

Rally Wrap-Ups

Riding season is officially here! What does that mean for Texas motorcyclists? It means multitudes of events and activities specifically for us; it means benefits and rallies and rides and runs and FUN!! As we work through this season - we work for YOU - our readers. Here are some highlights from the first round of rallies. For more pictures - check out the ThunderCam page.

BIKERS FOR BIKERS RALLY

April 18, 2008
Montgomery, Texas
BikersForBikers.com
Region: Piney Woods
By: Kat Mack



Every year on the third Sunday in April, on a little plot of land called Bikers Park, Bikers for Bikers holds one of its annual fundraising rallies. It's always a huge success...

Bikers unintentionally originated in 1991. A young man returning from military service had bought the car of his dreams, and tragically had a horrific accident that left him in a wheelchair. Even though he had a difficult time getting around on rocky ground, this young man would attend rallies in his wheelchair. After several falls, his friends decided that he would be better suited for an electric scooter with over sized tires. The group decided to hold a benefit and the turnout was enormous. The results of this benefit were incredible! Not only had they raised enough money to buy the scooter, there was enough to buy two more! Cap (one of the founding fathers of Bikers for Bikers) knew he was on to something.



The group decided to become a non-profit organization and give the excess money to those bikers and families that were in need due to a loss. To date, Bikers for Bikers has been going strong for 18 years, continually generating money to help those in need. In 2002, Bikers for Bikers added a second annual event to keep up with the need for emergency funds for bikers - the Halloween Rally. It, too, is held at Bikers Park.

In 1994, Bikers for Bikers erected the Wall of Memory. As the sun rose out of the east, it cast its long shadows over the 68 plaques that currently make up the Wall of Memory. I had the opportunity to sit with Cap and get the history of the wall. "The wall was intended to be a central rallying point to remember our fallen brothers and sisters," says Cap.

A fellow biker joined us while we sat and talked about all the great things bikers has done for its family community. At first he was silent. He listened, nodded, and then decided to tell his story... They had been out having a great ride that day; two friends... fellow bikers. At the end of a long day they parted ways, not knowing that it would be their last ride together.

Later, the phone call came... He took me over to the wall and showed me the plaque to commemorate the memory of his fallen brother. He reached up and touched the plaque. I knew at that moment all the memories of that day were with him. He then went on to tell me what Bikers for Bikers had done for the surviving family. The wife was left with children to care for and no way to bury her husband. Bikers heard her story and lent their helping hand.

Several people I talked to that weekend had similar experiences... So if it happens to be the third weekend in April, make your way out to Bikers Park on Sandy Hill in Montgomery County and take part in a rally that has done so much for so many.

** Bikers for Bikers is a non-profit organization set up to raise funds and administer emergency assistance to bikers. This organization was founded by, and is administered by bikers, for bikers.*

See you there next year!

HAWGS OF TEXAS RALLY

April 23-27, 2008
Somerville, Texas
HawgsOfTexas.com
Region: Prairies & Lakes
By: Donna "Casper" Hyland

Ever see the famous chic-flick, "Thelma and Louis"; two girlfriends traveling on their own with a mission? Well, that's how



I felt that sun-shiny April morning, perfect riding weather, cruising with a biker chick friend of mine, heading to the Hawgs of Texas (HOT) Rally on Lake Somerville. That was our mission! My friend, Terry, on her ride and me on "Casper"; traveling down the road for a weekend of fun, food, beverages and a little adult adventure.

When we arrived near the rally site, we stopped at the crazy little biker hotel/bar, Fort Half Moon and the Half Moon Saloon, where we stayed during the rally. We unloaded our small luggage bags in the hotel room and freshened up for our girls' night out. And yes men, our luggage bags were small because we packed only the bare necessities!

We arrived at the ticket gate and were happily greeted by a few rally volunteers from the San Jacinto High Rollers. Tagged with arm bands and a warm hug from a High Roller friend, Meat, we rode on in! The party had already begun with the music and bikers the great state of Texas is known for! And no, I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could!



Traveling through the ZOO area was our first route of travel. With tent camping, RV campsites, small fires for cooking, and a little drinking-not-driving fun, the general tone of this area was set. Different sites had different music playing until that afternoon when bands at the Saloon Stage started jamming!

As we moved on to the Main Stage area next to the Marina, we cruised through the Hayfield camping area. All the friendly cheering and howling at two biker chicks traveling on their own was a great "feel good" moment for this biker lady! There were signs displayed identifying MC patch clubs and a lot of independent groups of riders, like HAR (Houston Area Riders), all



dragging your chick on a tire behind your scooter, the fun had only just begun! And then, the beautiful San Jacinto High Roller wedding of Buckshot and High Gear, with High Gear dressed in leather and lace, being escorted down the path of endearing High Rollers. Pastor Gary, from the Tribe of Judah, stood patiently waiting to engage this couple in holy matrimony. In the end, their kiss and tender embrace said it all.

in great spirits throughout the park.

While speaking with a bunch of old friends, checking out vendors from pin striping, LED's, and tattooing, to t-shirts, jewelry, and many leather goods, we ran into Jenni and Rob Riley, two of the owners of the HOT rally. While worn out from months of hard work, traveling, and preparing for this rally, they were still very excited and thrilled to see their party being enjoyed by everyone! Rob, Jenni, Sandy, Tommy, and the many volunteers of the HOT rally did an incredible job making it a fun event for all of us!

The events featured on Saturday included the unforgettable bike games.

From the slowest bike competition, to

The music line-up at this event was a mixture of old tunes and new. On Thursday evening we listened to none other than David Allen Coe and finished off the evening with Powerload in the ZOO area. On Friday night, we enjoyed music by Tommy T and Roadhouse, along with Vince Neil of Motley Crew and ended with Fireball, and the Alice Cooper tribute band. Saturday had more entertainment with Great White, Jackle and the Unchained. The bands were all awesome and put on a great show!

After a wonderful blessing for the journey home by Pastor Gary on Sunday morning, we packed up our belongings and headed back home - worn out from a fantastic weekend of music, food, friendship and fun. We hope everyone had a safe cruise home and I'll see you all next year for the

HOT event being held the last weekend in April on Lake Somerville.

TEXAS STATE HOG RALLY

May 1-4, 2008
New Braunfels, Texas
TXStateHOG Rally.com
Region: Hill Country
By: Lisa Grissom & Ronn Reeger

The State Harley Owners Group (HOG) Rally, which is a private event for HOG members only, was held this year in New Braunfels. This was the first time the rally has ever been in New Braunfels and, interestingly enough, the effort was spearheaded by the Alamo HOG chapter in San Antonio. Former Alamo chapter director and this year's rally coordinator, Kate Petty said, "The guided rides are

always the highlight of any state HOG Rally, so we wanted to have the rally in the heart of the Hill Country since the riding here is so great".

The rally hosted seven different guided rides and provided maps for those that preferred to venture out solo. Guided rides included a "Mountain Ride" thru quaint Hill Country towns with panoramic views, a ride with the Caliente Chapter to the site

of the "Lost Pines" in Bastrop, a tour of the San Antonio Missions hosted by the Alamo Chapter, a Loop trip following the River Road over Devil's Backbone and around Canyon Lake, a jaunt to Fredericksburg with the Gruene Chapter, a 140-mile road trip thru Texas ranches ending at Cowboy Harley-Davidson in Austin and a Hill Country classic treat of back roads known by locals such as Crabapple and Purgatory. All of the rides originated from the Wurstfest Grounds, where the rally was held.


This year's music line-up featured Rotel & the Hot Tomatoes from Austin, the Mustang Sally Band from Nashville, and the Beach Boys headlining the last night. "Again we wanted something different that had never been done before with the music", Petty claimed.

The rally clearly had a positive impact on New Braunfels' business owners by being a stimulus for local businesses to host incentives like music and special sales to entice riders to patronize their shops. The biggest of them being Gruene Harley-Davidson with a carnival, trailer shows, live music and even daredevil Bubba Blackwell, who accurately describes himself as "crazy".

Continued page 22...



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BIKERS HAVE BIG HEARTS!



We all know it... it's common knowledge in the biker community that we are honored

to be among some of the most giving people on this earth! With riding season in full swing, so are the many, MANY benefits around the state. Some big, some small, some new, some long-standing traditions... all with the same basic underlying need to help others. And in the state of Texas - we do it in a BIG way! Here are few of the wrap ups we've received.

CARING CRUISERS

April 12, 2008
Pinehurst, Texas
Region: Gulf Coast
By: Donna "Casper" Hyland

It was a comfortably cool, Saturday morning, on April 12th, the Waller County San Jacinto High Rollers were hustling around, preparing for the days benefit. With the sound of music, brisket and boiled crawfish for the hungry mob, and an auction to help the needy, the San Jacinto High Rollers went to work for those

less fortunate. "Thunder Alley", located on 249, in Pinehurst, was hosting a benefit for the Magnolia Lions Club, which was being organized by the San Jacinto High Rollers.

The place was overflowing with cruisers from all around the Houston area. In attendance, there were many independent riders, members of the Tribe of Judah, the Amigo's, the HOG group, and a few members from the Hawgs of Texas Rally, all out to support some kids in need! And to ensure safe passage on the roads, the

Continued page 31...

Rally Wrap-Ups

... continued from page 16

TEXAS STATE HOG RALLY (cont'd)

The rally drew right at 5,700 people with 4,000 of those registered in advance. People came from states far and wide, including California, Wisconsin, and Florida. There were even some international guests hailing from Mexico, Canada, and the farthest being from Australia!

So where is the rally going to be next year? And how do you get the rally to come to your city? That all happens at the state rally planning committee on June 29 in Austin. Every dealer and every HOG chapter director gets a vote, but they must be present to vote; there are no votes by proxy. According to Petty, "the best way to get the most out of your HOG membership is to get involved". So here's your chance to have next year's state HOG rally where you want it to be, or at least to have a vote! For more details, get in contact with your local HOG chapter.

HAWGS-N-HILLS RALLY

May 2-4, 2004
Llano, Texas
HawgsNHills.com
Region: Hill Country
By: Lisa Grissom & Ronn Reeger

The Hawgs-n-Hills Rally, held at the Oxford Campground outside of Llano, is a "must-go-to-rally". This was the second year for Hawgs-n-Hills and it was better than many 20-year rallies. The unique attraction about this rally is that it is so private, even though it's a public rally. Once you get into the rally grounds, you easily forget Highway 16 is perched just above you and, quite frankly, it is so private that if there weren't signs on the highway directing you to the rally grounds, you would never even know there was a party going on!

The rally had the standard public rally fare like bike games and contests, live music and vendors selling their wares, but you

will also find some interestingly unique, but perfectly conceived activities like pole dancing and weenie bite practice. Some of their signature highlights were the master body painters and Team FMX, a freestyle Motocross stunt team. This year's body painters, Sharon Hodges of Enchanted Bodys, and Stephanie Dalvit of Illusion Artistry, painted some extraordinary designs on some of the more daring rally goers who showed off their "new clothes" in a body painting competition.

Even the vendors were great at this rally. We discovered Rock-n-Roll Boots, a brand new boot company specifically designed for women. They are stylish lace-up boots with a heel tall enough to be fashionable, but small enough that you can still shift your bike. As they say on their website, www.RuthAnnsBoots.com, "put some style in your miles". A call to all ladies...

Aside from offering up a slate of great fun for motorcyclists, the Hawgs-n-Hills Rally has aligned with a heartfelt charity, Camp Janus, for which they raise money. Camp Janus is an annual camping experience for children ages 5-18 who have sustained serious burn injuries. According to David & Kathy Hussey, the rally's founders and coordinators, "going to Camp Janus gives kids who are severely burned a chance to camp with other kids just like them and feel normal in their surroundings". During the rally they offer auctions that specifically benefit Camp Janus and bikers may be wild but they are not with small hearts. This year's rally raised \$5,600 from auctions and donations and the rally is adding another \$5,000 to that. "On May 30, we will ride as a group to Brenham to present the check for \$10,600 to Camp Janus", said the Hussey's who ride a Road King. For more info on partaking in this ride, call 325.247.2322.

The rally drew in 3,500 people this year,

about 500 more than last year. Since the rally is held at a campground, camping is a cinch, whether it be by RV, tent or makeshift accommodations.



They are all accepted.

Here's some interesting scoop on

this rally: last year, during their first year, the local sheriff really gave them hell. He obviously is not a motorcyclist and some say he is just a plain 'ol stick in the mud. But anyway, the rally coordinators, as a result of how they were harassed, took it upon themselves to see what they could do about this situation. The result: they got a new sheriff in town!

To keep up with the rally dates for next year, bookmark www.HawgsNHills.com. They are expecting to announce their 2009 rally dates by end of summer, so be on the lookout. It's a "must-go"!

Additional fun rally pics can be found in our ThunderCam, page 34.

UPCOMING RALLY WRAP UPS

There are so many more events and activities we can report on, but we need help. We'll be covering ROT Rally in July's issue and eagerly await pictures from our readers to include! If you attend a Texas rally, feel free to send us your rally write up for publication.

