

CRVBMWWR NEWS

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

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To Bakersfield - part two

by Forrest Anderson

Last month's trek to Bakersfield ended with Eddie James, AMA Membership Director and IBET Host, and myself, IBET entrant, waiting for the last ferry of the day to shuttle us across Lake Champlain to Vermont.

While waiting for the "Grand Isle" to dock, Eddie studied my Rand McNally. "You know," he mused; "after Bakersfield we could hop to Quebec and snap a picture of the Vermont-Quebec border."

"Yea, but why would we want to do that?" I queried: "It's not a IBET destination."

"No, but I collect photos of state boundaries, like New York-Vermont, New York-Connecticut, New York-Pennsylvania, etc."

"There is a lot of combinations; must take a lot of photos."

"Yep, to get each one fills a large scrap book." Eddie admitted. "I'm working on my fourth one."

"You mean you've visited each state and border four times!" I exclaimed.

"Working on the fourth." He replied; "Aren't motorcycles great!"

How humbling, I've barely been to less than two dozen

states, and some of those just a small corner, while Eddie has literally been everywhere. Amazing.

The "Grand Isle" arrived and off-loaded. The ferry was a larger version of the Chester/Lyme ferry in Connecticut. We pushed our bikes aboard and only two cars joined us. The last ferry crossing was almost empty.

As we started across the lake the sun went down behind

the surrounding hills. There was no moon and the stars didn't seem to want to come out either. It got dark, very fast. Further out on the lake, with no streetlights nearby, it was very black. Eventually the stars came out to a brilliance that can only be seen when one is away from the perpetual glow of urban lights.

Without the warming sun, the cool waters of Champlain caused an immediate drop in temperature. Light fog formed and eventually obscured the stars. Dew began to collect on our bikes as Eddie and I struggled into any bit of clothing we had in our bags, including our rain pants.

First off the ramp in Vermont, we headed north up route 7 toward the foggy glow of Burlington. It was approaching 9:00 p.m. and my stomach was telling me it was past due. My gas tank too was also on first reserve. Thus, I was in immediate need of food and gas (not necessarily in that order). (continued on the next page)



CRV Activities for May (see the calendar for details)

- May 5 -- CRV Clean-up Day at the 4-H Camp.
- May 5 -- CRV Club Meeting, beginning at 4:00.
- May 5 -- CRV Road Captain's Western Mass and Vermont Ride.
- May 16 -- After work Picnic Hurd Park.
- May 25-28 -- CRV Charter Oak Rally.

Eureka! Tent Outlet Store

Hungry or not, trusty Eddie held our speed to the posted limit as we passed through, not one but two radar patrol cars trying to deter errant speeders on their way to town.

Approaching the lower edge of town we were met by the beckoning neon haze of fast food and motels. Wanting more than grilled burgers we continued. At the crest a slight rise the yellow and red sign of Denny's welcomed us. A Denny's with a gas station next to it. Relief on both counts.

As we walked into Denny's we were greeted by their motorcycle signs and pictures. Eddie looked around and commented "This is great, we should have one of these in Pickerington. Terrific motif, it would compliment the Heritage Museum."

"Yea, you're right, this looks as if Mark Mederski did the interior design." I replied. (Mark is the designer of the AMA's new Heritage motorcycle museum at the AMA's campus in Pickerington, Ohio)

As soon as we were seated our waiter dealt out the menus. "You guys on the motorcycles?" the young kid chimed.

"You betcha." Eddie replied in his best *Fargo* accent.

Sarcastically I groaned; "What gave us away, our helmets and rain gear?"

Missing both our comments the kid went on, "My older brother has a motorcycle, an antique BMW."

Now he has sparked our attention. "Oh ya? We ride BMWs. What model is it?" we queried.

"It's an R100RT, with fairing and panniers and everything. 1983, I think."

Eddie laughed and pointed at me; "An antique. " He chortled; "A 1983.

"Very funny, Ed. I happen to think an '83 is kinda new." I grumbled. (For those that might not know, my bike is a 1983, R100RT.) The kid nailed me bad.

Later as we were filling our faces Eddie commented; "Isn't this great. We're here on two wheels. Plus what are the chances that here in the middle of Vermont we run into a diner with motorcycle decor and a waiter that knew what panniers were."

I agreed; "It doesn't get much better than this." (Although I would have preferred sharing it with my wife, as well.)

Eddie graciously picked up the check and I tipped our waiter (that snot-nosed kid) well. We quickly topped our tanks and headed northward. We jumped on a by-pass around Burlington, zipped a few miles up I-89 before hopping off to the local roads toward Bakersfield.

Next month, come along with us on a fog-covered journey, to the *Twilight Zone*.

Ride safe, ride far.
Forrest Anderson

Are you in the market for a new tent and you don't want to spend a bundle? Are you itching for a good long scenic ride to start the season? If so, I'd like to suggest a day trip to Johnson Outdoors, the Eureka! Tent factory outlet in Binghamton, NY.

As my employer has its roots in Endicott NY, a nearby town, I have occasion to visit the area and recently stopped at the store. The store sells a full range of tents from backpacking to family size many of which are setup and on display. It also has backpacks, camping gear, maps and kayaks. You can get a great deal on a Factory second tent. The model I was looking at, an APEX 3XT three-person tent, was \$99 at the outlet, I have seen it elsewhere for \$150.

Binghamton is about 3 hours from Danbury via I-18 and NY 17 or via I-84 and I-81 through Scranton, PA. I prefer the more scenic Route 17. If you take 17 you can stop at the famous Roscoe Diner in Roscoe, NY, the Trout capital of NY State. As an alternate, I would suggest a slightly longer (half-hour?) even more scenic trip. Try taking I-84 to Port Jervis, NY and then take State Route 97 up to 17 in Hancock NY. Route 97 is a beautiful drive that takes you alongside the Delaware River (soon to be designated a national scenic road). There is a section on it that you may recognize from BMW motorcycle brochures, (page 47 in the 2001 BMW catalog), a series of undulating curves with a sheer cliff rise on one side of the road and drop off to the river on the other.

The outlet is open Mon-Sat 10-6. It is located at 615 Conklin Road (Route 7). Get off exit 4 of 81/17 and take 7 south for about 2.5 miles. You can't miss it. Their web site is johnsonoutdoors.com. While in Binghamton, be sure to have a Spiedie sandwich for lunch. A Spiedie is a marinated grilled meat sandwich that seems to be unique to the Binghamton area. You can get more info at Spiedie.com. Who knows, you may be back to the area in August, camping with your new tent to attend the 16th annual Spiedie and Balloon Fest! Check it out at spiediefest.com

New Web Page Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site and see our

"color" newsletter and new links at

<http://www.crvbmw.org>

Rides Change

I was looking forward to riding one of my favorite local rides, Route 121 from Bedford, NY to North Salem, NY. I've always enjoyed one section of the ride in particular. It starts with a sweeping left-hand turn going slightly up hill. On your right is a high stone wall and on your left a horse corral, usually with one or two horses . . . but back to the ride. At the top of the hill you need one or two down shifts as you take a sharp right-hand turn, immediately followed by a sharp left-hand turn, immediately followed by a final sharp right-hand turn, then you're back for more casual sweepers.

On this great riding day in April, I found my ride changed. The uphill, right, left, right, is now a very casual right-hand sweeper. My favorite section, of my favorite ride, is now gone.

In this day and age of make it safer and let me do it in less time, which makes many people happy, isn't always everyone's first choice. So enjoy your favorite rides today, because they may not be there tomorrow.

Keith Olsen

Best of the West Ride

On Sunday, April 22, ten riders enjoyed the beautiful day while sharing the experience on the Best of the West Ride. Three riders departed from Greenwich and met up with an additional seven riders in Danbury. Five club members and five guests then traveled north to Kent, CT.

With luck we all got to park together, see the photos to the right. Some people enjoyed an outside lunch, while others visited nearby shops.

We then got back on the road and eight of us continued up to the Twin Lakes area in the northwest corner of the state before heading south. From the Twin Lakes area south we shared the road with a turtle and turkeys, luckily only visual encounters occurred, so all the animals, riders, and bikes stayed safe.

Along the Housatonic River we had a final rest stop. Six of the remaining riders went their own ways from here. Jon Gorman continued on the ride to its end in Newtown.

Keith Olsen

May CRV Meeting Saturday, May 5

The May CRV Club meeting will take place on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 4:00PM, at the 4H Camp in Marlborough, CT. Directions are on the Charter Oak Registration Form found on page 7.

Photographs from the Best of the West Ride



June Newsletter Deadline

Friday, May 25, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

CRV 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

Ride to Bill's Seafood

Ride to Bill's Seafood in Westbrook, on Thursday, June 14. Yep, it is that time of year again when we get a lot of sunlight and get a chance to ride into the late evening. I'll start this ride from the K-Mart Plaza in Cromwell, near the intersection of Route 3 and Route 9. If you are there before me, be in site of the Ruby Tuesday's restaurant. I plan on being there at 4:45 PM with a full tank of fuel. I'll leave at 5:00 PM. The ride should take just over an hour. Unless the weather is bad, it may take a bit more. If you wish you can arrive in a tin rainsuit. Please give me a head count so that I can scare the waitress. Contact me at 860-635-1173 or brainfish@deadhorse.com

Thanks
Brian Fisk

Gathering of Friends & Other Strange Beings Sixth Annual CRVBMWR Club Camp Out

On June 22, 23, & 24, kick back and enjoy rural New York at the Sixth Annual CRVBMWR Club Camp Out. The camp out will be held at Clyde & Diane Pratt's House, 160 Sullivan Road, in Kirkwood, New York.

It will feature semi-primitive camping (one shower and porta-cans). An optional Saturday meal with shared costs. To cover the costs for the camp out, a donation is requested.

Directions: Route 81 to Exit #1. Go up hill on Cedarhurst Road, **not** toward Route 11. In approximately 1 mile, take first right onto Sullivan Road. In approximately 1/2 mile, at the top of the hill, turn right into 160 Sullivan Road, a yellow and brick house.

For further information call 1-607-775-9015 (home) or 1-607-725-7009 (work). If no answer leave a message.

Items For Sale or Wanted

For Sale

1997 Honda ST1100 with many extras. \$8,500. Call Jay at 860-257-4285 after 6:00 PM or email jcombe@snet.net (ad posted 4/01)

Wanted

Latches (2+) for Olympus Bags. They're Krauser look alike for an R65. Contact Terry LeTellier at 413-786-4723. (ad posted 3/01)

After Work Picnic

On May 16, come to an after work picnic at Hurd Park in Haddam, CT. The park is off Route 151. Look for us at the pavilion . . . although I want the pond. I plan on being there about 5:15. I'll bring the fire you bring your food and drink. We have been doing this for 9 years. Help me make the 10th one special. For info call me at 860-635-1173 or email brainfish@deadhorse.com

Brian Fisk

Come one, come all !!! to the 4-H Camp Clean-Up Day

Come to the Marlborough 4-H Camp Clean-Up Day. It is held on Saturday, May 5, anytime you can get there between 9am and 4pm. Wear old clothes, bring along hammers, screw drivers, wrenches, etc. Rain or Shine . . . our help will be appreciated. Lunch will be provided! Directions are found on the Charter Oak Registration Form on page 7.

Immediately following at 4pm, will be our club meeting and our final Charter Oak meeting. If any committee chairs or members have questions and want to contact us prior to May 5, please do so. Otherwise, we will see you on Saturday to finalize details of the rally and tie up loose ends.

Please be advised, we are still in need of a chair for field events. If you have questions or are interested in helping contact us at 860-873-8712 or ama_rep@sprynet.com

Forrest & Jane

2001 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

May

- May 5 -- CRV Clean-up Day at the 4-H Camp. Details on page 4.
- May 5 -- CRV Club Meeting. Beginning at 4:00, a CRV Meeting will be held at the 4-H Camp in Marlborough, the site of our Charter Oak Rally. Details on page 3.
- May 5 -- CRV Road Captain's Western Mass and Vermont Ride. See details to the right.
- May 16 -- After work Picnic Hurd Park. Details on page 4.
- May 25-28 -- CRV Charter Oak Rally. See Registration Form on page 7.

June

- June 2 -- One-day ride to Americade. Details to the right.
- June 14 -- Ride to Bill's Seafood in Westbrook, starts at K-Mart Plaza in Cromwell. Details on page 4.
- June 22, 23, & 24 -- Sixth Annual CRVBMWR Club Camp Out. Details on page 4.

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

September

- September 9 -- CRV Club Picnic. Initial planning is being looked at for Stanley Park in Westfield, Massachusetts. Details will follow.

November

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

(continued on the next column)

Other Motorcycling Activities

- June 3 -- Open House at Lindner Cycle.
- 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
- July 18 -- Ride to Work Day. In their October 2000 Board of Directors meeting, the AMA unanimously voted to, "Approve and endorse the value of motorcycles as a vehicle for daily personal transportation, and designate the third Wednesday of July as Ride To Work Day in recognition of that value."
- September 20-23 -- BMWRA Rally held in Morganton, NC.

Road Captain Ride

Saturday, May 5, Western Mass., Vermont ride. Hopefully the roads will be clear of sand and salts to ride to one of my favorite areas. We will leave Canton Cycle's at 9:00 am sharp and take a northern route through CT, MA, Southern VT. Lunch will be at Poncho Wreck in Wilmington or the Royal Dinner in Brattleboro. We will return to CT approximately 4:00pm.

Ride to Americade

A group of riders are going to Americade for a one-day riding adventure.

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2001
Leave: Burger King, Exit 45 off I-91.
Time: 7:00 AM

We will ride the superslab in order to have time to go through Tour Expo. We will stop for dinner on the way home. We hope to be home between 8-8:30PM. Anyone interested, contact Linda Combe lincombe@snet.net or 860-257-4285.

Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour



Entry Form



The entry fee of \$20 (\$25 with passenger) and the entry form can be mailed to CRV, care of F. Anderson, 95 Boardman Road, East Haddam CT 06423-1338. Checks or money orders payable to — Connecticut River Valley — would be preferred. You will receive notification of its receipt and your packet (which will include your Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour pin and flag) with the official list of towns to be visited and rules will be mailed prior to April 15, 2001.

please print

Rider: _____ AMA # _____

Passenger (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Motorcycle (Make/Model/Color): _____

M/C Club Affiliation: _____

————— THIS IS A RELEASE, READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING —————

I understand that the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour is a motorcycle-riding event. I understand that motorcycling is an inherently dangerous activity, which should be undertaken by competent, experienced individuals. I further acknowledge that during the course of the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour, I will be subjecting myself to any and all hazards associated by motorcyclists. I agree to abide by all applicable traffic regulations in the state(s) in which I ride. I accept full and complete responsibility for my own safety during this Tour. I acknowledge that motorcycling under adverse road, light, weather, rider and traffic conditions is inherently dangerous and could result in injury or death. I hereby accept these risks which I might incur or which I may cause to another as a condition of participation in the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour and hereby waive any and all claims I may have against the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour, its organizers, agents and sponsors as a result of my participation in the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour. I further agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour, its organizers, agents and sponsors any claims against them by third parties as a result of my conduct of actions during the Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour.

Rider's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Passenger's Signature: _____ Date: _____



CHARTER OAK

Includes:

- * Saturday night entertainment
- * 2 dinners - Prime Rib and Ham
- * 3 nights camping and hot showers
- * Breakfast and snacks available on the site
- * Door prizes
- * Organized rides
- * Poker Run
- * Rally Awards
- * FREE chili Friday night while it lasts!
- * FREE continuous coffee
- * FREE continental breakfast on Monday
- * Modern enclosed pavilion and facilities
- * Cabins available
- * Rally pin, cup and dinners guaranteed to first 250
- * Other surprises planned

For Preregistration contact:

Tracy Smith, Charter Oak Rally
 71 Hillside Drive, Ellington, CT 06029
 E-mail at crvsecretary@juno.com or
 Telephone 860-871-5753

Fifteenth Annual Charter Oak Rally

May 25 - 28, 2001

Sponsored by CT River Valley BMW Riders, Inc.

Location: Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center,
 Marlborough, Connecticut

Registration: \$36 preregistration (prior to May 18), \$41 at the Gate. Children 6-15 \$23, \$28 at the Gate, 5 and under FREE.



Directions: In Marlborough Center, at the intersection of Routes 2 and 66, take South Main Street. (The 4-H Outdoor Center is approximately 3.5 miles from Route 66.) After that you will come to a Y, South Road bears to the right. Take South Road. At the STOP, continue straight. The Hartford County 4-H camp will be on your left. Follow the "4-H" signs.

Make checks payable to:
 CRVBMW Riders, Inc.

**PLEASE !!!
 No glass or pets
 at the rally site**

Registration Form

A separate registration form is needed for every person, including passengers and every child.

Name: _____ Rider Male _____ Passenger Female _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____

Name(s) of Local Club Affiliations: _____ Send me information on cabins: Y N
 Make of Motorcycle: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Sidecar: Y N

Waiver: I agree to hold harmless the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. the AMA, and the 4-H Hartford County Outdoor Center, for any injury, damage or loss incurred while attending or travelling to and from the rally.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Official Use Only Amount Received \$ _____ Cash or Check # _____ Received by _____
 Information Verified _____ Rally # _____

May 2001
NEWS
CRVBMWR

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

Our Charter Oak Rally is May 25-28 . . . hope to see you there.