noted, not advertised. According to the sign at the stop, most of the woodlands currently surrounding the Parkway are second-growth forests. Practically all of the original woodlands were either logged or lost to wildfires. At that rest stop, we met a couple from Michigan, going to the Hoot, who we both think will soon to be 'Wing owners. We could be wrong. Or right. They were on a VTX 1800 cruiser, but checking out all the features on the 'Wing"; the comfortable seat; the cups and cup holders; the armrests; the adequate packing room; and, his brother already rides a 'Wing. Looked like hot prospects to us.

Close to the northern end of the Parkway, we stopped at an 1890's farmstead made up of several structures moved there to make one coherent display. The old farmhouse was originally the home of a couple and their seven children. Two rooms! Also on site were a barn with cowshed, a bear-proof pigpen, a weasel-proof

chicken house, a spring house, and a root cellar. The field close by the farmhouse was planted with squash, pole beans, pumpkins, and cabbage. According to the Park Service employee stationed there, deer had eaten the pole beans as soon as they sprouted. It was a pretty sorry looking attempt at vines! Pretty short.

And speaking of deer, we saw four. The scariest was the one who just stood there as James honked the air horns on the bike. As in, "Wow. That's a neat noise! Do it again!" We also saw two fawns - no mama. We were a little worried about that, but she never appeared.

Day 9 - Skyline Drive

We spent our whole travel day on Skyline Drive, in the Shenandoah National Park. And we only saw four deer all day long. Another one who didn't seem to mind the horn, but only four! With a national park surrounding the road, we usually see more wildlife on Skyline than on the Parkway. Perhaps we saw so few because this was a really warm day. In the valleys and east of the mountains, the thermometer almost reached triple digits. Even on Skyline Drive, we saw one thermometer flirting with 90 degrees.

We met a lovely couple from Northern Ireland at a rest stop. They like to tour the United States and have been here several times. Earlier in the day, they had been on a trail and met a bear cub. Not that I was planning to walk the trails before that, but I definitely removed it from my list of things to do after talking to those folks.

The worst feature of the day was a stretch of newly repaired roadway about 6 miles long (though it seemed longer). The road had been renewed by spreading oil/asphalt and then adding gravel on top. After the surface was rolled over by a grader and then swept, most of the gravel was part of the roadway; but not all of it, of course; and the center line was nonexistent most of the way. James navigated the whole stretch safely, but it wasn't a fun ride. Now, what Washington functionary, do you suppose, thought it would be a good idea to spread gravel on one of the prime motorcycling roads in the eastern

United States? Hope our government has saved us a real bundle on that project!

Day 10 - Back to Traffic

The weather forecast for the day was rain, rain, and (for variety) rain. But we - nearly - lucked out. All day, black clouds followed us eastward across Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and into Delaware. And it was cooler, but still dry. Just as we pulled off the road and into the parking lot of our hotel, the rain started. It really picked up while James was registering us, but the bike and I were under the canopy in front of the lobby and barely got damp. We unloaded the bike and moved the stuff to our room. And then James set out to move the 'Wing around the hotel and park it. His luck ran out. A driving, horizontal rain left him absolutely soaking wet. But he made it to the room, safe and sound, and that was a relief.

Otherwise, we had a wonderful trip. We mostly traveled on state and federal roads other than Interstates (just short jaunts on I-70 and I-695). Given the area through which we traveled, the exurbs of Baltimore, we had a remarkably rural ride. And the only deer we saw today was a good deer (that is, deceased). We did encounter a new, to us, road sign. I am sure you are familiar with the sign that means one lane or the other is about to end. Well, this sign showed both the right and left lanes ending and the resulting lane being right in the middle. The sign looked like a funnel. The wording on the sign admonished us to "alternate yielding" of the right of way. Yeah right, like Baltimore drivers were going to yield to anyone else on the road!

Days 10 through 14 - Visiting the Grandchildren

I won't bore you with the details! Let's just note that it rained the entire time we were in Pennsylvania. It really rained! Bunches! Fortunately, daughter Kate and her husband Brian provided four-wheel transport for us.

Continued in the October Newsletter

CYCLE DAVE'S
37929

2750 N. Main



Mansfield, TX



(800) 256-7614

Metro (817) 572-0381

(817) 478-8870

All major credit cards accepted
OVER 20 YRS IN SAME LOCATION Closed Sun-Mon
Hrs. Tues-Fri. 9 am-6 pm Sat. 9am-4pm Free Donuts/Coffee Saturday morning

TMRA & GWRRA DISCOUNTS

SPECIALIZING IN GOLDWING AND CRUISER ACCESSORIES

SERVICE ACCESSORIES SALES

SUPPORT THE SHOP THAT SUPPORTS YOUR SPORT

"We Are Different"

<http://www.touringspecialties.com>



Gary and Beverly Lewis
Chapter "M" Directors
3815 Pecan Valley
Granbury, TX 76048



This Newsletter Especially For.....

