

CRVBMW NEWS

A Newsletter for Members of the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc.

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BMW MOA #164
BMWRA #45

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Noise Hurts

by Forrest Anderson

Yes, noise does hurt and it hurts us all.

Sunday, Jani and I went for a little ride and roadside picnic. It was a beautiful day, a great day to be out enjoying the eastern Connecticut countryside. Early afternoon, we stopped in a tree covered picnic area along route 6 in Brooklyn. As we ate the lunch that Jani had packed, I commented on the number of bikes that were rumbling by. It seemed that every Harley in Eastern CT went roaring through Brooklyn that afternoon.

Singly or in pairs, in threes, fours and in dozens, chrome Harleys (or Harley look-alikes) cruised past us as we picnicked. Some were nice but most were louder than the trucks that rolled past. Some, quite a few in fact, were almost painful as they thundered by.

As we mounted up to leave I noticed that the people at the table next to us protectively gathered up their kids to shield them from our pending noise. As we purred past their table I could see confusion on their anxious faces. "They all should be this loud," I commented as we rode by. They smiled and nodded. One of their younger kids waved.

Monday, I retrieved my favorite motorcycle magazine, *Motorcycle Consumer News*

from my mailbox. Immediately I opened it to read Fred Rau's column. He writes a great column, sometimes funny, sometimes moving, but most often thought provoking. This month's article was no exception. It was all about the noise, the damn-in-your-face noise that way too many bikers exhibit.

Boy, did he nail it right. Noise, any kind of noise is irritating and loud noise produces anger and even rage. Of the voting public, we motorcyclists are but a tiny percentage. If enough people get enraged by the illegal antics of the "loud pipe saves lives" crowd (the same people who wear t-shirts instead of leather, wear bandanas instead of helmets), we will face more and more bike bans and other legislation.

It reminds me of a conversation I had with a "biker", in the tattooed sense of the word, at one of last year's motorcycle shows. I had a booth near the guy's show bike display and complimented him on his beautiful bike (pretty it was, though unrideable in my eyes). Anyway, we started talking and he was amazed that I had so many miles on my bike and been to Iowa, Georgia,

over the top of the Great Lakes, etc. He asked who I ride with and was even more amazed that I usually ride alone. He couldn't imagine not riding without riding in a group. A cop won't hassle you when you're in riding in a group, he explained.

I've always wondered about the thought process that would induce someone to want to ride a bike that was so loud that the only time they can go riding is in the sanctity of numbers. Mind boggling.

Another time I had a brief discussion with one of the leaders of the local motorcycle states right club. On the subject of loud pipes he told me that if kids don't cover their ears and if car alarms don't go off when he passes, it's not loud enough. My "loud pipe, lose rights" argument fell on deaf ears.

One other time, at the end of a bike show, as I was helping break down the display of Leo Castell's *Motorcyclist's Post* an unmuffled Harley blasted to life next to us. Damn, it made everyone cringe; it was painful (I wince just thinking about it). Sarcas- tically Leo commented; "60 horsepower, just roaring to get out." My Beemer has

(continued on the next page)

CRV Activities for August and September (see the calendar for details)

August 8 -- Hot Dog Ride.

August 16 -- German Food.

August 18 & 19 -- Optional overnight campout involving day rides to art galleries or northern Vermont.

September 9 -- CRV Club Barbecue.

60hp, I told him, but it doesn't need to wake the dead to do it, jeez!

And it's not just Harleys (although most are sold with HD's "off-road pipes"), in New York City I've heard crotch-rockets with unbaffled Kerker's that could rattle penthouse windows. No wonder Yonkers had a bike ban a few years ago. It took many meetings and the help of the AMA to overturn it.

The AMA has for years tried to promote the idea of loud bike noise causes motorcycle bans and other maladies. They know first hand the costs of fighting these bans. Of trying to win support for motorcycle rights, only to lose them because of some noisy biker had angered off some politician's spouse.

The police can't do too much effectively. Tickets for loud bikes are difficult to hold up in court. Plus, it's more than we can ask that a single cop stop a gang of bikers to enforce the noise laws. Only when a police department sets up a vehicle check area can they ticket noise and other equipment infractions. But they are very costly to do. Thus the politicians try to solve the matter by banning bikers from parks, roads and communities altogether.

I know that as a club our members hold themselves responsible for their actions. Our bikes are generally quiet and unobtrusive. However, we do condone the ones that would rather make noise than make miles. Why? Is it that we don't want a confrontation? Is it that we would rather have the "law" take care of the problem?

But it's our problem. By not speaking out, we allow those that don't care about riding to control our fate. I'm not taking about starting fights or anything. Just a polite, but negative endorsement will help. Over and over by more and more riders will help. Not tolerating loud bikes at our rides or events will help. Like at *Americade* where Bill Ducher mandates that loud bikes need not apply, they are not welcome. If we all don't promote responsible riding then our days of motorcycle freedom will be doomed.

To quote Fred Rau; "If we don't solve this problem ourselves, the rest of society is going to do it for us, through the force of law. And do I really need to tell you how that will turn out?"

Ride safe, ride far, and ride responsibly,
Forrest Anderson

Vice President's Column

Old Roads and New Traffic

I just read an excellent commentary by Dave Searle on traffic nowadays in *Motorcycle Consumer News*. I'd been thinking about writing on this subject since I read Keith's write up about the ride he led awhile back and how he wrote some of the roads had changed. Sometimes after

(continued on the next column)

work I'll take the F650 and just kind of ride some of the old roads I used to ride, roads I would never use in my day to day travels and haven't used for some time. Roads on which I had ridden my '48 Indian, '61 BSA A10, and my '59 XLCH.

They're gone, well not really, but the road I used to know is no longer there. It's just that now you have to ride to take a ride. We've all seen it, traffic lights where old country intersections used to be, strip malls where a little town used to be and the like. I guess people should have paid attention to songs about paving paradise, stripping Muhlenburg County, or The New Riders version of Cement, Clay and Glass.

Anyway, here's where I'm going with this. A while ago there was a discussion about having a *My Favorite Road* section in our newsletter. I don't know what happened to the idea, but it sounded great. Members can send in a road they like whether it is one, two, or ten miles long. Anything, a neat bypass, a shortcut through a residential area, a side road linking two other roads, etc. You don't have to set up a ride or anything like that, just one of those try this road if you happen to be in the area type things.

Here's a couple I enjoy:

Route 201 from Route 2 to Route 165

Joshuatown Road from Hadlyme to Hamburg

That little connector road with the wicked hairpin from Shuttlemeadow to the New Britain reservoir area roads (A nice road if you are in the area).

There's many more, but they will follow in later issues. Now I know there are lots of roads we could list, but if members just sent in a couple at a time we could build up a nice data bank we could build rides from.

Thanks and ride safe,

Editorial: The Politics of Motorcycling

Why is it that we so often accept what we feel are inappropriate actions from our fellow motorcyclists without comment? This month seems to be the month to discuss motorcycling etiquette. Excellent articles appeared in the August *Motorcycle Consumer News* by Fred Rau, the September *Motorcyclist* by Mitch Boehm, and in this newsletter issue by our own Forrest Anderson. In no specific order, I'm going to discuss three areas of personal concern.

The first I'm going to call road etiquette. I know in some states it is legal to split lanes and to ride to the front of a

(continued on page 5)

Web Page Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site at

<http://www.crvbmw.org>

CRV Barbecue

How about a catered barbecue like we had over a decade ago? You don't want to miss this one. Rain or shine the event will occur on Sunday, September 9. Your president has arranged for BBQ Blues Catering to provide a pig roast plus steak, chicken with corn, and more. We will gather at the Stanley Park in Westfield, Massachusetts, opposite the presidential palace.

This is one of the most beautiful parks in New England. Walk through the gardens, along hiking and bicycle trails, and around the ponds. There are great roads to and from the park. You'll really like this!

The CRVBMW club is paying for all members and auxiliary members.

To get a correct count and to properly plan the barbecue, all persons age 12 and over must **send \$15 to our Treasurer**, Ron Faibusch. Members and auxiliary members will **receive a full cash refund at the barbecue.**

Children 6-12 eat for \$5 each.

Kids under 6 eat for free.

Bring your family.

CRV members will be talking about this picnic for another decade. Directions will be printed in the next two newsletters.

Send your checks to:

Ron Faibusch

CRVBMW Treasurer

241 Talcott Notch Road

Farmington, CT 06032

CRV Club Store

The following items are available for purchase from our club store:

Club T-shirts — heather gray with club logo	
Short sleeve S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	\$8
Long sleeve M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	\$10
Club Sweatshirts — heather gray, crew neck, club logo, lettering on arm M, L, XL, XXL	\$15
Club Hooded sweat shirts — heather gray, club logo, lettering on arm M, XL, XXL	\$20
Cycle foot	\$2
CRVBMW Belt Buckle	\$15
CRVBMW Club pin	\$2
CRVBMW 4" decal	\$2
CRVBMW 3" decal	\$1

If you're interested in purchasing any of these items from our club store, contact Penny Podgwaite at 203-776-9757 or email to mrmrsp191@aol.com

August 2001

Something Different

The First Ever "Fayerweather Yacht Club Race Nite Rally"

Where:

Fayerweather Yacht Club
51 Brewster St.
Bridgeport, CT

When:

A Saturday night in October (date has not been set as of this printing)

What:

So what is it? Once a month the club holds a "Race Nite" for members and their guests. A sit-down Roast Beef dinner with all the fixens including desert is served at 7 PM immediately followed by the Sea Horse races. There are ten races run at which you may place your \$.25 bets and also wager on a daily double. Beverages at the bar are very reasonable: \$1.00/ draft beer; \$1.50 mixed drinks; soda \$.50 or \$.75/can in the machine. The dinner will set you back \$6.00 and will only be served to those who have advance tickets. I will prepurchase tickets for those wanting in.

You will be a guest of Bob Naramore who, if enough people buy in, we will have a reserved table for CRVBMW Members. Dress is casual.

Now for the interesting part . . . knowing how sensitive most of us are about riding after the consumption of alcohol, I have been granted permission by the Board of Governors allowing us to pitch our tents on the club lawn so we may avoid the DWI. There is plenty of level grass area; a place for undercover storage for our bikes right next to where we will camp; The whole club grounds will be locked after closing providing adequate security for the campers and their bikes. One door, within the secured area, to the club will be left unlocked for use of the facilities.

Even if a date late in October is picked, the temperature down by the water stays warm until late November. Those who wish to participate in the event, but do not want to camp, are just as welcome as anyone else is.

Certain rules apply: Everyone who is a guest must sign in a guest register; State Law. There can be no camp fires. No pets. You are not allowed to bring any alcoholic beverages onto the club property; State Law.

If you're interested, and or wish more information; call me (203-888-0880) or email me (bobble@snet.net).

I will publish the date, through the web site, as soon as it is set.

Bob

CRV member, **Len Nicholas**, of Haddam Neck, Connecticut, enjoys motorcycling of all sorts, but especially older Beemers. He says he has two old BMWs as his new one is a 1979. The old ones are a R27 and the 1951 R25 (see photo to the right).

He just got the R25 back from Hyde's in upper NY state where they re-sleeved the cylinder. Lenny says it starts like a top now. In the Europe, Len goes on to say, people would strap a side car to one of these (it has the mounts) and load up the whole family and go for a spin. Even though it now runs like new, he admits it's not something you would want use to tool around Connecticut roads. Not with only eleven horsepower.

His R27 has been put into real good shape. It also resides in his garage as it too is underpowered for today's traffic. Club member **Rick Aaboe** introduced BMWMOA's roving photographer to Len last spring. The MOA will be doing an article on older bikes and they photographed Len's R27. It might be on the cover of one of the MOA's newsletters this fall. "I'd be tickled pink, if it got in their magazine!" confesses Len.

Lenny's new ride, the '79, is ridden most everyday.

Len tells the story of his great deal in buying that machine. After many years of not having a motorcycle he finally was in the position to sooth that itch. He had always pined for a BMW, the excellence in motorcycles. At his local BMW dealer they had this nice used Beemer, a '79 but it had 40 thousand miles on it. Len knew that 40 thou would be the end to most bikes but not a BMW, plus they were selling it for a real good deal. He bought it.

Only soon after did he find that it didn't have 40 thousand on it but instead it had 100 and 40 thousand. No wonder it was such a good deal. However, it was in real good shape and ran fine. It now has over 310,000 miles on it and still going strong.

Len acknowledges that his garage is too full. "I sure like those ol' bikes, but maybe I should sell the 25 and 27 and concentrate on the one I ride. I hardly have room to walk in my garage let alone store any 'found bikes.'" Len travels to bike meets and bike shows most every week as a AMA Field Rep. In his travels, he sometimes "finds" inexpensive bikes to buy and sell to keep his trips affordable.

Affectionately known to most as "Lost Lenny", now that he has retired, you can find him on-the-road at motorcycle events almost every weekend throughout the year. If it gets too cold and there is a bike show in New England, he'll be there in his truck. With his new '79 or not, where there are motorcyclists, that's where you'll find Lost Lenny.

Forrest Anderson



Items For Sale or Wanted

For Sale

Sell or trade beautiful, maroon 1995 K75; BMW C fairing color matched, factory hardbags, top case, tank bag, engine guards, ABS, heated grips, radar, factory lowered seat; 4.3K miles. Showroom condition; just bought from Razez's, but it's too big for me. Sell for \$6.4K for everything or trade for similar condition '90-'95 R100GSPD or (+\$) for a R1100GS (for husband who traded in his much loved Guzzi Lemans for it as a present for me). Deb Knowlton (413) 565-2865 (ad posted 8/01)

Wanted

Riding Partner Wanted -- Someone who would like to plan a week-long trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway / Deal's Gap in August or September 2001. Contact Linda Combe at home (860) 257-4285, at work (860) 636-9813, or email lincombe@snet.net. (ad posted 7/01)

September Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, August 25, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

2001 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

August

August 8 -- Hot Dog Ride. See details below.

August 16 -- German Food. See details to the right.

August 18 & 19 -- Optional overnight campout involving day rides to art galleries or northern Vermont.

September

September 9 -- CRV Club Barbecue. Details on page 3.

October

October (a Saturday night to be announced) -- The First Ever "Fayerweather Yacht Club Race Nite Rally". Details on page 3.

November

November 10 & 11 -- Fall Campout. Details to follow.

Other Motorcycling Activities

August 26 -- Multiple Sclerosis Motorcycle Ride.
See details in the July Newsletter.

August 26 -- Law Dogs Annual Motorcycle Run to benefit A.I.D. a PET. Sunday, August 26, 2001. Registration 9:30a.m.-11:00a.m. \$15.00 per person. Rain or shine! Live music, food, door prizes, vendors, raffles, bike show, K-9 Cop demonstrations. Good Time and fun for ALL!
For more information call (860) 246-9559.

September 20-23 -- BMWRA Rally held in Morganton, NC.

Hot Dog Ride

On Wednesday, August 8, the Hot Dog Ride will start at the Exxon Station on Route 66 in Portland, CT. The Exxon Station is right at the bridge on the eastbound side. We'll be leaving at 6:00 PM sharp. It won't be a long ride, perhaps 30 miles or so. This is rain or shine. If questions contact me at 860-635-1173.

Brian

German Restaurant

The ride to a German Restaurant on Thursday, August 16, will leave from the Sunoco Gas Station right across the road from the Olympia Diner on the Berlin Turnpike. We'll be leaving at 5:45 PM. Rain or Shine. You **must** let me know if you plan to attend. Please call 860-635-1173 to let me know that you are planning to come on the ride. If I don't know you're coming, you're not. I have to call ahead on this one.

Brian

Editorial:

The Politics of Motorcycling (cont.)

stopped line of vehicles, but with the current state-of-mind of most people is it socially correct to do this? Think about the explosion that would take place if an individual walked past a line of waiting customers in a supermarket or bank and stepped to the front of the line. That same feeling of anger is often generated in those people who are passed when stopped in traffic. Is this the feeling we want to generate towards motorcyclists?

Second, is the issue of excessive noise. We all know its effect on the general public as well as on many motorcycle riders. If, as many motorcyclists say, it's an issue that we need to address . . . then we better start addressing it now. Loud motorcycles offend people, we need to develop acceptance and support, not rejection and antagonism.

Last is the issue of rider stupidity, OK being politically correct maybe I should say careless rider traits. Three that quickly come to mind are grossly excessive speed, reckless weaving through traffic, and wheelies. Honestly, most people speed, but excessive speed through small neighborhoods or the middle of towns simply draws unwanted, negative attention to riders. While riding on Route 95, too often I have seen motorcyclists recklessly weaving through traffic. I consider it reckless when riders cross multiple lanes without looking, don't signal their erratic and quick lane changes, and cause the vehicles they cut in front of to hit their brakes for fear of hitting the rider. How many drivers observing these actions are hoping the police catch the rider, hoping he has an accident, or are beginning road rage? Finally, is there any justification for doing a wheelie on a public road . . . NO!!

These are my opinions and not the opinions of the club. They are not meant to offend anyone, but to get us thinking and moving towards improving the public's opinion and acceptance of motorcyclists. A close, lifelong friend of mine recently asked, "Do motorcycles motivate normal people to do dumb things or do many dumb or crazy people ride motorcycles?" How would you have answered that question?

Keith Olsen
Editor

August 2001

CRVBMWR NEWS

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**Have you sent your check in for the CRV Barbecue?
See details on page 3.**