

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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Charter Oak & Grand Tour

AMA news flash: AMA's Northeast Region elected Rick Gray for another three-year term on the AMA's Board of Directors. Half the Board is composed of elected members and the other half selected prominent business people. Rick is an incumbent and during his previous term held the post as Chairman of the Board. Rick Gray and his wife, Gail, reside in Lancaster, Penn. Both are members of the BMWMOA and both are high mileage riders. One of Rick's personal challenges is to have the AMA place more focus and emphasis on AMA street riders. This year or example will be the first ever AMA member's meeting. It will follow Vintage Days (July 4th weekend) in Ohio. They will host a weeklong meeting, comprised of seminars, rides, vendors, and other motorcycling activities.

Charter Oak update: Our 15th Charter Oak Rally is pulling together. However, we still need chairs for several areas: Trophies & Awards, Bike Show, Field Events, Children's Events and 50/50. Please give us a call and sign on.

We would appreciate any ideas for vendors. If you know of someone who might like to come and sell their wares, please contact Brian Fisk. Ditto for door prizes!

by Forrest Anderson

Ted Lawrence will be sending notices for publishing in the MOA, RA, and the Motorcyclist Post, by the end of January. If you know of other areas where it can be published please let him know.

Mike Dzen will be contacting a band for Saturday night entertainment. He has agreed to join the entertainment committee to select a band. If you have any ideas for bands please give Mike a call.

We are working on obtaining souvenir T-shirts, pins and other rally memorabilia.

We have a BIGGER NEWS FLASH – George Schmidt and Marge have most generously agreed to prepare another Charter Oak meal this year. This will be their 15th year in presenting us a meal. As a club, let's show our support, for their years of support, by volunteering to help them in meal prep and also by not allowing them the tedium of the post-meal clean-up.

See you at our next Charter Oak meeting (immediately following the membership meeting).

Grand Tour update: Riders are already starting to register for the tour. They (and others) will receive their Grand Tour flag, pin, and

complete set of rules and list of towns by the start date, April 15. Late entries can start as late as September to tackle this tour.

Tour entry forms are being printed. Addresses of area and BMW motorcycle clubs are being sought for CRV GT mailings.

The tour logo is undergoing some revisions to allow one color silk screening for the tour flag. Several firms are giving us price quotes for the flags.

The original logo will be used for finisher's awards. Wall plaque designs (for those visiting 100% of the towns) are being sought. If you have ideas and/or suppliers, etc., please give us a call or stop us at the next membership meeting.

The AMA is supplying tour pins and is picking up half of the cost of the pins. Thus they will be cost us only a dollar each for as many as we use (we get money back for all those that we return). AMA members on the tour will be given special consideration (extra bonus) on their end-of-tour awards.

The official rules and complete list of towns are being reviewed and getting ready for printing.

Lots of action on this tour. (continued on the next page)

CRV Activities for February and March (see the calendar for details)

February 13 -- "And Now For Something Completely Different"
February 17 -- CRV Swap Meet and Club Meeting.
February 25 -- CRV trip to the New York Bike Show.
March 3 -- Winter Rally

Your help is needed in many areas including delivering fliers to area motorcycle dealerships, clubs, etc.

Cabin Fever gotcha? A lot of motorcycle activities in Feb(damn it's cold)ruary. The **International Motorcycle show** is being held Feb 23,24 and 25th in the Jacob Javitts Center, Manhattan. Interested in a bus ride there? Contact Brian Fisk and Lenny LaRose.

Naturally we will have a Club meeting plus other activities, continue reading the newsletter for details.

Jani & Forrest Anderson
Chairs and Chairettes

President's Column

Midwinter is not the most pleasant time for a motorcyclist in New England. Our CRVBMW friends have been busy planning events to keep us connected between years and to prepare for another good year on the road.

Thanks to Mike Dzen we will have a great location, meal and music at our Winter Rally/Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 3. I met Mike at the Polish National Home for a meal recently and I can assure you that the food and ambiance are perfect for our gathering. As an added attraction, a generous friend is providing us with a keg of liquid gold. Send your check in right now and you will be sure to share a fun evening with good friends, including the ones you haven't met yet.

I know that you want to be at our February 17th meeting/swap meet. This event is better than any yard sale you ever passed along the road. Bring those parts, accessories, camping supplies and tools, or any Items you once treasured. Someone will be thrilled, maybe interested, possibly puzzled and ready to make a deal. At past events I've seen items change hands twice, many free items, and items sold that were not even there (i.e. snowblower, welder) Turn your items back into cash or swap for more items. Bring cash and your checkbook.

Payment for the Winter Rally/Awards Banquet will be accepted at the meeting. Our club will be providing pizza and soft drinks immediately after the meeting so plan to stick around.

See you down the road,
Larry

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site and see our
"color" newsletter and new links at
[http://members.aol.com/
crvbmwr/crvbmwr.html](http://members.aol.com/crvbmwr/crvbmwr.html)

If You Have To Ask . . .

Challenging motorcycling moments are lived over and over through memories and story swapping sessions. One of the pleasures of gathering with our cycling friends is the opportunity to share and compare our personal adventures. We try, often in vain, to convey our excitement about motorcycling with non riders.

When they ask why we ride, what we get out of it, if it's cheap transportation, we offer polite answers knowing they probably wouldn't understand the benefits we derive.

Think about the fleeting, breathtaking, and unobstructed views you experienced on your rides in combination with the wind, sunshine and scents of the countryside. You escape the workday pressures of time and productivity for the valuable moments along the less traveled route.

So many of my motorcycling exploits are certainly not ones that I chose or would want to repeat. Yet those very times are the ones that have left a strengthening impression on me. Would I choose to repeat my Vietnam service, auto accident, skiing injury and other long past events? No. But all such experiences provide powerful memories. Just ask your family and good friends as you age and repeat your tales.

As I listen to motorcycling friends at any gathering I know that everyone has had adventures similar to the story of the moment. Let me share a few tidbits gleaned from two wheeled trips in recent years and you can conjure up personal memories of similar situations:

Rolling along in the countryside and you smell fresh cut hay.

Cruising peacefully along the highway you suddenly spot (choose one: an animal, roadkill, tire recap, log, furniture, muffler, pothole, parked motorhome, oil, etc.).

Sweeping, climbing, and dipping in the mountains you feel she distinct changes in temperature and light and shadow that connect you with the scenery.

Reaching the top of a Colorado mountain pass you ride through snow—in July.

Then down the mountain into a hot, dry valley.

Stop for a photo at the weeping waterfall in Glacier Park and around the bend to the glacial snow banks in midsummer T-shirt weather.

Missing a planned turn and having a ride so good you couldn't have planned a better one.

Alone at a remote campground and an invitation to join some kind people for a barbecue.

That small town eatery with great food at yesterday's prices and friendly folks.

Broke down bike in a far away place and more help than you could hope for.

Between towns in remote Kansas (or Canada, Maine, or Colorado) and the sky opens up with pouring rain, lightning and wind.

The brilliant blue sky and rainbow after riding out of the rain.

(continued on the next page)

Yes, we may have similar stories but even if you were riding with someone else the personal response was not the same. Memories fade or sharpen though the strongest ones seem to have more staying power.

Share your riding stories whether they are one liners, paragraphs or never-ending tales.

Larry Friedman

Recent Adventures



Ken Hearn and Jeff Buchman taking a photo-op break while riding Deal's Gap this past year.



CRV Safety Reflective Vests

As we all know, being seen goes a long way to a safe motorcycling experience. The photos above show how your visibility increases, even during the day, when wearing a reflective vest. At club member requests, we are attempting to order more CRV Safety Reflective Vests.

On pages 4 and 5 there are additional photos of an earlier version of our vest, equivalent to what we plan to order. The vests are custom made, high quality, and should be available for purchase at a cost of approximately \$25.

The vests feature two highly visible reflective bands, a reflective club logo, zipper front, elastic (possibly solid) sides, on a black mesh vest. They will be very similar to the photos on pages 4 and 5.

For us to order more vests, we need a commitment from club members who would like to purchase a club vest. If interested, please email me at crvbmwr@aol.com or leave a message on my telephone at 203-532-9733. In your message please state your name, how many vests you would like to order, and if this is a definite order or if you would like to be contacted before the vests are ordered. Since we would like to have the vests available by early April, please make your commitment to purchase ASAP, but no later than March 1. Thank you. Keith Olsen

February 2001

February CRV Meeting and Swap Meet

It's once again time for a CRV Swap Meet. Sell or swap your stuff related to motorcycling, tools, camping, etc. Bring what you can and go home with someone else's treasures. You may want to bring a folding table and chair.

On Saturday, February 17, we will meet at Moffat-Raymond Landscaping. The garage is located in the Ledgemere Industrial Park at 5 Albany Turnpike (which is Route 44) in Canton, CT. If travelling on Route 44 from the east it will be on your left, approximately 1/4 mile after the Rte 167 junction. If coming from the west, it will be on the right approximately 2 miles after the junction for Rte 177. Early arrivals will help to clean and set up. The Swap Meet will be from 2PM-4PM, followed by a CRV meeting at 4PM.

Experienced Rider Course For CRVBMWRiders

When: Saturday April 21, 2001
8:30 AM till 5:30 PM

Where: Gateway Comm. College
(North Haven Campus)
88 Bassett Road
North Haven, CT 06473
And
Pratt Whitney (Range)
North Haven, CT

Registration info: This class will be reserved until March 1. That means that club members have until March 1, to get their prepaid; completed, applications in to the college. After March 1, it is "first come first served". You may obtain an application by calling Bob Naramore (203) 888-0880 or "e" rnaramore@snet.net Applications may also be obtained directly from the college. Please do not procrastinate, this course filled very quickly last year.

March Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, February 25, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

Annual Winter Rally

Friends . . . fun . . . good food, along with music, entertainment, and awards. It's time for the annual CRV Winter Rally.

When: Saturday, March 3, 2001

Where: Polish National Home
60 Charter Oak Ave. Hartford

Time: Social hour 6:30-7:30
Buffet dinner at 7:30

Band: 7:00 -11:30

The buffet will include kielbasa, glumpkies, perogies, sauerkraut, shells & sauce, roasted potatoes, baked chicken, roast beef, tossed salad, bread & butter, coffee and tea.

Bring your friends, all are welcome.

Don't wait, reserve your spot today for this event. Please send your payment of \$24 per person (checks payable to CRVBMW) to:

Larry Friedman
900 Granville Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

If you have any questions, call Larry at 413-562-3164 or email: Lfrdmn@map.com

Hope to see you at the Winter Rally

Directions to the Polish National Home

60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
860-247-1784

From either 91 North or South, take Exit 29A
"Capitol Area"

Take your first exit onto Columbus Boulevard.
At the end of the ramp, turn left at the light.
At second light (Charter Oak Avenue), turn
right.

At first light (Polish national Home parking
lot), turn right.

*From the I-91 exit, it is approximately 1/2 mile
to the Polish National Home and just south of
downtown Hartford.*

Items For Sale or Wanted

For Sale

1991 K100RS ABS, black, BMW hard bags, color matched parabellum Ltd. windscreen, 17,000 miles, new front tire, recent BMW service, great condition, and other BMW extras, \$7,500 obo, Call Eric at 860-677-2913. (ad posted 2/01)

Motoport "Canyon" Suit: (Jacket Small, pants Medium; fits women's size 8.) Black with purple shoulders. Cordura nylon, waterproof, features removable knee, hip, shoulder, elbow pads, and back board. Many pockets. Includes GoreTex liner for coat. Great for cool-weather riding. Asking \$150. Contact Robin at 440-288-6056 or email: zzum@aol.com (ad posted 1/01)

**Past CRV Safety Vest logo after three
year's of use, it does have a few wrinkles,
but still reflects brightly.**



Trip to the Bike Show at the Jacob Javits Center in New York

CRVBMW Riders have a bus to the Bike show in NY. The details are almost the same as last year. Except for the date, this trip will be February 25, 2001.

Pickups will be at:

7:00AM -- Bob's commuter lot, Route190
Enfield

7:45AM -- Exit 21 commuter lot in Cromwell

8:30AM (approx.) -- commuter lot, most likely
in North Haven

The price is \$28 per person. This includes the bus and entry into the show. I think there will be orange juice and water on the bus to go with the donuts. You all bring your own coffee. We will also make a two hour stop at the Harley Davidson Cafe. Others will go to places to eat that are nearby.

Please let me know at what stop you are planning to get on the bus. Also this is a first-come first-serve trip, there are 55 seats on the bus. Right now 54 are open.

Send to Brian Fisk 409 Main St. Cromwell, CT 06416 phone 860-635-1173 or better yet e-mail brainfish@deadhorse.com

2001 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

February

- February 13 -- "And Now For Something Completely Different" See the details to the right.
February 17 -- CRV Swap Meet and Club Meeting. Details on page 3.
February 25 -- CRV trip to the New York Bike Show. Details on page 4.

March

- March 3 -- CRV Winter Rally. Details on page 4.
March 10 -- "And Now For Something Completely Different" A night out at the Brew Ha Ha Comedy Club. See the details to the right.

April

- Mid-April -- "And Now For Something Completely Different" Paint Ball in East Hampton or Bowling. Details to follow.
April 22 -- Best of the West Ride. Ride the best roads on the west side of CT. Details to follow.
April 27&28 -- Spring Campout in East Hampton. Details to follow.

May

- May 16 -- After work Picnic Hurd Park. Details to follow.
May 25-28 -- CRV Charter Oak Rally. Details to follow.

June

- June 14 -- Ride to Bill's Seafood in Westbrook, starts at K-Mart Plaza Cromwell. Details to follow.

July

- July 16 -- Mini Golf on Berlin Turnpike. Details to follow.

August

- August 8 -- Hot Dog Ride. Details to follow.
August 16 -- German Food. Details to follow.

November

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

Other Motorcycling Activities

- Currently - April 10, 2001 -- The Great New York Motorcycle Show. Details on page 3.
July -- 2001 MOA National Rally will be held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon.
July 12-15 -- Top O' The Rockies Rally. Paonia, Colorado. Contact Deb Lower - (303) 778-8617 or (303) 356-6612 or deblower@attglobal.net

And Now For Something Completely Different

February 13, Tuesday -- Bingo in Bristol at the St. Stanislaus RC Church, 510 West Street, Bristol. Doors open 5:30 (a good time to arrive would be about 6:00-6:15). The game starts PROMPTLY at 6:45. The doors close shortly after the start of the game at 6:45. Between 6:45 and 7:00, you may or may not be allowed to enter. No admittance after 7:00. (State law for official attendance count)

Basic set of games cost about \$25. All you need for this is a Bingo Marker Dabber (available there for \$1.75-\$2.00) Sandwiches and refreshments available. No reservations required. You don't have to be an old FART to attend this stuff. It can be a lot of fun and you can win a couple of \$\$.

Directions: (West Street is St. Rte 69) 3rd building, left side where Rte 69 and Rte 6 split. Basement below the church.

March 10, Saturday -- Brew Ha Ha Comedy Club at City Steam, 942 Main Street, Hartford, 860-525-1600. Show starts 7:30 PM. The show is in a Nonsmoking Area. \$14 Cover Charge for the Show. **Reservations are required** for the Comedy Club.

I will handle reservations for those attending only the Comedy Show that send me the \$14 cover charge. Dinner during the show does not work. Having dinner come out your nose while you laugh hurts. **Should you wish to have dinner before the show, you are on your own to make dinner as well as show reservations.** Recommended time for dinner would be 6 to 6:30 PM. Be sure to state you are part of the (BMW/Guzzi) motorcycle clubs and will be attending the comedy show after dinner. Your dinner will be served in the same room and the same table that you will see the show from in the same general area as other club members. Dinner prices range from \$7.95 to \$17.95 off the menu.

Questions — Madmatt@deadhorse.com or 860-584-5760

Matt Strus



The reflective material on the CRV vest really stands out when hit by headlights.

To the left is a view of the back at night.

To the right is a view of the front during a cloudy day.



February 2001

NEWS

CRVBMWR

CRVBMWR
c/o Tracy Smith
71 Hillside Drive
Ellington, CT 06029

Have you renewed your CRV membership; registered to attend the Winter Rally; or do you wish to purchase a CRV Reflective Vest?