

The Mail Boxer

August 2008

BMW MOA #7 BMWRA #5



The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

Well, I finally got a new back tire for my RS, just in time for my new 80 mile daily commute. I just took up a new job at Trek Bicycles in Waterloo and should be in the run for commuter miles come Nov. When Steve at Madison Motorsports took my old MEZ6 off (Which was down to the steel threads.) I couldn't believe how little tire was actually left, it couldn't have been more than 1/8 inch thick. It's scary that I rode it back from Soldiers Grove with so little rubber left. It's a good thing that steel is there to slow the wear. I also wish Metzeler would put a better tread wear indicator on those tires, mine were just getting to the TWI's when it hit the steel. Don't forget about the Club picnic on August 10th at Brigham park. I'll be cookin' up a storm for all you little piggies. Chicken and ribs for all.

Also, the September meeting at JT Whitney's is moved to the 14th because of the Dells rally and the Madison Ironman.

The Veep Speaks

By Steve Lemke

Hi everyone. I hope you are having a fun riding season. We will be leaving the Pinecone Restaurant Saturday, August 16th to ride to the Still Humble mini-rally put on by the Dinky Dozen. Meet at 8 am. Leave at 8:30. We will ride through Monroe to Freeport. If any one wants to meet us in Freeport we will stop on the North side of town on Hwy 26 between 10-10:30. Call me on my cell phone (920-285-1872). Also best wishes to Dave Maly on his retirement. Here's to many years of not having to hurry back from rallies to go to work.

See you soon.....ElVicePresendenteGeneralismoForLife (Steve)

PS.....I reserved a room at Nautigals in Middleton on November 1st.

More info to follow.....

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 10, 2008
Club picnic and monthly meeting at Brigham County Park. This event is restricted to club members and their guests only. Prez Todd will be cooking up ribs and chicken. Yum-o.

Sunday, September 14, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

Sunday, October 5, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's 9.00am

November, 2008 Tentative - Club Banquet, monthly meeting, and officer elections. Place, Time and Date TBA

Sunday, December 7, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's 9.00am

FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE

"Go West, Young Man". Well, I'm not so young anymore, but I followed this old adage and headed left to discover the Great American West and to attend the BMW MOA National Rally in Gillette, WY. I've heard some people refer to our "Great Plains" as the "Great Nothing", a vast black hole to be avoided if at all possible. Well folks, I'm here to say it just ain't so. There is something awe inspiring about the endless vistas that roll on for miles and miles as the population of humans thins out to almost nothing. The rolling hills and the chiseled flatlands, the endless fields and the oceans of grass that stretch from horizon to horizon are something to behold. Now don't get me wrong, I love to ride through twisty mountain roads, or endless tunneled canopies of deep, lush forests, or on the quaint cobble streets of rustic village. I like all the roads that this great country has to offer (with the exception any freeway at rush hour). So don't skip the west and let's ride!

On a completely different thought-line, I've been told by fairly reliable source (well at least he was sober at the time) that there was an great white whale sighting in the waters of Lake Superior near the BMWRA Rally site in Houghton, MI. The amazing thing is that this same great white whale was also reported cavorting in a lake near Spearfish, SD.

I saw the Devil's Tower in person for the first time on my way to



the National. What an amazing sight. Definitely a place I will have to return to on another western trip and do some hiking. This photo was taken on the porch of a store just outside the park. It was nice to sit in the shade for a while. And they were selling ice cream. I had two scoops of strawberry. Yummy.

Oh yeah, I swear that I saw the mother ship from "Close Encounters" in the storm clouds that swept over the rally site in Gillette. It was quite the light show. Started me humming "When you wish upon a Star... Ride your Beemer,...don't drive a car!" Oh Yeah.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

LINDA LOW

July 6, 2008

Guests: Roger Nielson who owns an R50/2
Peter and Dawn Feneth who are riding an 86 R65 with new bags
Brajesh Samarth 650 Classic

Old Biz

The club won the #2 award for attendance at the RA rally in the UP

Bert won prizes at the Sidecar Rally for the balloon toss and blindfold driving.
Someone indicated that he drives that way all the time...

There was a rib run on the 2nd down to Monroe.
4 people went

We welcomed back Dave Jahnke who had a heart attack recently and
John Ong who had quadruple bypass just a month ago.
Welcome back!

New Biz

July 27 Party at Bert and Laurels to celebrate 25 years of wedded bliss
Aug. 3 Ride to Hillsboro leave Brennans at 9 am
Aug. 10 Club picnic at Blue Mound in Brigham Park. Bring dish to pass.
Todd will make ribs and chicken
For something new we will have a club swap meet.
Bring your extra camping stuff, bike parts, clothing, whatever you want to swap.
Aug. 9,10 Dinky Dozen club rally in Pontiac, Ill
Sept. 5,6,7 Dells Rally
Sept. 7 Ironman. Remember to sign up to help
Sept. 14 Club breakfast

Winners for the Day

50/50 – Dick Olson
Breakfast – Dan Baum
TVH birthday is today. 54 years young

What are some of your Favorite Roads?

.....*Edwin Burington says*.....

In a previous post I mentioned the Ice Field Parkway in Alberta.

Other roads I would nominate as great rides:

Highway 50 across West Virginia. I got this tip from the BMW shop in Cincinnati (Now gone I hear). I rode it in the fall after coming off the Shenandoah Skyway. There are lots of hardwood trees and the fall colors were spectacular. This is a two lane very twisty mountain road that would be a great ride any time of year.

The Shenandoah Skyway and Blue Ridge Mountain Parkway. Stretching from Front Royal, Virginia in the north to Cherokee, North Carolina in the south. I remember thinking the first time I got on the parkway, will I get tired of constant twisties and slow parkway speeds? Answer, an emphatic NO. Ride speeds are 35 to 45 MPH and in truth it is a wonderful pace to take the parkway. Not only are you busy negotiating curves but you have to be on a constant outlook for wildlife. Deer are everywhere, especially on the Shenandoah. On one of my trips through I had a black bear cub scoot across the road right in front of me.

Idaho Highway 12 which is also the Lewis and Clark trail. The highway tracks a river across the state between Lewiston, ID and Missoula, MT. This is another twisty mountain road with a bonus. While riding through some beautiful country you also get to watch the kayakers and rafters negotiating the river.

Natchez Trace Parkway: John Schroeder tipped me to this ride. I have yet to make the entire parkway but I have ridden from near Tupelo to near Nashville and it is another reduced speed, wildlife filled delight of a road.

There are a lot more that come to mind but let's hear some of your favorites.

.....*Tom Van Horn says*.....

Speaking of the Blue Ridge, it's indeed grand, and I would add that most of the roads leading to it aren't much less grand. NC 80, just north of Mt. Mitchell comes to mind as just one; NC 126 around Lake James (between Morganton & Nebo) is another that jumps out at me (kinda like the flock of wild turkeys that did on me...)...

...In Ohio, I had a grand ride a few years back on OH 56, from Circleville to Athens. And a route that should Go Without Saying is the Triple Nickel, OH 555, from Zanesville to the Hocking Hills. OH 93 south from Jackson through the Wayne Nat'l Forest is also supposed to be mahvelous...

...West VA? Well, US 60 east of Charleston is just fine IMO. A little gem we stumbled on is WV 21, from Parkersburg down to Charleston. Not a fast racetrack, just a quiet meander through time forgotten towns a world away from the I-77 it parallels. US 33 between I-77 and I-79 is grand - frankly, it's hard to go wrong in WV...

...If you've been in southwest Colorado and haven't done 550 north from Durango, you have only yourself to blame. This is another area

where it's hard to not find good roads, although the really popular ones may be infested with the geriatric motor home crowd, and if you get way off the traveled routes, you risk running out of pavement...

...Close to home, SW Wisconsin has many - faves include WI 171 west from Boaz, Cty 'X' north from 171, WI 131 up the Kickapoo, 'C' west from Soldiers Grove to the river, 'Z' and 'E' north from Boaz, 'K' west from Lime Ridge - on and on and...

.....*Jeff Trapp says*.....

If there are better motorcycle roads than the 220 mile 2 lane from Hanksville to Hurricane Utah, there can't be many of them. Scant traffic, beautiful flowing curves, gorgeous scenery from alpine meadows to Dakar rally like dunes and rocks. It goes through Bryce Canyon, Capital Reef and Zion National Parks to boot!

.....*Karl Reinke says*.....

This past weekend my other son, Gunnar, and I took the SS Badger over to Ludington and back. Before leaving we spent some time touring the Cobia in Manitowoc and did some other stuff. Quite a sight seeing that huge wind farm between Taycheedah and Calumetville. I'll give the club members some photos as soon as I get them uploaded but he and I had more fun on that ship than any father and son should have a right to. Who needs to go on a Carnival cruise when you can ride you Beemer into the belly of a cruise liner and ride it off for a full blown amphibious assault of Michigan?!?

(continued on next page)

(Roads, continued)

There are so many really cool things to see just in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

You are indeed correct. We are blessed here.

.....*Tom Van Horn says again.....*

When I read of NY riders clawing their way out of the City to get up the Taconic and briefly ride, say, Route 9 or such, I remember how blessed we are around here...

...On the subject of roads, I guess that the Pacific Coast Highway through Big Sur goes without saying. It IS grand, although some part or other is always under construction. Nepenthe is often cited as THE stop for food (and the view does rate the overused word awesome), but just down the hill from there is Deetjens, whose eatery and lodging will get a return visit from us. North of Santa Cruz, Hwy 9 and the Skyline Drive live up to their billing, IMO, and north of the Bay area, we stumbled on Trinity Road, which connects the Sonoma and Napa valleys.

Ride Report

Edwin Burington

Last night was beautiful night for a ride. Jen and I took the county roads down to Monroe and returned on Highway 69, County P and Highway 151. John Schroeder joined us at Baumgartner's with pictures and stories from his most recent ride to Edmonton and down the Ice Field Parkway between Jasper and Banff. Five of us road the Ice Field Parkway in 2005 and this time John took his wife Tereesa. I certainly understand his desire to revisit that beautiful road. I've been thinking about heading back there for a revisit, myself. It's about 1,600 miles to Banff. From Banff to Jasper is about 180 miles of incredibly beautiful mountainous highway. The highest parts of the highway top 6,500 feet elevation. If you have not been on this highway you are missing one of the great rides of the North American continent.

FYI:

Club picnic and monthly meeting. Brigham County Park, 3160 County Road F, Blue Mounds. This event is restricted to club members and their guests only. Prez Todd will be cooking up ribs and chicken. Yum-o. Bring a side dish to share and your own beverages. Cooking starts around 11AM with the food served around 1PM
New for this year: We're combining the picnic with a Club swap meet. Bring your old camping gear, M/C parts, riding gear, etc. you'd like to sell/trade/foist off on other club members.

Antique Motorcycle Show and swap meet.
Sept. 28 Boone Co. fairgrounds
Rt.76 Belvidere, Il.

Goggle for map and web site

Saturday August 2nd Glen Bishop of Thorough Bred Cycles is turning 60 and is having a bash at Thorough Bred Cycles. Camping is welcome.

Sunday August 3rd Tom Van Horn will leading the Hillsboro ride. meeting at the Brennans on University at 8:45 for a 9AM departure.

The September Breakfast has been moved to the 14th because of the Dells rally and the Ironman.

The 2008 BMWRA National Rally

June 19-22

Featuring....Sort Of....the Watersmeet Nimrods,
Lukewarm Pasties, Finnish Reggae,
and UP Mystery Roads...

...I hoped this would be a good run. It's likely to be my only one to speak of for the year. J.T. et moi headed north early Wednesday afternoon, not sure just how jammed up we'd get by flood/road closures in the Portage area. I-39 was still closed, and they didn't even deign to offer any alternate. WI 22 was closed at Pardeeville, and varied back roads I would have used in the Dells area were also kaput im wasser. Und zo, we stayed on I-90 to WI 13, crossed the river at the Dells, jumped back east on WI 23, and resumed nord-fahren on I-39.

Figuring we had time (and being four-laned out), we peeled onto WI 17 at Merrill, ducked around Rhineland and picked up US 45 at Eagle River. Shortly past Land O'Lakes and inta da Yoop, dere. Through Watersmeet, where much signage declared that it was home to the Nimrods, apparently the local school team name. I've always understood 'nimrod' to mean hunter or shooter. Nimrod was also an Old Testament king, and Merriam/Webster says it also means 'jerk' or 'idiot'. They probably stick with 'hunter' in Watersmeet. Gotta wonder what the local cheer leading squad does with 'nimrod'.

The signage just north of here said we were now in the Eastern Time Zone. Hmm. Dunno how late we can check into the dorms, maybe we should skip a dinner stop. US 45 to MI 26, through the woods and past all the Finnish names (whaddy think it is with north European languages and all the extra consonants? Ice age teeth-chattering?). Finally got into Houghton around 9:30. We found the campus and dorm east of downtown. The desk was open late, good - but most eateries in town close at 10. Mmkay. Threw our stuff into the room (a real dorm room - tiny desks and bunks six feet off the floor-!) and ran back downtown. Like Madison, lots of one-way streets, and a wrong turn put us in front of the Library brew pub/restaurant. We dove in. The barkeep got our food order in just as the kitchen closed. We ended up next to a BMWNA rep and a guy who leads moto tours in Brazil. Beats talking about sports...

We wandered up (and I do mean UP - the elevation changes in Houghton rival Baraboo or Galena) from the dorms to the rally site Thursday AM. Registration was not open yet. Wandered through the camping areas. Chuck R. had one spot staked off and Bert, Steve H., and the Bro-Js (Jutzes) were in the next area, club flag displayed.

We wandered off to stalk the wily breakfast, and found Victorias Kitchen, a little hole-in-the-wall in downtown Houghton. Aside from an unusual omelet selection, they had bacon as a side order. Such bacon! This stuff wasn't slices or rashers, just big, intense smoky chunks. It has never been near a plastic wrapper. Little things like this help make a trip, IMO...

We wander back up and register (registration was also Food and Drink Central). Vendors were a bit spare - web forum talk noted that fuel prices (and the Honda Hoot in NC the same weekend) were going to impact the vending numbers, and they apparently did. Nonetheless, J.T. found himself a pair of boots that fit his anatidian feet. Had nice visits with Kermit the former-chair-now-pack-system guy and the Nicks BMW crew, among others. Anyone know if Helen TwoWheels is okay? Her absence was conspicuous.

So, ride. Ride? Oh, yeah, motorcycles, right. Tim Jensen had mentioned a little outta-the-way place called the Superior View cafe, in a little end-of-the-trail spot called Freda, so off we went. Map shows it west of Houghton. The actual roads weren't in agreement with the map IMO, but the ride was fun. Freda owed its existence to a stamp mill (crushing ore, mostly copper), which shut down in the '50s, and Freda was, alas, slowly doing the same. The cafe was closed and for sale.

Back to the rally, with one of many visits with Manitowocs (and GR/3 regular) Randy Boris, who was everywhere at once; security, trouble-fixing, seminars, etc. I'll bet the rally would have been a lot clunkier without him.

Dinner? Y'mean, food? Food...GOOD! Okay, the kids at the campus mentioned the Ambassador in Houghton. In Madison, the College Pizza Place is Pisans, where students gather, are fed and employed. I'll call the Ambassador the equivalent in Houghton. The thin crust pizza was grand. I purposely ordered

too much, figuring that it wouldn't go to waste at the site. It didn't - Steve H. and Stuart Klopp saw to that.

Friday, ride. Yes. Across to Hancock, and over to MI 203 along the shore. Nice road, but then, they just about all are. We then turned on US 41 and headed toward Copper Harbor. US 41 is mapped as scenic along here, and surely was - a meandering tunnel through the trees. Copper Harbor was at the end of everything (a sign on US 41 said, "Miami, FL: 1995 miles"). Dan Baums to-do list had the Harbor Haus eatery, but it was closed when we found it. Lunch at another place, full of Beemer riders and a few puzzled locals. We sat next to a couple who came to our poor washed-out 30th GR/3. I said we're much drier and more paved these days.

We left Copper Harbor west on MI 26 along the shore. Have you "Done Roads?" WI 131? Blue Ridge? Deals Gap? Ohio 555? You MUST do MI 26. It is written. We met a lot of folks who ran 26 and just turned around and ran it again. Woot!

Friday dinner was the carnivalesque, waxed-paper-wrapped stuff at Rally Central. As a blues aficionado, I wanted to catch the Friday band, the UP's own "Flat Broke Blues Band". They were okay, lots of enthusiasm, I guess.

Saturday we tried the other (east) side of the Keeweenaw. I'd been wanting to wash my begrimed 'RS (for those who know me, weird, I know, but..), but Sue Rihn said the bike wash stuff wasn't out, lack of demand. So anyway, we were going through Lake Linden, and here is the volunteer fire crew having a bake sale and car wash. I swung in, and they had no problem with us washing our bikes with their stuff. Took a few layers of crud off. I had a nice visit and answered some questions. When we left, they said, "Send the rest on over!"

Backroaded out to Gay, with a Gay Fire Department (got a hat) and, of course, the Gay Bar, which had about half the rallygoers there. I think the poor woman running both the bar and the kitchen was overwhelmed, so we headed out. The road up to Point Isabelle and Bete Grise was along the shore and nice. Not quite up to MI 26 on the other side, but nice.

The awards on Saturday were short and sweet. We

(the club) won second highest club attendance! Again, woot! The Saturday 'banquet' was pasties, slaw, and cookies, the pasties with much gravy. Okay, I guess. I've done the pasty thing in Mineral Point, and at Mylles here in town, but it doesn't really push my buttons. Oh, and guys? One filled with pizza stuff is fine, but it's called a calzone. One with beans, rice and chorizo is probably an empanada. They're not pasties. A real pasty is British, and so must (by law, I think) contain at least one loathsome pulpy vegetable and greyish trace bits of some unidentifiable animal part.

The band that serenaded us during our repast was Conga Se Menne, a tropical-shirted bunch that sang reggae stuff.....in Finnish. Now, I have some bizarre tastes in music, but this, I gotta admit, was New.

Heading south Sunday AM, we decided to vary from going straight down US 45 and jinked east on MI 38 towards Nisula, planning to turn south on something the map called 'H 16', which apparently meets WI 17. In retrospect, we probably turned south too soon on some other road, and so had our first-this-trip UP Mystery Road. We had encountered these before farther east, and here one was: A nice, paved, striped, shouldered, marked, straight highway that, after however many miles, just ends in a patch of gravel or sand in the middle of nowhere. Huh. We doglegged west and north and found 45 again, but ????

Running on south. We passed Dave M. near Wausau. We went in and out of drizzle farther south. I-39 was open now. I-90 traffic was at a crawl north of Madison, so we crept up to Hwy 'V' and peeled off. The Heavens opened about 10 minutes after I pulled into the garage.

So, the tally per my notes: 367 miles up, 349 back, 315 or so around the rally area. Lowest MPG for the 'RS, 46.4, highest 52.7, average 49.4. Hey, I had fun.

...TVH

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Derek Engelen

Please welcome the following new members:

Peter & Dawn Fehnet
5210 Dorsett Dr.
Madison, WI 53711
Phones: 608.277.0731 home;
608.266.5614 work
Bikes: 1986 BMW R65

Brajesh Samarth
903D Eagle Heights
Madison, WI 53705
Phones: 608.469.7920 home
Bikes: Yamaha 650 Classic

September 4th – 7th, 2008 38th Annual Wisconsin Dells BMW Motorcycle Rally

BMW motorcycle owners, riders and their guests are cordially invited to attend the 38th annual Wisconsin Dells BMW Motorcycle Rally. This will be our 6th year at the fabulous Chula Vista Resort. Enjoy a sit down indoor Saturday evening buffet, indoor and outdoor Water Park, seminars, vendors, live music Fri & Sat nights. Camping has been GREATLY improved for 2008! Rally Registration includes reduced Room rates for Chula Vista Hotel rooms and Condos on grounds.



Some of the wild life
on the Rally Site



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