

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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CRV Grand Tour

by Forrest Anderson

The conclusion to the CRV GT is coming to a rapid close but it's not over yet even though it officially ended October 15th. A few late packages of tour pictures are still arriving in our mail box (even with Oct 15 postmarks) and door prizes from vendors are still being delivered.

Preliminary results are (we will have a recount): Receiving Gold awards: **Art Daly, Brian Fisk, Bruce & Aloma Clark, Tom Maneil, Scot Ewen, Larry Walley, Grayson & Ann Cook, Al & Alice Skelton, Larry Budreau, Claude Bonner & Aileen Gleason, Robert Samuelson, Joe Niewinski, Rex & Jean Frazier, Harry Duckworth, Joe Marshall and James Grover.**

Silver awards will go to: **Mark Altschwager, Don Hight, Lenny LaRose, Richard Kudola & JoAnn Matyasousky, Bob & Debbie Chrostowski, Bob Baeckler, Pierre Theriault & Louise Harrid, Sandra Stevens, John & Nora Hunter and Lou Montalvo.**

And the bronze winners are: **John Allen, Paul Clifford, Dennis Kelly, Michael Williams, Alena Bengtson, Robert & Charlette Corry, Jack & Deanna Molyneaux, Jim & Carol Sensbach, Dee**

Gagnon, Robert & Linda Mulcahy, Ed & Mary Stuart, Al & Donna Brooks, Ken Jovin, Beatice Desper, Mary Lowery, Mike & Janet Csontos, and Liz, Ray & Lou Picaut.

Congratulations to all the tour finishers. Their achievements were no small task. Less than 40% made it to complete the tour. They all deserve a round of applause. All finishers will be receiving their well-earned awards as soon they are delivered. Also the door prizes will be drawn in the near future.

Door prizes will include the following (in no particular order).

AMA, 1 year free membership and motohead T-shirt; **Dee Gagnon**, "DeeTours" book; **Beaches M/C Adventures**, \$200 gift certificate; **Mustang Saddles**, 5 Mustang ball caps, 2 Mustang Book Bags and 2 \$25 gift certificates; **Vanson Leather**, T-shirt, leather balm, key chain and \$20 rebate; **Helen Twowheels**, Superpacking system with pack straps; **Whitehouse Press**, two books, "Dead Man's Throttle" & "Hotshoe"; **Roadgear**, Hi-Tec Digital Tire Gauge; **Sliks**, Helmet Liner;

Motorcycle Consumer News, three 1-year subscriptions; **Works Performance Products**, five \$50 gift certificates; **America Kowa Seiki**, Wheel balancer, BMW adapter & weights, plus 2 M/C toolkits plus a T handle wrench set; **Cycle Gadgets**, M/C cleaning kit; **Deltona Transformer Corp.**, two battery tenders; and **Spectro-Oil**, two gifts of 4 quarts of Golden Spectro-oil and enough motorcycle care spray to give one to everyone that attended! Super thanks to all our friendly and generous sponsors who donated over \$1000 worth of door prizes!

Several suggestions have been made about having a party for CRV-GT riders. I think that was a wonderful idea and we have put something together for Sunday, December 9th. Thanks to **Amber's** suggestion it will be held at the Troutbrook Restaurant (spell that PUB) which is located, appropriately on the **Connecticut River** in Windsor, CT. At the meeting, the door prize winners will be drawn and awards handed out. *You will not need to be present to win.* However, I will have your (continued on the next page)

CRV Activities for November & December (see details in the calendar)

November 10 & 11 -- Cattletown Fall Camp Out.

November 15 -- And Now For Something Completely Different. IMAX movie.

November 18 -- CRV Meeting.

December 9 -- Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour Awards Banquet

December 30 -- Bus trip to the New York Motorcycle Show.

pictures there for everyone's enjoyment and for you to pick up. It will be a great opportunity to meet some good motorcycle people and swap Grand Tour successes and defeats. Even if you didn't finish or even enter come on down. We will have tons of tales and laughs to share with everyone.

Again, Sunday, December 9th starting about 1:00 at the Troutbrook Restaurant in Windsor, CT. Troutbrook is located on route 159 at the *Windsor / Windsor Locks town limit sign!* It is only a couple of miles from the I-95 exit number 42. From I-95 north or south, at the end of exit 42 turn right, travel to the yellow flashing light and turn left onto route 159. Troutbrook will be on your left at the Windsor town line.

Troutbrook would like an approximate count so please call me at (860) 873-8712 or e-mail me at ama_rep@sprynet.com. Their phone number is (860)-285-0878.

What did others have to say about the CRV-GT?

"Great Tour, especially northern NH & VT. Identifying the towns in northern VT proved a challenge" **Robert Samuelson**

"NICE RIDE! I put enough miles on the bike that I could have ridden to Florida. Lots of fun" **Tom Manell**

"Had a great time! Let's do it again next year!" **Scott Ewen**

"This was so fun to have a purposeful destination on days I felt like taking a ride but didn't know where to go. What fun I had." **Dee Gagnon**

"This was great fun. Thanks!" **Bob Corry**

"This was the first tour I have participated in and I never had such fun in riding. My wife and I put 16,000 miles on the bike this year—about 9000 on (this) tour. I will tour every year for the rest of my riding life." **Mike Williams**

"Thank you for the opportunity. Had a great time." **John Hunter**

"Thanks you for the fun. I just got a new bike and what a better way to use it is around—(CRV-GT). What are we going to do next year, I can't wait!" **Ed Stuart**

"This was a Great Tour. Looking forward to do it again next year." **Pierre Theriault**

"We enjoyed doing this (CRV-GT). It took us to places that we would not have ventured to, and many that we will return to. What a beautiful part of the country we live in!—all in all it was a fun thing to do. We found some GREAT restaurants too." **Bruce & Aloma Clark**

"I'd to thank you for putting on the CT River Valley Grand Tour, or as I refer to it 'The Run to the Border.' Looking forward to what you have planned for next year!"

Joe Niewinski

"I had a great time. Thanks for sponsoring the tour." **Larry Budreau**

"It was a good excuse to go for a ride." **Mark Lowery**

"The ride along the Connecticut River was great—We had a great time and we both thank you." **Claude Bonner & Aileen Gleason**

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"We have never done anything like this before and it turned out to be perfect for us. We managed to get one of our friends to join the tour—The four of us had so much fun that more of our group wants to do it next year—Thank you for—A great tour and a fun summer." **Linda & Robert (Moe) Mulcahy**

And lastly I received this e-mail from **Art Daly** with the subject line titled, *"Alert! Alert! PGTS Alert!"* It went on to say, *"Suffering from PGTS! POST GRAND TOUR SYNDROME. The symptoms are as follows:*

1. Depression
2. No valid excuses for not doing the yard work.
3. Waking at 3:30am, anticipating a 600mi trip up north.
4. Watching the weather channel for New England for hours
5. Viewing maps for no reason
6. Trips to the store become confusing when you realize (that) you parked in front of the town hall, or the post office.

There is no known medical cure for this syndrome, except time and the thought of a new tour.

GREAT TOUR—

I can't wait for the next one."

Thanks, Art that made my day!

I must admit that of all the events we assisted in (self-guided tours, poker runs, guided tours, etc.) that this tour has been the most fun. With each packet of pictures we receive, I get to live vicariously through someone's Grand Tour adventure. Some of the pictures are great, truly framable; several people made an album of their ride complete with a description of their journey. The club has received dozens of compliments on the event and many want to do it again.

Well we will! Jani and I happily agreed to host next year's Grand Tour. The theme for 2002 will be **"The Around the World"** grand tour. Yes, that's right. We will be touring around the world. We will be photographing some of the most exciting and beautiful capitals and countries of the world. Such places as Paris, Moscow, Norway and Columbia, etc.!!! You say that you don't have the time or money to spend six or seven months globe trotting. Well, please consider that each of these places can be visited without the need to renew your passports. Paris can be found in NY, ME and many other states in the good ole US of A. Same for Norway. The town of Columbia can be found in most every state of the Union. There is a Moscow in VT, ME, PA, etc. Can you see the possibilities?

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Web Page Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site at

<http://www.crvbmw.org>

Again, we will have three levels of completion, bronze, silver and gold for those who submit 25, 50 or 75 photos of different world capitols and countries. Additionally, we plan to relax our photo requirements to allow, town limit signs, town halls, post offices and police depts. but also fire depts., libraries, schools, etc. Any official town sign. And we will open it up to digital cameras as well. Stay tuned

...ride safe, ride far
Forrest

In Memoriam

Christoffer Carstanjen a Pacific Coast (Honda) rider was remembered in the latest issue of the *Motorcycle Consumer News*. Mr. Carstanjen from Turners Falls, MA was also a rider in our Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour. As circumstances would have it, Chris was a victim of the September 11th Tragedies.

President's Column

Our motorcycle club is planning another year of events for our members and friends. There will be more planned rides both near and far, one day and overnight. Options will include camping or motel accommodations while far from home. The BMWMOA International rally will be near Kingston, Ontario and the Thousand Islands area in mid-July so we will expect a large contingent of CRVBMW Riders there. We will have our mid-winter dinner at the Polish National Club in Hartford again this year by popular demand and another fine fall picnic like the legendary one we had in September. While we continue to plan far in advance for our normal pursuits there continues to be an atmosphere of tension and decreased normalcy in our country and elsewhere. Of course we are caring people and good friends who have been riding our motorcycles for many years while controlling the associated risks and accepting those we cannot control. Our CRVBMW members have chosen to continue enjoying our riding experiences for as long as we are able. In the song that most of us are old enough to remember; "Oh blah dee, oh blah da, life goes on"

Larry and Linda's Northwest Summer 2001- Part 3

Our arrival in Victoria, left Larry having a conversation with a mime on another sunny day. We had not donned our rain gear for nearly a month or traveling. Victoria has a great waterfront area with cobblestone streets lined with pubs and shops. People are friendly and the local brews

are very good. Looks like England except the beer is colder and the food is better. The local Imax theater had a film about Indy car racing featuring Mario and Michael Andretti. The audience is leaning left and straight with the sensation of racing on the track. I guess we looked a bit odd leaving the theater holding our motorcycle helmets. A short ride to the Butchart Gardens brought us to the most fantastic horticultural display we have seen. A former Quarry has been formed into a lush display of flowers that has attracted people from around the world for a hundred years. There are several themed garden areas including rose, Japanese, English and others. Though we prefer secluded natural sites there are times when popular tourist stops are worth visiting. I tried to get a photo of us with the beautiful background. You can guarantee a perfect picture if you hand the camera to someone who is most likely to have designed and made it. Such persons are always at the popular tourist sites anywhere in the world.

The weather was cloudy and cooler so we rode north a couple hundred kilometers. Most of the world uses the metric system so it takes a bit more thought to avoid speeding with the American speedometer. "But officer, I WAS going only 100". The money in Canada is colorful and they have loonies and toonies - 3 for \$2 American.

We stayed in a motel near the ferry and the rain passed during the night. There are huge piles of logs and lumber leaving western Canada for Asia and the U.S.A. Strings of barges carry wood chips to foreign freighters or paper mills. The Canadians prefer to see the finished products exported so the associated jobs are kept at home to bolster their sagging economy.

The ferry ride followed the Sunshine Coast between Vancouver Island and the mainland. There is less rain in this area since the hills on the western side of the Island catch most of the moisture. There are many inlets on the mainland shore with tall mountains inland. A series of ferries connect the coastal towns above Vancouver city and these are free rides as a part of the highway system.

Entering North Vancouver and crossing the harbor bridge into Vancouver brought us back to urban sprawl. Vancouver is one of the world's finest. There is diversity, mostly Asian, European and First Peoples. There is culture, sports, cuisine and numerous interesting neighborhoods. We rolled in during a week filled with events including the International Fireworks Festival. Lodging was scarce so we found a suite at the University of British Columbia conference Center. I highly recommend that you consider university lodgings in Canada. I have used them in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Fredericton, N.B. and in Quebec. Our 17th story rooms had a balcony view of the bay and the campus. It was clean and quiet too. Parking was secure and the ride through the suburb very pleasant. Nearby neighborhoods had good eateries and interesting patrons.

Vancouver was having a five month transit strike so there was a conspicuous lack of diesel fumes. The traffic was moderate and most drivers behaved well. We managed

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Larry and Linda's Northwest Summer 2001- Part 3 (continued)

to find waterfront parking for the fireworks on English Bay near downtown. Sitting on a log on the beach with thousands of happy Canadians, we watched the South Africans launch a bargeful of colorful rockets. The police allowed pedestrians to leave the neighborhood as the streets quickly filled with people. We were halted on a steep incline at an intersection for a while with the brakes firmly clamped on. The friendly officer strolled over to request that I turn off the driving lights since they were quite blinding. Those bright white PIAA lights sure do light up the night.

Chinatown in Vancouver is one of the biggest in North America. Thousands of Hong Kong British subjects, both poor and very wealthy, have moved to Vancouver. They occupy neighborhoods, the suburb of Richmond and three entire shopping malls. In another surreal travel experience we found ourselves riding into the crowded center of Chinatown during the annual Chinese Festival. A parking space was being vacated in front of the cultural center so we made a u-turn and parked. As a local couple inquired about the Corbin seat on our Beemer we were listening to a Chinese band playing their music and singing in their Cantonese dialect. The next number sounded strangely familiar to us Bay State residents. Yes, it was "The Night the Lights Went Out in Massachusetts" sung with a Chinese accent. If they had seen our license plate they could not have known where we hailed from since the plate says Connecticut.

The local BMW shop was too busy to do an oil change so they let us do our own behind the shop. They are a one year old shop and growing rapidly. They sell a lot of GS models for adventure touring and commuting. The Granville Island is a few blocks away from the shop so we visited that area of shops and restaurants while the engine cooled. Granville Street is a main road into Vancouver and Stanley Park is a large area alongside the City where we spent a day riding and hiking. We live on Granville Road opposite Stanley Park in our Massachusetts town. The transit strike was about to end and the nurses strike about to begin. Linda was dropped off at the Airport to fly home along with much of our luggage. The top-heavy U shaped bag went home and the BMW was about to become a canyon carver again.

Eastward through Canada I followed rivers, valleys and farmland toward northwestern Washington. Near the border there were curvy mountain roads and abandoned mines on the hillsides. Valleys were lush with farms and orchards selling peaches and plums. The Okanagan Valley brought me to the border where the guard recommended that I avoid taking Route 20 toward the east and instead go farther south to the Grand Coulee.

That Route 20 sure was a great ride. Smooth and twisty, it climbed and dipped through the forests and over

mountain passes. No traffic and great views for hours until I reached the logging town of Republic, Washington.

There was a room left in town within walking distance of the typical small town restaurant/bar/ community gathering place. Traveling sure can be good. The locals were looking forward to the annual influx of northwestern BMW riders for their rally a couple weeks later. Conversations centered around the logging industry and the closing of mills due to federal restrictions and foreign competition. The rural lifestyle and city folks buying up the land were conflicts that concerned the local residents. The themes are common when I travel through rural areas anywhere. The changes are inevitable and difficult for some to accept.

Back on the road over another pass toward the Colombia River. The morning sunshine reflected off the 250-mile long Lake Roosevelt that backs up above the Grand Coulee Dam and into Canada. The isolated east side offered fine riding with the exception of a couple stretches of chip seal graves and FOLLOW ME trucks.

Another backwoods border crossing led to more great mountain roads in eastern British Columbia. It was suggested by the construction flag woman that I try to stay in Fernie that night so onward to the east.

Occasional photo and food stops led the way to another interesting and friendly evening, this time in a Canadian Rocky Mountain village. When the rests are nearly as much fun as the rides then you know the trip is a good one.

Next month we will continue across the great North (Canadian) American expanses where the landscape is less interesting but there is much more of it.

Be sure to attend the November CRVBMW club meeting listed elsewhere in this newsletter. After the extremely fast annual club election you will be able to see, at no extra cost, a slide show of this trip. You will regret it if you miss this world premiere presentation as there will not be an encore presentation until Memorial Day weekend.

Larry Friedman, President
CRVBMW Riders, Inc.

Bus Trip to the New York Motorcycle Show

A bus trip to this year's New York Motorcycle Show is being planned for Sunday, December 30. This is the same trip that has been organized by Brian Fisk in recent years. To sign-up or for additional details contact Linda Combe at lincombe@snet.net or 860-257-4285

2001 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

November

November 10 & 11 -- Cattle town Fall Camp Out.
Details to the right.

November 15 -- And Now For Something Completely Different. IMAX movie, Whales. See details to the right.

November 18 -- CRV Meeting. See details below.

December

December 9 -- Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour Awards Banquet. See details below.

December 30 -- Bus trip to the New York Motorcycle Show. See details on page 4.

Other Motorcycling Activities

None listed

Connecticut River Valley Grand Tour Awards Banquet

Sunday, December 9th at 1pm. Troutbrook Pub on route 159 in Windsor. Awards, door prizes, tales and wails. Open to all motorcycle enthusiasts, come on down!!! Please contact Forrest & Jani for a head count at (860) 873-8712, email ama_rep@sprynet.com or Troutbrook at (860) 285-0878

November CRV Meeting Sunday, November 18 Election Meeting and a special program on Larry and Linda's 2001 Northwest Tour

The November CRV Club meeting will take place on Sunday, November 18, beginning at 1:00PM, at Central Pizza in Berlin. Central Pizza is located at 96 Mill Street, west of Route 9 and the Berlin Turnpike, at the junction of Mill St. and Webster Square St. in Berlin, CT (adjacent to route 9.) Telephone: 860-828-0133.

Lunch will be available, the restaurant (Italian/Pizza fare) opens at noon; or stay after the meeting.

Cattle town Campout

Wow! Fall is fast approaching. By the time you read this it'll be here. Keep in mind that Cattle town will be here soon and you need to remember this if you want to attend. (You don't want to miss the last campout of the year do you?)

We'll like always it'll happen on the second weekend of November. The dates are Saturday, November 10, and Sunday, November 11. This happens only if the weather is good, or should I say not wet.

I plan to be there before 2 in the afternoon on Sat. Please bring something for the stewpot and your own bowl, spoon & cup. We'll be spending the night and in the last 6 years or so we have had fairly good weather along with somewhat warm temps.

Always have a good time if you want one.

Any questions please call. I'll answer before hand. Any questions about the weather call me and listen to the recording on the campout, I'll have a message there.

Brian 860-635-1173

And Now For Something Completely Different

On Thursday, November 15, 2001, beginning at 7 PM, showing on a screen over 5 stories tall, with a digital sound system of over 18,000 watts . . . **Whales** . . . At the Odyssey Giant Screen Theater (IMAX Type Movie) in the Crown Palace 17 Theaters @ 330 New Park Ave., Hartford, CT

A bite to eat first??? Hometown Buffet at 5:45 or 6PM (\$8.69+tax - kids under 11 \$.60 per year old). In the plaza directly across from the end of the Westbound I 84 exit 44 ramp.

It's only \$8.50 to get into the movie (sit as far back and away from the screen as you can, there is A LOT for one's eyes and mind to take in). Dinner is optional as is the review of the film afterwards. The theater and restaurant are at exit 44 off I 84 East or West (For more detailed directions call the Theater 1(860)247-2796).

I'm open to suggestions about events to set up and different parts of the state to do them in. For answers contact me at Madmatt@deadhorse.com or 860 584-5760

Matt Strus

Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

1986 Jawa sidecar currently on a R80GS (but I'm keeping the bike because it has 49 pre-sidecar states on it) for \$300. Also a couple trials bikes and gear that are going. 1999 Scorpa 280 for \$2,800. 1999 Beta Alp for \$2,500. Contact Jay Koonz at (203) 758-2961 or jkoonz@snet.net (ad posted 11/01)

1975 R90S, 65K, stock, needs rearend, transmission bearings and paint, runs, \$2,600. 1978 R80/7, 61K, new top end, front tire, good condition, \$2,100. Krauser saddlebags with aluminum frame and rack, for /5 and /6, \$150. /5 or /6 Mustang double bucket touring seat, \$80. R bike exhaust nut wrench, like new, \$20. Various /6 parts, R60/6 frame and engine, footpegs, small parts, call with needs. Contact Mike Plocharczyk, from South Windsor, at (860) 528-6939 (ad posted 10/01)

Free: Luftmeister(s) and Windjammer fairings with frame brackets for 70's R bikes, Mike, (860) 528-6939. (ad posted 10/01)

Wanted

Connecticut Motorcycle License Plates -- HI I'm Matt Strus. I collect and trade motorcycle license plates. As you receive your new Connecticut motorcycle license plate you have the option of destroying the plate or finding someplace that will recycle the metal. The state does not want your plate back (read the paperwork that comes with your new plate), I however do want your old m/c plate. I collect and trade them. Bring your old plate to a meeting. Turn it over to me or an officer of the club. They all know who I am. Missed being a charter member by a couple months, but have held offices in the club of assistant road captain to vice president over the years. (ad posted 9/01)

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December Newsletter Deadline

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

There Are Angels Among Us! On the road again with Rit Schwatlow, Ed Mix, and Matt Struss

We start our trip with quaking bones and stretching our muscles before we get on the bikes. After all, two of us are AARP members.

We head north on Route 8 in Torrington riding towards Lake George and Americade. This road has as many curves as the girls I dated in high school. With the exception, it's now the Highway Department telling me to slow down instead of the father.

This was Matt's first large rally. We were in a parade of bikes ten miles out of town, but it was the Honda Gold Wings with 200 amp stereo systems making the music instead of marching bands.

We pulled into our lake-site hotel with heated pool, covered garage, and beachside bar. We dropped our bags in a \$320 a night room. The hotel was rented out to another club I ride with, the Blue Knights M/C and no true Blue Knight owns a tent and the word camp is a four letter word. (Connie likes this very much!) Before we left the room I warned them about the women with 38's. Breast they asked? No guns, that's not a couple of extra donuts hugging their hips.

The Canadians pack a little lighter. Nude diving into the pool became the activity for the night and the entertainment of the diners watching them through one-way glass. The Canadian Tourist Bureau always says "Visit your friendly neighbor to the North." These Canadians were definitely being friendly towards each other. They won the prize for best non-uniform chapter at the banquet.

The three of us have our own very up-close encounter with a Canadian. "Would you like a little f _ _ k for five dollars?" As everyone knows the cheapest thing on a BMW is the driver. Being so far away from our loved ones how could we say no. Before the women in the club hang me, they were selling small seal key chains. Seal is pronounced f _ _ k in French. What a weird sense of humor the Canadian's have.

Matt had to leave for home after Americade as Ed and I head for Lake Placid. We pull into a hotel, "Do you take Triple A? This is the Hilton, the El Cheapo Motel is down the street behind the dumpster." After a humble apology we went to our rooms and smoked cigars as the TV weather informed us of clear weather for the ride to Montreal.

Eleven o'clock the next day a quarter mile past a rest area, rain. I wish I had a job that I could be wrong so many times and still get a paycheck.

Montreal is an island twice the size of Manhattan with about three and one-half million people. I got lost going in, going out, and going about. Some day Ed will get tired of saying where the hell is he going?

Ed let me pick out the hotel in Montreal. "European style, basic accommodations." It was so small we could not put our bags down. A room on a cruise ship would

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There Are Angels Among Us! (continued)

seem like a Presidential Suite in comparison. It would make a great honeymoon suite. Only one person could get off the bed at a time.

Somehow in all the repacking during the last week I lost sixty dollars Canadian. Good thing it only equals \$1.29 in U.S. currency or I would be upset.

The hotel was in Chinatown. We ate at a true Chinese restaurant. No #7 or General Taos Chicken here. I would describe the food as live, dead, and call 911. No more Chinese food for the rest of the trip. I'm sticking to Dinty Moore Stew cooked in a hot pot.

Montreal is a nice town, but we would both pick Quebec as a better choice for a romantic city. I think Ed and myself are spending too much time together.

We head out for a 250-mile ride along back roads to the Northeast BMW Rally at Laconia. At the campground, we all sat around a picnic table eating good meals while children and dogs splashed in the stream. (So Norman Rockwell.) I better get myself down to Weirs Beach and check out the heavy loaded chrome bikes and skimpy dressed women before I forget I'm at a bike rally.

At the rally I met a new kid to rallying. He had dropped his bike on the way up, but he still had a warm friendly greeting. "Hey guys you want a beer?" I sprayed his tent with florescent paint so I can find it at the next rally.

Ed also met someone. We were eating breakfast when a young lady (just legal, except in Arkansas where they would have called her an old maid) came over to Ed and said "Oh you put ketchup on your eggs just like me." I love a man that does that. Ed's jaw dropped about two feet as she slithered out of his life.

Things started to go south the day before we were to head home. After doing Mount Washington my amp meter climbed just below red line. I have to put on the heated grips in 90-degree temperatures to lower it. The next day my bike did not want to start. The angels here and above started to give me help. Club member and all-around good guy Brian Fisk diagnosed my problem as a cracked coil and told me how to get it started.

Five miles down the road heading home I grabbed all the brake I could as five bikes to my left realized they were about to shoot past their exit. I was cut off big time and missed the last bike by the thickness of an angel wing.

The sky opened up. I have not seen this much rain since the time of Noah. Hard, blinding rain hit me as I drove through the road that was turning into a shallow river. I pulled into a gas station in Garner, Massachusetts, about 170 miles from home. Click. Click. The coil was wet; I'm not going anywhere. The lady at the station starts calling around trying to get hold of a U-Haul for me. Most of the local phone lines were down. She found me a truck thirty miles away, but no cab in sight.

Other angels offered to get me a hair dryer or a place to put the bike. Then this guy gets out of his vehicle and sees the trouble I'm in. He offered to loan me his truck with 180,000 miles on it and 14 plugs in the rear tire (about

as many as my wife say's I have in my head) but it will get me home.

A friend, Frank Niaczi, helped me unload the bike at home. I had left a message on Matt Struss' phone for a possible rescue with his trailer. He was not at home, but he called me at home to make sure I arrived safely. He volunteered to follow me the 170 miles to get the truck back and let me take his car to get home with.

The next day Saint Connie drove the 100 miles so I could return Matt's car even though there had been a death in her family and the reason I needed to get home.

Be careful when you put your jackets on so that you don't knock that guardian angel off your shoulder.

I was supposed to take off for the Blue Knight Convention in Las Vegas (no camping) after Laconia. But I told my wife how much I missed her and wanted to spend the rest of my vacation with her. This would have made me golden except she heard me on the phone with the dealer telling me that it would be four weeks before my bike could be brought in. She put a wreath of mourning on the garage door for my dead bike. No need to send flowers or a card.

On a side note I would recommend the Belstaff wax cotton suits. No rain got in after six hours of pouring rain and when you get off your bike you find the wax polished and shined your seat. On the other had getting six miles to a gallon with a loaded V8 truck is painful to the pocket. After telling Ed this he stills wants a V8 truck. He's as crazy as I am. That's why we ride together.

After twenty-five years on BMW's, 280,00 on my 1976 R60 and 672,000 miles on my faithful, but tired 1986 R80RT, the potato, the potato that you hear the next time you see me will not be what I'm cooking in my hot pot.

Rit Schwatlow

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

November 2001

NEWS

CRVBMWR

CRVBMWR
c/o Tracy Smith
66 Morris Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Hope you're getting your riding in while the weather is still nice.