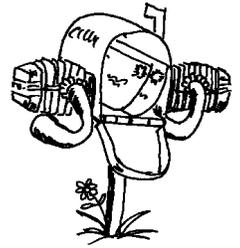


# The Mail Boxer

BMW MOA #7

BMW RA #5



No matter what/where/how often/far/fast you ride, we welcome you to join us in motorcycling fellowship.

Madison BMW Club  
P.O. Box 7511  
Madison, WI 53707

[www.madisonbmwclub.org](http://www.madisonbmwclub.org)

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Meetings (usually) on first Sundays  
of the month at 9AM

**PLEASE NOTE- NO MEETING  
IN JULY**

**Next meeting:  
Sunday, August 4 at 9 AM  
Maple Tree Restaurant,  
McFarland, WI**

## The Prez Sez:

By Steve Huber

My history with this club is rather brief compared to some of you; my perceptions of this club are therefore clouded by my experience. I wasn't a member during the infamous "Breakfast War" although I did attend a few meetings during that time. My interest in a motorcycle club extends beyond simply meeting once a month for a meal. Frankly, I can search out much more varied breakfast locations on my own. What attracted me to joining a motorcycle club (and particularly this one) was the camaraderie, the catholic interest in motorcycling, and a chance to broaden my motorcycling horizons.

All this is mentioned as a lead-in to my current rant: the relatively piss-poor participation in club activities and events. And yes, I am talking to you. Let's review a couple recent events:

The GR3 had something like 21 members participating out of about 80 members in the club. Granted, the GR3 isn't supposed to be a profit center, however any money we make helps subsidize other club activities

such as the club picnic, charitable contributions, and annual banquet (to name a few). The fewer members there are helping out during the rally means more members burning out later on. Do you want the club to continue subsidizing events? How about helping out?

The club picnic was a poorly attended event. All that was asked from members was a dish to pass and your company, yet we failed to draw much in the way of attendance. A lot of effort was expended by several members to cook up a fantastic meal. I even kept the June business meeting short!

Getting volunteers to help with bicycle race chaperoning has been an exercise in futility. Here's a great opportunity to provide a service and get some good press for motorcycles and the BMW community, yet few seem to take an interest. We have a national event coming up (the Madison Triathlon) that reflects on the entire Madison community, yet only a few in the club seem to give a fig. Please: I beg of you, I really do want to know just what makes riders so averse to volunteering.

I realize that family life, school, work, and other commitments take precedence over

motorcycle club events. What I'm asking is for club members to think over their participation in the club. Volunteer where and when you can. Attend a club ride or other event. Show up for part of the ride or part of the event. Put in what time you can. Remember, you'll get out of any club what you put in.

Ok, rant mode off.

Upcoming club activities: We still need volunteers to help with the Madison Triathlon (see my rant above). Tom Weisen is the Triathlon Moto Coordinator. Contact Tom to volunteer or with questions (and I do hope we get more volunteers).

A tentative club campout at the Wisconsin Badger Camp for late September/early October is in the early planning stages. Its purpose is to help with some winterizing chores (easy ones, I promise) around the camp, and drink adult beverages and BS around a campfire that night. Details To Be Announced as soon as we know them.

Don't forget: Our annual banquet and meeting to elect officers is late October/early November. Here's your chance to vote out any obnoxious officer who rants too much.

That's it for this month. I need to start packing for a Canada trip. I hear there's a small BMW rally being held over in Ontario so I might just swing by and check it out. See you in August.

**Prez Steve**

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Yet More Dirt from Meredith Hassall .....pp.4-5

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More Slimy Crud by Tom Van Horn.....pp.6-7

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And more!

**VP's Report**

By Tom Van Horn

As you read in these pages' last issue, GR/3 at Badger Camp was an apparent success - Czar Bert says that we're tentatively planning to meet with the Camp folks in fall, with talk of setting a five year contract - !

Those who missed the June picnic missed a fine feed, with many mouths filled thanks to Chef Todd and Betty. Todd advises that we'll need to arrange something else next year, as he wants to (finally) attend the Hiawatha Rally...

...Is there anything to report from THIS year's Hiawatha? How 'bout Iowa?? Inquiring minds, etc...

I sneaked out from weekend chores to join Dave J. and some other instructors and caught the Sunday doin's at Road America on 6/9. Great weather, no bad

crashes, ran into Todd E. (who may have some track stories?), Mike S., Roland and Val, as well as Steve and Judy from Madison Motorsports, taking one of their two days off per year...

The 'MOA National Rally is nigh - ya going?

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Schultz, Vernon  
N3149 Sleepy Hollow Rd.  
Fall River, WI 53932  
608-484-3064  
(K1200LT)

Low, James & Linda  
406 Shato Ln.  
Monona, WI 53716  
608-222-5967 / 261-4978  
[lowjm@hotmail.com](mailto:lowjm@hotmail.com)  
(R1100RT, R60/5)

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**Secretary's Report**

By J.T. Wagner

The club voted not to have a July breakfast since this is the long 4th of July weekend and some of us may already be on our way to the National in Canada.

Bert gave a rally report, stating that with all monies donated to Badger Camp and money from food sales, they will be able to sponsor 8 adults this summer for a week under our club's name.

There were 215 rally-goers. Badger Camp is talking of signing a 5 year contract with us.

There may possibly be a club campout in the fall to help with wood cutting at Badger Camp.

Anyone interested in escorting ride marshals around during the Iron Man Competition should contact Tom Wiesen.

## Next Dells Rally

By Sue Rihn-Manke

(What follows is a shameless plug for the Dells Rally.)

As many of you know, many rallies have evolved from their humble beginnings. The Wisconsin Dells Rally, 32 years old this year, is one of them. We were the first rally to serve a Saturday night meal, the first to have free beer (don't have it any more, though), and we still pull in over 1000 people every year.

But BMW riders are changing. Many of us have more disposable income these days. We expect more in the way of our creature comforts - flush toilets, hot showers, and hot coffee in the morning are three that top my list. And the Wisconsin BMW Club recognized that although most of us still love to camp out, we wouldn't turn down a cozy motel room if there was one readily available within a stone's throw of the beer tent.

With that in mind, we are moving the Dells Rally to a resort in the Dells. We will not change any aspect of the rally that everyone has come to expect and enjoys: high quality beverages, kids games, the ride to the Crane

Foundation, Field Events, Live music...etc ... AND, there will still be lots of camping space for everyone. But now we also have the option of sleeping in a real bed if we choose.

This could be the year to bring the family, the wife, or how about your dad? Start thinking about it - we are planning to make this one a real blow-out!

Wisconsin Dells Rally Sept 6 - 8, 2002 Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

This ends the shameless plug. Thanks for your patience.

## Shirts - and More

By J.T. Wagner

The subject came up at GR3 about having club sweatshirts printed. Well, actually I brought it up, but some people seemed interested. Here are some prices. These include T-Shirt prices as well.

These prices are for sizes Small thru XL and for short-sleeve

	12-23	24-47	48-72
100% cotton-T	8.35	7.70	6.75
50/50 sweat	11.35	10.80	9.75
9-oz cotton-sweat	12.95	12.30	11.35
9.3-oz hooded-sweat	17.25	16.55	15.80
8-oz hooded-sweat	15.35	14.70	13.65

Tees. Add \$2.00 for sizes XXL to XXXL. These shirts or sweatshirts will be the same blue as before with the club logo on the back and front left. The hooded sweatshirts are Jerzee brand. The rest are Fruit of the Loom.

## Field Of Dreams And Campout

By Edwin Burington

What: Field Of Dreams, New Wine campground and steaks over charcoal.

When: Friday, August 9th, leaving Madison at 4 PM. Leave from Speedway gas station on the corner of Verona Road (Hwy 151) and Raymond Road.

Ride to: The New Wine campground (5 miles north of Dyersville, Iowa).

Details: Distance one way is about 125 miles. Camping is \$6 per site without electricity, \$10 with electricity. Showers and flush toilets are available at the campground. Very good site facilities, accommodating bicycles to RVs. Motels are available in Dyersville. Dinner is charcoal grilled steaks at the New Vienna VFW (public welcome) \$8. You pick out your steak and give it to the grill crew who will cook to your order. Entertainment is campfire camaraderie and, on a clear night, the Perseids meteor shower. Saturday visit the Field Of Dreams movie site, travel to Amana Colonies (85miles).

Saturday afternoon return or stay for one more camping night.

Notes: Last year 8 of us did this trip together. 6 of us stayed two nights and we all had a great time. Contact Ed Burington (238-1933 or ed\_burington@hotmail.com) if you have questions or want directions.

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## The Legendary Annual Hillsboro Ride

Sunday, August 11th - The Umpteenth Hillsboro Brunch Run. Join us for the longest - running club event! TVH (and yawl) will depart the Hardees on Fish Hatchery Road (south of Beltline) at 9:00 AM and will conduct one of his by-now-customary bumbling meanders around western WI. There will be a couple of stops prior to our midday arrival at the Country Cookin' eatery, there in the depths of downtown Hillsboro. Awesome comfort food consumption follows. Questions? Tom at 238-5181 / [vp@madisonbmwclub.org](mailto:vp@madisonbmwclub.org)

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## Knee Deep in Adventure

By Meredith Hassall

As the GS surmounted the dune and gained full view of the Atlantic, it became instantly crystal clear that the situation

clamored for a lighter bike with less road-oriented tires. This sand was deep, about as firmly packed as sifted flour, and flowed fluidly under the slightest pressure.

On North Carolina's Outer Banks, north of Hatteras, is a stretch of coastline on which off-road vehicle use is permitted. This made for a great opportunity to return to the days of playing with our toys in the sandbox. Whether the GS qualifies as an ORV may be disputed by some. It seems that the local rangers had ATVs and other 4-wheel-drive vehicles in mind.

The GS's 1-wheel-drive was doing a fine job of creating artistically arcing dynamic sand sculptures. It was only capable of providing any actual drive down close to the water where the sand was packed enough to provide some semblance of traction. So this first foray into sand was short-lived, consisting of a tough trip across the sand and a brief and challenging wallow along the shoreline. Getting back across the sand and to the top of the dune required one rider, two "attendants" (to push and lift to help the rear tire keep things moving along), three rest breaks, and four gallons of sweat.

Dropping the bike was not a concern ... not because the soft sand would provide a gentle landing, but rather because that same soft sand made a tip-over virtually impossible. Dismounting to rest, strategize,

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 11-14, Thu-Sun: BMW National Rally, Trenton ON.

July 18-21, Thu-Sun: Top O' the Rockies Rally, Paonia CO.

August 2-4, Fri-Sun: SFX Road America Cycle Fest.

August 4, Sun: Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland at 9am.

August 4, Sun: Wisconsin Observed Trials at Duker's Hole-Whitewater. Check out [wisconsintrials.org/event](http://wisconsintrials.org/event).

August 9-11, Fri-Sun: 20<sup>th</sup> Huskerally, Franklin NE.

August 11, Sun: Umpteenth Hillsboro Ride, leave Fish Hatchery Rd. Hardees 9 AM.

August 15-18, Thu-Sun: RA National Rally, Red River NM

August 16-18, Fri-Sun: Hard to be Humble Rally, Pontiac IL

August 17-18, Sat-Sun: Peoria IL TT Races. Campout out at Val and Kay's on Sat (309-274-6312).

August 23-25, Fri-Sun: Galena Campout. The Palace Campground, Galena IL.

August 30-September 1, Fri-Sun: Finger Lakes Rally, Watkins Glen NY.

September 6-8, Fri-Sun: WI Dells Rally, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells WI.

September 27-29, Fri-Sun: Hoosier Beemer Rally, Muscatatuck County Park, North Vernon IN.

October 11-13, Fri-Sun: Falling Leaf Rally, Potosi MO.

or take pictures did not require the sidestand - the GS stood stably upright on its own, supported by all that sand.

Even if the trip wasn't hugely successful, it was still great fun. Having just been washed to within an inch of its life three days before, the bike needed to return to that rugged look (at least until we found a hose to rinse off the sand and salt). Although it was clearly the wrong bike for the job, the GS took the abuse without a complaint. But, if it were truly the "Swiss-Army knife of bikes" (which it is in many ways), you would be able to convert it to a nimble dirt bike with the touch of a button. I'll get working on a letter to our friends in Munich.

---

## Rochester Rib Run Redux

By Steve Huber

When Todd H issued the call to eat bar-b-q, how could I refuse? A 200-mile ride through scenic western Wisconsin and Minnesota seemed a good way to develop an appetite.

We assembled at the usual Citgo station in Cross Plains. The intrepid bar-b-q hunters included the Todds, Derek, Dave L, Jim D, Troy, and your humble scribe. We took off and went at a "brisk" pace along the wandering roads of unglaciated western Wisconsin. While the lead pace set by Todd moved us along smartly, Todd's pre-ride briefing

reminded us to ride at our own comfort level and pace. The group waited at any direction change to ensure no one was lost or left behind.

A couple of sand and gravel sections along the way caught a few of our group by surprise. Next time you see Dave L ask him how close can one get to a guardrail with an ST1100.

The backroads and valleys were cool riding through, providing a relief from the growing heat. We crossed the Big River at Lansing. The radial tires on the R11RT didn't squirm like the bias-plys on my K-bikes as we crossed the bridge's metal grate roadway.

I have no clue as to the roads we took up through Iowa and the Minnesota bluff country. I do recall we passed close by the Hiawatha rally location.

Five-plus hours of riding (with several gas and rest stops) found us finally pulling off Hwy 52 in Rochester MN into the John Hardy's Bar-B-Q parking lot. Meeting us there was Roland T and Mike S. We commandeered a couple picnic tables under the shade outside and settled down for some serious eating.

The menu offered way too many choices for one outing. I chose the combo platter that included two meats, the Jo Jo potatoes (you *gotta* try these!) and a side dish (the black-eyed peas are to die for). They offer a wide range of bar-b-q sauces (we had ours on the side) ranging from girly-man mild to one that

triggered my hiccups (my "is it hot enough" yardstick).

My rib sampling was good, although I have had meatier/heftier ribs. Meat was just smoky enough without being overpowering. I will have to get back here to try more of the menu. This place is definitely recommended.

I opted to jump on the slab for the ride back rather than wandering down the River Road. This turned out to be a very poor choice on my part due to construction and backups on I-90.

All in all, it was a day well spent - a decent motorcycle ride and food! Next year (or any time, really) make plans to do the Rib Run.

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## O'Neill, Nebraska

By P.J. Francis

One of the most colorful leaders in the early development of Nebraska was General John O'Neill, founder of O'Neill. After leading several ill-fated raids against British military posts in Canada 1866 - 1871, O'Neill lost his leading position in the Fenians, an American organization promoting Irish independence. Born in Ireland in 1834, he was a U.S. Army officer from 1857 to 1864 when he became active in the Fenians. In 1871, though in disfavor with the leading Irish-American society, O'Neill did not give up the cause.

Thousands of Irish were leaving troubled Ireland to settle in crowded American cities. O'Neill became interested in founding agrarian colonies in the West. For his first colony, he selected Holt County, on Nebraska's frontier. The first colonists arrived in May 1874 and his fourth and last group arrived in 1877. General O'Neill died the following year, but the town was already the county seat and growing.

Though there were numerous Irish settlements in Nebraska, O'Neill was the largest formal Irish colony. Its citizens are proud of their Old World heritage.

I read the roadside historical marker in the pouring rain. I had just ridden 270 wet miles from Webster City, Iowa. O'Neill, my intended destination, was within a mile.

This had been my second day on Route 20 since commencing my five-day trip. The idea of heading west on this highway had appealed to me for some time. I wanted to travel through the real Midwest. See how folks lived. Avoid the freeway.

A crummy downtown motel had provided accommodation the night before. As usual when I take a road trip I fail to look for a place to stay until the neon "Vacancy" signs sprout a "No".

While checking in at the only motel I could find with a vacant room, a thirty-something year old guy - whom I assumed to be the son of the elderly owner - engaged me in conversation. "Been out ridin' then?" he

inquired on observing my leather jacket and helmet. I replied in the affirmative. "Yeah, took a ride on my Harley, too", he informed me.

I wondered where the heck he'd been. Take any road you like out of Webster City and you will encounter nothing but flat corn fields. No visual stimulation whatsoever. No hills, no mountains, no winding roads. No interesting geographic features. If I lived there I would see no reason to own a motorcycle. There is nowhere to go within a couple of hundred miles.

The motel room was surprisingly clean and comfortable considering the undesirability of the area. I'm sure it was usually rented by the hour. I locked my bike securely.

I had not gone far the next day when I encountered the forecasted rain. Fortunately I owned an excellent rainsuit. I remained dry though it rained incessantly throughout the day.

When I stopped to read the roadside marker outside O'Neill I had enough of it. Riding a long distance in those conditions saps one's energy. Fatigue sets in. I was fatigued then. Tired, hungry and fatigued. I needed a room, a drink, a bath, a meal and a bed in that order.

I thought how fortunate those immigrants who came to O'Neill in the eighteen seventies were. It was a great misfortune of immigration that many moved from rural life to congested

cities for a lifestyle they were ill-prepared to deal with.

A police car pulled me over as I entered the town. What had I done now? Worry and panic set in. This was all I needed. The young officer from the sheriff's department merely wished to know if I was OK. He had seen me parked at the historical marker and wondered if I had broken down. On realizing I was Irish he shook my sodden glove and welcomed me "to the Irish capital of Nebraska". He instructed me to contact the sheriff's office if I needed anything while in O'Neill.

I paid a flying visit to the "Saints and Shillelaghs" store where the proprietor was busy talking on a green telephone shaped like Ireland.

I found refuge from the inclement weather at the Keeper Inn. The rain prevented me from exploring the town on foot.

Next day was dry but dull. I was on the road early bound for my next destination: The Black Hills of South Dakota. I hope to spend more time in O'Neill on my next visit.

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## More Slimy Crud

Some of you may have heard Tom "Bullet" Buttars tale of skidding on pig manure and crashing his BMW on a highway ramp. Only newbie Dairyland riders don't know enough to keep alert for manure spreaders

and their droppings. And if jumping deer aren't enough of a problem, their carcasses lying on the pavement pose an additional threat to motorcyclists. The following stories present an even more bizarre variety of road hazards that can suddenly appear in our path – Ed..

Forwarded by Tom Van Horn

**WEIRD NEWS OF THE MONTH:  
FARMER SOUGHT AFTER COW  
PAT INJURES MOTORCYCLISTS**  
German police are warning farmers that they could be charged with negligence after a cow pie on a road seriously injured two motorcyclists. Officers are looking for the farmer of the cows that left the pie on the carriageway in Kempten. They say he should have cleaned it up.

The two motorcyclists skidded on the cow crap and fell off their bike. They are recovering from their injuries in the hospital. Police say the farmer responsible for the offending patty could be charged with physical injury resulting from negligence, reports the German newspaper Das Bild.

The decision to pursue the farmer has been described as ridiculous by farming groups who said it was impossible for a farmer to always walk behind his cows with a shovel. Johannes Schmidt, chairman of the local farmer's union, said: "It's a real shame. What are we supposed to do? Do they expect us to run after our herds with a shovel? Of course - Alles in ordnung, nicht wahr?

...ARE YOUR OBSTACLE-AVOIDANCE SKILLS RUSTY??

Items from a recent list of truck spills on the roadways include:

- Five tons of alligator carcasses near Ft. Lauderdale, FL;

- A shipment of military multiple-launch rockets dumped next to an elementary school in Hugo, OK;

- And a consignment of completed Advanced Placement tests from New York City, en route to a testing service in New Jersey. (84 tests were never recovered)

-ROAD & TRACK, 04/01

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## BIKER WISDOM

### Things I learned riding a motorcycle

Forwarded by Tom Van Horn

Midnight bugs taste best.

Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they CAN hold everything you need.

NEVER argue with a woman holding a torque wrench.

Never try to race an old geezer, he may have one more gear than you.

Home is where your bike sits still long enough to leave a few drops of oil on the ground.

Routine maintenance should never be neglected.

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rearview mirror.

Never be afraid to slow down.

Only riders understand why dogs love to stick their heads out of car windows.

Bikes don't leak oil, they mark their territory.

Don't ride so late into the night that you sleep through the sunrise.

Sometimes it takes a whole tank full of fuel before you can think straight.

Riding faster than everyone else only guarantees you'll ride alone.

Never mistake horsepower for staying power.

A cold hamburger can be reheated quite nicely by strapping it to an exhaust pipe and riding forty miles.

If you don't ride in the rain - you don't ride.

A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.

Respect the person who has seen the dark side of motorcycling and lived.

Young riders pick a destination and go. Old riders pick a direction and go.

Work to ride & ride to work.

Keep your bike in good repair: Motorcycle boots are NOT comfortable for walking.

If the bike isn't braking properly, you don't start by rebuilding the engine.

Remember to pay as much attention to your partner as you do your carburetor.

Well-trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

Learn to do counter-intuitive things that may someday save your butt.

When you're riding lead, don't spit.

If you really want to know what's going on, watch what's happening at least five cars ahead.

A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 AM to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you're broken down.

Don't lead the pack if you don't know where you're going.

Don't argue with an 18-wheeler.

A good long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

If you can't get it going with bungee cords and electrician's tape, it's serious.

If you ride like there's no tomorrow, there won't be.

Bikes parked out front mean good chicken-fried steak inside.

There are drunk riders. There are old riders. There are NO old, drunk riders.

The best modifications cannot be seen from the outside.

It can only be a sport if it has an engine. Everything else is only a game.

they've made this offer before, and I've since read their praises in various bike and car pubs... TVH

From: Randy Walker  
[randy@batteryweb.com](mailto:randy@batteryweb.com)

Dear BMW Club:

See link below to a confidential web page we offer to BMW riders for a super discount on our Sealed Maintenance Free (SLA) batteries. <http://batteryweb.com/bmwclub.cfm>. We would like to extend this discount to your BMW Club and members. We also have all 6 volt batteries and a 6 volt sealed battery.

Any questions please feel free to contact myself, Randy Walker.

Sincerely,

Randy W.  
[www.batteryweb.com](http://www.batteryweb.com)  
877-746-2288  
Ft. Lauderdale Florida

---

### Sealed Batteries Offer

Forwarded by Tom Van Horn

Folks, I think these are the Westco 'glass-mat batteries -

### Club Member Profile: Roger Klopp

When/how did you become interested in riding motorcycles? It seems I was drawn to them even as a child. My uncle used to talk about the trip he took riding for months out West in the 1930s on a Harley. It may have awakened a fascination with motorcycles. My father opposed my riding but I persisted, pushing parental limits from mini-bikes to scooters to motorcycles.

How long have you been a member of this motorcycle club? About 7 years, 4 of which have been spent as newsletter editor.

What is/was your first motorcycle? Although I rode a Cushman Eagle and an 80cc Suzuki all over the place, even for weekends between Madison and Port Washington, my first real roadworthy motorcycle was a 1964 Honda 305cc Super Hawk.

My most memorable bike was a 1970 650cc Triumph TR6 that I bought new from Bill Mischler while on leave after my first tour of duty in Vietnam. During that year I saved for and dreamed about that bike. It was a beauty and still turned heads ten years later when I traded it in. Oh, and what a sound it made.



**What is/was your favorite motorcycle?** Even though it has been a reliability headache, I always enjoy riding my 1996 R1100RT. However, our 1997 R850R is also a hoot to ride – very nimble and responsive. Then there were the 1994 K1100LT and 1992 K75 – not only great rides but rock-steady reliable as well. Heck, who can pick a favorite in such company?

**What kind of riding do you prefer (e.g. long distance touring, dirt roads, day trips)?** I enjoy twisty back road day trips the most, although Mary and I also enjoy travelling to distant rallies very much. We especially cherish our trips in the mountains of the western US.

**Briefly describe your most memorable experience(s) on a motorcycle (good and/or bad.** A number of things stand out: my brother's crash in Missouri on our way to the Fredricksburg MOA rally, getting caught in violent storms, our Ozarks motorcycling honeymoon, Lolo Pass, Sonorra Pass, Deal's Gap, and breaking down in Montana.

However, most memorable is the image of Mary as a novice rider going very slowly on Hwy T through a swirling yellow cloud of newly hatched sulfur butterflies, her eyes scanning the whole scene in fascination. She was hooked on the openness and freedom of riding after that.

**What do (or did) you do to support your motorcycle habit (e.g. occupation)?** I've been working for 17 years in a research program at the UW Institute on Aging where we study the biology of aging.

**What are some of your other interests/activities unrelated to motorcycles (hobbies, volunteer activities, etc)?** I enjoy skiing, listening to music, going to movies, collecting single malt scotches, travel, Macintosh computers, and reading about ancient history and archaeology.

**Other information you'd like to share with fellow club members (family info, favorite foods, pet peeves, etc.):** I bought my first BMW, a K75, in 1993 and things haven't been the same ever since. Exposure to the fanatical enthusiasm of BMW riders rekindled the motorcycle obsession of my youth and I have ridden more than ever before. I believe that it's the hard-core dedication of BMW enthusiasts that makes the marquee legendary and not the motorcycles. I enjoy their company and am extremely fortunate that my wife Mary has become a serious BMW rider and fellow rally rat.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to those who contributed articles to this newsletter and gave us encouragement to keep plugging along through the years. Tom and Steve have had something interesting to say month after month. Meredith Hassall stands out as our most prolific contributing member, foreign correspondent, and member-at-large whose whimsical writing style always captures the essence of this sport. Also through our tour of duty we have heard from JT, Betty, Bert, PJ, Derek, Ben, Todd, Matt, Peggy, Steve W, Russ, Ed, Dave, Jeff, John, Chuck, and Claudette. Thank you all for your contributions. It wouldn't be much of a newsletter without you.