

# CRVBMW NEWS

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

AMA #05636  
BMW MOA #164  
BMWRA #45

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## No Stupid Questions?

by Larry Friedman

To encourage student inquiry and remove their inhibitions we tell them that there are no stupid questions.

We all know that's simply not true. We have all heard some pretty ignorant questions over the years regarding someone's politics, race, religion, job and — our favorite pastime of motorcycling.

"Aren't you scared to ride a motorcycle?"

"Don't you hate to get wet (cold, hot, sunburned, thirsty, dirty)?"

"Isn't motorcycling a cheap way to travel?"

"Isn't it hard to balance?"

"What do you do if it falls over?"

"How much does one of those cost?"

I'll bet you can come up with some real doozies from years of two-wheeled travel.

Responses can be provided in a variety of ways depending on such factors as the estimated age and intelligence of the person asking, time constraints, and how big and dented their vehicle is.

A simple "yes" or "no" may suffice. "Been riding long?" could merit the reply: "yes" or "Six hours" or "Forty years". Really rhetorical questions can easily elicit equally dumb sounding responses and are often answered with a nod of

the head. You know the type. You're sitting at the curb dripping wet under a cloudburst and someone says; "Getting wet?" Do the bobblehead.

K.I.S.S.- Keep it simple, stupid. Easier said than done. "I'll bet motorcycling is a cheap way to travel, isn't it?"

"Let me tell you. Cheap depends on how you travel and who you travel with." I offer that advice from experience. Inexpensive is another matter. If you stole it, didn't service it, insure it, or register it, then it could be inexpensive transportation, for a while.

"Hay, what's one of those go for?" "Well, about the same as a car." or "About \$25 a pound."

Responses can be straightforward, creative, humorous or perceived as passive-aggressive.

Let's say you've been on an unusually cold ride. Your legs are cold and numb when you stop alongside your riding buddy at the first traffic light you encounter. His legs are so numb they don't work quickly or strongly enough to hold him upright. As you dismount to rescue your friend a bystander says to the buddy pinned beneath the bike; "Are you O.K.?" At times like these we

often hear loud comments describing excrement or the insertion of the middle initial "H." to the namesake of a great religion.

I suppose there are stupid questions and stupid answers. Unfortunately, they sometimes match.

As ambassadors of motorcycling goodwill we all have opportunities to establish positive images for the nonmotorcycling residents of our planet. Every comment can be taken as an opener for conveying our strong support for our chosen sport.

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### President's Column

by Larry Friedman

It's pothole season here in New England. With each recent bang and swerve of our four wheeled vehicles we experience a yearning for the coming months of repaired roads and warm weather. Have you ever trashed a BMW motorcycle wheel by hitting an obstacle? When the heart pounding slows down you just start counting the damages by hundreds; cast wheel, tire and labor.

Keep an eye on our website and the newsletters (continued on the next page)

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

- March 8 -- Annual Travel Planning Party
- March 16 -- CRV Meeting and Swap Meet
- March 29 -- A Night at the Cabaret
- March 30 -- Ride to a Motorcycle Exhibit at the Discovery Museum
- April 6 -- Spring Pizza Ride
- April 26 -- BreakOut Camp Out

for rides and events. There have been several proposals already and details are being worked out. We expect to see more of our CRVBMW members at gatherings this year.

The CRV swap meeting on March 16 will be an event you should plan to attend. Members gather at John and Judy Raymond's business at 1 O'clock to find new homes for their treasured possessions. Be creative when loading your vehicle. We must remove what we bring, no dumping. You must have extra gear of some kind. How about camping stuff, spare parts, new filters, hardware, tools, riding clothing for any size or season (those clothes didn't really shrink folks), box of magazines or recent catalogues, cleaning, lubricating or detailing supplies. If you have a source of free or cheap items then share with your friends. If an item is too big to bring you can make a sign to post.

There have been some interesting messages on the CRVBMW Yahoo Group. We share information about motorcycling issues near and far. There are efforts to gather support or opposition for state legislation regarding helmets, passengers and more. Most members use their freedoms to form and express opinions to fellow riders and to legislators. What is sometimes forgotten is that some riders have stereotyped their fellow motorcyclists even as we resent the general public for negatively stereotyping us. For example, when we are alerted to a proposed helmet law for Connecticut it is assumed that all riders will oppose the legislation even if they are not opposed to mandatory helmet use. The helmet law opponents and loud pipes people tell us we are about to surrender our freedom to do anything. Of course we are free to believe whatever we want about the issue and we can speak or publish our opinions too. It would be interesting (to say the least) if we had a forum at one of our meetings where we could hear opposing sides of a motorcycling related issue. It's risky business, democracy. There are lots of friends out there I haven't met yet and I'm none too anxious to lose any I have.

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## **New Country Store Coordinator Needed**

After running our Country Store for some time, Penny Podgwaite is stepping down from the role. Any members interested in taking over this role are asked to contact Penny at her email address of [mrmrs191@aol.com](mailto:mrmrs191@aol.com) or to telephone her at 203-776-9757

### **April Newsletter Deadline**

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

## **Charter Oak Rally Update**

And now for something completely different!! Do you like Christmas? In May? Well have we got a deal for you! This year's Charter Oak Rally will celebrate Christmas in May. There will be carols and a tree to trim. So bring a "gift" to wrap and exchange, and eat some reindeer on Saturday night. Sysco tells me that it is a special order, but MUCH tastier than prime rib. You will even be able to sit on Santa's lap and tell him how naughty you've been. All this on Saturday. Of course this is in addition to our usual rally fare. We are in the second year at our new location, which was very well received last year. We hope that this year will be even better. So bring your sleigh bells and come to Charter Oak!!

Jim and lost lenny

### **Ride to a Motorcycle Exhibit at the Discovery Museum**

Hey How about ride? Yeah! I know what your thinking, "no way Jose." But perhaps the first weekend in Spring it might be good enough for a short ride. Jon Gorman suggested this and I think it's right up our alley so to speak.

The Discovery Museum in Bridgeport is having an exhibit titled "Designs Through Time". The web site describes it as "A unique exhibit of motorcycle history in a celebration of technology and design. Noteworthy vintage and new motorcycles from around the world..."

The exhibit runs March 1 - March 30, and they also have a nice little planetarium that has showings every day.

The show ends on March 30, a Sunday. That's the day of the ride. I'll lead the ride starting at Olympia Diner on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington, CT. Lets meet at 10am to leave at 10:30. I should be there early to grab a breakfast, you may as well! The ride there will be about 1 and 1/2 hours long so be fueled upped for the 60-70 mile ride to the museum. The price to get into the show is \$7 a head unless we can qualify as a group.

Any comments or questions call or e-mail me Brian ( 860-635-1173, [brainfish@deadhorse.com](mailto:brainfish@deadhorse.com) )

The museum is about a mile off the Merritt Parkway on Park Ave. For prices, directions, and more info, go to <http://www.discoverymuseum.org/>

### **Web Page Address**

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

## Motorcycle Signatures found on e-mail

If the bike isn't braking properly, you don't start by rebuilding the engine.

Remember to pay as much attention to your partner as you do your carburetor.

Sometimes the best communication happens when you're on separate bikes.

Well-trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

Good coffee should be indistinguishable from 50 weight motor oil.

The best alarm clock is sunshine on chrome.

Learn to do counter-intuitive things that may someday save your butt.

The twisties - not the super-slab - separate the riders from the squids.

When you're riding lead — don't spit.

If you really want to know what's going on, watch what's happening at least five cars ahead.

Don't make a reputation you'll have to live down or run away from later.

If the person in the next lane at the stoplight rolls up the window and locks the door, support their view of life by snarling at them.

A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 AM to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you're broken down.

If she changes her oil more than she changes her mind — follow her.

Catching a June bug or yellow jacket in your goggles or honeybee down your shirt at 70 mph can double your vocabulary.

If you want to get somewhere before sundown, you can't stop at every tavern.

Sometimes the fastest way to get there is to stop for the night.

Always back your bike into the curb - and sit where you can see it.

Work to ride Ö ride to work.

Whatever it is, it's better in the wind.

Two-lane blacktop isn't a highway - it's an attitude.

When you look down the road, it seems to never end - but you better believe it does.

A rider can smell a party 5,000 miles away.

Winter is Nature's way of telling you to polish.

A motorcycle can't sing on the streets of a city.

Keep your bike in good repair: Motorcycle boots are NOT comfortable for walking.

People are like Motorcycles: each is customized a bit differently.

There's something ugly about a NEW bike on a trailer.

### A Night at the Cabaret

Hey all! It is still not full riding season yet and may not be for a while. So for something completely different. On Saturday, March 29, a few of us will be going to the Connecticut Cabaret Theatre in Berlin, CT. You are invited to come if you wish. We plan to see "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." It starts at 8:00PM, seats are \$22 each. This is an intimate playhouse, I believe it sits 75 all on the same level.

There is coffee and desert type items on sale or this is the best part . . . you can bring what you want to eat or drink (think picnic). The last time I went we brought a bottle of wine, some good beer, cheese, sliced meat and chips with dip. Nothing fancy, and nothing loud.

You'll have to order your seats with tickets. But if you explain that you would like to be near the group I am sure that they will oblige you.

Okay here is the good stuff:

Connecticut Cabaret Theatre

31-33 Webster Mill Plaza

Berlin, CT 06037

Box Office 860-829-1248 normal hours

[www.ctcabaret.com](http://www.ctcabaret.com)

So far there are 5 of us signed up. You can call me if you have questions

But, I will not make any more reservation, which are recommended. Okay? I hope to see you there.  
Brian 860-635-1173 [brainfish@deadhorse.com](mailto:brainfish@deadhorse.com)

(continued on the next column)

## Gathering of Friends & Other Strange Beings Eighth Annual CRVBMWR Club Camp Out

On June 20-22, kick back and enjoy rural New York at the Eighth Annual CRVBMWR Club Camp Out. The camp out will be held at Clyde & Diane Pratt's House, 160 Sullivan Road, in Kirkwood, New York.

It will feature semi-primitive camping (one shower and porta-cans). An optional Saturday meal with shared costs.

Directions: Route 81 to Exit #1. Go up hill on Cedarhurst Road, **not** toward Route 11. In approximately 1 mile, take first right onto Sullivan Road. In approximately 1/2 mile, at the top of the hill, turn right into 160 Sullivan Road, a yellow and brick house.

For further information call 1-607-775-9015 (home) or 1-607-725-7009 (work). If no answer leave a message.

## March CRV Meeting

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.

## Breakout Camp Out

It is still snowing, but I have to get this in, because I know it will stop someday . . . I hope!

The plan for the Breakout Camp Out goes like this. We'll be back at Markam Meadows in Easthampton, CT, on Saturday, April 26. I have 3 sites reserved, the same as last year.

Bring something for the stew pot, your own camping gear and whatever you want to drink. I'll plan to be there early to set up. I may even be there the night before if this weather stays as nice as it is.

Bring a joke to tell, a friend, or both. We'll have a fire, food and friends. If you play your cards right you could be all three, (that's a joke, by the time we set you on fire we'll be to full to eat.)

Give me a yahoo if you plan on coming so I can have a bit of a head count Any questions? e-mail me brainfish@deadhorse.com or call 860-635-1173

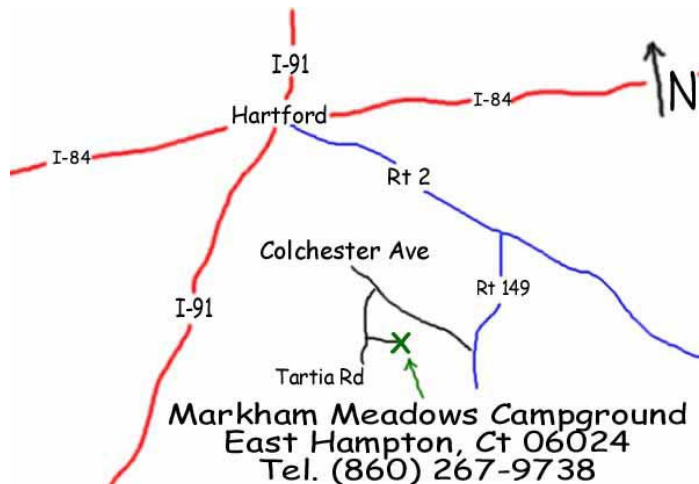
## Annual Travel Planning Party

I have a great excuse to clean my house now, so here goes. Bob Naramore's annual travel planning get together will be held this year at my, (Todd Gagnon's) house on Saturday, March 8, 6pm or so. I will be making Sunday gravy and polpetti (spaghetti and meatballs). Bring your favorite libations, I will supply the soda and maybe some rally beer. Please let me know if you're coming so I can roll enough meatballs. Plenty of floor space and beds.

23 Pleasant Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416

For directions call 860-632-1047 or email [tgagnon@cromwellct.com](mailto:tgagnon@cromwellct.com) It's easy to get to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

## Map to Brian's Spring Breakout Camp Out



## Frosty Nutz

Frosty Nutz is going to be on May 2-4, in Jamaica Vermont. It is at the Vermont state campgrounds just off Routes 100&30 in downtown Jamaica (no really). It is sponsored by Yankee Beemers . Basically you get nothing, but they do get us a very good break on the campsites. In the past few years they have set up a coffee pot. I plan on bringing my stew pot for Saturday night. The same as always, you need to bring your eating gear and if you want in as well, bring something for the pot. Please tell the Yankee Beemers thanks for their effort.

## 2003 Calendar of Events CRV Activities

### March

- March 8 -- Annual Travel Planning Party. See details on page 4.
- March 16 -- CRV Meeting and Swap Meet in Avon. See details on page 4.
- March 29 -- A Night at the Cabaret. Details on page 3.
- March 30 -- Ride to a Motorcycle Exhibit at the Discovery Museum. Details on page 2.

### April

- April 26 -- BreakOut Camp Out. See details on page 4.

### May

- May 14 -- After Work Picnic. I can not say right now that we can use Hurd Park. The wonderful state of Connecticut is sucking wind. Who knows what the Governor will do next. But I'll have an update in a month or so on this.
- 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 on page 7.

### June

- June 20-22 -- Gathering of Friends & Other Strange Beings, Eighth Annual CRVBMW Club Camp Out. Details on page 4.

## 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.

### April

- April 6 -- Spring Pizza Ride. Meet at the Borella's abode in Danielson, Ct. 10-noon for coffee, pastries, tire kicking & to celebrate the return of DST and spring (finally!!) Ride to the Pizza King Restaurant leaves shortly after noon. Call 860-774-5535 days or email borella\_ent@hotmail.com for info or directions. Rain/snow date 4/13.

- April 27 -- Marcus Dairy Super Sunday

### May

- May 2-4 -- Frosty Nutz Camp Out. See details on page 4.

## Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

1997 F650ST Orlando Orange, 17K, lowered, contoured seat, accessory plug, after mkt windsheild, Givi luggage rack, tank bag, maint. rec. available. Always garaged, FOL and safety check by BMW Dealer annually. \$4500.00. Contact: Shirley Faucher (860)928-0272 / faucher@mindspring.com (ad posted 3/03)

1981 BMW K-750, silver, 18K, hard bags, tank bag, RT fairing, electric windshield. Excellent condition. Garaged. Dealer maintained. \$6,000. Leave message for Walter at 860-563-7108. (ad posted 3/03)

1999 BMW R1200C, Montana, Blue, 4K, hard bags, engine guards, exhaust guards, wire wheels, BMW windshield. Garaged. Dealer maintained. \$10,000. Leave message for Walter at 860-563-7108. (ad posted 3/03)

2000 K1200LT basalt gray, 12.5k, still under warranty, heated grips, cruise control, excellent condition, 12,000 mile tuneup done, \$12,000. Peter Burr, Fairfield 203-255-0291, pburr@optonline.net (ad posted 3/03)

1995 K75/3 ABS, 8K miles, Marrakesh Red, Parabellum Scout color-matched fairing with sport shield, BMW tank bag, BMW hard bags, BMW hand protectors, BMW front splash guard, always garaged, bought from and serviced by Canton Cycles, very clean bike. Asking \$6,250. Contact Paul by e-mail (preferred method) at pshadic@snet.net or evening phone: (860) 646-5289. (ad posted 3/03)

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

None currently listed

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Seventeenth Annual Charter Oak Rally

## May 23 - 26, 2003

Sponsored by CT River Valley BMW Riders, Inc.

### **CHARTER OAK**

**Includes:**

- \* Free chili Friday night while it lasts!
- \* 2 Free Breakfasts
- \* 2 Free Dinners -- Prime Rib and T.B.A.
- \* Free Continental Breakfast on Monday
- \* Free continuous coffee
- \* Snacks available for purchase on the site
- \* 3 nights camping and hot showers
- \* Door prizes
- \* Organized rides and a Poker Run
- \* Rally Awards
- \* Modern enclosed pavilion and lodge
- \* Cabins available to clubs for a rental fee of \$35
- \* Rally pin, cup, and dinners included
- \* On-site Tire Man
- \* Other surprises planned

**For Preregistration or Club Cabin Rental contact:**

Tracy Smith, Charter Oak Rally  
 66 Morris Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770  
 E-mail at crvsecretary@juno.com or  
 Telephone 203-720-7409

**Make checks payable to: CRVBMW Riders, Inc.**

**Location:** Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center in Abington, Connecticut

**Registration:** \$36 preregistration (prior to May 16), \$41 at the Gate. Children 6-15 \$23, \$28 at the Gate, 5 and under Free.



**Directions:**

**From the West:** Route 44 East out of Hartford. Left on Route 97 North.

**From the North:** Interstate 84 West to Ashford, CT, Exit; Route 89 South to Route 44 East.

**From the East:** Route 44 West from Providence, Right onto Route 97 North.

**From the South:** Route 169 North to Route 44 West.

**Follow the Rally Signs from the Intersection of Routes 44 and 97.**

**Please . . . No glass or pets  
at the rally site**

### Registration Form

*A separate registration form is needed for every person, including passengers and every child.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rider Male  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Local Club Affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Tracy Smith for cabin rental  
 Make of Motorcycle: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Sidecar: Y N

Waiver: I agree to hold harmless the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. the AMA, and the Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center, for any injury, damage or loss incurred while attending or travelling to and from the rally.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use Only Amount Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Received by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information Verified \_\_\_\_\_ Rally # \_\_\_\_\_

March 2003

NEWS

CRVBMWR

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

**If you haven't renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter.**