



Trip to Texas a life lesson

*A collection of Facebook reports
by Roy Sweet*

My clean R1200S was loaded in a dirty truck, headed for Texas for a small winter break. I made Roseburg the first day in the truck. I dropped the truck off at noon at A&S Cycle in Roseville near Sacramento, a Beemer, Triumph Ducati dealer. They helped me unload the bike and found a place in their locked compound for the truck. After driving over Grant's Pass that morning and talking to Ted at the bike shop, I decided to head for the coast before heading to Arizona.

I had my first experience of lane splitting that day while heading to Monterey on Hwy 101. Totally jacked up the aggression factor. I was worried about clipping the bags on cars as I went by but all worked out. Ocean fog rolled in and I discovered I can't use my GPS and heated vest at the same time. Definite design flaw.

I stayed that night in the Motel 6 in Monterey. Their standard rate for one is \$199/night. Motel 6 my eye. Thank goodness it was off season.

The next day I headed down the coast from Monterey. As the coast



Get your kicks on Route 66

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Next Breakfast/Brunch

Saturday, March 2



WHERE:

Log House Pub
2323 Millstream Rd,
Langford, BC

Time:

9:30 am



Roads and riding, a great winter vacation

tends to be, it was cold... but dry. The sun shone for about fifteen minutes in total. Fun road and little traffic. Then, from Pismo Beach I headed to Hwy 58 and over to Bakersfield. Periods of really tight corners between stretches of straight roller coaster sections. I saw the first roadrunner of the trip, but no coyote.

The turn signal was screwy on the left side so I decided to try a Beemer dealer in Bakersfield and see if it was a cheap fix. If not, hand signals for all left turns until home.

The next day was a travel day, off to Arizona over a 4500 foot pass. I started late after a breakfast of Eggs Benedict (same price as bacon and eggs so I splurged) that had no hollandaise but was covered with black olives. Not what I expected but not bad. There was also a place I went by that advertised a week's stay for \$175. The cheap part of me thought about it but Bakersfield is so flat and boring.



Desert in New Mexico



South of Monterey in the few minutes of sunshine

I was going to put on the heated vest for the pass but the sunshine made it tolerable without. I spent most of the day in the high desert doing 150k. Almost took the exit to Vegas but had promised myself Arizona that day so I soldiered on. I also wandered down a bit of Route 66, but the road surface was bad, so back to Hwy 40. I put the vest on about 1 o'clock just before Needles as I was rising and although the sun was warm, 80mph chills you off quickly. I turned south towards Lake Havasu City as soon as I saw the London Bridge sign. I stopped early to watch the Super Bowl and see the bridge. Cool place.

The next stop was Lordsburg, famous for being the place to catch the 3:10 to Yuma. On the way there, I got passed by a guy in a Chrysler 300 while riding off the interstate system. That wouldn't do, so I passed him back, and managed to wind the bike up pretty well before a car topped a hill in front of me. Not bad for an old girl with bags and big jugs!

Anyway, several hours later, the same car I believe passed me again. I passed him back, then he passed me. Then he clipped a hay bale laying on the road. Not too much damage but it took the wind out of his sails.



Beautiful weather and beautiful bikes



Skulls decorate a touring Beemer in Scottsdale

Didn't need the heated vest that day but threw on the rain coat a couple of times to shield me from the wind. Good forecast until Friday.

Plans when out the window the next day when a pre-flight check of the bike found that a pin had fallen out from the seat latch. This left the seat unattached to the bike. Only my prominent posterior had been keeping everything together. I decided to leave the previous night's plan and find a BMW dealer. I started out for Albuquerque but figured El Paso would be better. So I headed for the Lone Star state. A stop at the recently opened dealer in El Paso revealed they had no parts for my bike. The service manager then spent about half an

hour running in and out until he had found something that would make the seat work until I get home. All on the house. He then suggested a couple of different rides. So I took off for points farther east and south. Tomorrow would be the last day of going towards the east.

I crossed the continental divide and ended up in Alpine, Texas. Not where I wanted to get to, but moving into the central time zone stole away more daylight. Even travelling at the posted 80mph on the freeway didn't add much time. Too many fuel stops. That speed just eats gas. Even the back roads are posted high. When one small town I was headed through ended

up with a closed gas station, I had to dial it way back until the next town, Marpha. There was plenty of construction but in Texas, the construction speed zone is 65mph. You need to be quick on your feet to work on the paving crew in Texas.

At this point I am basically done going east and headed back home. I had put almost 4000 kms on the bike since I started. I headed out in the morning at 8am, the gas station sign said it was 37F. I did the loop through Big Bend National Park in Texas. The roads were fun, fairly twisty but lots of sharp hills. I caught air a couple of times.

The Border Patrol was prominent in my life today. Stopping in one of their many inspections, I was held there for a while as they phoned to verify my identity. I have left my passport in the suitcase in my truck so they were not happy. The other Border guy I met seemed a good



Big blimp near Marpha, or UFO?



A great winter vacation, for a while...

sort though. I was doing about 75mph in a slow to 20 corner, butt off the seat and knee out, when he appeared coming the other way. I was firmly planted and on a good line so I figured an abrupt change wasn't a good idea so I looked up at him, expecting the lights to go on. Instead he gave me a thumbs up and a big smile. Soon after that it was back on the interstate headed west.

One unfortunate thing though. My rain jacket, which I had been using as a wind breaker, blew a seam on the sleeve. I thought I would find a replacement as it hadn't rained yet but it was probably coming.

The next day, having spent the night in El Paso, I started off towards Country Road 9, a suggestion I got from Jim at Barnett BMW a few days ago. A quick check showed that I was low on fuel so I used the GPS to find a gas station. I had only returned to the highway, shifting up to third and moving over into the slow lane, when a bang came from the area of the shifter.



Where old Harley motors go...



London Bridge, now relocated to Lake Havasu City, Arizona

I coasted over towards the side of the road. Looking around, there was not much there so I turned on my cell phone for the first time on the trip. AMA said they would send a truck, and promised a conformation call in the next 15 minutes. An hour later, I phoned them again, only to find they had cancelled my tow because I didn't have the right coverage. I assured the lady I did, and as I waited she phoned BC and determined I did indeed have the correct package. Then she informed me it would be two hours before a tow arrived. The day was heating up so I stripped off some of my gear and relaxed. The

sheriff stopped and asked me what I was doing, leaving after he found out I was waiting for a tow.



Dead on the side of the road



Broken Beemer, tears and teardown



Exhaust valve meets piston, bad things happen

Once the truck arrived, the bike and I headed back to Barnett BMW of El Paso. Thinking perhaps a fuel pump, I was not expecting what I got. A blown left cylinder. An exhaust valve had broken, embedded itself into the piston and grenaded the whole thing.

Timing has never been one of the strong aspects of my aura. After another night in El Paso, I couldn't find a truck to rent, so I took off towards my truck in a rental cage. 1200 miles later, I was in my truck. The decision to return for the bike or go home was made. The cost of returning in the truck was calculated.

It was a number large enough that it would help offset the repairs needed on the bike. So I headed to BC.

After an hours delay and a strip search at the Peace Arch, I was home, pretty much.

Since that time, I have been trying to figure out what to do with the bike. I bought it used in December from Island BMW, 34,000 kilometres on the clock. Now it is dead, 40,000 kms showing. El Paso is putting together a more complete estimate than the one they gave me initially. When the costs are fully determined, I will try and resurrect my phoenix. Just how and when will be the question.

A Reminder to All...

If you haven't already paid your 2013 BMW RVI membership dues please complete a membership renewal form and forward it with your payment to Peter Juergensen. Alternatively you can hand it to Peter at the next breakfast meeting on March 2, 2013.

Please click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the 2013 Membership form from our website.

Club Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Comments
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	Monthly Gathering	The Log House Pub	Breakfast
Sat, Mar 16, 2013	MSF Rider Training	TBD	Classroom
Sun, April 7, 2013	Monthly Gathering	Mary's Blue Moon	Breakfast
Sat, April 20, 2013	Brigantine Run	Maple Bay	Breakfast
Sun, April 28 2013	Classic & Vintage Show	Tsawwassen	Show
May - tentative	19 th Annual BCCOM MLA Ride	Vancouver	Political Rally
May - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Olympic View Golf Course	Breakfast



Club Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Comments
May - tentative	BMW Demo Ride	Island BMW	Test Rides
May - tentative	Monthly Ride	Saltaire Pub / Ladysmith	Lunch
May - tentative	Ride for Dad	Victoria	Charity
May - tentative	49er Rally	Mariposa, California	Rally
June - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Qualicum Beach Golf Club	Breakfast
June - tentative	Motorcycle Ride to Live	Steve Drane's HD	Charity
June 13, 14 & 15	Chief Joseph Rally	John Day, Oregon	Rally
June - tentative	Ride & Camp	Duffy Loop / Lillooet Sunshine Coast Hwy 20 Washington	Where do we want to go?
July - tentative	Monthly Gathering	RC Grill & Bar	Breakfast
July - tentative	Lunatic Fringe Rally	Cochrane, Alberta	Rally
July 18, 19 & 20	BMWMOA National Rally	Salem , Oregon	Rally
July - tentative	Up Island Ride	Tofino Sayward Mount Washington	Where do we want to go?
July - tentative	Cascade Rendezvous	Menlo, Washington	Rally
Aug - tentative	August 38 th Stanley Stomp Rally	Grandjean, ID	Rally
Aug - tentative	Blues Fest	Port Townsend	Rally
Aug - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Salt Spring Island	Breakfast
Aug 15, 16 & 17	Hotsprings Rally	Nakusp, BC	Rally
Aug - tentative	Ride and BBQ	Metchosin	Party
Sept - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Pioneer House, Duncan	Breakfast
Sept - tentative	United Way Charity Ride	CFB Esquimalt (location TBD)	Charity
Sept - tentative	Monthly Ride	Port Renfrew / Cowichan loop	Lunch
Sept - tentative	29 th Annual "Oyster Run" Motorcycle Rally	Anacortes, WA	Rally
Oct - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Location TBD	Breakfast
Oct - tentative	Annual Meeting	Location TBD	AGM & Dinner
November - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast
December - tentative	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast
Jan 1, 2014	TROC	Island View Beach, Bob's House	Party
Jan 5, 2014	Monthly Gathering	Chequered Flag	Breakfast