

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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Riding the Grand Tour Route

by Brian Fisk

This past October found me with three vacation days! I am not sure how that really happened, but it did. Since where I work it's use them or lose them I decided that I would indeed use them. By placing the days next to a weekend I was able to have five days in a row off. And then there was this Around the World Grand Tour I was involved with.

Well with all this I was ready to be off looking for towns (cities in some cases). I thought that since I was alone on this trip that I would actually bring a map, in fact I had several. And I did need them. Most of these places that I sought to search out were not all that large or important so many mapmakers choose to not include them on their handy work. Much the shame! And a real pain in the A@# for me (in more than one way, grin).

I started out from home on Saturday morning, it had rained. I hung around for a while to let the roads dry off. My plan was to revisit a site in New Jersey that did not come out well from the last time I was there. Taking care of that, I was on the road again. And there lo and behold! (I am sure you will hear this saying again), up pops a town that was not in any information that I

had. But exist it did. Well a coup thinks I.

Off again to the great state of Pennsylvania and the town of Dublin. Again a somewhat easy mark.

Now it's time to head for my nights destination in Delaware. Now on a good roll I am heading towards Philly, not that I want to but it is between Dover and me. Ooops what was that! Lima, not on my list for PA. But a town nonetheless. And off I go to gather another freebie. This one takes a bit of looking, I find the town hall and it has some other name, that bites. Well I try again, and out of the corner of my eye I see a flag and small blue and white sign. Yup! there is a post office, Glen Riddle-Lima PA. It will do. Back heading southeast towards Dover no excitement and no place to stay, I never planned to camp.

About 20 miles south of Dover there is a motel that I know of, and since it is dark I stay on the main roads. I pull in and see that there are plenty of rooms left so do a slow circuit of the area looking for a place that has all of the services that I want (yes you may read local tavern to that), finding none I grab a room.

It was a good day! Four

towns, at this rate I'll pick up twenty for the trip. Another plateau perhaps!

Up fairly early and ready to ride off. Ahh Nutz! It's Sunday, I'll never get breakfast before I end up in the farmlands of DelMar, VA. So I hang awhile, drink the coffee from the office, and plan a bit. After studying the maps a bit I see that I need to go back North to pick up a town. Well I would not have found it last night. I did not even find it this morning, nor the next one I looked for. And breakfast, not available unless it is Mickey D's. Yeah right that will happen. I have brought enough of me to live until later, or, in other words I won't starve for a day or two.

Heading south on Route 1 I know that there is a town that I can use. I don't need a map. I knew it was there. I cannot find a location that will do me any good. (looking at pictures later from other competitors I see some one did indeed find Nassau Del.) damn! So involved am I with what I was looking for and the road into Lewes that I forgot my turn, plus I don't realize it for ten miles or so. Now the best part of this that I decide to go cross lots (continued on the next page)

CRV Activities for January (see details in the calendar)

January 1-- New Year's Day Breakfast.

January 12-- Bus trip to the Motorcycle Show in New York.

January 20 -- Deadline for registering for the CRVBMW Winter Banquet.

January 25 -- CRVBMW Winter Banquet.

to head north and west. I get about ten miles of good lonely, farm roads. For the most part DelMar, VA has straight flat roads. But the turns are all almost always 90 degrees. Just what I need for a brisk ride. And that it was. Soon I pick Georgetown.

From there I wanted to head south and get some towns in Maryland. I decided that by doing so I would find myself in a bad place that night (bad by being not near any towns on the list). So I head for the Bay Bridge (not the tunnel/bridge) I see a sign for a town on the list that will work because I have not found one before. But the dilemma is the dreaded no gas syndrome. I have some, enough to make the bridge and some, but what if I cannot find a station open. Ahh! there will be one I am sure. So I take the road to Bridgetown, and I find myself there in short time. Take my photo and off towards Washington I go. Gee! the bridge is a bit farther than I thought and traffic is building. Well off Route 301 I go looking for fuel and now there is also another problem making itself know. Pulling into Centerville I can tell that I won't have either problem taken care of. Oh well the road to the bridge is not that far and it seems the fuel is not disappearing like it was. I bet it is the drop in speed. What a concept.

As I get closer to 301 it appear as if there is more than a bit of traffic. In fact it appears more like a parking lot. Well that does not fix my problems. Now I see a gas station on the other side of the highway-Bridge entrance. Oh and there is a road under the expressway. Great! I get the fuel, but no I cannot use the restroom as there is none. But I did see a bright blue one near the highway entrance. I also notice another bridge. Well first things first. The blue room duties taken care of I go to leave. Not good! now the traffic is pouring off the highway and not going anywhere. I cannot even leave the parking lot. Perhaps 5 minutes or so the traffic starts moving, I jump in line. And off I go over a drawbridge. This is not the Bay Bridge but a local access to a small island town.

I can still see all the stopped cars, but I am moving. Now this was at the time of the Beltway sniper, just a thought goes around the brain (fish, if you will). I keep threading my way around and find a relatively easy and clear road. It dumps me out at the last entrance for the Bay Bridge. As only a commuter can do I force my way onto the highway. Within ten minutes I am over the bay and heading to the capitol city of our country.

What a relief, into Washington I go. It's Sunday, I decide to get the photo that I want and not stay here for the night. I find the post office . . . wrapped in plastic (Anthrax here remember), take the pic no hassle and off I go. Did I mention that I was on Route 50. Well another name for it

(continued on the next column)

February Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, January 25, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

is Embassy Row. Oh man the mother load. There has to be 75 countries within 3 blocks. Oh yeah! And then I think this is not quite fair. So I choose to take just one that I have seen and let it go at that. I pull the bike into Korea (it really is you know) and get ready to take a photo. Well the guards are there in a flash and not of the camera I will add. They spoke English very well, but I had a time trying to get them to understand the grand tour concept. Finally they allow the photo, no they will not be in it nor will they use my camera for me. Okay lads I am off again.

I pick up another town on my south towards the interstate. I plan to be in North Carolina the next day. Again not the best place to spend the night but it works and I am well rested in the morning. A cup of Joe and I am off, yes on the interstate. I want to get around Richmond and head south quickly.

Quickly comes sooner than I thought. I find traffic in Virginia likes no moss to gather. I find myself in the left lane among several cars running a good deal faster than the posted limit. We seem to be heading south at over 90 miles an hour. Wow this is great! Rabbits fore and aft. I see Fredricksville flash by and soon I see Ashland is not far. Being sure that this pace will not make it through Richmond I decide on breakfast at a Waffle House. There on a sign is one telling me this exit, so leave my newfound friends to head on their merry way. Damn the Waffle House is boarded up. I'll miss those rabbits, I cannot catch them when I have to wait out this light. Well back on the highway and building speed. What's this, many flashing lights. A stop for looking for the beltway sniper ! Nope my friends the rabbits are all pulled over on the medium getting driving awards I see. Wow hunger is sometimes a very good thing. I slipped by wondering where and how they all got caught. Well my speed is now back to normal.

I head down into North Carolina and pick up a few towns with nothing eventful and headed back into Virginia. I found a place to stay near Smithfield. I eat a burrito and a bag of chips from the local C-store. Good thing I brought a book as the TV has nothing on of interest. Another good thing is that my friend Jim Beam is in the duffle,

When I leave in the AM it is a bit foggy (not me the air) and I miss a turn off for two towns, but I really did not think I would get a viable photo from them. I have had some (many) towns on trip that were not there. I stop for coffee and look at the maps and list. One town keeps calling for me, Syria. I decide to go for and also not far from where I am is Guinea. Well I get them both. I got to Guinea without too much problem, in fact it was good riding. Fast, slightly hilly, and somewhat twisty roads. Getting the photo I needed proved to be a bit more. But I take two,

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Web Page Address

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

one of the main drag Guinea Road and one announcing the town from a different route.

Off towards the Blue Ridge Mountains for Syria. Found some good roads that way as well. Easy to get a sign in town and then heading north along the base of the mountains. Beautiful day and lonely roads go well together. This day is going so well I think that maybe I should ride more at this time of year, at least in this area. I find myself lost on perfectly wonderful roads. All right, so I miss a town, I don't want to give this type of road up. Mile after mile, I am one with the road grasshopper. And oh Shit! I am almost become one with that deer. And the car that was behind is now gone. Not good, I turn around and head back. Sure enough the deer got a piece of the car. The guy driving is not having good time, but is not hurt at all, he tells me that it is the second time he hit a deer on this road in the daylight in the past week. Well he can drive it so off I go a bit more in attention.

I pass into Maryland and head for a town or two. The population is growing in this area. I wonder to myself if it has anything to do with urban sprawl for Washington and Baltimore. The more north and east I go the cooler it becomes. Time to decide what to do. Well I know this place outside of Aberdeen. My new mission is to get there before I freeze. Did I mention it was getting colder. Well now it is cold and the sun has gone down. I find my place and the restaurant next door is closed. And how I wanted to have a bowl of Crab soup. Well I end up with 2 bottles of Russian beer and a deli sandwich. This being my last night on this trip I feel kinda bummed at not really meeting anyone. Well I guess that is part of the adventure.

Next morning is clear, cold but clear. I don my electric jacket liner and off I head due north for a another town in PA. I stop for breakfast at a theme place. Their theme there was the Baltimore Orioles. Lotsa stuff to look at while you wait. I keep looking and remember that I been here before. No theme then or at least to this extent. I grab one of their papers it's two days old but what the heck I never read it before so it's new to me.

Well here is a story about the Bay Bridge, seems as if there was 6-7 hour delay to get across all afternoon on Sunday. Wow! my little detour cut off a heck of a lot waiting. Luck be with me.

Back on the road heading home, well not right home mind you there is still the matter of towns to get. I pick up another town in Maryland and then into PA. Or so I thought. Twas a little road and I thought going my way. It had a county number. And then it did not, well it shows up on this map, but not as this mountain road that turns dirt. I would have turned around except that I still see houses along the way. But this was one small road, very small. If a car came towards me we could never pass. Oh by the way it was a pass, a mountain pass. I worked my way over the top, what an unexpected view. But no place to stop. I really hoped that I wouldn't encounter a car going the other way. There was just no room! Yet still there were houses spread out here and there. As I neared the bottom

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the road grew wider and wider. And then the county road sign pointing the way I had just come. Now mind you I had traveled perhaps 5 miles on this road not seeing another vehicle moving only those parked in yards. Right along the rte. sign was a very large one that proclaimed it one way only, and I was one way going the way I just had traversed. Again I was lucky!

The road left me off a bridge that brought now into PA. I danced along the curvy road with my desire to reach my town and thoughts on how to get over to New Jersey for another town or two.

Now I cannot remember what town I got but it was easy. I also found a good route into Jersey. And then the good roads were gone. I found Berlin without much trouble other than it was a longer distance that I thought. I headed north to get Hamilton again! The first picture was not of any use. And where do I find myself, but in Washington, NJ. Now this is the third that I have found, can't use it. About ten miles later a forth Washington NJ. You can find them they are not the same place. I never learned what the terms meant, township, TWP, city and town. I would have thought that at least township and TWP were the same.

Oh well now it was the drone home! I went just over 2,000 mile in 5 days. And it just happened to work by itself to 400 miles a day (+ or -). I really did not work on that, it just worked out that way!

Out with the Old - In with the New

On the second Sunday of December Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders put the Around The World - Grand Tour "in the books." Over 60 riders gathered at the Troutbrook restaurant in Windsor, Connecticut for the 2002 ATW-GT awards luncheon. Riders came as far away as NYC, Boston, the Adirondacks, Pennsylvania and 4 other surrounding states to tell each other some Tall Touring Tales....

... didya hear about the guy that bounced over 11 miles of dirt and rocky roads to take a picture of a town only to find out that it wasn't on the List of Towns? Or about the guy who got up early and left his camping friends to sleep in, rode 1/2 hour to a site only to find that his camera stopped working! Then there was the guy that couldn't find the town of Egypt, MA (it had been disenfranchised). While searching the assumed area he happened to stop by a local antiques store to ask where he might find a town limit sign of Egypt. The proprietor told him that the only one around happened to be inside on the wall. Or the one about the lady who . . .

Well, you get the idea; we all had a good time.

During the luncheon the door prize winners were drawn. Over 50 door prizes, valued at over \$2400, were given out (those not present had theirs mailed) including a new Shoei RF-900 full face helmet, a Roadgear Durango Riding

(continued on the next page)

Jacket and 4 large Helen 2wheels Packing Bags.

Although the finisher's patches did not arrive in time for the party, the special Top Ten Awards were ready and presented. Those lucky Top Ten received engraved stone plaques as a memento of their summer's ride. They had laser-etched declarations that they were Top Ten Finishers plus an ATW-GT logo. The highlight of each plaque was a laser reproduction of one of their winning pictures. Too cool.

The finisher's awards were mailed to those who sent in 25 or more photographs. Those awards, like last years, were embroidered jacket patches. While their ATW-GT logo designs were the same, the Bronze award patches had bronze trim and a yellow background. While the Silver tier had silver lettering and a red backing and the top honors were adorned with gold on a royal blue field.

However, if a tour rider won something or not we know that they had a chance to GET OUT AND RIDE. That's what Grand Touring is all about; another excuse for a ride. Grand Tours gives destinations to those days that are perfect for riding but only lacking a place to go. Touring gives focus for our wanderlust.

Now that the Around The World – Grand Tour is behind us please consider riding the 2003 Presidents of the Americas – Grand Tour. As in the past it too is AMA sanctioned and part of their Dunlop Elite Road Riding Series. However, unlike the past we had two new Grand Tour hosts, Mark Altschwager and John Stiefel. Please see their Grand Tour flier and entry form elsewhere in the newsletter, as well as, on the club's web site.

We hope you get the "wanderlust" with us.

Until next riding season... stay warm and keep that battery charged.

Forrest & Jani Anderson
ATW-GT hosts

Around The World - Grand Tour Conclusion

Already the riding season is drawing to an end and with it ends CRV's 2002 Grand Tour. ATW-GT was very successful. The amount of enthusiasm by all the riders, especially the finishers, was overwhelming. Also overwhelming was the huge number of door prizes.

We had 184 entries and 42 passengers from 36 states. Of those, 42 earned bronze awards, 13 silver and 15 gold. They collected anywhere from a minimum of 25 towns to over 100. The number of miles ridden accredited to this Grand Tour ranged from 1600 to over 10,000. The top, number one rider collected 348 pictures and rode in excess of 42,000 miles, WOW!!!

Some rider responses:

"What a wonderful idea for a tour. It gets you off the interstate and back on the two lanes or in this tour right down to the dirt traces between the smaller towns" **Robert Wisniewski**

(continued on the next column)

"Thanks for...making this happen, I saw places that I would have never seen if not for this contest." **Chet Hepburn**

"We enjoyed your club's 'World Tour', great fun and many miles." **Ed Kneller**

"...a Big Thank You for giving us an opportunity to have new places to ride with an objective in mind. After lots of fun, many good roads for riding and 10,864 miles later the end of our Around The World Trip" **Bob & Shirley Schrader**

"When the fat lady finished her song...24,286 memorable miles! It was a great summer for riding." **Rex Frazier**

"I look forward to whatever challenge you devise for 2003 and will do my best to avoid any hasty entrance into the working world so that I can actively participate." **Don Munroe**

"We sure got to some places that we never would have if I hadn't been in the (tour). We found some nice back roads to get there. I put on 6121 miles...it gave me an excuse to put on miles. Out of 12 years in the (MOA's) mileage contest, this was my second highest mileage of 12,500 due in large part to the Grand Tour. Thanks" **June Huhn**

"First, it was a lot of fun!! Second, it took a lot of work in the planning, strategy and execution." **John Werre**

Yes, they loved it. And they loved the door prizes too. Numbering over 50 including a Shoei RF-900 helmet, a Roadgear Durango Jacket and three Helen TwoWheels Pack Bags.

Door Prize Donations (in no particular order): **AMA** wall clock, Hall of Fame calendar, Freedom Rider blanket; **Rider Warehouse** Outback compass, *State by State with State*, weather proof dispatch bag, 3 t-shirts; **Roadgear** 3 digital tire gauges, 2 tool pouches, wet clothing pack; **Mustang Saddles** 6- ball caps, 2-book bags, 2-\$25 gift certificates; **CT Rider Ed.** personal planner; **Anon.** M/C sweat shirt; **Helen Twowheels** Super pack system; **Works Performance** 6 \$50 gift certificates; **Motorcycle Consumer News** 3-1 year subscriptions; **Sliks** helmet liner; **Deltran** 2 battery tenders; **AMA Field Rep** 1 Year AMA Membership, AMA t-Shirt, AMA watch and 6 Freedom Rider glass mugs; **Yuasa** 2-battery monitors; **Bob's BMW** t-shirt, **BMWNA** 3-ball caps, 3-*Chasing Che, Battle of the Legends*; plus more.

Yes they loved it and you can too. Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders will be putting on yet another Grand Tour. 2003's adventure will be chaired by **Mark Altschwager** with assistance from **John Stiefel** and yours truly giving a guiding hand. If you haven't joined in the fun, this is your chance. Join in, ride on!

Lest I forget, a super big THANKS goes to my bride, **Jani**, who kept the files, made deliveries and countless phone calls plus kept me from going over the edge. Of course then there's **Bob Naramore** and the photo review committee who collected, reviewed, sorted, tallied and selected pictures from the thousands sent to him. Great job gang! Fun wasn't it?

"Til next year. . . . ride safe, ride far Forrest

I cannot tell a lie: the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders (CRVBMW) is pleased to announce the:

Presidents' Grand Tour of the Americas

If you enjoyed showing up the kids after last year's geography lesson, you are really going to love this year's Presidential Grand Tour!

This year's subject is history and the topic is United States Presidents. You will visit towns with the same names as the Presidents. *Bully!* You will also be able to earn bonuses by visiting Presidential birthplaces and burial sites. The bonuses are worth the same amount as regular towns, but they require extra planning and riding to be earned.

Proof of your visit will be a photograph of your bike (or Air Force One), with your Presidential Grand Tour Flag, next to an official sign (such as town limit sign, post office, police or fire department, school or town hall.) You will have seven months, from April 1 until October 31, 2002, to finish the Presidential Grand Tour.

The President's Grand Tour is open to riders of all makes and models. You won't even be disqualified if your motorcycle smokes; *provided that it does not inhale.*

Awards for finishing the President's Grand Tour will be tiered, depending on your level of completion: bronze for visiting 25 towns, silver for 50 and gold for those visiting 75 and over. Additionally, there will be ten *Hail to the Chief!* awards for the top riders who submit the most towns. All finishers will also be eligible for door prizes. The higher your level of achievement, the more entries you will have in the door prize drawing.

Although the Grand Tour begins April 1st, registration will remain open until September 1st. The entry fee of \$22 (\$27 with passengers) can be mailed to Mark Altschwager, 12 Gildersleeve Ave., Canton, CT 06019. Please make checks or money orders payable to CRVBMW. Your tour packet (i.e. Presidential Grand Tour Pin, Presidential Grand Tour flag and a list of approved names and rules) will be mailed immediately upon receipt of your entry or April 1, 2003, whichever is later.

More info will be available at the CRVBMW web site at <http://www.crvbmw.org> or the web site at http://groups.yahoo.com/Grand_Tour/ At the President's Grand Tour web site you will find copies of all tour documents. Also you will be able to subscribe to an email list where you can communicate with other participants. Updates will also be distributed through this list.



This tour is AMA sanctioned and CRVBMW approved



If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Mark Altschwager
12 Gildersleeve Ave.
Canton, CT 06019
860-693-6460
maltsy@aol.com

John Stiefel
35 Saw Mill Rd.
Burlington, CT 06013
860-404-8850
john_stiefel@yahoo.com

2003 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

January

January 1-- New Year's Day Breakfast. See details to the right.

January 12-- Bus trip to the Motorcycle Show in New York. See details to the right.

January 25 -- CRVBMW Winter Banquet. See details below.

February

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

Other Motorcycling Activities

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

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 be fore 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

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)

New windshield for 1979 RT ... older. \$80 Contact Trevor at 860-267-2633 or morningpond@earthlink.net (ad posted 11/02)

1986 GL1200 Gold Wing. 40,000 miles, too many extras to list. For information call Rick Arnold at 203-426-2904. (ad posted 11/02)

CRVBMW Winter Banquet

When: Saturday, January 25, 2003

Where: Polish National Home
60 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford

Social Hour: 6-7 p.m.

Dinner: Buffet dinner with dessert,
beginning at 7p.m.

Activities: Music, Awards, Prizes

This will be a very enjoyable evening in a European style club atmosphere. Good food, good drinks, good friends. If you've been there, you will surely return. All members, family and friends are welcome.

Cost: \$18 per person payable to CRVBMW

Reservations: Send to:

Larry Friedman
900 Granville Rd.
Westfield, Ma. 01085

Reservation Deadline: Monday, January 20

Directions:

I-91, Capitol Area exit
Then take first exit
Left at end of ramp
1/4 mile to light, turn right on Charter Oak Ave.
Parking is on the right - look for BMW sign

Credit Given

Last month's article titled "Damn Mice" was written by John Stiefel.

Items Wanted

BMW R80 GS and F650 GS are wanted to buy by Mr. & Mrs. Mad Dog (a.k.a. Jim and Shirley Faucher). Call 860-928-0272 or email faucher@mindspring.com (ad posted 11/02)

3/4 seat for '84 RT plus rear storage box. Also left lower fairing. Contact Trevor at 860-267-2633 or morningpond@earthlink.net (ad posted 11/02)

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 30th; Tour ends October 31st.

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 _____

January 2003

NEWS

CRVBMW

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

If you haven't registered to attend the CRVBMW Winter Banquet, the deadline of January 20 is fast approaching. Details are on page 6.