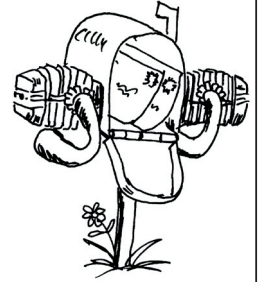


# The Mail Boxer

August 2010

BMW MOA #7 BMWRA #5



## The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

It's been about 2 months since I sold Helga, my 1994 R1100RS, she had 98 thousand miles on her and it was time for a new bike. I sold the bike to a fellow worker who is an engineer, and has many other bikes, so it's in good hands.

I've told a few people at work about the new bike I was looking for. After about a month one of them sent me a link for a listing on Craigslist. I went and looked it up, it was exactly what I was looking for, it had 3200 miles on it. The only drawback was it had a salvage title, The guy was pretty straight forward about where the bike came from ( Wisconsin Cycle Salvage), What was wrong with it when he got it and what was replaced.

I was planning on getting a new one because they were so affordable, this was even more affordable.

Betty and I decided to get some cash, get on her R1150R and ride up to see the bike in Waupaca. The bike was in almost perfect shape, I took it for a short ride and decided everything was straight and true and bought it.

This was the first parallel twin I've ever ridden. Betty and I headed back south towards home. About 10 miles out of Waupaca we were behind a car and needed to pass, Man was I surprised how quickly the new 650cc twin spins up, I was a little skeptical about buying a bike with that small of an engine, but all the reports I was reading said "BUY IT!" and it's true they're getting a ton of ride ability out of those little motors.

One of the main motivators of the smaller engine was the gas mileage , I'll be using it a lot for commuting, (my 32mpg R1100RS wasn't cutting it.)

I forgot to check the mileage on the first tank, but the reports are saying around 50mpg which is OK, not great, but OK.

The bike doesn't have a center stand and is chain drive, so a pit stand is in my future.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 8, 2010  
BMW Club Picnic and Monthly Meeting at Bringham Park. Eat at around 1 pm. Be there or be square.

Friday - Sunday September 10-12, 2010: 40th Annual Dells Rally  
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Sunday, October 3, 2010:  
Slimey Crud Run and Club Breakfast - Hilltop Restaurant doors open at 9:00 am and ride to Pine Bluff to follow.

I'm planning on decking it out fully for touring with:  
Aluminum panniers  
Tank bag with panniers  
Heated grips  
Custom seat ( this one sucks, but I might try modifying it myself before buying one.)  
Various engine guards  
Lights...maybe ( I need to drive it at night first to see the output of the stock light)  
And hopefully Ernie has a side stand foot that will fit. ( this stock one is about the size of a quarter.)

Oh, wait a minute I'm suppose to tell you about my new bike at the breakfast meeting.....sorry.

I hope everyone enjoys the Ribs and Chicken I'm cooking for the picnic, because I won't be there to enjoy them :-)  
I also won't be at the Sept. meeting, so I'll see y'all for the Slimy Crud at the October meeting.

Keep the sticky side down.

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## FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE

The following image was sent to me by a deep cover operative who secretly obtained this photo of the Prez's new ride.

Inquiring minds needed to know.



# USELESS FODDER

BY TOM VAN HORN

The Umpteenth Hillsboro Run will be Sunday, August 15th. This is the clubs oldest event, and was actually written up in WISCONSIN TRAILS magazine in, IIRC, 1968.

As usual, I'll depart the Brennan's Market on University Ave at Capitol Ave around 9:00ish that morning. We'll make a couple stops en route (TBD) and arrive at the farm eatery in H'boro around 12:30 or so.

Any questions call TVH at 238-5181.



I ran the thumper up to this today - Not a bad little gathering. An old warehouse - turned - bookstore had food, a rotating jam session and odd and ends for sale outside. The chap who has the WI vintage bike memorabilia display (he was at GR/3) was there, as was Ernie Bell and various Slimey Crud types. Bikes included a Nimbus sidecar rig, a spotless Ariel square four, and an H-D flathead 45.

I grew a tail about halfway - a guy on a new '650' GS followed me from the Spring Green area on up. Talked to him at the event, he said, "Thanks, I would've gotten lost - with your bike and getup, I figured you were coming here.." I dunno - is that a compliment? TVH???



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# Secretary's Report

By Linda Low

Minutes July 11, 2010

## Old Biz

Ride for Kids is Sunday August 1 in Middleton. Looking for hacks.

Summer picnic and August meeting is Sunday August 8 at Brigham Park. Bring a dish to pass and beverage. Todd is cooking for us but won't be in attendance.

Annual Hillsboro Ride will be Sunday, August 15. Leaving 9:15 from Brennan's on University Ave.

Two new members, Carl and Roger. Welcome!

## New Biz

Per Bert, the Ironman moto support is mixed up, will have more info in August about what is going on.

Roger won the 50/50 pot and Sam G won the free breakfast.



## J.T. & TVHs Excellent Adventure

Those of you who have put up with my maunderings (written as well as ridden) know that J.T. and I try to contrive One Good Run each year. We've done various national rallies, Vintage Days in Ohio, Lake Superior circle, and once just a late season squirt to Door county and Washington Island. But anyway, J.T. has long planned to visit his sisters family in St. Petersburg via 2-wheeler, and at last was jelling The Plan. We'd talked about (and driven) the straight shot down I-24/I-75 - it gets you there, but isn't very interesting. Last fall, he mentioned a due-south route through Alabama and to the FL panhandle. Hmm, been there done that, and the Barber Museum's right en route. I was able to get the week off, and so invited myself along.

Okay, the southeast, in June. Club elder Russ Atkinson used to say, "I don't go south in the summer, I go north." A check of the weather for the week of 6/6 was very consistent. Central Illinois, Nashville, Chattanooga, Huntsville, Birmingham, Atlanta, Tallahassee, Orlando, Tampa all predicted highs 80s/90s, lows 80s, sporadic thunderstorms likely. Russ might have had a point.

J.T.s GS was having a mysterious niggling front brake problem, so the wrench (Norm) ended up loaning J.T. a faired, low-geared '77 R100/7. J.T. couldn't quite maintain the turn of speed as on his oilhead, which inhibited I-road progress a bit. We took out after 1PM on 6/4. The IDOT website mentioned construction around Chicago and points south, nothing on I39 or I57. Right - we came to a dead stop on I39- finally crept up to an exit and jumped east (Shabbona) and south on IL 23. That killed some time and plans to make Mattoon or points south - just ended up in Champaign. Headed out 6/5, raining. My touring pants aren't waterproof in the crotch anymore. Huh. Out of it near the KY line, on around Nashville, temp going up.

The plan was to hit the Barber Museum east of Birmingham this PM, and then maybe call it a day near Montgomery. Or, given our reduced progress, bag it in B'Ham and hit the museum early Sunday 6/6. Nope - a pamphlet at the AL visitor center says that the museum opens at noon Sundays. Half a day, shot? Huh-uh. So, we hauled down to/through B'Ham and to the museum in Leeds, arriving with barely a half hour to spare. We did a run through, they gave us free passes for next time, and we found a Days Inn in Leeds with a Mexican joint next to it. We pulled under the overhang to check in and then the Heavens Opened. Just left the bikes there.

I'd e-mailed the AL BMW prez (Vance Harrelson, new 'MOA Board member) asking for roads and stops, and he talked up AL 25, running south out of Leeds. Quite a road - VERY twisty, a lot of elevation changes, and we had it to ourselves early Sunday. Jinked over toward Montgomery and down 231. South of Dothan, we had a confab: J.T.s bro-in-law runs maintenance at a Holiday Inn Sunspree on Tampa Bay in St. Pete, where we were reserved. Soonest we could check in was 3PM Monday, and here it's midday Sunday. Map says 300 miles from Apalachicola to St. Pete. Need we rush? Nope - we ran down 71 to Port St. Joe (rain again, felt rather good-), and I led J.T. around to the St. Joe marina. "Okay, let's get a Florida tradition outta the way." "Wha' zat?" "Have a drink on the water." There's a nice little dock side bar there. Talked to a couple guys who had boats: The Weather Channel that AM said that The Oil was just washing into the St. Joe Bay area. These guys had been out that AM, 3-4 miles, and said that it was still 'clear as a bell' out there. Hmm.

I reserved at the Apalachicola River Inn - from the lot, it looks like a scroungy, weathered place, but it's built on a dock over the river - very neat. There was a Gold Wing sitting in the lot. When we schlepped in to the office-&-liquor store in our nylon riding suits, here's a guy in a nylon riding suit at the desk. I said, "Don't some people dress funny?" Got a laugh. In the lot, the guy (from Sarasota) was talking up long rides. "Where'd you guys come from?" "Wisconsin." He kinda stopped talking

to us. Oh, well. Apalach' has a wonderful little antebellum downtown - dinner at the Magnolia Cafe, 'dessert' at the Gibson Inn, and nightcapped at the River Inn bar - they throw in drink tix with the room. We're down south, Toto - Like in Leeds, opening the room door at 5:00AM got us a hot, moist blast. Down 98, the streets got wetter as we approached Homosassa. Obviously catching up to something. The home stretch into the Tampa area posed a problem: It looked like we could stay on Hwy 19 down the coast towns (endless stoplights) or go east to I-75. Derek E. offered a third way - a new toll way from H'sassa to Tampa Bay. We found the toll way and the rain at about the same moment. The rain felt good. The toll way? Well, it was clean enough to eat off of - should be, we gave them \$14-16 in tolls. Got to J.T.s sisters in south St. Pete about 1:30, into the room a couple hours later. Hot. Place had an outdoor tiki-ish bar on stilts on the beach (such as the beach was-). Spent a lot of time there. Next day, J.T. mentioned doing the Sunshine Skyway bridge - we were basically at its north entrance anyway - so our Rationalized Destination was a quickie Anna Maria Island Local Joint Tour. Barb and I spent a week on the island in January, among other times up and down this coast over the years. Anna Maria is quieter and less built up than most. Checked out the Rod & Reel pier, the Bridge Tender, had a burger at Skinnys, and back again.

J.T.s /7 had developed some left-side noise, so we left it in his sis' garage overnight, snug up the valves maybe. Left valve cover off, a little oil out as usual. A bunch of needle bearings, not usual. Left intake rocker. @#%\*. A call to Haps BMW in Sarasota, they had the parts, bring 'er down. Snugged things up, back over the bridge and down 41. They ran it right in, we ran right out to lunch. The High Side Cafe is a little bike-themed joint on 301 I'd been at before. Good lunch, a half-sandwich order did me fine. Hour-or-so later, it was ready.

In the meantime, my 'RS had grown a couple issues: The green neutral light had been sticking, and if it's not on, I squeezed the clutch to start. No problem - until my clutch lockout switch stopped working. If I don't have that green light, it doesn't start. A few gas stops were interesting. Also, my brake light was sticking on. Got some WD40 at a gas stop and doused the rear brake light switch area - that's what gets cruddy, right? No joy. On the phone to Jason at Mischlers a couple times - finally pulled the front brake switch. I was planning on just taking it out, but J.T. spotted some adjustability in the screws holding it. Sneaked it back a bit and things worked fine. In re the neutral thing, if I didn't get a light as I pulled to a stop, I'd leave it running, blipping the throttle and tapping the shifter until I did get one.

J.T.s nephew rides a Honda CBR, and asked us if we'd been to a Quaker Steak Bike Night. Yeah, it just so happens. He led us up to the St. Pete version. Rolled up, and a guy ran out and said, "We got euro bike parking up here!" Uh, okay. Some folks did a double take at the WI plates...

We were planning to leave 6/11 or early 6/12, but Barb said her mother was in hospice, not taking fluids or nourishment, didn't look good. Told J.T. I had to split, he said we'd both go. Off 8:30ish 6/10, up I75. O'night just south of Atlanta. Told J.T. we needed an EARLY start to beat traffic around ATL, so were rolled by 4:30 or so. Even then, a fast bumper-to-bumper zoo. Next gas stop, J.T. said "You weren't kidding!" I-75 to Chattanooga, I-24 across Tennessee around Nashville and clipped west Kentucky, up I-57. Two-laned a bit to dodge some construction in Illinois...

Called Barb from Bloomington IL, said her mother had passed a couple hours prior. Made it in about 8:30AM 6/12. We rode between stygian clouds, and occasionally damp roads, but didn't get a drop of rain en route back. Total miles 3,206. Average MPG for the 'RS, 50.7. Goopy weather and a few minor setbacks, but hey, I had fun. J.T.s 'GS Now sports braided stainless brake lines, and is once again a stopping machine.



# ROCKERBOX

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