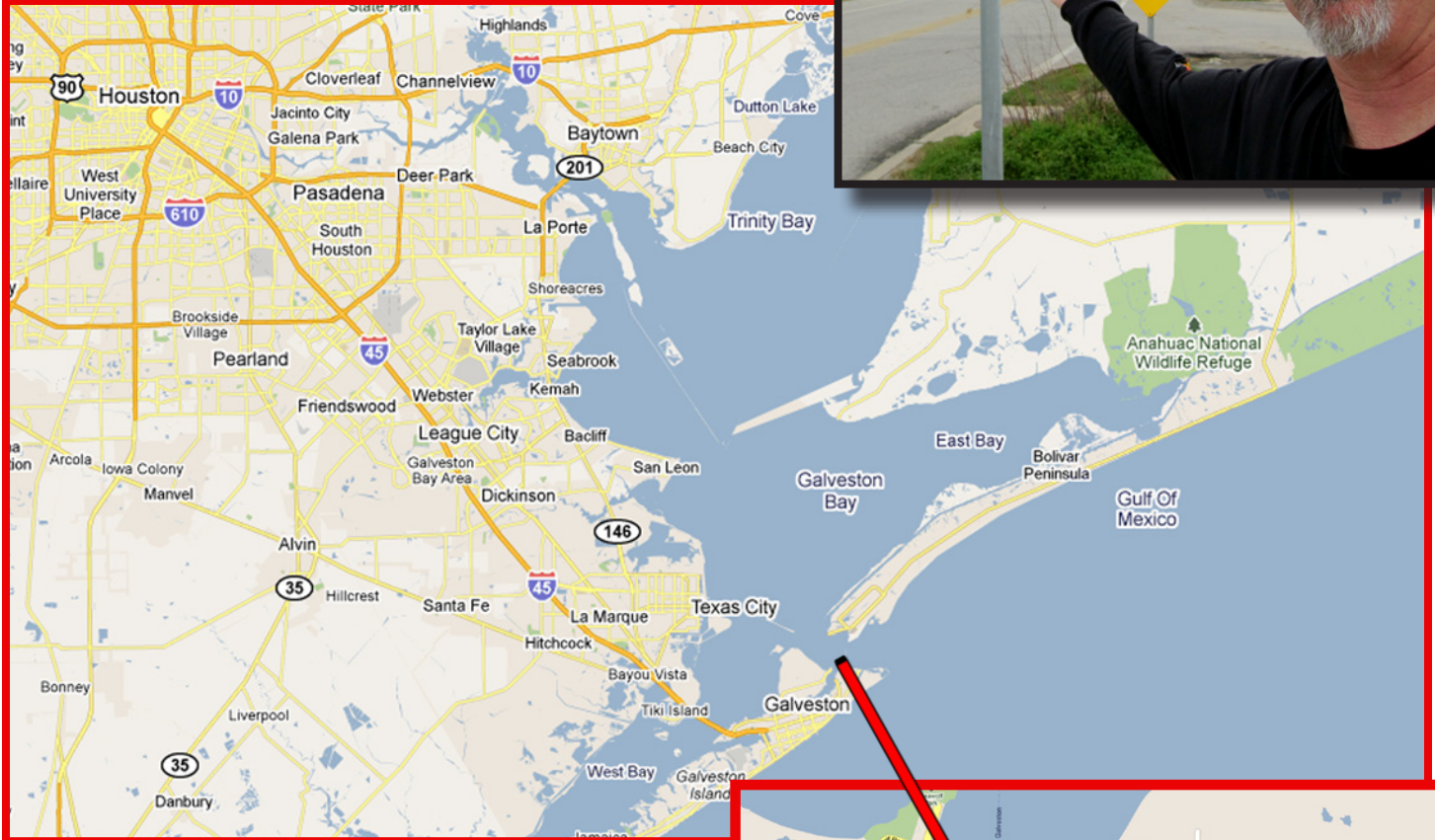


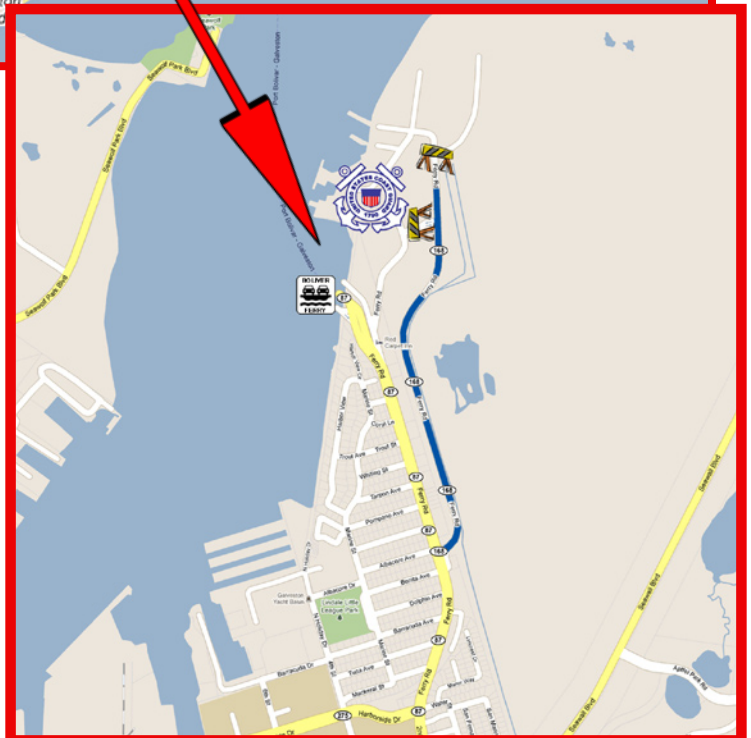
BONUS MAP: TEXAS 168

By Randy "Harley Doc" McCamey, TRT Correspondent



I just finished reading Sean Kester's 1500 mile road trip ride from Los Angeles, CA to Dallas, TX in the last issue of Thunder Roads Texas Web-zine. Nothing motivates me more to ride than to read about someone else's great ride. So strap on the gear, it's time for another ride on the Texas backroads! I found Texas State Highway 168 last year as I was preparing for the 2010 Lone Star Rally in Galveston. The ride actually begins in Galveston, so get there any way you can – the free ferry from Bolivar is always a nice way to come into town. As you travel from the ferry toward town on the Ferry Road (Texas 87), Texas 168 will begin about 1/2 mile down the road. You will turn east onto 168 across from Albacore Ave.

Preparation is the key to any good ride. As it turns out, there is a service station as you begin the ride at the corner of 87 and 168. Check the gas, oil, air pressure and make sure you have gear for a serious ride. It can be damp and misty near the coast, so have your rain gear handy. As always, have some water and a few snacks in the saddle bags just in case. Highway 168 is a nice, smooth highway and you begin the journey with a long swooping left curve that leaves you headed almost due north. TXDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) knows that some of us can get over-confident



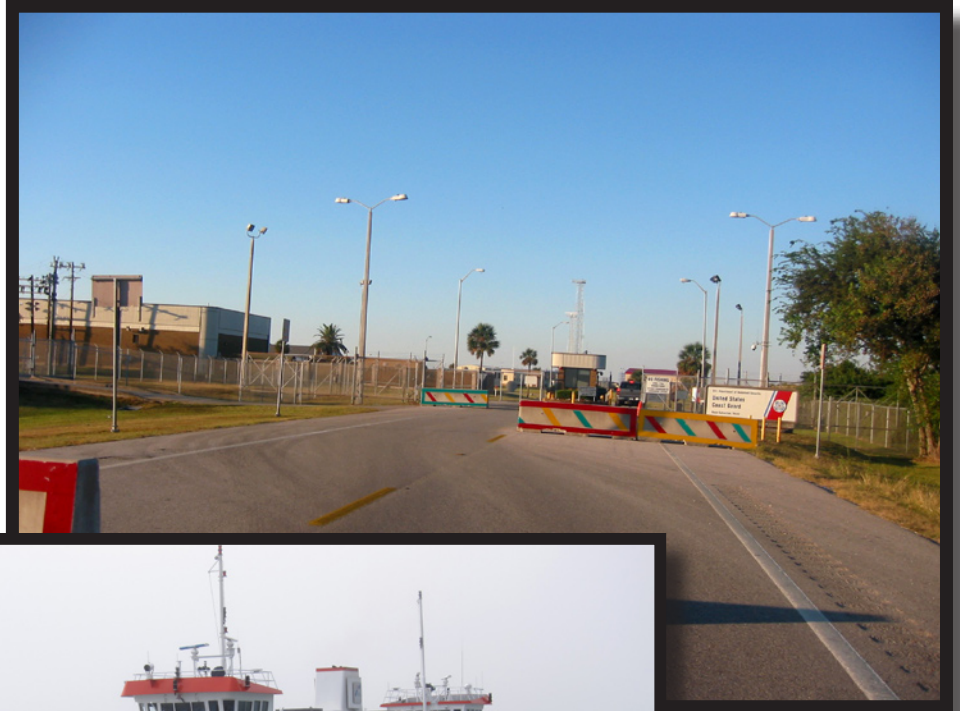
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BONUS MAP: TEXAS 168

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when things begin to look “too good”, so they set the speed limit at 45MPH. This is a blessing in disguise; however, as it lets you enjoy the scenery that much more. The day I made my ride on Texas 168 the weather was perfect – sunny skies and 70 degrees outside. The road straightens out some which allows you to get comfortable in the seat for the remainder of the trip. A few buildings emerge on the horizon and as you approach them you see that they are US Coast Guard facilities. An unfortunate part of the ride is just ahead as the Coast Guard has the road closed for security reasons. This requires that you turn around and backtrack on 168, retracing your steps back to Galveston. Not all is lost, though, as you get to view the same great scenery from a different point of view. As the time passes you find yourself back at the 87/168 terminus (the Ferry Road). You again stop at the service station to relax, refuel, and contemplate the ride. You look down at your odometer to discover that you have traveled the amazing distance of . . . 1.74 miles! Yes, you read that correctly. Texas 168 is less than nine-tenths of a mile long in each direction.



According to Wikipedia, it is the shortest main state highway in the state!

Obviously this article is all in fun. I doubt there is any organization that gives awards, pins, or patches for the shortest distance traveled but, then again, motorcycling is all about the ride and having fun and I think Texas 168 fits that bill nicely. So, the next time you are

around Galveston, take the “short ride” along Texas 168. If nothing else, it will be one of life’s experiences you can tell your grandkids!

From the Backroads,

Harley Doc

PS: See Sean Kester’s complete article at <http://thunderroadstexas.com/Images2011/Feb11/Articles/Feb16-1500 Miles on the 883-Web-zine.pdf>

