



# ADVM **MOTO**

DUAL SPORT NEWS  
ADV MOTORCYCLE.COM

## ITALIAN STALLION



DUCATI  
MULTISTRADA  
ENDURO

**THE SURVIVAL  
TRIANGLE**  
Comfort,  
Navigation and  
Obstacles

**SCENIC,  
RUGGED  
& MAGICAL**

ADV British  
Columbia

**BEAUTIFUL BALI**

Beaches, Bamboo  
and Bikes



The Lone  
Star Loop

Motorcycles  
for Mongolia

A Battle Ready  
R1200 GS

July/August 2016 | No. 93

\$5.99 US / \$6.99 CAN



FEATURES

- 34 First Ride**  
Built for Adventure:  
2016 Ducati Multistrada  
1200 Enduro  
by Bret Tkacs
- 42 Project Bike**  
Battle Ready: BMW R1200 GS  
by Bill Drago
- 50 The Survival Triangle**  
by Ian Lloyd Neubauer

RIDE REPORTS

- 56 ADV B.C.: Exploring  
British Columbia**  
by Ian Schmeisser
- 62 The Lone Star Loop**  
by Jerry Lewis
- 68 Beautiful Bali: Beaches,  
Bamboo and Bikes**  
by Raymond Friedrich
- 74 A Rally for Rangers:  
Motorcycles for Mongolia**  
by Joel Caldwell



DEPARTMENTS

- 8 Editor's Saddle**
- 10 Industry News** Motogypsy partners with *Mines Advisory Group* to save lives  
• *Touratech* and *Ortlieb* team up to create new waterproof product line
- 12 Product News** *Anakee Wild* tires from *Michelin* • *ATX20* replacement battery by *Antigravity Batteries* • New *Gas Bag Fuel Safe Bladder™* by *Giant Loop*  
• Updated brake pedal for the *Suzuki DR650* from *Warp 9 Racing* • New *Moose Racing XC1* riding jacket • *Avon Motorcycle Tyres* announces the new *TrailRider* adventure sport tire
- 16 Product Reviews** *Hornet X2* helmet from *Shoei* • *Sargent World Performance Plus Pillion* and *Heated Saddle* • *F6 Pro Hydropack* by *USWE* • *Helinox Cot Lite* • *XCR Jacket* and *Pants* from *Moose Racing* • *Ballistic Adventure Jacket* by *Joe Rocket* • *2016 Apex Drystar Gloves* from *Alpinestars* • *Wolfman's* new *Overland Duffel*
- 82 Rider Profile**  
Redline Your Life! Two Women, Six Months and Five BDRs  
by Bill Drago
- 90 Tuning Up**  
Wheels: Spoke or Cast?  
by Steven M. Green
- 92 World Touring Index**
- 96 Reader Rides**  
XLADV KTM990  
by Eric Hall
- 98 Book Review**  
Notes from the Road Vol. IV by *Derek Mansfield*  
by Jim Cowgill

**ON THE COVER:** Bret Tkacs catches some air in Sardinia, Italy, for the *Ducati's Multistrada Enduro* international press junket. Photo by *Ducati of Italy*. Artwork by Carl Parker.



# THE LONE STAR



**T**he Lone Star Loop is a 2,200-mile dual-sport motorcycle route in Texas. My goal in designing it was to create a loop around Texas consisting of 80% dirt roads. Using the *Roads of Texas* map book, *Google Earth*, and *TXDOT's* online grid map, I selected roads which appeared to offer fun riding and scenic landscapes.

# LOOP

by Jerry Lewis



## DAY ONE

Good friend and riding partner, Yancey Jones, hauled me and my *Suzuki DRZ 400S* to start the Loop on US-380 east of Lubbock. The morning of September 18, 2015, was pleasant with small thunderstorms building just to the west. The roads were good except for occasional patches of sand. Scaring up lots of quail, a few turkeys, and a large red-tailed hawk, I neared Abilene with the occasional B-1 bombers circling overhead. The roads today were mostly graveled surface but eventually turned into some interesting two-track across a picturesque ranch. The bike performed flawlessly and I completed the 227 miles to Coleman.

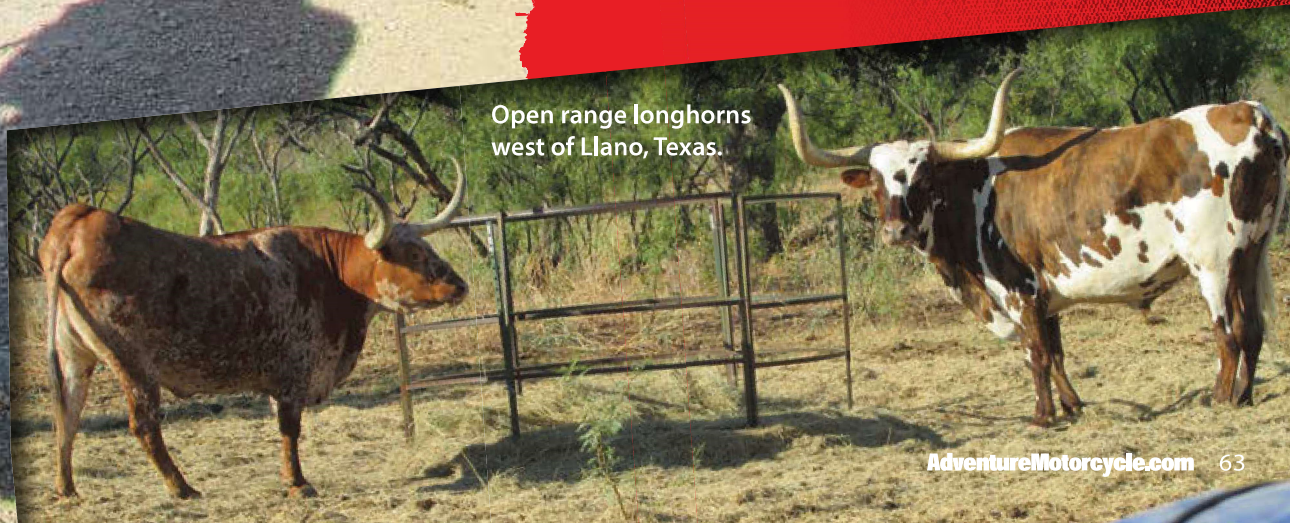


## DAY TWO

The morning was cool with partly overcast skies as I rode west around Lake Brownwood. Some roads were bitumen but I didn't mind, as they traversed scenic ranches and low water crossings. After lunch the storm clouds were building to the south and west. The roads south of Richland Springs are great... miles and miles of two-track with great vistas overlooking pastures dotted with cattle and live oaks. The clouds grew darker but I dodged most of the storm. A little wet, I rode some squirrely caliche in the wake of the storm. The rain brought out some deer determined to cross my path. I rode 12 miles off-route to a motel in Mason after 215 miles of great roads.

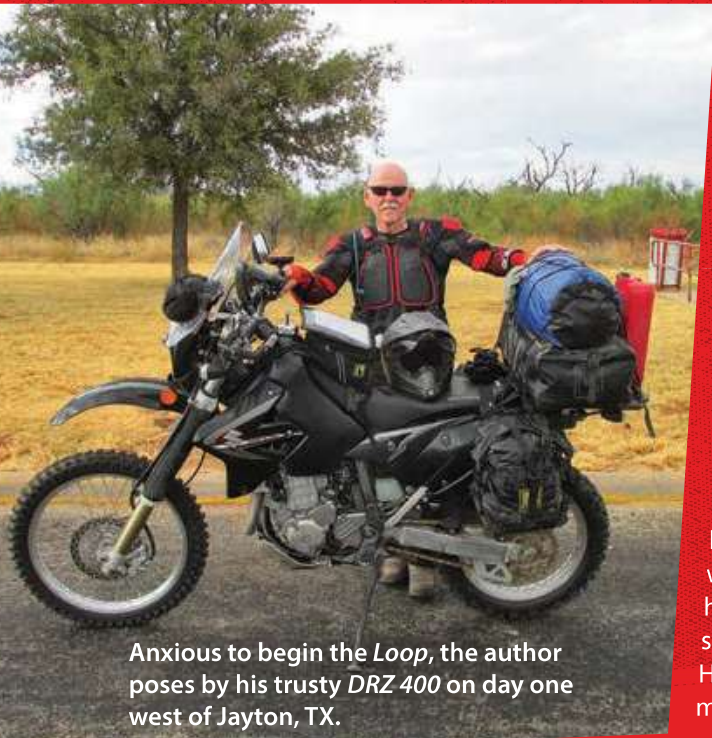
If old barns could talk... south of Rocksprings, Texas.

Open range longhorns west of Llano, Texas.





## DAY THREE (DEER 1, JERRY 0)



Anxious to begin the *Loop*, the author poses by his trusty DRZ 400 on day one west of Jayton, TX.

After enjoying breakfast in a 110-year-old building, I rode east to rejoin the Loop. The road heading south to the Llano River is one lane of hard-pack dirt, covered in BB-sized gravel and closely bordered by brush. Feeling great and up on the pegs, I was doing about 40 when a deer came crashing through the brush. As the deer passed in front of my nose I grabbed too much brake and managed a low-side crash. Lying with my leg under the bike I took an inventory of body and bike parts. After a little first aid, I cut off my shattered windshield and continued my adventure. South of the tiny town of Castell I carefully crossed several creeks running over bedrock coated with slippery moss. Scaring up more deer, I discovered a few pristine 1800s German stone ranch houses on the road.

Most of the Loop roads to this point were Class 1 (improved dirt, gravel). Some of the roads east of Junction would rate as Class 2 (poorly maintained dirt, water crossings) and could be difficult for heavier adventure bikes. I crossed I-10 then rode south on CR-930 which crosses about 30 miles of great ranch country. One section had 10 "bump gates" and six "get-off gates." FYI, a *bump gate* is a free-swinging livestock gate with a counterweight that closes the gate. Hot and weary after 192 miles, I rolled into Rocksprings grateful for no more en-deer-ing moments.



Ouch! A quarter mile north of Llano River east of Mason.



## DAY FOUR

The road south of Rocksprings had short stretches of moderate sand but soon rated a Class 2 designation. The terrain was much drier to the southwest, with thick cedar and live-oak growth. A family of feral hogs crossed my path but the deer were fewer as I passed through more gates. Before arriving in Camp Wood I had traversed numerous water crossings a foot deep and 50 to 100 yards across. County roads were scarce so I traveled RR-337 past Leakey to the Sabinal River Road. This road is mostly dirt and took me south into Utopia, home of the famous *Lost Maples Café*. Downing a cheeseburger and pecan fudge pie, I rode east on a mixture of dirt and bitumen roads to Bandera. The thermometer was nudging 100°F when I arrived in Devine after 195 miles.



## DAYS FIVE AND SIX

Days Five and Six were uneventful after riding through the Hill Country. I traveled south of San Antonio and Austin then rode through Bastrop State Park viewing the aftermath of the 2011 forest fire. Continuing east through Sam Houston National Forest I enjoyed shady tunnels of 100-foot pine trees. Riding solo you have time to get philosophical. I lamented the amount of pavement on the *Loop* until I considered that my bike is a “dual-sport.” Not knowing when or if the road surface will change is part of the adventure as I experience the backroad beauty and the history often concealed from the average traveler. Evening of Day Six found me in Huntsville, having covered 400 miles in two days.



## DAY SEVEN

Under clear morning skies I enjoyed a variety of asphalt, gravel, dirt, and sandy two-track. The picturesque rural lanes and green pastures led me through more pine tree tunnels. Deep in the forest I watched constantly for deer but saw few. After lunch I encountered the deepest and longest stretch of sand so far and was relieved to get beyond it. After 163 miles I got a room at the *Bass Buster Inn* north of Jasper. Still wearing my armored jersey and helmet a lady there told me not to worry when her dog started growling at me. “It’s just that the dog isn’t used to seeing someone dressed up like *Spiderman*,” she quipped.



## DAY EIGHT

After another great artery-clogging breakfast I headed east into the morning sun where I experienced more deep sand. The roads through the Sabine National Forest were fun riding due to the “undulating and circuitous topography.” Now on the northbound leg of the *Loop*, I rode excellent forest roads to the outskirts of Center, my day’s destination. This was a short 100-mile day, allowing time for laundry. Wearing clean duds, I dined at *Las Margaritas* on the square.



## DAY NINE

With the temp in the upper 50s I put on my armored coat for the first time. Dodging several dogs I suspected that every rural house in east Texas had at least three of the critters unchained. As the morning wore on, many of the roads meandering through the forest were oiled-dirt. Later in the afternoon I experienced the deepest sand yet but kept the bike upright. As I arrived in Mount Enterprise a parade was about to start. Riding by in my “*Spiderman*” outfit, the town folks along the curb assumed I was part of the parade and began to wave. I’m intrigued with small towns, observing the old buildings and wishing they could tell me their stories. Hot and tired from fighting the sand as I covered 230 miles (1,668 total so far), I rode off-route to Omaha to find a motel.

## ★ DAY TEN

At breakfast, an older gentleman inquired about my trip before sharing his own life story. The morning's roller-coaster roads began to level out near the Red River. The flora soon changed from pine to oak as I dodged deer and dogs. No gas stations were close so I would rely on my *RotopaX*. At 200 miles and still no petrol, I decided to push on to Sherman. With a still-full *RotopaX* and having traveled 234 miles, my 3.9-gallon tank held 3.82.

## ★ DAY ELEVEN

As I rode west from Sherman, a thin bank of clouds obscured the rising sun and kept the temps in the 60s. It was chilly south of the Red River as the hills became thickly forested with live oaks. The scenery and roads were some of the best on the Loop. I crossed several creek bridges and rode over rolling hills interspersed with beautiful pastures and tree-tunnels. I continued to run near the Red River as the landscape became mesquite-covered prairie. Passing north of Wichita Falls, most of the roads were gravel alternating with blacktop. Making good time, I began to toy with extending my day to Crowell, allowing me to finish the Loop the following day. "Smelling the barn," I chased the sun to Crowell, arriving hot, dusty, and tired and having ridden 280 miles.

## ★ DAY TWELVE

With the sun still below the horizon, I rode south on roads closely bordered by mesquite and cedar. Dropping off into what locals call the "Breaks," I crossed the *Lowrance Ranch* as the early sun illuminated the rugged canyons. I turned onto a knap-of-the-earth road that meanders through more canyons on the *JY Masterson Ranch*. Northwest of Knox City I left pavement for many miles of more rugged breaks. Climbing high along the shoulder of Kiowa Peak I paralleled the Brazos River a while before turning west for the final leg of the *Loop*. Skipping lunch, I came to US-380 and CR-409, where my journey began 12 days ago. I checked the stats on my GPS and found my grand total for the *Lone Star Loop* was 2,344 miles. After a prayer of gratitude for a safe trip, and a couple of "selfies," I mounted my trusty steed and rode the asphalt back to Lubbock, anxious to see my wife and family. **ADV**

## POSTSCRIPT: LONE STAR LOOP

Thinking back on the trip I considered whether I'd change the route or my ride. The roads offered a tremendous variety of scenery and ride-ability. The goal of 200 miles per day was reasonable with ample time for photos. It was an excellent adventure and I hope other riders find the time to enjoy it.



**Jerry Lewis** of Lubbock, Texas, started a small residential remodeling company after retiring to partly finance his motorcycle hobby. He's been riding since he bought an

All-State Moped in 1962. At 69 he still loves to ride and to tinker with his bikes and enjoys long rides with his wife, Lyn, to California, Canada, and New England. Lately, his DRZ 400S has become a real passion, and he's ridden the Continental Divide Trail and the Trans-America Trail with hopes to ride the Oklahoma Adventure Trail next fall. For anyone interested in the Lone Star Loop, the GPS routes, tracks, and other information are available on the forum, "Two Wheeled Texans." Feel free to contact Jerry ([jerrybo](mailto:jerrybo)) through [TwTex.com](http://TwTex.com) or at [ADVrider.com](http://ADVrider.com).

The historic Double Mountains in Stonewall County southwest of Aspermont, TX.

