

# The Mail Boxer

April 2004

BMW MOA #7



## *The Prez Says...*

*by Tom Van Horn*

Well, this will be longish, as my March column didn't make the issue...

First up, Todd Erickson resigned the club presidency on March 7th. In accordance with the club constitution, a replacement prez was nominated from the floor. Stephen "Mouthpiece" Huber nominated Yertz Truly. With no others nominated, I'm it. Again. So, filling the V.P. slot? In accordance with blah blah, I nominated Steve. (What comes around goes around.) No other takers, und zo: Club President: Tom Van Horn; V.P.: Steve Huber.

I want to especially thank John Wendorf, who was our guest on March 7th, through the offices of John Schroeder. John is the Wisconsin rep for the Ride For Kids, a fundraising operation for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U S(or PBTfUS). Ride for Kids has been run around the country in recent years, getting larger over time. There will be the \*first\* Wisconsin RfK in August 8th. Fee per bike will be \$35., with additional mileage pledges encouraged. Childhood brain tumors are one of those scourges that nobody really talks about. This is a real and worthwhile cause.

As I write this, we had about an inch of snow overnight, although the first day of spring is (so they say) imminent. It's coming, people! Hmmm—would it be heretical to say that I'm not quite ready for riding yet? We've been caught up in a bathroom remodel, and the garage projects have been barely touched...

The Daytona 200 (and its ancillary Boxer Cup) are recent history. Some folks hosted watching parties—our WI Club colleagues invited us to one, and thanks to Dan Baum for opening his Watertown digs to us for his soiree (soiree—classy, huh?). Thanks, Dan!

Up and coming soon are the Wild Goose Run on April 18th I will (again) lead a mob up to the Pyramid restaurant from Madison Motorsports, leaving at 9:00am that Sunday. This leaves us an hour or two for meeting/greeting/socializing/how-was-your-winter'ing before eating at noon. Tickets are \$8:00—SEE ME for tix! They are assigned by club—last-minute walk-ins aren't assured seats, and eat at the end of the large line(s). Besides, you wanted to sit with and enjoy our sparkling company anyway, right??

We've been talking about the 2004 banquet at the last two meetings. Ben C. (having done all the legwork, I'll point out) has been calling/checking/researching/etc. At the March 7th meeting, Ben presented us with two final choices: Imperial Garden—west at University and Allen, and the Esquire Club. By a fair margin, the club voted for the Imperial Garden, November 6th, for the 2004 awards banquet. THANK YOU, Ben!

GR/3 issues are proceeding apace—Badger Camp will serve food both Friday night and Saturday morning, Tereasa Schroeder is coordinating a bake sale Fri and Sat, Bert is trying to arrange a live jam Saturday night (featuring our own Jim Low), and the Lancaster JCs are looking into separately vending beer at Badger Camp then. We also voted to again have a separate drawing for a couple nice items, helmet and maybe jacket or such. Art Mischler again offered to provide some swag here...

...and speaking of the rally, it's door prize time again, folks!! One more excuse to patronize your fave bike shop and buy some cute widget (I suggest something that you'd like to win yourself—ya never know) to donate as a prize...

...and still mauling on about the rally, a lot of members don't ever attend. And WHY NOT?!?!?!? It is, after all, our rally. Yeah, okay, there's some gravel getting in. You're reading the words of one of the biggest unpaved-road wussies ever, and I don't

## Upcoming Events

4/4: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

4/18: Noon Wild Goose Run meet at the Niles Restaurant on Hwy 33 for the season opener. \$8 per person includes meal, trophies and door prizes.

4/21: Ride to the Trail of Tears Rally hosted by Steve Lemke. Leaving the Lake Mills McDonalds at 1pm. Stay overnight in Iowa and arrive at rally Thursday afternoon. Please call Steve if you intend to join the ride.

4/25: BMW Flea Market at Winnebago Cty. fairgrounds, Pecatonica, IL. Saturday night camping, food & showers available. Call (815)962-8911 for more info.

5/1: Madison Motorcycle Club poker run begins and ends at Madison Motorsports.

5/1: Mischler's Open House.

5/1: 9am Wisconsin Spring Airhead Tech Day at the home of Kevin Knuth. Call (414)303-7716 for more information. See also details in this newsletter.

5/2: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Followed by the Slimey Crud ride; don't miss the incredible display of bikes and testosterone!

## Upcoming Events Cont.

5/21–23: 30th Annual GR3 Rally at the Wisconsin Badger Camp. Don't miss this one—lots of new, exciting events planned.

6/5: 2pm Club picnic at Brigham County Park. Menu includes rib-eye steaks, chicken breasts, hamburgers & brats, several salads and lemon bars. Cost to be determined. For more information contact Ben Cimino at (608)831-6714.

9/8: Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids. Information at [www.rideforkids.com](http://www.rideforkids.com).

11/6: 5:30pm Club banquet at the Imperial Garden-West. Family style dinner served at 6:30pm. Cost to be determined. For more information contact Ben Cimino at (608)831-6714.

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(608) 862-3671

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(608) 441-8839

## *The Prez Says cont.*

consider this road a big deal. Don't camp? There are cabins (reserve now!), and the Cedar Lodge has a labyrinthine bunk room. (John O. said he slept better there than he usually did at home.) There are no good excuses, people, be there!

### **NOW! RANT INCLUDED AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!**

One thing I noticed at the Chicago Cycle Expo (I counted seven or so), were vendors whose main "product" was videos of "extreme riding"—a euphemism for barely-pubescent knotheads doing high-speed wheelies, stoppies, burnout donuts, and similar crap, some which seemed to involve deliberate crashing (the most-stolen bikes of late are 600 sportbikes; I wonder where these clowns who trash their stuff get replacement plastic?). Most of it appeared shot on public roads, among traffic. It all "featured" obnoxious thrash-metal or rap soundtracks, but that's another rant... ..It's a (relatively) free country—IF these mopes did this stuff in a halfway controlled environment, I'd say fine, their business. On busy public roads? How soon before Rather Brokaw Et Al interview some traumatized minivan mommy who stuffed it into a guard-rail encountering one of these jackasses? That'll sure look good. You finally start thinking that maybe, just maybe we're turning the corner from the tattooed, knuckle-dragging-felon biker archetype, and then s@#t like this comes along. We have met the enemy, and he is us...?

### **THIS CONCLUDES OUR RANT—BACK TO NORMAL PROGRAMMING.**

Okay, I'm an old fart. (at the above bike expo, I bought a belt and two pairs of socks-!) Further evidence of this is the Certain Milestone Birthday that falls in early July of this year. Barb is conniving a party on July 10th at Hoyt Park on Madison's west side. Watch this space for details (assuming she shares them with me...)

Next meeting, April 4th at the Same Old Place.

## **ANYONE INTERESTED IN AN EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE SESSION?**

*by Jim Keeney*

I'm a new member, as of last year. A few years ago I took the ERC at MATC and got some good information, some good feedback on riding habits, and some good drills to practice. Since I bought a new bike last year, I thought it might be a good time to try the course again. I talked to Tom Van Horn at the March breakfast meeting. MATC is not offering any courses as far as he knew. When I called MATC, they were not even sure what the cost would be if one were offered.

At the breakfast meeting, Tom thought that there might be a possibility of having a group or club session of the course on April 17 and 18. My sense is that these dates or even the possibility of a course is very tentative, but there's always a chance.

Anyway, If anyone is interested in sitting in a classroom for a few hours, then riding around in circles in a parking lot for a few more hours (rain or shine), let me know at 877-5685 or 873-9588. I'll try to keep in touch with whomever needs to be kept in touch with.

Keep in mind that all this may be just a shot in the dark. See me at the April meeting if you're shy about calling.

# Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Due to administrative errors / mid-life brain fade the following two members were inadvertently left out of the printed directory:

## Thomas Schirz

1860 Lincoln Ave.  
Fennimore, WI 53809  
Phones: 608.822.3307, 608.322.3301  
Email: [taschirz@mail.tds.net](mailto:taschirz@mail.tds.net)  
<<mailto:taschirz@mail.tds.net>>  
Bikes: K12RS, R11RS

## Jeff Trapp

2540 Upham St.  
Madison, WI 53704  
Phones: 608.241.7092  
Email: [jtwind@itis.com](mailto:jtwind@itis.com)  
<<mailto:jtwind@itis.com>>  
Bikes: R100RS, R65, Honda GB500

The following members have renewed their dues for the 2004 year:

## Roger and Mary Klopp

2036 Barber Drive  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
Phones: 608.877.0209, 608.262.4078  
Email: [rgklopp@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:rgklopp@facstaff.wisc.edu) <<mailto:rgklopp@facstaff.wisc.edu>> ,  
[mklopp@chorus.net](mailto:mklopp@chorus.net)  
<<mailto:mklopp@chorus.net>>  
Bikes: R11GSA, F650GSA, F650

## Jim Dickey

5010 Sunrise Ridge Trail  
Middleton, WI 53562  
Phones: 608.798.1954  
Email: [4claude@charter.net](mailto:4claude@charter.net)  
<<mailto:4claude@charter.net>>  
Bikes: 1995 R11GS, 1976 R90S, 2000  
Kawasaki Drifter, 1972 R75/5

## Art Mischler

c/o Mischler's BMW  
N8131 Kellom Road  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
Phones: 920.887.8425

## Alvaro and Cindy Saldana

212 N. Main St. #8  
Cambridge, WI 53523  
Phones: 608.432.1491  
Bikes: K1200RS

## Carl Rainey

317 Southing Grange  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
Phones: 608.839.4673  
Email: [crainey@mhtc.net](mailto:crainey@mhtc.net)  
<<mailto:crainey@mhtc.net>>  
Bikes: 1989 R100GS/PD, 1999 Triumph  
Daytona 955i, 2003 Kawasaki 110,  
2003 Yamaha 90, 2003 Honda 50

Based upon the current (and admittedly incomplete) member motorcycle ownership records, show below is a summary of our motorcycle marquees.

BMW	89	67%
Honda	14	11%
Kawasaki	8	6%
Yamaha	5	4%
Other	17	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100%</b>

Please update your club directories with information presented here and email any changes to [membership@madisonbmw-club.org](mailto:membership@madisonbmw-club.org). You may elect to receive the newsletter via email by notifying the club at the same email address.

# Secretary's Report

by JT Wagner

46 people attended the breakfast this month. The big announcement was todd Erickson's resignation as President. Per the club constitution, VP Tom Van Horn was nominated to take over the post and Steve Huber will take over VP duties.

Jon Wendorf gave a talk for the ride for kids for Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. The ride is Sunday August 8. For more info check out [www.rideforkids.org](http://www.rideforkids.org) or [www.pbtftus.org](http://www.pbtftus.org).

Bert gave a rally update. Lancaster JCs will probably be vending beer. Rally insurance has been paid. There will be a organizational meeting April 10. We need door prize donations and volunteers for the rally !!

The banquet will be November 6 at Imperial Gardens on the west side. Cocktails at 5:30-6:00 PM.

The club will have a table reserved for the Pecatonica swap meet April 25.

The free breakfasts went to Art Mischler and James Folts. 50/50 went to Jeff Trapp.

We need contributions for the newsletter. Send in any stories or articles you may have.

The next breakfast will be April 4.

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** 1980 R65 24K miles brown with red pin stripes. Krauser bags, wind shield, after-market side stand. In great condition. Recent carbs rebuilt and sync-ed, rear main seal, and all fluids. \$4000. Call Peggy, 608-334-0713

**FOR SALE:** 2000 Ducati M900 I.E. - yellow 944 Big Bore Kit. Ducati High Performance Cams. Polished & ported heads. Termignoni carbon fiber slipons, EPRON reconfigured to match the engine work Sargent Saddle with yellow piping Napoleon Bar End mirrors. 8000 miles on the bike - 1500 miles on new engine work Good Rubber New Battery Fresh Oil Change Loads of fun to ride - power everywhere - 50 MPG Asking \$8500 Call Dave Jenneke at 838-0638 - Evenings

## Wisconsin Spring Tech Day—May 1st

Prepare your Airhead and celebrate the arrival of another riding season at a tech day held at the home of Kevin Knuth in the Milwaukee area (Wauwatosa). We'll get started around 9:00a.m. and beverages will be provided, along with a grill and couple dozen brats, plenty of workspace and some basic tools and manuals. Come to work on your bike, help others, or just hang out. Contact Kevin at (414) 303-7716 or [akcsells@execpc.com](mailto:akcsells@execpc.com).

From the north (on hwy 45), exit Wisconsin Ave. / Bluemound Rd. Follow the frontage road up to Bluemound and go left (east). Right on 89th St. / Ravenswood Circle. 216 N. 89th is 1/2 block down on your left. Look for signs. From I-94 exit 84th St. (State Fair Park) Go north (opposite side of the fair park) 3 blocks to Hawthorne and turn left (across from water tower). Right on 89th St. to 216 N. 89th - 1/2 blocks down on the right. Look for signs.

# Pa and the Holed Rocker Cover

by P.J. Francis

One often hears about being in the right place at the right time. Having the right part for the right bike is equally satisfying.

I was living in Ireland in the early nineties. One pleasant summer evening I was pottering around outside my garage when Pa Bedford, a long time acquaintance and fellow member of the Limerick and District Motorcycle Club, rode up on his airhead sidecar rig. It was immediately apparent that the man was not in his usual cheerful mood. Something was definitely not right. His wife, Pauline, and son emerged from the sidecar in a somewhat distressed state.

I had been expecting them to call. Pa had phoned earlier wondering if he could borrow my Stephens of Birmingham throw-over saddlebags for his forthcoming trip to attend a sidecar rally in Sweden. I was not using them as my bike, a white K75C, possessed hard bags. (It had great luggage equipment and a delightful engine but lacked weather protection and I never liked the handling.)

While Helena escorted the wife and son indoors for a reviving cup of Lyon's Green Label tea Pa pointed to an apparently badly damaged cylinder head. Oil was gushing forth.

"Looks like I won't be needing those saddlebags after all," proclaimed the forlorn Pa. "I ran wide on a bed back near Quinn Abbey and clipped some rocks. There's no way I can get this repaired on time. We have ferry bookings for the weekend."

If the scene was set in America I would have proffered a medicinal can of Guinness. In Ireland I rarely kept alcohol in my home due to the exorbitant cost of the stuff. Government tax. It is not easy for a small island country to balance the books without levying a heavy tax on all luxury items. Yes, apparently beer is a luxury. Most alcohol is consumed in pubs. (Pub being an abbreviation for public house from the ancient English tradition of providing food, refreshments and a place to stay to weary horse and foot travelers.) By encouraging people to "go out" to practice their imbibing; pub owners, their families and staff are provided with a livelihood rather than one guy in a liquor store or some faceless corporation who owns a million gas stations. (I hope this preamble is making sense, dear reader. It is several years since I lived in Ireland and things have probably changed.)

Inside the house Pauline was proclaiming that "he was going too fast. He's not used to the new rig. It is much faster and lighter than our old one." Too true, too true. This was one sporting sidecar outfit they had acquired. (In the English speaking parts of Europe we refer to rig as an outfit.) It took several cups of Lyon's (the quality tea) to calm Pauline down. The son was watching TV. They also thought the Sweden trip was off.

Meanwhile, I had placed a container under the leaking engine. Guys tend to go for the practical approach when dealing with catastrophes. We hope the women folk will offer the necessary emotional support. The fact that the oil leaked only when the engine was running was encouraging. A closer examination revealed that nothing more than the rocker cover had been holed. Pa did not share my enthusiasm upon making this discovery.

He ranted and he raved. "There's no way I can get hold of one of those at this stage. The trip is off. We probably won't get our money back from the ferry companies. I have the entry fee paid to the rally organizers in Sweden."

I regret to say that I took sadistic pleasure from the next few minutes. I nonchalantly strolled inside my newly built garage. Just inside the up-and-over door was some nice shelving I had recently acquired at a closing-down sale at the AST Computer facility in Limerick. (It was taken over by Wang and subsequently Dell who now operate their European operation from there. I did security work for all three companies and loved every minute of it.)

I casually reached to a spot on the top shelf between boxes of motorcycle stuff and retrieved a BMW part. Yes, it was a rocker cover. I quickly grabbed some tools from the workbench and strode proudly to the stricken rig. Before the incredulous Pa could say "canceled trip" I had replaced his holed rocker cover with a perfect one from my motorcycling past. We checked the oil level and fired up the engine. No oil leakage was evident. Pa's family vacation was back as planned.

"How much do I owe you?" he asked in typical fashion. "Have a good trip," I responded in a smug benevolent mood. When He returned my Stephens of Birmingham throw-overs some weeks later Pa told me of the great roads, an enjoyable rally and the friendliness of the Swedish people who had invited them to stay in their homes.

The last time I met Pa was in 1994 when we attended a motorcycle weekend at Miltown Malbay, County Clare one week before I left Ireland for a new life and adventure in America. Since then we have exchanged Christmas cards with brief notes. I must write a letter. I'm sure the Bedfords would enjoy attending an American rally. The FR3 perhaps. I am sure American riders would enjoy Pa's well know skills as a raconteur. His tales of travels in Europe always attract a large crowd of listeners.

Pa's damaged rocker cover resides in my Irish garage along with my other motorcycle stuff. I fell like paying it a visit. Perhaps a rally in Sweden is in order.

# Collectibles

by P.J. Francis

Whatever happened to the collecting craze of a short time ago? Where are all those mysterious people who paid enormous sums of money for those Beanie Babies? Those strange folks who turned up at garage sales in search of rare items were conspicuous by their absence in 2003. Remember the stores of people throwing away Happy Meals and keeping the toys?

Has the economic recession put a halt to the gallop? Are the collectors investing in other things? Or is it possible they realized the collectibles are not so collectable after all?

Perhaps they realized they were at the top of the collectable tree. They would have to become hoarders. Nobody wanted their little bean-stuffed toys and stuff. Perhaps nobody ever would.

I have to admit to having been afflicted with the collecting sickness over the years. There was a beer can stage in the recent past. They had to be unopened, of course. I envisioned shelves of beer cans of varying design and from many countries adorning my living room. It did not take me long to realize this was a terrible waste of good beer. That occurred about the time I refrained from purchasing Harley Davidson 100th anniversary cans at my local gas station. Unfortunately beer does not age well like wine and my collectibles proved to be undrinkable when opened.

I have been buying Helena those cute buildings that can make up an entire village. When she first showed interest in them I was delighted thinking my gift buying problems were solved forever. The hotel for Christmas, the candy store for Valentine's, the general store for her birthday.... The antique shoppe for when I was in the doghouse.

After a while I felt this was becoming too predictable. Expensive too.

I switched from the expensive gift store ones to the mass produced hardware store models. (People who can mass produce such delightful items have my admiration even if they are putting me and others, out of work.) Now, I alternate occasions with pieces of jewelry or a collectable house. That is, of course, if I remember the occasion. Then it's back to the doghouse.

I recently went through my collection of pins. These are mostly from various motorcycle events I have attended since the early 70's. In more recent years I have acquired pins from other sources. Airlines, states, sporting events and so on and so forth. Very nice they are, too. But, I realize if I mislaid them all, I would feel no great sense of loss. They remind me of events attended, places visited and people encountered. That is nice but I remember all that stuff anyway.

I realize the only collectibles that really matter to me are memories. Yes, I now collect memories, not things. If I ever loose my memory things will be of no use. They will not remind me of anything. I would probably wonder why I clutter up the place with them. They would just assume the role of dust magnets requiring frequent cleaning. Just another time consuming household chore.

Last year I attended a seminar on antiques. One of the speakers pointed out that one should derive pleasure from antiques. They should be removed from the dark confines of the attic and put on display in the living area. The guy knew what he was talking about.

I own a small collection of miniature motorcycles. They were in their original boxes. The things provided no satisfaction other than the knowledge that one day they might become rare and valuable collectibles. Last month I removed each and every one of them from their boxes. They now adorn my word

processor, TV stand and various other places in my domicile. They accumulate dust, fall over and get moved around. One had its sidestand fall off due to mishandling.

I love them. I am definitely deriving pleasure from them. I just moved the white 1960 R60/2 complete with Craven cases, windshield and tank cover to the plastic shelf on tope of the word processor where I can stare longingly at it during times of writers block. (It will get stared at frequently.) It may fall over and get broken. So what?

The guy an the antiques seminar was right. Items stored in the dark confines of an attic give no pleasure. Life is just too short for hoarding stuff. We cannot take it with us.



# BMW MOTORCYCLES OF MILWAUKEE'S SPRING OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY

APRIL 24TH, 2004 FROM 10AM—4PM

We will have door prizes, food, beverages, and special guests. Plus, this year we are going to have a...

## BMW Motorcycles Classic Bike Show!!

That's right a Classic bike show. Dust off those oldies and ride on over to BMW Motorcycles of Milwaukee. Winners will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from us. Come out and get to know the other enthusiasts who enjoy the fun of having the older airheads. So, we are looking forward to seeing you here.

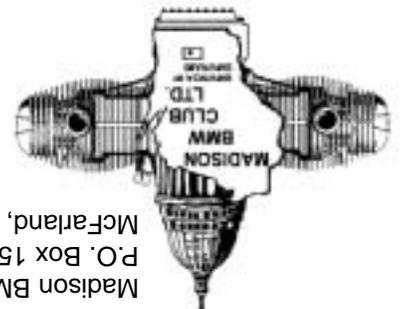
### Classes are as follows (BMW's ONLY)

- Best 1955-1969 single
- Best 1955-1969 twins
- Best 1969-1973
- Best 1973-1978
- Best BMW with sidecar
- Best BMW w/most miles on odometer

The people who are attending the open house will do the voting.

**20% Discount all day (On Genuine parts, accessories,  
and riders apparel)**

BMW Motorcycles of Milwaukee 7016 North 76th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53223 Phone 414-358-2466 [www.southeastsales.com](http://www.southeastsales.com)



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