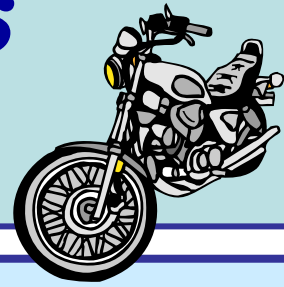


Blues News

Blue Knights ®Texas XXXI *Newsletter*
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club



Rio Grande Conference Approaching



DJ Alvarez

Well, as you can see, the Chapter Newsletter is up and running again! I would like to thank Sheri Contella for the great work she's done with the

newsletter. I would also like to thank Molly Lynch for the work done previously on the newsletter.

HILL COUNTRY RIDE:

The Hill Country Ride to Leaky is right around the corner! The rooms sold out really quick so if you took time to think about it, you were too late. There are other places to stay in the area, but from what I am being told, that weekend the rooms are booked. Good luck finding a room!

RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE:

The 2007 Rio Grande Conference is quickly approaching, and will be here before we know it. A quick reminder that the dates for the conference are May 17-20, 2007. We need volunteer help with manning the hospitality room, setting up the banquet, collecting door prizes, and being available to act as a guide for groups who want to venture out in the area on their motorcycles. We also need conference sponsors, and vendors to help offset the cost of the conference. See the Calendar of Events in this issue for more details. There's more, but I'll be sending out emails as the conference nears.

Finally, the riding season is approaching and always remember to look out for the other person, because they're not looking out for you. Ride safe, and keep the rubber side down!

"Crash" Course on Safety

Column by Roger "Crash" Byars (Road Captain)



Well, 2006 has come and gone, and a new riding season is just around the corner. I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of Chapter 31. YOU (as a chapter) participated in over 20 different rides in 2006 without a single accident in all of our group rides, some 7000 miles of asphalt was covered. For that I say "THANK YOU!" to each of you. Your dedication to safety has made my job alot easier. Also, an additional "tip of the hat" goes to our Asst. Road Captains ("Slims", Don, Jerry and Terry), who literally covered my back.

We all know and love our dear, sweet (choke) "Mama Bear", but on GROUP RIDES...I'm the "PAPA BEAR",

and its time for me to "bear" my teeth. Please take the time to visit our website and refresh yourself with our "ROAD RULES".

We do have a specific ride formation order and some definite safety rules. I'd like to point out breaking formation. We've had this happen a couple of times, and I don't know what to think when I see one of our riders do it. Bottom-line, ride with the group, or ride by yourself, you can't have it both ways, and I can't organize a ride for 20 independent riders.

I enjoy my position serving you as your Chapter Road Captain, and look forward to many more miles and smiles. Watch your email for upcoming events.

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Special Message:

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to publish the Blues News Newsletter. I apologize for taking so long getting this first issue out to you. The newsletter will continue to be a bi-monthly publication. The next issue will be published in May.

As you take photos, go on rides, see interesting rides advertised, hear of any interesting news or if you have any new ideas for columns - please shoot me an email.

This is your newsletter and we want to keep it interesting and informative.

Sheri Contella

Knights Helping Others

Local Soldier Honored



"Twas the night before Christmas" and League City Police sent out a call for help for 4 children being put in foster care. The children were found in deplorable conditions and were not going to have a Christmas. Tom Garland is shown in the photo above donating a \$200 check from TX31 to help these kids. Thanks to the community these children had a wonderful Christmas despite their situation.

Members of Texas 31 gathered with Patriot Guard Riders (and others) on a slightly cool, wet and dreary day to pay their last respects to a local fallen soldier. Marine PFC N. Given was killed while serving in Iraq just before Christmas. His body was returned home to Dickinson, Texas where he was laid to rest with full military honors. At the request of the Patriot Guard Riders, members of Texas 31 were asked to serve as honor guard as PFC Given's casket was loaded into the hearse.

Interstate 45 was lined with thousands of AMERICAN flags, men & women in tears, veterans in their military uniforms and small children "saluting" as the procession passed.

Although this wasn't our longest ride or a pleasurable ride, it was (without doubt), one of our most memorable rides...and AMERICA DOES REMEMBER!

The short ride from the funeral home to the cemetery was a sobering, but very patriotic sight which couldn't help but make you proud to be an American.



"Blue Knights - Bikers - Santa - a Pony & the Young-at-heart!"



What a way to finish out 2006, members of Texas 31 rode with Bro. Harry Stafford (and his Light-house Ministry group) and the bunch from Alvin Blue Santa to visit with the residents of a local nursing home in Alvin. A beautiful day just before Christmas allowed us to spend a little time with a sometimes forgotten band of brothers and sisters..the elderly.



Once there, we joined in on some Christmas caroling, munched on a few Christmas goodies, and watch the smiles of the "young-at-heart". Looks like we will be putting this ride on our regular yearly calendar. Hope these few pictures warm your heart, as much ours were.





Calendar of Events



Upcoming Events...Mark your Calendars

March

30-1 **Thunder In the Hill Country** – Bandera-Mansfield Park Run/games/show/vendors/food. Must be 18yrs & over 936-334-0558

April

7 **BK Brotherhood Ride** - A CLOSED EVENT, Blue Knights & family members only. Ride to Woodville, Texas for the Dogwood Festival. Five local BK Chapters will be participating.

7 **Cowboys On The Coast Rally**, at Ford Park (Beaumont, Tx.)
<http://www.cowboysonthecoast.com>

22 **Back The Badge Ride** - benefit ride for the "100 Club" www.backthebadgeride.com

27-29 **2nd Annual "Hill Country Ride** - (Leakey, Texas)

May

17-20 **Rio Grand Conference** – Galveston, TX

We need volunteers for event and rides and sponsors to donate auction items. Contact DJ Alvarez for details.

Registration – forms available on the website

\$50 per person prior to April 21st

\$60 per person after April 21st

\$25 Banquet Only

Host Hotel – Hawthorne Suites the Victorian Resort & Conference Center
(409) 740-3555 / Patty ext. 2282 or Jamie ext 2209

The 800 number will not give discounts – must talk to one of the above and ask for Blue Knight Discount

Daily Rates:

1 Bedroom Condo \$95 Sleeps 4-6 Regular \$159

2 Bedroom Condo \$179 Sleeps 6-8 Regular \$254

Events/Rides/Activities

“Rock the Dock” – Kemah Boardwalk, 3 scenic rides daily, MSF Riding Courses, Bike Show, Bike Games, Banquet at Lone Star Flight Museum, *NEW* Funny Money Auction, Hospitality Room, Vendors, and much more!!



Blessing In Blessing 2007

On Sunday, January 28th, 2007, Texas 31 hosted its second annual "Blessing In Blessing" Ride.

Approximately 75 riders rode to Blessing Texas for food, fellowship and a Blessing of Bikes by Brother Harry.

To borrow "Brother Harry's" words... "Remember, the bell is but a myth...the "cross" is for real." Maybe next year we will bust the "100" mark for attendance.

This is our only real "open to the public" ride (other than the Toy Run) and it appears that our riding friends enjoy it as much as we do.



Brother Harry blessing the bikes.



Florida Members Get Snow?

Aaron and Karen Julch send their best wishes to everyone for the New Year! They went on a vacation to Iowa and found themselves in the snow.

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Submit to the Blues News newsletter

Website submissions:

If you have any photos you would like to share with the group, please submit them to D.J. Alvarez or the Webmasters to post on the website.

Rides/Events submissions:

If you have any event information, rides, or anything you would like to share with the group, email it to D.J. or "Crash". They will forward the information to all members.

Newsletter submissions:

Submit articles and photos to Sheri Contella via email (listed at the right). You may also provide printed information in person. Submissions are subject to editing and will be used based on space availability.

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RGC 2007



Schedule of Events

Thursday/Friday – May 17th & 18th

Thursday, May 17th

Daily Events

Registration	Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Sales	Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Vendors	Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room	Noon - Midnight

Rides

Ride to Kemah Boardwalk "Rock the Dock" Live Band, Restaurants, Amusement Park	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Escort Rides – Available every day <i>(TX31 members will be available to perform guided, "escort" rides for those guests that wish to go somewhere else.)</i>	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Register for all rides at the Registration Table.

Friday, May 18th

Daily Events

Continental Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Registration	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Sales	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Vendors	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Re-open	9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Rides

Blue Water Highway Ride	10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Island - Inland Ride	10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Scavenger Hunt Ride	10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Escort Rides <i>(TX31 members will be available to perform guided, "escort" rides for those guests that wish to go somewhere else.)</i>	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Register for all rides at the Registration Table.

Activities

MSF Group Riding Course (Door Prize - Must attend & be present to WIN)	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Spit & Shine Bike Show (Held in the covered parking area)	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Bike Show Voting by People's Choice (1st - 2nd & 3rd Place Winners announced at Banquet)	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Social Mixer (Poolside - "Welcome Speaker" - Food, Drinks & Door Prizes)	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Note: All attendees must be registered to participate in events/activities

RGC 2007



Schedule of Events

Saturday/Sunday – May 19th & 20th

Saturday, May 19th

Daily Events

Continental Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Registration	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Sales	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Vendors	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Re-open	9:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Funny Money Auction	9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Rides

Blue Water Highway Ride	10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Island - Inland Ride	10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Escort Rides	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
<i>(TX31 members will be available to perform guided, "escort" rides for those guests that wish to go somewhere else.)</i>	
Register for all rides at the Registration Table.	

Activities

RGC President's Meeting	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
MSF Group Riding Course	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
<i>(Door Prize - Must attend & be present to WIN)</i>	
Bike Games	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<i>(Held in the parking area behind hotel – winners announced at Banquet)</i>	
Lone Star Flight Museum	
Social /View planes	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Banquet/Awards	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Funny Money Auction – Hospitality Room	9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 20th

Activities

Continental Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Biker Church Service	9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Blessing of the Bikes	9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Note: All attendees must be registered to participate in events/activities