

# CRVBMW NEWS

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

AMA #05636  
BMW MOA #164  
BMWRA #45

President  
Larry Friedman  
413-562-3164  
lfrdmn@map.com

Vice President  
Lenny LaRose  
860-635-2032  
lennel@snet.net

Secretary  
Tracy Smith  
203-720-7409  
crvsecretary@juno.com

Treasurer  
Forrest Anderson  
860-873-8712  
ama\_rep@sprynet.com

Road Captains  
Brian Fisk  
brainfish@deadhorse.com  
Keith Olsen  
203-532-9733  
crvbmw@earthlink.net

Member-At-Large  
Michael Vinette  
860-663-3679

Newsletter Editor  
Keith Olsen  
203-532-9733  
crvbmw@earthlink.net

This newsletter is published monthly by the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. solely for the use of its members. Any copying and/or duplication of the contents without prior permission is prohibited. Classified ads are free to members. Send newsletter articles, ads, flyers, events, etc. before the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month. Preferred method is to email an attachment to: crvbmw@earthlink.net or mail to: Keith Olsen  
53 Richland Road  
Greenwich, CT, 06830

## You Mean You Haven't . . .

by Keith Olsen

Been to a National or International Rally.  
Been to a local rally.  
Been to our own Charter Oak Rally.  
Been on a club ride.  
Been to a club meeting.

Well, a new season of riding is fast approaching and it's a great time to begin participating in club activities. This year I'm taking on a new role in the club as the Assistant Road Captain. It got me thinking back to my first days in the club, in 1992, and how things went. After reading this you may wonder why I ever stuck around.

After I had read a couple issues of the newsletter, I was interested in my first club event, a ride to a club meeting, that I decided to join in on. The meeting location was at a diner in, I believe, Berlin, CT. Where exactly is Berlin, CT? I'd heard of it, but where is it? Out came the map and I found the location. It seemed simple enough to get to, but it was pretty far away. It must have been at least 60 miles away and for me a typical day ride was about 30 miles. Well, I figured I could handle the over 100 miles there and back. The ride they must have planned couldn't be more than 30 or 40 miles and I'd easily handle all of that in a day.

I headed out to meet at the mid-morning meeting location. During my ride to the diner I only pulled over four or five times to check my directions and look at my map. When I got to Berlin I had to try to find the diner. After thirty minutes of searching, I finally asked for some help and got pointed in the correct direction.

When I got to the diner my entire perception of what was going to occur changed . . . for the negative. Prior to this, a group ride for me was two bikes. There must have been twelve, maybe fifteen motorcycles here. Most of the bikes looked older than mine and had these big, heavy looking fairings on them. There was no way that this was going to be a fun ride, we'd be going slow and with my new K100RS I'd probably be riding only a little over idling rpms. To me, some of the riders were quite a bit older than me. Also, there were actually women riders, I don't mean passengers, which there were a few too, but I mean actual riders. Very sarcastically I felt, I'm really looking forward to this fun, sporty ride now.

When I parked my bike and got off I was greeted by Nikki Bjork, who introduced me to

her husband Rolf and to the other club members who were there. I met the leader of the ride, he was called a Road Captain, his name was Brian Fisk. Everyone seemed friendly enough, but I was anxious to be riding. After fifteen minutes of waiting for any other riders, we were off.

We were heading to a club meeting that would be held in Danbury. We started off on major roads, but we turned away from the highways and were on regular two-lane roads. Why weren't we going on the highway, this was definitely going to be a slow ride.

Reality quickly hit. The speed picked up and there was a rhythm and order to the way all the bikes rode together. We weren't going really fast, but we were going faster than I would have been going if alone. I wanted to brake hard going into nearly every corner, but all the riders in front of me either tapped their brakes before going into the turn or didn't use them at all. The most amazing thing, all those older, heavier looking bikes with older or female riders were riding so much better than me I wondered if I'd ever survive the ride, (continued on the next page)

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

February 15 -- A night of comedy at the City Steam in Hartford.

February 16 -- CRV Meeting in Berlin.

March 16 -- CRV Meeting and Swap Meet in Avon.

let alone do another club activity. I was nervous, but I was smiling, and I was learning more about riding in one afternoon than I'd learned in over ten years of previous riding experience.

Now, for my personal grand finale for the day. We finally got to some roads I'd seen before and I knew where I was. We'd been riding for over two hours, without stopping. Remember, I'd been used to thirty mile rides and we'd gone close to 100 miles. Reality hit, biology was kicking in and I had to go. We were stopped at a traffic light and the ride leader was about four sets of bikes in front of me. How do I get his attention and tell him it's an emergency and I need to stop at that gas station across the intersection. Since there seems to be enough room along the right I decide to pull over to the right, ride up to the front, and share my need. The bikes are all stopped, tightly packed, and I slowly move to the right. As I inch my way forward my left-hand side mirror lightly bumps the topcase of the bike in front of me ridden by Dick Johnson. Being a detachable mirror it pops off and begins falling, I reach for the falling mirror, but miss. Now that I'm stretched out low to the left, my bike begins to fall to the right. The bike crashes to the ground, I jump to the side, and beside total embarrassment, I'm OK, but most worried if I damaged the bike my mirror bumped. Supportive riders jump off their bikes to help. My bike gets picked up and the mirror retrieved. With the words "I have to go," I run to the gas station across the street and solve a near emergency problem. Back to my bike with the other riders still there, my bike's mirror has been reattached, but with the glass broken. We continue the ride to our meeting location in Danbury.

Once to the meeting location I thought I'd hear about my lack of skills and how I wouldn't be allowed on another club ride. What I received were questions about my safety from jumping off the bike and support for my situation. Wow, did I feel better.

Did I go on another club ride, sure enough, the next morning I was there for the second ride of the weekend. What did I learn from that early experience. There was a lot more to riding than I knew. Don't judge the rider by their age or gender. Don't judge the bike by its age or the size of its fairing. That I liked the people in the club. Finally, don't drink a lot before club rides and use the rest rooms before we start out.

Since those early weeks I've been on many club activities and enjoyed the rides led by many club members. Thanks go to Road Captains Forrest Anderson, Brian Fisk, Jon Gorman, Bob Naramore, and John Shields who have led rides that I have enjoyed. There have been other Road Captains, but I did not get the pleasure to participate on

(continued on the next column)

any of their rides. As the Assistant Road Captain I hope to continue the great tradition that I have been part of during my club membership.

From those early rides my enjoyment with the sport of motorcycling has increased greatly. Through the camaraderie of attending meetings, sharing in club activities (picnics, winter banquets, camp outs), going on club rides, going to our Charter Oak Rally, and going to International Rallies in Durango (CO), Missoula (MT), Moodus (CT), Rhinebeck (NY), and Trenton (Ontario).

Now's your chance to get more involved in your club and with your riding. Come to the meeting on February 16 and share your ideas and hopes for club rides and activities this year. It is my hope to participate in or lead many rides this year. Get involved, it's often a lot more fun than riding alone.

---

---

## President's Column

Last winter was about as motorcycle friendly as the weather gets here in New England. It's mother nature's payback time now. Ten below tonight (1/27) and windy too. The current owner of my old R100/RT just e-mailed me a picture of the bike on a polar bear ride two days ago in New Jersey. Not far enough to the south for me.

Our annual bus trip to the Motorcycle Show in New York City was a sellout. Co-Road Captain Brian Fisk made all the arrangements. The big brands had impressive displays including new models and variations on old standards. The day was capped off by a cold stroll to various eateries before the ride home.

The Winter CRVBMW Banquet was a real good event with Polish food, Polish beer, Polish music and a strong exhaust fan. More than half the attendees had not been to the Polish National Home for the previous two banquets. Bozena and her band "Europe" were popular playing a wide variety of music. The vocals were in English, Polish and other languages and were a pleasure to hear and see. Only die-hard country music fans were mildly disappointed, until their third beer. A few generous members treated us to a keg in honor of Bob (Bobbie) Naramore, active CRV member, who is moving to Pennsylvania. Everyone took home a door prize obtained from Canton Cycles. Canton donated many items and CRV bought others there at cost. Thanks to Ralph and crew for their long time support of our club.

Awards at the banquet this year went to four members who have been known for their enthusiasm and service to our club and for promoting the positive image of motorcycling. Most Enthusiastic New Member Award went

(continued on the next page)

### March Newsletter Deadline

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

### Web Page Address

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

to **John Stiefel** who has lived in Connecticut for just over a year and already volunteers for club duties including Co-Chairman of the 2003 Grand Tour. **Matt Strus** has been on board forever and always has a good time sharing the work at our events and promoting innovative activities such as his "Now for Something Different" series. Matt was surprised that his award was made from a genuine BMW taillight assembly with the president's actual license plate, CT. vintage #2002, attached. Matt is an avid license plate collector. **Ron Faibusch**, recent past treasurer and founding club treasurer, received a much deserved award for his diligence, dedication and commitment to keeping the club solvent and well documented. Some of us would have been committed long ago just from trying to keep the CRV books straight. **Bob Naramore** was presented with an award for years of involvement in CRV and other motorcycling activities. Bob, like the other recipients and countless CRV members, has enjoyed participating in rides and social events. Bob will be expecting us at his new residence in rural northeastern Pennsylvania.

The next couple meetings will be good opportunities to offer help in planning rides for 2003. It's really not that difficult to share your favorite route or destination. We need to agree on departure time and place for those who want to ride together. We need a meeting time and place along the route and a final destination. For overnight trips we need to have a motel and nearby campground to be available and a time and place to meet for supper. Much easier than planning a rally, banquet or picnic. Please step forward for your CRVBMW motorcycle club friends.

---

## Canton Cycles is Moving

*Ralph Deluco has announced that Canton Cycle is moving to Winsted. The new location, on route 44 across from the exit ramp from route 8, is many times larger than their Canton facility.*

Canton Cycle started in their present location in 1972 as a cycle repair shop. During 1976 they took on the BMW line and they have grown ever since. Presently they are a multi-brand store having added Triumph and Victory to their successful BMW market. Along with new motorcycle sales they also have a very busy parts department and have added brand specific clothes and accessories. But the key to their success, as in '72, is their excellent maintenance and repair shop, which they sorely need to expand.

Hence the main reason for Canton's move to the new Winsted location. It will have twice the room for the maintenance shop, as well as, the accompanying parts department. Ralph explained that while keeping and expanding all areas of Canton Cycle, the one place where his concentration will focus is the service shop. He explained that presently the waiting list can extend up to sometimes 6 weeks and that, he feels, is unacceptable. Thus with more space he will be able to add more trained

(continued on the next column)

maintenance and repair staff and attend to his customers in a more timely fashion.

Additionally with the added space he plans on having a customer lounge area where the riders can come visit and swap tales with other riders and generally feel at

home. He also wants to do things for club members in the way of having clinics; open house/swap meets and maybe even use the lounge area for club meetings. All of which would be part of making the riders not only feel welcome but also be a part of the Canton Cycle family.

Ralph did want us to know that while the new place is being remodeled he would gladly accept barter for services to help him get started. If you have a skill that he might need he promises to do "right" by those who can help him get the new place ready. Building trade skills (carpet layers, painters, etc.), as well as, technical help with phones, computers, etc. are needed to make the new Canton Cycles a functional and efficient motorcycle sales and service location. Ralph says to call him and see if you have some "sweat-equity" that he needs!

Over the next several months they plan to slowly move from one location to another while the goal to be in full operation in Winsted by April. Ralph is planning on a Grand Opening the first of May. Keep in touch, it will be an exciting time.

. . . ride safe, ride far  
Forrest

---

## Two New BMW Shops To Open In Connecticut

This spring there will be two GRAND OPENINGS of BMW Motorcycle shops in Connecticut.

Canton Cycles, the dealership that helped the CRVBMW Riders get started nearly twenty years ago and has supported our club ever since, has purchased a large facility surrounded by some great riding roads. They will be operational soon at a large facility they purchased in Winsted, CT, near the entrance to Route 8 south. Look for their ads or check their website [www.cantoncycles.com](http://www.cantoncycles.com) for an open house in May. Ralph DeLuca, and his associates have been hard at work to set up their new home. The shop in Canton is still operational at this printing and their phone number will remain the same for a year.

Cliff LaMotta is opening Cliff's BMW Motorcycles of Danbury in March. Cliff is setting up a completely new business and plans to be operating in March. The shop is at 84 Mill Plain Rd. in Danbury and the website is [www.danburybmw.com](http://www.danburybmw.com) Cliff is planning some special events and considering a club member discount.

Both shops will offer sales of new BMW motorcycles while Canton will continue to offer Triumph and Victory. They will both offer parts and accessories through their respective websites and by phone. The dealers have the blessing of BMW corporate officials in setting up their locations and displays.

(continued on the next page)

We wish the two shops great success in their new facilities and hope for the steady growth of motorcycling in our region. As the CRVBMW Riders promote the positive elements of motorcycling we can benefit from the planned expansion of market share that BMW is seeking.

by Larry Friedman

---

---

## **PRODUCT REVIEW - BatteryMINDer 1 amp model**

price - \$39.95 plus shipping  
source- [www.batteryweb.com](http://www.batteryweb.com)

The BatteryMINDer is sold as a “ 12 Volt Battery Charger/Maintainer/Conditioner with PulseMode Circuit and AUTOFLOAT CONTROL”

This device is for maintaining batteries like the popular BatteryTender does. Like other brands, the BatteryMINDer will slowly charge a battery that is still viable (mimimum 10.5 volts remaining) and will automatically decrease the charge to maintain it. This particular device has a unique and valuable feature that applies to the traditional flooded electrolyte-maintenance type lead-acid batteries. These are the type of batteries we have used for decades. Maintenance free batteries, according to experts, require more charging output than most older bikes produce therefore many of us will continue to buy the lead- acid batteries. After a few days or less on your battery, a green light will blink on the BatteryMINDer. Then you press the PULSE MODE button and the charger will proceed to de-sulfate the plates. The manufacturer does not claim to be able to restore all batteries such as those that are heavily sulphated with acid below the plates or ones with a dead cell.

I haven't done a long term test yet but I sure would appreciate a longer life from the batteries in the motorcycles that get infrequent use. Those are the ones that tend to gradually sulfate and become useless. It's bad enough to get a short life on a battery in a machine that gets lots of use. Losing a battery in a machine that had little use seems more wasteful.

Other publications have claimed success with the BatteryMINDER. We are always looking for a way to extend battery life and few of my friends are willing to settle for ownership of only one charger. This may be the one that really shines.

by Larry Friedman

---

---

## **Thank You**

Greetings to all the hard working volunteers who made this Grand Tour such a success. I have waited to contact you until now, as this has all seemed a bit unreal. My wife and I entered the ATWGT this spring as we had a trip planned from our home in Northern New Mexico to Nova Scotia. The impetus for the trip was a friends wedding in New Hampshire on Memorial Day and being that close to  
(continued on the next column)

the coast (and never having been in New England!) the decision was made to continue to Maine and ferry to Nova Scotia for a loop around Cape Breton, then return home on a northern route. Needless to say that time of year the weather is questionable at best so all was taken into consideration. After discovering the ATWGT many nights were spent poring over maps, locating places to see and mapping a route. When we travel we avoid the interstate at almost any cost, we are out to see the country, not pavement and cars. As we proceeded we realized our time constraints prevented us from bagging all the places we wanted to, but we did what we could and had fun. Except when I lost my flag and had to backtrack 40 miles to find it, which I did!

Upon our return we discovered that life kept getting in the way of our weekend trip plans and we didn't get to enjoy as much riding the rest of the summer as we planned. Before I knew it fall was upon us and time to send in the entries. I checked the web site regularly looking for results and was rewarded to see our names appear. Hurray, we had done it, at least achieving a bronze status. (My hat of to the rider with 300+!) But wait, it wasn't over yet! On one of my regular trips to my local Post Office to pick up one of the many motorcycle related packages I receive there was an unexpected parcel. Upon opening and a quick glance I did not realize what it was, thinking it was primarily solicitation for MC items. Good reading for after work I thought and set it aside. Later that day I picked it up and removed the contents to see a letter to all the participants and read through it to the hand written message on the bottom. It said I was a grand prize winner!

Could that be, I never win anything. I read it over and over and looked at the enclosed catalog. Finally I called my wife and said that I thought I won a really great prize. Well it finally sunk in and I was elated. Also Roadgear is about 2.5 hours away in Pueblo West, Colorado. We also would be traveling to Colorado Springs on Christmas to visit my wife's family, right on our way. I called Roadgear to see if this stop was possible. Not only possible but requested was the reply. I looked forward to the trip with more than the usual anticipation. Upon arriving at Roadgear and being greeted by the owner Monsoor Shafi we were made to feel completely at home. A quick look around the operation and a nice visit with Monsoor and some of his staff. The helpfulness and genuine pleasure were a real treat, if any of your members ever get the chance to stop do so. They even have a guest room for traveling customers. Oh by the way, I also was able to upgrade to an Adventure jacket for the price difference as the sport would have been a duplication of existing kit. All in all a very exciting and pleasurable experience, thanks directly to you, the members of CRVBMW. May the road stretch on, the sun shine brightly, and your adventure continue!

Respectfully,  
Robbie Knight 1980 R100RS  
Tamara Stephenson 1999 VFR 800

## 2003 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

### February

February 15 -- A night of comedy at the City Steam in Hartford. See details below.

February 16 -- CRV Meeting in Berlin. See details below.

### March

March 16 -- CRV Meeting and Swap Meet in Avon. See details below.

### May

May 23-26 -- Charter Oak Rally in Abington, CT. We will have four days of fun at the Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center. As usual there will be plenty of free food, good camping, hot showers, and lots of friends. Details to follow.

### Other Motorcycling Activities

Every Sunday -- Coffee Break. Meet in Guilford at the commuter parking lot at the intersection of Route 77 and Route 95. Meet at 9:00, go to breakfast, then decide on your ride for the day.

### October

October 2-5 -- the "RA's Triple B in 2003 - Beemers, Barber in Birmingham" Rally.

### Upcoming CRV Meetings

The February Meeting, on February 16, will take place at Central Pizza in Berlin, CT. 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. The meeting will begin at 1:00P.M. Come and share in the discussion about 2003 activities including our Charter Oak Rally, other rallies, rides, and events.

The March Meeting and Swap Meet will be held on March 16 in Avon. The Swap Meet will be from 1:00-2:00. The meeting will begin at 2:00. Our location will be at the garage of Moffat-Raymond Landscaping. This is on Route 44 in Avon. While heading west, turn left just past Staples, just before the Canton Line. It's been a couple of years since our last swap meet, bring your accumulated treasures (motorcycle related parts, tools, clothing, publications, etc.) that you may sell, swap, or simply give away.

### Now for something completely different more or less.

How about an evening of comedy? Well one is planned for Saturday, February 15 at City Steam in Hartford. I'll make reservations, but I need commitment from you. Going on past experience the price of the show is \$12 per person. I'll be there before hand to have dinner and drinks. You may plan to eat at the show or not. That's up to you. You need to commit to me by sending in the funds addressed to me. Brian Fisk, 409 Main Street, Cromwell, CT, 06416. If you have any question call me at 860-635-1173 and be nice call in the evening when there is a chance that I might be home.

Brian

### Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

1999 R1100R SE ABS, 10,050 miles. Black. Bought and serviced at Canton Cycles. With Parabellum windshield, BMW Saddlebags, hand protectors, bar backs, heated grips, throttle lock, front mudguard, Russell seat, stock seat too, thermometer, brake pedal cover, and side stand footpad. Asking \$8,000. Call Robert at 860-672-6088 (ad posted 2/03)

1981 BMW R65 Runs well. If interested call Larry at 413-562-3164 or e-mail to lfrdmn@map.com (ad posted 2/03)

1970 BMW R60/5 25,874 miles, not recently ridden. If interested call Larry at 413-562-3164 or e-mail to lfrdmn@map.com (ad posted 2/03)

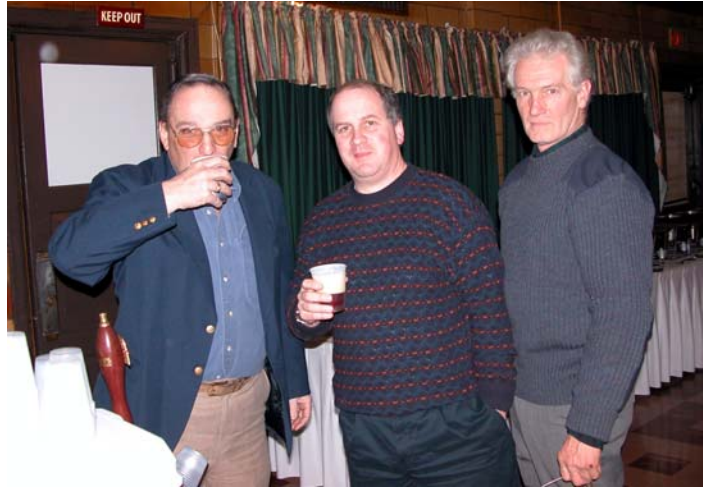
1994 K75. Blue. Fairing and hard bags. Extra windshield. 26k miles. Bought from and serviced by Canton. \$3750. Contact John at 860-561-2399. (ad posted 12/02)

### Items Wanted

Dual Purpose 500 - 600 cc motorcycle. BMW Brand not necessary. Call or email Mrs. Mad Dog (Shirley Faucher) at: 860-928-0272 or faucher@mindspring.com (ad posted 2/03)

## CRV Winter Awards Dinner

On January 25, at the CRV Winter Awards Dinner, over 70 club members and friends shared good times together at the Polish National Home in Hartford. With drinks, dinner, dancing, and door prizes, the event was successful and fun. Many stories and laughs were shared through the evening. Additional images may be found on our web site.



# President's Grand Tour of the Americas



## Official Entry Form

This Tour is **AMA** Sanctioned and **CRVBMWR** Approved

The entry fee of \$22 (\$27 with passengers) can be mailed to CRV, care of Mark Altschwager, 12 Gildersleeve Ave., Canton, CT 06019. Please make checks or money orders payable to — Connecticut River Valley —. Your tour packet (i.e. the Grand Tour pin and flag, official list of towns and rules) will be mailed immediately after receipt of your entry. Registration is open until September 30<sup>th</sup>; Tour ends October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**please print**

RIDER \_\_\_\_\_

(if applicable)

PASSENGER \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ AMA# \_\_\_\_\_

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

I understand that the President's Grand Tour of the Americas 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 President's Grand Tour of the Americas, I will be subjecting myself to any and all hazards associated with motorcycling. 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 President's Grand Tour of the Americas and hereby waive any and all claims I may have against the President's Grand Tour of the Americas, its organizers, agents and sponsors as a result of my participation in the President's Grand Tour of the Americas. I further agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the President's Grand Tour of the Americas, its organizers, agents and sponsors any claims against them by third parties as a result of my conduct of actions during the President's Grand Tour of the Americas. 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.

Rider's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

February 2003  
NEWS  
CRVBMWR

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

**Come to our first meeting of this new year on February 16. Details on page 5.**