

# 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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## To The Place I Belong

by Larry Friedman

Rolling south toward Johnstown, Pa. through the Laurel Highlands on an overcast Sunday there was a feeling of historic familiarity drawing my motorcycle toward the Johnstown Flood National Historic Site. The museum overlooks the empty lake bed where the carefree and callous industrialists of Pittsburgh steel fortunes spent their summers. The rains washed out the poorly maintained dam and floodwaters devastated the downstream populace while destroying the homes, railroads and industries in its raging path. Interactive displays and a good video filled an informative hour that put an image on the story that I had known but never seen.

On through Butler for the meatloaf lunch special that was heavy enough to keep the bike from drifting in a crosswind. Some Pennsylvania towns are renowned for their pretzels, chips or beer. Great state!

The piece of Maryland west of Cumberland presents another little challenge to avoid the interstate by wandering the byways through the forested hills and across a causeway to West Virginia. It was nice to pass through the village of Accident, Md. without having one.

Almost heaven, West

Virginia. The smooth blacktop ribbon of route 219 draws me down into the mountains with progressively more exciting curves and hollows. Mountain views and roadside streams flow by as the road gets better and better. The public works projects in West Virginia are testimony to the influence of old Senator Robert Byrd. Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV also helps bring home the bacon to pave places where nobody lives and produce jobs nobody had. Mile after mile I kept the revs up and shifted up-down-down-up-up while flowing swiftly southward. It was all I could do to sometimes keep up with the local driver in front of me as he powered his way through the curves in his - - - pickup truck.

Elkins was a friendly little city to settle in for a couple nights at the mom and pop motel run by Jeff and Kendra. The Four Seasons fits my need for motorcycle friendly lodging. Clean, reasonable, and parking under the overhang in front of the room during the nightly thunderstorms that roar through like a scheduled freight train.

The eastern side of West Virginia has some of the best riding

in the region. The 2003

BMWMOA National Rally will be in Charleston on the western side. For excitement and challenge I'll stay in the mountains and ride big loops day after day. A couple hundred miles around the block took me to Spruce Knob, the highest point in the state. Seneca Rocks drew me to the visitor center to look through a telescope and see climbers on the monstrous granite slabs miles to the east. A tour down into Seneca Caverns provided a cooling respite at midday. Compared to the huge and beautiful caverns elsewhere in America the sites in the east are humble holes that still provide that draw into the earth's ancient crust.

Heading back to Elkins the sign read "old rt. 33". Old is interesting, right?

The one lane dirt track climbed into the forest for miles of darkly shaded tunnels of trees. No sign of intelligent life ahead and I begin questioning the existence of intelligent life on the saddle as the road roughens and reaches a knob. The landscape features are awaiting a friendly encounter of their simple beauty, sort of like the humble folks I meet (continued on the next page)

### CRV Activities for September - November (see details in the calendar)

September 8 -- CRV Barbecue.

October 4-6 -- Buzzard Crest Campout.

November 9 -- Cattletown Camping End Of The Year Gig.

along the trail. The knob was a rounded mountaintop with a lookout tower. The runs I experienced down the mountain were small streams, nothing to do with the biscuits and gravy or grits I had eaten earlier.

The local tourist family was unpacking a picnic. They were so happy to be exploring the backroads of their neighboring county in a big, old pickup truck. Conversation centered around the drought, lost hay cutting and the current highway construction down in the valley. There was a need to stand on the foot pegs while negotiating bumps, ruts and tight switchbacks covered with loose gravel. I could ride for years without hearing the ABS brakes clicking as much as they did in the next ten miles downhill. Looking over the cliff I could see the threadlike four-lane highway in the distant valley far below.

Another pickup was parked in the road ahead with scarcely enough room to maneuver the motorcycle past. The ancient man filling jugs of spring water fit the stereotype of the hillbilly with his bib coveralls and toothless visage. I find that strangers are better accepted if they keep the comments and conversation brief and to the point until a level of comfort is reached. Three words seem to be the ideal length of utterance in this part of West Virginia. There is a great deal of information that is conveyed in the frugally worded exchanges.

I commented first, after our initial head nods that indicated mutual recognition.

"Well gone dry?" I asked

"Got city water." he answered

"How's the water?"

"Best spring around." was the reply

"Fountain of Youth?"

"Works for me" he said as he filled another one of the jugs that occupied every inch of his pickup bed.

I broke the pattern by saying that I would "take a drink and hope that I'd live to be eighty."

At that comment he happily offered that he would be eighty the following November. He could have easily passed for one hundred though I was wise enough to refrain from sharing my thoughts.

The road joined the two-lane several more miles ahead where I stopped to check the motorcycle for tire damage or loose parts. On the edge of Elkins was a large sporting goods shop that was a veritable armory inside. The stuffed animals along the walls bore silent testimony to the favorite pursuit of so many residents and visitors.

Across from the motel was a laundromat, a gas station and convenience store too. It is so much easier to do chores on foot after a day's ride. That saddle up and shut down, mount and dismount routine gets tedious for short hops.

(continued on the next column)

## **November Newsletter Deadline**

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

Compact touring for decades has taught me to wear shorts, the last clean tee shirt, and sandals to the laundromat where all other clothing goes into the machine. The motel owners happily provided the old cloths for a bike wash session to remove days of dust and bugs. I sheltered the bike from another thunderstorm and slept soundly before another fine mountain day.

A stop at the local breakfast shop offers a chance for fresh donuts and country wisdom as the regulars exchange some of the most intelligent summaries of the local and world issues you will ever hear.

Wood is still nature's bounty in these mountains. Coal is to the west. More of those one-factory towns tell me where, if you ever wondered, they make Kingsford charcoal and Bruce Flooring.

Far down the creek, through Mingo and Mace, is the resort town of Snowshoe. A meal stop comes with an invitation to sit with a couple who dismounted the Harley they were riding in front of me for an hour.

They are annual riders from Ohio on these roads. The Snowshoe resort hosts several motorcycle rallies yearly and brings lots of money into the area during spring and summer. There are tourism brochures at every stop with motorcycle rides mapped out including the two days of mountain roads I had been riding. Pocahontas County seems to be a mecca for motorcyclists. Farther on is the Cass Railroad that offers steam train rides from one to four hours long. The logging train is gear driven to climb the steep hills and hollows. Cass has the company town look with several remaining clapboard rowhouses near the railroad siding and old mill site. I chose to move on through the mountains and stopped instead at the Green Bank National Radio Astronomy Observatory. This is an array of immense movable antennae that receive waves from outer space. I listened to the talk and got on the van to get a close up look. It's not defense related. It is about the origins, energies and elements in the universe. The antennae were over my head in more ways than one. I was lucky to be standing by the newest array when it was remotely turned in a surprisingly quiet and brisk manner for a steel skeleton over a hundred meters across. Thousands of panels make up the dish and each one is separately controlled by a shielded electric motor.

Rode south into White Sulphur Springs in the hot wind. I followed a big V-twin through hills and valleys until we stopped for gas and a cool drink. Sitting in the long row of traditional rocking chairs on the porch of the gas station we shared a lifetime's travel stories in a half hour. I was able to gather that we had enjoyed many of the same roads in America and had served in the same war. His northern

(continued on the next page)

## **Web Page Address**

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

Mississippi accent was so thick that I missed many details.

Over the line to Covington, Va. and past the big Westvaco Paper Mill the road started to climb and twist again. Northward I was tailed rapidly through Hot Springs and Warm Springs on toward Monterey. I was nearly scraping the pegs and flying along the brief straight-aways to briefly gain ground from that empty trailer truck that had dumped his wood chips back at the mill. I finally pulled over for a few seconds and watched his tail as we continue to head up Rt. 220.

At Monterey I stopped to consider continuing north toward Seneca Rocks but realized darkness would find me in the mountains with the deer. I often change routes when traveling alone and the next decision, to head east toward the Shenandoah Valley on Rt. 250, was one of the best moves of the trip. Though it has been difficult to find the perfect words to describe the many fine roads I had ridden in previous days, the next stretch leaves me (almost) speechless. The series of tight switchback curves along this road are cut into the steep mountainsides.

The area before the end of the loops was paved on the slope and a motorcycle could turn short of the travel lane to roll or jump down to the next level.

Gear changes must be fast and smooth to get optimum engine braking without losing control or scrubbing off too much speed on the downhills. It is often difficult to maintain enough momentum on the apex so adequate RPMs are left to pour on the power for the next, short burst of climbing, downshifting, leaning, accelerating. All this while carving a perfect line and lean through the mountains. Like shooting out of a river gorge into calm water, the rolling edges of the Shenandoah Valley finally appear.

Days later some motorcyclists tell me that an area club sometimes rents the lodge up in Monterey so they can ride back and forth on that stretch of road all weekend. The machines that survive intact are ridden home on Sunday.

Next issue; Civil War country and Pennsylvania Dutch

## **October CRV Meeting Sunday, October 20**

The October CRV Club meeting will take place on Sunday, October 20, beginning at 2:00PM, 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.

Plan to have lunch with us. The meeting lasts one hour. We will discuss recent motorcycle events and new developments. We have some plans for more good CRV gatherings in coming months. Please consider becoming more involved with our club by working on our events and stepping forward to run for office or help the officers in their duties.

## **Around the World Grand Tour Update**

Forrest Anderson has announced the close of registration for the 2002 Grand Tour on September 30. There have been 181 motorcycles, many with two people, riding in search of places with the names of capital cities or countries. It has been a fun and challenging pursuit for our friends have been zig zagging throughout the country and world in search of more points.

Participants are asked to send their photos in by the last day of October to:

Bob Naramore  
6 Stoddard Drive  
Seymour, Ct. 06483

The Grand Tour Awards Presentation and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 8, at 1 p.m. at the Trout Brook Inn on Ct. Route 159 at the Windsor/Windsor locks line. All participants, their guests, club members and friends are welcome to attend. We will order off the menu.

If you plan to attend please contact Forrest and Janie Anderson for a head count; 1-860-873-8712 or email at ama\_rep@sprynet.com

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## **Picnic Refund**

Members who attended our recent club picnic raised a concern. Some members felt misled by the information in the newsletter that promised a "full cash refund at the picnic". Though expecting the opportunity to request a refund, they were not asked if they wanted a refund and our picnic committee was not prepared to issue cash refunds.

The CRV Executive Board apologizes to those members who expected a cash refund, instead of applying it to their dues. During the week after the picnic, a refund check was quickly processed and mailed to these members. It was not the Board's intention to mislead, coerce or bully any member into applying the picnic cost towards next year's club registration.

We pledge to continue our efforts to have every club member feel that they are consistently treated with honesty, respect and fairness. We know that by working together we will have many successful picnics, winter banquets, and other social activities in the future.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

CRV Executive Board Members

## Buzzard Crest Campout October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Near Pine Plains, New York

Come join us for a glorious fall weekend in the foothills of the Catskills and Berkshire Mountains. Our 10 acres of land is located right on the Columbia/Dutchess County line and offers plenty of camping space. A firepit provides warmth and a gathering place for sharing stories and songs, and a grill provides opportunity to create a group meal for the campers. Plenty of great roads to ride nearby, and restaurants and shopping areas for those who have to spend money.

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- **October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> 2002.**

For those of you who attended the NY National in 99, this is about 15 minutes closer to the Connecticut border.

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 for home.

### Directions:

**From Route 44:** take 44 west through Millerton NY, turn south (left) onto Route 22- follow for a little bit to NY Route 199. Take a right (west) follow 199 through Pine Plains. About 2 mile west of the town, take a right turn onto county Route 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 rondells to help guide you from Pine Plains.

**From Route 84:** Take Route 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 rondells to guide you.

### **Address:**

1789 Jackson Corners Rd.  
phone 518 398 5436

If you know you are coming, please call so we can plan appropriately for food.

## Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

- 2000 K1200LT Standard. Excellent condition, 12,500 highway miles, still under warranty. Basalt gray. \$12,500.00. Call or email Peter Burr: 203-255-0291 or p.burr@worldnet.att.net (ad posted 10/02)
- 1982 R65LS-red, my baby, corbin solo gunfighter, tank cover, hard bags, new tires, Luftmeister 2-1 pipe, jetted, have all original parts, wonderful for smaller rider, sounds like a Ducati, \$3K obo (no longer riding solo-broke back at Vermont Rally) Debbie Knowlton 413.565.2865 or theknowltons@rcn.com (ad posted 10/02)
- Sidecar rig - black 1987 K100RT with CAL I sidecar, Lowell Neff subframe & leading link forks, profesionally set up, dialed in, will drop sports bikes in really tight stuff, give away \$6K obo (can no longer ride) Debbie Knowlton 413.565.2865 or theknowltons@rcn.com (ad posted 10/02)
- 1984 BMW R100Rs, 24K miles. Very clean. New tires, recently a major service done by Canton Cycles. Original owner. \$4500. Call Ellsworth at 860-669-4547 (ad posted 10/02)
- 1992 Kawasaki EX500, Blue and White, needs a little tlc, but runs fine, \$700. Call Lenny at 860-635-203 (ad posted 10/02)
- 1983 BMW R100RT 66K miles. Burgundy. Never down. Maintenance records since new (recommended plus extras) With Reynolds stand, Telefix fork braces, Koni shocks, Seat backrest, and Stainless steel lines. Asking \$2950. Contact Jeff Burke at (860) 668-9796 or email JBurke@smgmeats.com (ad posted 8/02)
- 2000 Kawasaki W650 Retro in very good condition with 10K.Givi Bags, Five Star Rack, Hagon shocks and galfer brake line included. Asking \$4,200. Won second place "Best Japanese" at the 2001 British Iron Association Meet. Contact John Shields at 860-646-5177 or jjshields01@snet.net (ad posted 8/02)
- 1995 BMW K75, silver, RT fairing, electric w/s, saddlebags, touring trunk, low seat, wrist rest, clean and well maintained. 17K miles. Asking \$7000. Call Walter in the evenings at 860-563-7108. (ad posted 8/02)
- 1999 BMW R1200C, blue, saddlebags, engine guards, exhaust heat deflectors, windshield, centerstand, wrist rest, clean and well maintained. 4K miles. Asking \$10,000. Call Walter in the evenings at 860-563-7108. (ad posted 8/02)

## Items Wanted

- 1999-2001 BMW R1100RT to buy immediately. Contact Jeff Burke at (860) 668-9796 or email to JBurke@smgmeats.com (ad posted 8/02)

## 2002 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

### October

October 4-6 -- Buzzard Crest Campout, Near Pine Plains, New York. 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. See details on page 4.

October 12 -- Greater Hartford Marathon. See details to the right.

October 20 -- CRV Meeting. See details on page 3.

### November

November 9 -- Kettletown Camp Out. See details to the right.

November 17 -- CRV Meeting in Cromwell. Details to follow.

## Other Motorcycling Activities

### October

#### Canton Cycle Events for October

October Special -- 10% off all heated apparel.

October 19 -- Clean Out the Barn Day. Our day to clean house and your day to find that special old part at a great price. Lots of used parts!

October 31 -- Halloween Party with free candy. Don't let us eat it all.

October 6 -- Marcus Dairy - Super Sunday

### November

#### Canton Cycle Events for November

November Special -- 10% off all battery chargers.

November 5 -- Election Day. Free tire gauge to all who voted. Show us your "I Voted" sticker.

November 12-16 -- Veterans Week. All vets and armed forces personnel get 15% off all parts and accessories plus entered to win a \$100 gift certificate, our way of saying thanks!

November 19-23 -- Enter to win a free Thanksgiving turkey all week.

November 23 -- drawing for free turkey at 1 pm. winners will be notified.

November 2 -- Frost on Da Pumkin in Vermont - Deadhorse

## THE GREATER HARTFORD MARATHON

The CRVBMW Riders have supported the Greater Hartford Marathon for five years now and we are looking forward to a sixth. Once again we are looking for motorcyclists to fill 10 positions for the event. Duties include carrying photographers, videographers and officials. Also motorcyclists are needed for race leaders, sweeps and miscellaneous other duties.

If you wish to join we happy few, please contact me at:

John Shields @  
jjshields01@snet.net  
1-860-646-5177

In order that I may continue the illusion that I know what's going on. Let me know if you're interested, then proceed to the website and sign up as a volunteer so you can get your goody bag and T-shirt. Please list yourself there as a "Motorcyclist."

Date: October 12

Time: 7:15 a.m.

Meeting location: Mototcyclists meet in Bushnell Park, on the south side.

Marathon URL: <http://www.hartfordmarathon.com/indexGHM.htm>

Thank you. John J. Shields

## Annual Kettletown Camp Out

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the Annual Kettletown Camp Out is scheduled to be held. As always the weather will play an important part on this being held. If in doubt, please contact me, Brian at 860-635-1173. There will be a recorded message if I do not personally answer the phone.

I plan to get there early in the afternoon (before 2 pm, but hopefully more like 12:30) to get a site. There will be a stew pot as always and donations for the pot are requested (food ie. veggies/meat or perhaps bread). Not much, but something! Hopefully we can also have the coffee pot going. There will be a fire if we have wood (bring your piece).

The campground area is free at this time of year, but don't plan on a shower. We have always had a good time so plan on being there.

Remember that we have to camp in the over flow area so when you get there just drive straight in and follow the road around the circle. You should see someone there or you may be the first. If you are don't be afraid to claim a spot. On previous camp outs, we have had 25 people camp.

See you there Brian

## MOA National 2003 Recommendation

Your Road Captain has been hard at work and discovered a very good deal if you plan to motel it at the MOA National in 2003. The MOA National will be in Charleston West Virginia next July. On The way to Red River New Mexico this summer I (and a party of two) had the occasion to stay in Charleston. We stayed at a place called Cutlip's Motor Inn.

Recommend by a local officer of the law! No! I hailed him. He confirmed that this was one of the least expensive Motels in the area. And that it was not a dive. This place is not in downtown, but approximately 2 miles from the Civic Center. Located at the interchange of Westmoreland and Exit 102 on I-77. 1607 Bigley Ave.

Rooms are available at this time (they are not on the MOA list of Motels) also include, bedroom(s), living room-kitchenette. The rooms come with cooking gear for the stove, refrigerators are there of course. Yeah! TV-HBO etc.. Daily or weekly rates.

For the three of us the room was less than \$70, we had 2 bedrooms, a closet we could have slept in, and the couch could have held at least another person.

To make reservations call 304-345-3500, act soon my friends, act soon.

Brian Fisk

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## Around the World Grand Tour Update

Forrest Anderson has announced the close of registration for the 2002 Grand Tour on September 30. There have been 181 motorcycles, many with two people, riding in search of places with the names of capital cities or countries. It has been a fun and challenging pursuit for our friends have been zig zagging throughout the country and world in search of more points.

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## Informational Web Site

The following link is an excellent compilation of various motorcycle type lists and information including a ride and camping checklist, motorcycle laws of the 50 states, medical forms and information on riding in groups, for example. The checklists are customizable and very useful.

<http://www.micapeak.com/info/>

Enjoy. John Shields

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## Images from the BMWRA National in Red River, New Mexico



Jim and Shirley Faucher



Shirley Faucher and Matt Parkhouse



Jon Sumner and Shirley Faucher

# CRV Barbecue -- Sunday, September 8

Text and images by Keith Olsen

Sunday, September 8, was a warm, beautiful day for our CRV Barbecue. Approximately 100 members and guests traveled to Stanley Park in Westfield, Massachusetts for the event. It was easy to find where to



park and a walk through the gardens brought you to the barbecue. Unless you spent a lot of time exploring. The



gardens are excellently maintained and a peaceful place for a walk.

A short distance past the gardens and on the far side of the pavilion was the location of our barbecue. Early arrivers sat around sharing



stories from the past, recent experiences, and future plans. Lots of smiles were seen and laughing heard. Though snack foods were provided, everyone was waiting for the main meal.



The quality of the food determines the length of a line in which people are willing to stand and wait. As you can see, the lines were long and the food was receiving rave reviews.

As we all know, besides riding, eating is one of our favorite activities to share. The choices of salads, corn-on-the-cob, rolls, chicken, and beef seemed to fit everyone's needs. Ending off the meal with fresh fruit or baked goods was enjoyed by all.

Overall, the day seemed to be a successful event for those club members in attendance. For those club members who missed it, hopefully you'll be able to attend next year.

Special thanks go to Larry, the Picnic Committee members, and all the members who helped plan, organize, set-up before and clean-up after the barbecue. Without the time and effort of club members, these social events would not happen.



**Additional images may be found on our CRV Web Site.**



October 2002

NEWS

CRVBMWR

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

**It's that time of the year to see great fall foliage. Remember, that person driving next to you may be looking at the colors and not at you. Be careful.**