

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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Return from Bakersfield

by Forrest Anderson

With today's current events I find it difficult to put anything together for our newsletter. It just doesn't seem important anymore. However, we were asked to carry on and get back to work, so be it. But first, let's pray that the bombing victims and their families find peace.....

Fortunately the following was written several weeks ago but I haven't had the gumption to go back to edit. But here it is anyway.

aMAZEing

We all have picked up a pencil and tried to solve a maze at one time or another, whether in a puzzle book, a magazine or even on a café place mat. How many of us have had the opportunity to walk through one? That's what I said, walk through a maze. Well now you do.

Jani and I would like to invite you to join us for a short motorcycle ride to Connecticut's aMAZEing MAZE. Located in southern Middletown, a family owned farm has planted over four acres of corn to become a complex labyrinth. These four acres contain over two miles of winding paths between walls of maize corn.

The challenge of the maze is not only to solve the puzzle, but

to answer questions and riddles while searching for your way out. It's really a lot of fun. Jani and I went through a corn maze in Massachusetts a couple of years ago and we had a blast. (Actually she had to drag me pouting and complaining to her stupid maze. Once there I had a ball. It was great. I didn't want to leave.)

Saturday October 20, we will leave from Guida's Café at noon. Guida's is located between Meriden and Middletown on route 66 at the junction with route 147. From there we will have a short ride to the aMAZEing MAZE. There will be a \$9 entrance fee to the maze; however, if our group is large enough that will be discounted. We plan on two or so hours of aMAZEing amusement.

This is a weather-permitting event. In case of questionable weather call us at (860)873-8712 or the MAZE at (860)345-3360. If we get washed out we will postpone until the following day Sunday the 21.

There will be food and drink available at the maze, as well as, portalets. While the maze is a lot of fun it's not for those who are claustrophobic. We do recommend bringing comfor-

table walking shoes and some extra water for the trek (and maybe a compass). Sleeping bags are recommended for those with no sense of direction; ha ha ha.

For those with computers, you can check out their web site at www.CTmaze.com.

CRV Grand Tour is coming to a close. For those that haven't done so please get your pictures to me by the 15th (postmarked by the 15th). A good number of Tour riders have already completed their tour and many of those have REMARKABLY visited each and every town in the tour.

I have been amazed by the praises that were bestowed on the club by those who turned in their pictures. Two riders from Rhode Island even dropped off their photos in person. They really found it to be a worthy challenge. Along with their tales of trials and defeats one rider happily confessed that he rode over 3000 mile to photograph the towns along the 407-mile river. Great! A couple from Pennsylvania put their photos in an album, which included a written text explaining their travels and experiences along the way. Fabulous!! **Brian Fisk** (continued on the next page)

CRV Activities for October (see the calendar for details)

October 6 -- Road Captain Foliage Ride.

October 28 -- CRV Club Meeting.

Many additional rides and activities being held during October will be found in the calendar on page 5.

made it especially challenging by following each and every road that wound along side the Connecticut River. In doing so he found some new roads, new vistas and new encounters that he will remember for quite some time. Spectacular!

Those that rode it, found it to be a worthwhile event, an event which will join with other campfire tales of great rides in New England.

The Return from Bakersfield continues!

Eddie James and I had finally found a gas station (none-to-soon), filled our empty tanks and warmed up with some welcome hot chocolate. It was after three in the morning when we started on our last leg of our journey. Temporarily refreshed we wound ours bikes back up to normal speed, running south toward Lake George.

However, soon, too damn soon, we were again chilled and beset by sleep-deprived tunnel vision. Even at seventy miles an hour the mile markers seemed to take forever to drag by. Thoughts of a warm bed were nagged by the fact that we had to get up and staff our Americade AMA booth in a few short hours.

Eddie started drifting to the right again. Before our gas stop, several times he had dozed off briefly only to wobble a bit before startling himself awake. But this time he is really drifting for the edge. Just as I finally start my heavy hands moving to flash my high beams at him I dimly realized that he was taking our exit to Lake George. Groggily I followed him off the highway, onto our extra long ramp. The exit was cut deep through rock and had tall steep cliffs on both sides almost its whole length. It was about a mile long.

With less than two miles to a warm bed I wondered if I would have made it back without refueling. (When we refueled I only had a half of gallon left.) Vainly I glanced down to read my trip odometer. I raised my face shield slightly and bent down closer to read those dimly lit numbers.

RED. RED! I see red lights why? Looking back up I was startled to find Eddie braking and he had swerved directly in front of me. I squeezed my brakes as hard as I could, locking the rear while trying to avoid hitting Eddie. Off the brakes and swerve left to miss Eddie. SH**T! Hard on the brakes again as there's a deer running alongside Eddie's bike. Coming to a complete stop I watch as Eddie and the deer go prancing down our exit. Trembling with adrenaline I pondered how I could have had to explain crashing into my riding partner and then killing a deer at within the last mile of our 380-mile trek.

Catching back up at the ramp's end, Eddie checked his mirror and nodded as if I had been there all along.

A quick right and then left into our motel driveway. Relief. As we dismounted and removed our helmets, Eddie simply asked; "Didn't you see the deer bound in front of me?"

(continued on the next column)

I had to admit that I was staring my odometer at the time.

"Well, when it first jumped it fell down directly it front of me. Then it scrambled to get up but was slipping on the damp road surface. When it finally got up I was along side and it got scared and turned to run with me down the ramp. The walls along the ramp kept it captive almost whole way."

"It got scared? I almost creamed both of you. With less than a mile from our motel and I almost crashed into you AND the damn deer."

"I thought you were going to, but you got it together." Eddie continued but without missing a beat; "Hey, just let me sleep through breakfast will ya? Call me after so I can get ready to go up to Roaring Brook with you."

"Sure that's the least I can do."

Postscript — Less than four hours later at breakfast, one of the field reps asked me if anything interesting happened on our trip. So I said to him; " How much time ya got? Which part do you want to hear about? Catching up to Eddie on I-87, chasing a red rocket on its way to Canada, crossing Lake Champlain, eating in a motorcycle decorated Denny's, our crossing into Canada, running out of gas on the interstate, or narrowly missing a deer?"

With a roll of his eyes he replied, "I guess you had a memorable ride"

...ride safe, ride far and ... give thanks
Forrest

President's Column

The events of September 11 have profoundly affected us in many ways. We feel so many strong emotions in sympathy and support for those who were directly involved in the attacks.

We have shared our wonderful lives in America and enjoyed the freedoms and security. Vulnerability is a new perception for many Americans. As motorcyclists we have chosen to enjoy our pursuits with calculated caution.

It does not seem normal to be attacked by fanatics while peacefully living our lives. Our CRV club members include National Guardsmen, Reservists and other government service people. We thank and support them in their mission to protect us. We will accept the adjustments to our liberties that will be imposed. We will continue our activities as normally as possible including our leisure pursuits. Social contacts promote emotional health so lets see more of one another in coming months. We will

(continued on the next page)

Web Page Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site at
<http://www.crvbmw.org>

maintain our loyalties to our Deity, country, family, employers, and friends. These loyalties will strengthen and help us and others to move ahead with courage.

Presidential Northwest Journey Part 2

The R1100RT had been a great find resulting from an Internet search (on Cycletrader.com) in April. Friends Chris and Sue had volunteered to go to Portland from the San Francisco area to pick up the bike and keep it in their garage for me. Why? Because they are good friends and BMW riders, Portland has brewpubs and it's only 700 miles away. They hitched up the trailer and jumped on the I-5.

I flew out in April with Linda to put 1,000 glorious springtime miles on the bike in a week of 2-up riding.

It wasn't hard to get the feel of the RT that was not fully broken in with 10,000 miles. The service records showed diligent care and the tires were new. It even had chrome replacement screws for the original black ones. The Corbin seat and backrest made those long days of riding a lot more comfortable than BMW's original would have. The PIAA driving lights light up the night road like a white searchlight. It makes the high beam look like a flashlight.

Last month's segment left us heading north from the July 2001 BMWMOA rally in Redmond, Oregon. The roads to northwest Oregon rose up from the valley along rivers and through passes. Mt. Hood was an inviting destination on a clear warm Sunday morning. The winding road to the lodge was sprinkled with straining bicyclists as the climbed to the end of their racecourse. The parking lot was full with skiers who journey from afar to ride the lift for the summer snowfields at the top. The snowboarders with shorts and t-shirts, mingled with the bicycle racers as they rehydrated. A couple leather-jacketed motorcyclists hardly turned a head.

The ride down and north to the Colombia River Gorge was a long stripe of twisties and sweepers past forests and orchards. The town of Hood River is the home to swarms or windsurfers. The steep streets of the town are inhabited with the same young, healthy windsurfers seen zipping along and jumping their boards on the wide Colombia. Across the bridge to Washington is a scenic road along the water's edge that avoids the frenzied rush westward along the Interstate in Oregon. We rode alongside a long fast freight train for many miles as the road twisted over the tracks again and again. Finally waved goodbye as the engineer sounded the horn and we slowed down to take in the scenery. The wind in the Gorge is very strong and there are powerful gusts.

The iron grate toll bridge took us back to Oregon and along the waterfall trail. The narrow, old road leads to several high falls along the cliffs above the river. Multnomah Falls is a double fall with a pool in the middle. A footbridge crosses above the lower falls and the misty roar competes with the sounds of visitors to this popular site.

Portland was on the itinerary for a visit to the new Chinese Garden. The maze of highways with construction zones and closes ramps was a little challenging so the next morning we left the bike and baggage at the motel and rode the bus downtown. There is a village of artisans in China who create exquisite works. Portland imported their garden and paced on a city block in the central business district. The setting is an oasis of serenity in an urban sprawl. The walls and roof tiles frame the scenes of rocks, trees and water features. A classic teahouse and other buildings have detailed carvings and woodwork. Nearby Chinatown provided a delicious buffet to finish our visit to Portland.

Motorcycling in a strange city can be more aggravation than fun. Traffic patterns and aggressive drivers combine with hazardous surfaces to create a tense situation. So, onward to the end of the Colombia at Astoria, Or.

Cooler and cloudy along the river for 150 miles to the old lumber and fishing port where Hollywood likes to make films using the Victorian buildings on the hilly streets. The bridge stretches over three miles to Washington as the road wanders through clear-cut forests replanted with thick healthy stands of conifers. Villages hug the inlets. Locals everywhere are proud of their native cuisine. The hearty breakfast included homemade blackberry jam and toast to go with the hangtown omelet. When's the last time you had an oyster and veggie omelet?

The Olympic Peninsula is famous for it's temperate rain forest with up to 150 inches of rain annually. The signs along the beach road say "TSUNAMI EVACUATION ROUTE" but there's not much high ground close by.

Stopping along the road we walk through the woods to the beach. The only other person there is a German actor who is excited to see the Pacific for the first time. The trail leads down through the dunes and across huge piles of gray driftwood logs, over heaps of flat stones to a long sandy beach. The cold water slides up and down the beach to erase all traces of the few visitors to the lonely shore.

Farther along was the village of Quinalt and a narrow road far inland through the rain forest. The week was sunny and dry, a rarity for the Olympic National Park. As we hiked on a soft trail around giant roots and trunks amidst the hanging moss and fern covered ground we could imagine the typical rainy day and dripping plants.

Conversations with people from near and far provide insights and information. We trade travel trips as we discover that some are going where we've been and we are heading where they were. Locals often lack the enthusiasm about the beauty of their area that travelers come to see.

The town of Forks looked like a good place to spend the night. As with all the Northwest, The light logging truck traffic through Forks is not what I had seen on previous rides through the region. The battle between environmentalists and the lumber industry has taken a toll on the people and their communities. Forest management techniques and laws have clearly improved

(continued on page 6)

Buzzard Crest Bash

Once again, Siouxzanne and Voyle Harris invite you to enjoy two cool days (and cold nights) of fall camping on their ten acres in Gallatin New York-(between Pine Plains and Red Hook, NY) Held on October 12, 13 and 14, Friday night there will be chili and munchies available, and a campfire going. Saturday there will be a few breakfast runs and foliage rides, then a grilled dinner with everyone's contributions. Sunday we'll drink some coffee, eat some leftovers, and head out.

Directions

From Rt. 44: take 44 west through Millerton NY, turn south (left) onto Rt 22- follow for a little bit to NY rt 199. Take a right (west) follow 199 through Pine Plains. About 2 mile west of the town, take a right turn onto county rt. 50. Follow to the end. bear left at fork. Travel approx... 6/10ths of a mile-driveway is on the right side. There will be roundels to help guide you from Pine Plains.

From rt. 84- Rt 84 west to Taconic Parkway- go North to Jackson Corners Rd. exit. Go right at end of exit. Travel 6/10ths of a mile to driveway on the left. There will be roundels to guide you.

Address: 1789 Jackson Corners Rd.

Please RSVP either e-mail vsharris@taconic.net or telephone 518 398 5436

The Greater Hartford Marathon

Riders are needed for this event!!

Event: 8th Annual Aetna US Healthcare Greater Hartford Marathon

Date and Time: Saturday, October 13, 2001 at 7:00 am

Location: Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT

This is the third year that the CRV has been doing the Greater Hartford Marathon; it's good for the community and the United Way. Plus it's a lot of fun and it showcases the best side of motorcycling by showing the public how dedicated and skilled we are. This year we will need 12 riders for this charity event.

To volunteer:

A) Contact John Shields by email at: jjshields01@snet.net or telephone 860-646-5177

and

B) Go to <http://www.hartfordmarathon.com/GHMvols.htm> to sign up and make sure you're on the list for a free t-shirt and other goodies.

Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

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 528-6229 (ad posted 10/01)

Free: Luftmeister(s) and Windjammer fairings with frame brackets for 70's R bikes, Mike, 528-6929. (ad posted 10/01)

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

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)

October CRV Meeting Sunday, October 28

The October CRV Club meeting will take place on Sunday, October 28, 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.

2001 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

October

- October 6 -- Road Captain Foliage Ride. Details to the right.
- October 10 -- Foliage Ride. See details on page 6.
- October 12, 13 and 14 -- Buzzard Crest Bash. See details 4.
- October 13 -- The First Ever "Fayerweather Yacht Club Race Nite Rally". Details to the right.
- October 13 -- The Greater Hartford Marathon. See details on page 4.
- October 20 -- Ride to and activity at a corn maze. Details to the right and on page 1.
- October 20 -- Night before the Pizza Ride Campout at the Borella's. Details on page 6.
- October 21, John & Andrea's Fall Pizza Ride. Details on page 6.
- October 28 -- CRV Club Meeting. Details on page 4.

November

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

Other Motorcycling Activities

- October 12-14 -- The Colonial Virginia Motorcycle Rally sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Hampton Roads. Held at the Jamestown Beach campsites in Jamestown. The rally is open to all motorcycle enthusiasts and their families.
- October 12-14 -- "So Howes By You" 2 Fall Foliage Ride and Campout in Cobleskill, NY. For more information contact: Michael Friedle, 845-473-1337 eves., mfriedle@attglobal.net

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

Fall Foliage/Back Road Ride Saturday, October 6

We're hoping for beautiful fall weather for a ride, which will incorporate secondary roads, back roads, and maybe a few nice dirt roads in Northern CT, Western MA, and South Eastern VT.

The ride will leave at 8:30 AM from the Dunkin Donuts on Route 5 at Exit 44 off Route 91 in East Windsor (Just south of the exit ramp on Rt. 5.). Plan for a ride of approximately 200 miles to include covered bridges, scenic lookouts, farmers markets, etc. We are hoping to use virtually no interstate highways for this ride.

Call me the day before with any weather concerns at 860-386-0781. If you have a choice between more than one bike bring the smaller one.

Mike Dzen

Cornfield Ride and Maze

On Saturday, October 20, at noon ride from Guidas (Routes 66 and 147) in Meriden/Middletown line. We will travel a short distance to a cornfield maze. The following day if rainy. Details in the article on page 1.

Forrest Anderson

Presidential Northwest Journey Part 2 (continued)

in recent years though some militants have refused to compromise in their battle to leave the land untouched. Tangled undergrowth and ferocious wildfires interspersed with closed sawmills are evidence of a changing culture. There was one room left in town. The motel owner was a friendly Vietnamese -American woman who admired the BMW. She said that she and her husband tour on a new Gold Wing. When she noticed that I signed in as a resident of Massachusetts she said that her daughters recently graduated from The University of Massachusetts. My Wife and daughters did too. She enjoyed her trips to the east coast, particularly Foxwoods. She escaped Vietnam on a boat and was sponsored by a local church after months in a refugee camp. She married the sheriff's chief detective and raised six children. I left Vietnam on a medivac flight and married my Colorado sweetheart and raised two daughters. She buys and sells real estate in Forks and is very successful. I still have a mortgage.

The Sol Duc Hot Springs in the heart of the forest is a soothing stop where the pools have mineral water of varying temperatures. The therapeutic waters feel great after several miles of hiking to see the waterfalls.

The pass to the National Park is also good for the road up to Hurricane Ridge. Past crystal clear lakes to Port Angeles and up from sea level to the viewpoint is 14 miles of road and a one-mile elevation. You then look straight out to the glaciers of the interior mountains. The rain shadow to the east gets only 15 inches precipitation a year.

A morning ferry ride crossed to the capitol city of British Columbia. The same boat that carried the recently convicted terrorist and his explosives from Canada landed on Vancouver Island. Our back corner of the ship was shared with a few Harleys. The roar in the ship when they fired up and rolled off was painful.

We walked around the waterfront and visited the B.C. museum with native history and arts. The correct term for the indigenous people of Canada is First People and their groups are called First Nations.

Tourists mingled with the government workers from the nearby offices and made a lively summer outdoor setting in this city that looks like a piece of London, England. There was a mime performing on the plaza so, naturally, I stopped to have a conversation with him. Those who know me will believe it and I have a photo as evidence.

Next issue will relate more encounters with the natives, wandering in the metropolis of Vancouver the live Elk encounter, Shaunevon, Estevan, Fargo, the imperfect

(continued on the next page)

November Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, October 25, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

storm and other previously promised tales. Meanwhile, get out and ride your adventures near and far.

NEWS FLASH!

The Charter Oak Rally Committee has signed a contract on a new site for the Memorial Day Weekend 2002 rally. The well-equipped facility is in Northeastern Connecticut with good roads and nearby attractions. The committee is planning great meals and entertainment so mark your calendar (go out and buy one).

More information will be available at the October meeting. Remember to set your clock back the night before.

Larry Friedman, President
CRVBMW Riders, Inc.

Foliage Ride

Every year I like to take a few days off from work to enjoy a ride. These usually happen on the first warm day of early spring, and a nice day in the fall to view the foliage. Just in case someone else might want to join me on a day when they belong somewhere else, I've chosen Wednesday, October 10. Weather permitting, I'll be at the gas station/convenience store on Route 188, just north of exit 16 on I-84 at 10:00am. Although the route can change the second a slow car pulls in front of me, the basic plan would be to wind northwest past Lakes Quassapaug and Waramaug, through the state forests and into the beautiful farmlands of Dutchess County, NY. (For those that have been on Keith's "Best of the West" ride, consider this the rest of the west.) Lunch might be in Pine Plains, or someplace along the road that looks interesting. If the weather looks bad, call or e-mail the day before.

Jon Gorman

Fall Pizza Ride & Campout

October 20, Night before the Pizza Ride Campout at the Borella's palatial estate located off Route 6 near Danielson, Ct. Chili pot and other goodies provided. Call or email if you're coming or need info.

October 21, John & Andrea's Fall Pizza Ride. Arrive at the Borella's P.E. between 10 and noon for coffee, pastries and camaraderie. Noonish departure for the Pizza King Restaurant. Rain dates 10/27 c/o and 10/28 p.r. Info 860-774-5535 days or borella_ent@hotmail.com

Friends, Food, and Fun

What better way to enjoy the CRV Barbecue



Additional photos may be found on the CRV Web Site at:
<http://www.crvbmw.org>

October 2001

NEWS

CRVBMWR

CRVBMWR
c/o Tracy Smith
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**While riding, watch all those drivers who may be watching the leaves,
and not watching for you.**