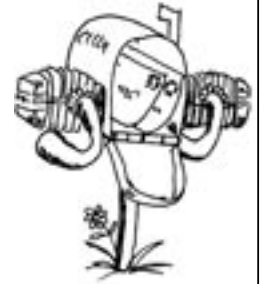


The Mail Boxer

February 2005

BMW MOA #7



The Prez Says...

by Todd Herbst

Slippin' away

"Whoa!" As the jeep slides sideways. Spinning out on the freeway in a near white-out would not be a good thing with a trailer full of dirt bikes. It probably would be a good idea to slow down a bit.

I pull in the driveway, don the appropriate garb and disembark. out of the jeep. The snow has subsided a little. Gathered near the garage are a few people bundled up waiting for a great day of riding. I can see they have warmed up a few bikes already, some of the eyes I look into have an eagerness in them, while others a little apprehension; the difference is probably those who have done this and those that have not. If you've done this before, and are like me, eagerness probably isn't descriptive enough.

"Hi Rob, ya wanna give me a hand". It only takes about three minutes and the bikes are on the ground and being pushed through the snow. I grab the XL185 and kick it a few times, no go. "Hey Rob ya got any magic juice?" Now, asking Rob if he has any magic juice is kinda like asking TVH if he has any weapons on him. I mean, on this day Rob probably has one in his pocket, one in his sock and one behind his ear next to the screwdriver that's for carb adjustment. In other words "Yes".

A few squirts in the 185—you can smell it, that volatile, nosehair tingling—if you've done this before, adrenaline inducing smell of pure ether. Wow. Two kicks and the 185 is snickering along like an industrial size sewing machine. I do a hat and glove check and head down the driveway to warm Freebe up a little. She's runnin' nice -n-smooth as usual, so it's off into the field for a slow lap or two.

Back at the garage this ritual is performed on almost every bike that is attempted to be started, and all start except one, my (hard to start on a good day) XR600. I try to kick her a few times but it feels like there is jello pudding in the motor. I suppose 20W/50 may feel that way at 20 degrees. Rob says "I have an idea" and disappears for a minute returning pattering around the corner of the garage on his Kawasaki 4-wheeler. "Here hook this up to the front fork." What! I'm suppose to hook a tow strap from the 4-wheeler to the front forks of my bike? Yep. Crazy. Yep—just might work.

Next thing I know I'm headed down the driveway toward the road. We turn onto the road and the fun begins. I drop it into third and the Kawi winds it up to about 20, my XR is pulling hard towards the ditch (thats because the strap is on the left fork) I counter steer, drop the clutch and thawonk thawonk thawonk skid thawonk skid thawonk thawonk pop thawonk pop thawonk skid pop pop thawonk (we're running out of road now.) pop pop pop Vvvvroom. I shoot up next to the side of the Kawi I hit the brakes, Rob hits the brakes, the line tightens and almost pulls me over as we stop. Hey this thing might run after all.

We turn everything around, pull the line taught and take off again. Thawonk thawonk pop pop pop, I pull in the clutch and rev her up. Yee Haw She's runnin. (One note of caution: do not try this with your K12LT.)

By the time we get back to the garage there is a flurry of activity as people are coming and going on every size and shape of dual sport you can think of and some you may never have heard of before.

Upcoming Events

2/6: 9:00 am Madison BMW Club meeting & breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

2/11–2/13: Chicago Internation Motorcycle Show at the Donald E. Stephans convention center. Contact Bert Hefty to hitch a ride on the club "Beemer Bus".

2/26: 10am Annual Slip-Slide Ride at Robb Himmelman's.

3/6: 9:00 am Madison BMW Club meeting & breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

3/13: Tentative date for the St. Patrick's Day ride led by Todd Herbst.

Prez says continued...

Now that the Big Dog is running it's time to grab a helmet and head off into the woods. The trails are snow covered but good. Up and down some hills, over some logs. Everything just fine, except for the big hill where the tire spins out and makes ya fall over time and time again. You know the hill..... that is, if you're done this before.

Well the rest of the day turns into a blur of bike and trails and foods and refreshments, but you may have done this before and already know.

This is just one of the many senerios that could take place at:

Rob Himmelmans Slip-Slide Ride

Sat. February 26th 10am-?

Contact Rob Himmelman(608-586-5905) or Todd Herbst(608-831-4439) for more info and directions.

P.S. You don't need a bike to come. You might even get to ride a Rokon.

Secretary's Report

by Roland Thompson

The January meeting was held at the Maple Tree with 30 people attending. One hardy person rode. New bikes reported: Dave Jenneke got an R1150RT; Betty Bruun got an R1150R without the magic brakes.

Tim Jensen is a new member. He was an old member who re-upped. We currently have 67 paid members.

Several members were on the New Years ride, with an estimated 30 bikes. Some weren't able to ride home from the destination Quaker Steak & Lube due to the freezing rain that arrived later in the day.

Coming events:

1. **Rob Himmelman's slip slide ride is Saturday, February 26th. Note—this date is changed from previous newsletters!** There will be several dirt bikes available to ride or bring your own bike, beer, or sled, whatever you want. It's always a good time whether snowy, muddy, or dry.
2. Winter campout is January 21, 22, 23 at Blue Mounds State Park. Some will be setting up Friday. A large campfire will be available all weekend. As stated before, go out for the day even if you're not a winter camper.
3. The Chicago Cycle World Bike show is February 11, 12, & 13. You can get advance E-Tickets online at their web site if you don't want to wait in line to buy tickets.
4. The Madison M.C. Banquet is Feb. 19th at Tully's II, 6401 Monona Dr. They need reservations at least a week in advance if you want to go.

New business:

1. We discussed having a Madison BMW Club flag placed at Quaker Steak & Lube for exposure at this new "motor head venue". A motion was made to do so if we can get a flag made for \$20.00 or less and we obviously need Quaker Steak's permission to place it there.
2. Todd Herbst is still the acting Activities Director, and we need a volunteer to Assume this post.
3. J.T. Wagner will look into pricing for new club shirts, and we'll put together an order for those wanting new ones.

Glen Rago won the 50/50 and Dick Olson won the free breakfast. Meeting was adjourned about 10:45.

Madison BMW Club

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Gelande Strasse (GS) means “off~road on~road” in German

by Jeff Dean

I have owned a few BMW motorcycles over the years. Actually, more than 50, if the truth be known. Among these past rides have been three GS models: a 1993 R100GS, a 1995 R1100GS, and a 2000 R1150GS. They were all fine motorcycles, but none of them ever became one I would use a lot or pile miles on.

I probably used the 1150 the most because I kept it in Tucson, Arizona, around which there are more miles of dirt and gravel roads than paved roads. But the 1150 had a major problem for off-road use: it was big and heavy.

So when BMW introduced the 2005 R1200GS, I was not particularly interested. Even when it was named “Bike of the Year” by Motorcyclist magazine, the “Open Class Street Bike of the Year” by Cycle World magazine, and was presented the Gold Award by the Industrial Design Society of America, it really did not register with me.

I arrived in Tucson late last October for my annual winter retreat. Stopping at Iron Horse Motorcycles, I really was not interested in the R12GS, even though it is the biggest seller in Arizona.

—However, I was urged to take a test ride on one, so I did. And that was that. Iron Horse’s new owner, John Cartwright, and I sat down and negotiated a deal, trading in my silver R1150GS for a new, blue R1200GS. And I have not looked back.

I have over 1,000 miles on the new GS now, and by the time your

read this will probably have doubled that. That is enough for me to say the R1200GS is the most exciting and fun motorcycle I have ever ridden! No, I will not give up my R1150RT, which I still prefer for long trips. But for sheer enjoyment on a motorcycle, the R1200GS stands out. This baby will not be summering in my garage in Tucson. It will come to Madison with me for riding up there, too.

What do I like so much about the new GS? Power, weight, and handling. And, of course, shaft drive and its incredible ABS brakes.

Start with its useful power—I mean torque: 85 ft.-lbs. of it. It pulls strongly from 1,500 RPMs(!) on up. The 1150GS had only 71 ft.-lbs. That is a serious bump upward. Add to this a horsepower increase from 85 on the 1150GS to 100 on the 1200GS and a drop in curb weight of 50 pounds, and you have a formula for a major performance increase.

The 1200GS continues with BMW’s superb partially integrated, power-assisted ABS brakes with stainless steel brake lines. This means the front brake lever applies both brakes, while the brake pedal applies the rear brake. When you want to stop NOW, you do. Regardless of road condition. With a motorcycle this light (496 pounds wet), nothing else on two wheels comes close to the power and safety of these brakes.



right expandable hard luggage! You simply rotate a lever inside each bag and the lids move out, on saddlebags, and up on the top case. The saddlebags expand 2.25 inches, and the top case expands 2 inches. That means I can put my gigantic size 8 1/4 Bell full-face helmet in a saddlebag! And that's a first for me.

I also added RCU's shelf above the instruments, BMW's crash bar, Touratech's handlebar risers, and PIAA #510 driving lights mounted on an RCU light bar. Because I am tall, I obtained a Cee Bailey +6" windshield as well as its headlight guard. Finally, I added BMW's R1200GS tank bag, which is huge, and modified my existing R1150GS tank bag, which is small and electrified, to fit the new bike.

You can see photos of all this here: <http://bmwdean.home.att.net/r1200gs.htm>.

With its Telelever front suspension and a Paralever in the rear, handling is nothing short of amazing. And given the long-travel suspensions for off-road use, cornering clearance seems endless. I can see why it is the "Bike of the Year."

Fuel capacity was a concern to me. It has only a 5.2 gallon tank. Imagine my surprise, however, when mileage for me, compared to my R1150GS, jumped up 5 miles per gallon. Would I prefer a 7 gallon tank? Sure. But doing 200 miles on this tank is no problem.

I bought BMW's new saddlebags and top case with the bike. I did not know it at the time, but these babies are expandable. That's

The R1200GS is now my "go anywhere" motorcycle when I am in Arizona for the winters. Yes, it's heavier than a KLR 650 or a Honda off-road bike, but it is also more versatile. For serious off-road work, you would want a 400-to-650 single, but if you are riding over highways to get to dirt and gravel roads, which you then will ride, please give me the R1200GS.

Even if you want a road bike you will never take off road, the new GS is still worth considering. In that regard, it comes in short of the R1150RT (and the pending R1200RT) in weather protection and electric windshield. But if I could own only two motorcycles, they would be an RT and an R1200GS.

	QTY. MED	QTY. LARGE	QTY. XL	QTY. XXL add \$2.00	QTY. XXXL add \$2.00	TOTAL AMOUNT
SHORT SLEEVE TEE \$8.35						
LONG SLEEVE TEE \$10.35						
9oz.HEAVY SWEAT \$12.95						
9.3oz. 50/50 Jerzees hood						
TOTALS						

It's tee shirt time again. Some of you have been asking about them. so here's the prices. I need these orders in by the March breakfast. If you need a shirt larger than XXXL, and can find one in Navy, get it to J.T. Wagner and it will get printed for free. When the printer prints the other shirts. Make checks payable to Madison BMW Club. Send them and the order forms to J.T. Wagner at 4717 Shaffer Avenue, Madison, WI 53716

RAMBLINGS FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

by John Ong

In a recent issue of BMW ON you may have noticed the ShorLand'r motorcycle trailer that would hold 3 bikes at one time. I called the manufacturer who referred me to a distributor in West Bend who then referred me to Bob Barr a local retailer. Weight of the trailer is 250lbs.; capacity is 1200lbs.; requires a 2" bll hitch, and sells for \$895.

Renegade Classics also advertises a single bike trailer which weighs 140lbs. and can fit in a canvas bag. It too has a capacity of 1200lbs. but sells for \$1,100. Later on the manufacturer plans to develop a 2 bike conversion kit and still later an ATV trailer. Cost on these last 2 items haven't been determined yet.

A while back Jeff Dean had an article on the Lake Express Ferry across Lake Michigan. A recent newspaper notice said it had shut down for winter on October 31st instead of January 1. Service will resume on April 30, 2005.

The New Year's Day ride put on by the Madison Motorcycle Club was well attended. The route took riders to Quaker Steak and Lube in Middleton. It was sleeting as we pulled in; the weather continued to deteriorate with rain and freeze. When I left there was an 1/8 inch of ice covering all of the bikes and roads. Some bikes were left behind for a better day. Three wheelers made it home ok.

I looked into that "Cheese Trail" between Monroe and Mineral Point that Steve Huber wrote about a while ago. It is limited to horses, bicycles, hikers, ATV's with handle bars, and 2-wheeled motorcycles—max width is 4 feet a sidecar rig is 5.5 feet wide—no side car rigs. They said they've clocked speeds of 70–80 mph and have had at least 3 med flights to the hospital. Don't know how many ambulance rides.

2004 Financial Report

Name badges	\$290.10
Newsletter printing & postage	598.92
90 directories	145.59
June picnic	520.20
November banquet	856.07
May rally	3253.54
Website	36.00
BMW national charity	100.00
P.O. box rental	24.00
Atwood food pantry donation	100.00
Renew Corp.	10.00
Stamps	15.00

Check book as of January 2, 2005 contains \$4,049.60; petty cash \$254.

We ended 2004 with 99 members and have 67 thus far for 2005.

Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Remember that 2005 dues are due NOW! So if your newsletter address label does not have a 2005 in the upper corner, in all likelihood your dues have not been paid. Please email any personal information changes to membership@madisonbmwclub.org.

The Club welcomes new members this month!

David Lorman and Amna Buttar
4321 Goldfinch Circle
Middleton, WI 53562

Bikes:
2001 BMW K1200LT
1997 Buell S3

Madison Motorsports

Ready Set

SAVE!

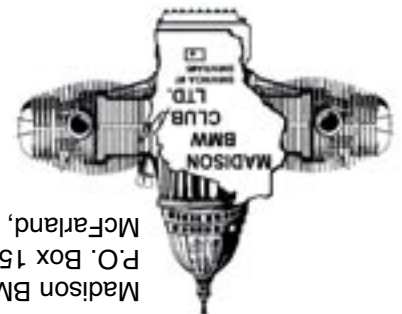
During 2005 Madison BMW club members who purchase tires are eligible to receive a 20% savings on batteries and brake pads. Simply present your 2005 tire purchase receipt. (or purchase all at once and save yourself a trip

Exhaust note



This photo, like last month's, was taken while earning my Wisconsin Rustic Roads patch/certificate. One only needs to get the rustic roads map from the WI Dept. of Transportation and go for a ride. Take a photo of yourself by each rustic road sign you encounter and submit the photos to the DOT. (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/vehicle/motorcycle/rusticroads.htm>). 10 photos gets you a patch, 25 gets you a certificate. Although this photo seems safe enough, it was a little more complex than appears. Rustic Road 29 rambles around a small road near Lake Geneva, and has a small elementary school along the rustic road sign (behind me). As I was setting up my camera to take my self portrait, I heard a voice behind me say "What are you doing?". Without looking I simply replied "Taking a picture". The voice then said "Why are you doing that?". I turned around to find a local police officer wondering why this shafty character (me) was taking pictures of kids playing on the school playground (Behind me to the right). I had to show the officer the rustic roads motorcycle brochure that I had with me to convince him that I was just taking a picture of myself with the road sign and not some child abductor.

Submitted by Tom Wiesen.



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