

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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President's Column

Larry Friedman

The daylight is getting longer and that means warm weather is ahead. Pardon me while I go out for another armload of firewood. The float chargers are hooked up and it is my plan to have all batteries in strong condition after the winter. Time will tell.

The New York City bike show bus trip was on one of the nicest January days we've seen. The group spread out and wandered through the convention center for hours.

The manufacturers displays were popular though there were no big surprises yet from BMW. West Coast Choppers drew a huge crowd though our friends didn't think it was worthwhile standing on a very long line to view choppers. Our bus took us to midtown for restaurants and walking before the ride home.

Thanks to Brian Fisk for another fine event.

The CRV Winter Banquet was a success. Lots of good food and a good band too. The fruit filled cake was decorated with a motorcycle by the Modern Bakery on Franklin Avenue in Hartford. Nice touch.

Some of the 50/50 proceeds were donated to the Polish Club's grand piano fund. Maybe next year we will hear a little Chopin or Tchaikovsky. Maybe, with a little encouragement, our talented

members will perform a few numbers. Our members with other talents could arrest them, aim a fire hose at them and provide a lobotomy.

The coming months will offer rides, meetings and rallies to attend. We are working on a swap meet at a fantastic indoor location. A meeting site with appealing atmosphere is in the works.

The Charter Oak Rally on Memorial Day weekend will return to our old home in Marlborough. Rallymeister Brian Fisk has arranged the advertising in the national BMW magazine. Music, food and activities are being planned for one of the finest BMW club rallies in the country. If you have not attended a rally then you should start with a weekend at the Charter Oak. If you can't get away for the weekend, members will be able to spend a day on the grounds to get a taste of our club's fare.

Time to plan your maintenance before the Spring rush.

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• **Want to save** •
• **some money?** •
• **See page ??** •
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Conclusion for The Presidents Grand Tour of the Americas

Time to breath a sigh of relief, as the 2003 Presidents Grand Tour has come to an end, with our awards luncheon on January 11th. As with anytime, like minded people get together there were numerous stories ... tales, including the one about the first restaurant closing unannounced the week of the luncheon! True to their adventuresome spirit, they braved the recent news making cold weather of New England, some came from as far away as MO, including our 1st place winner; Mr. John Frick from Ohio.

We had 180 entries including 34 passengers from 35 states. Of those, 54 completed the tour. There were 29 bronze awards, silver 10 and 15 gold. They collected anywhere from a minimum of 25 towns with 9 riders exceeding 100 towns. The top, rider collected 344 pictures and rode in excess of 45,000 miles, WOW!!!

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Upcoming CRV and Local Activities (see details in the calendar)

- February 17 -- Bingo in Bristol.
- February 29 -- (CRV) CRV Meeting and Lunch
- March 13 & 14 -- (CRV) Bobble's Annual Planning Party
- March 21 -- (CRV) CRV Meeting and Swap Meet

Yes they loved it and you can too. Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders will be putting on yet another Grand Tour. John Stiefel will chair 2004's adventure with assistance from Mark Altschwager. If you haven't joined in the fun, this is your chance. Join in, ride on!

'Til the snow starts melting where you are: start planning for *The Great White North Grand Tour*

...Keep the rubber side down
Mark

Video Review: The Ultimate Biker Party: The 80th anniversary of BMW Motorcycles

Dylan Weiss, director, kindly provided a DVD of his recent production of BMW's big Bavarian bash. I corresponded with Dylan at dylan@gearheaddvds.com and agreed to review the video for the Ct. River Valley BMW Riders newsletter.

Apparently 30,000 people attended the event that Dylan and his crew covered in this production. Those who are familiar with the fast paced style of MTV with barely time to focus on changing images may appreciate the music, dialog and interviews.

The good narration and lively music go well with the rapid pace of the too seldom seen riding and the party atmosphere. The high quality of the camera work with good angles and stability makes this a top shelf quality video. The excessive use of zooming in and out combined with the quick image changes convince me that someone in the editing end forgot to take their meds for Attention Deficit Disorder.

Every few minutes there is a brief chapter break and transition to a different aspect of the event. The video was obviously made for TV broadcast and insertion of commercials.

The Ultimate Biker Party shows thousands of mostly middle aged and well dressed motorcyclists with glimpses of the motorcycles and some riding footage in the Bavarian countryside and mountains. Numerous interviews of cheerful and enthusiastic talking heads overpowers the viewer with boredom and makes one appreciate the fast forward button. While the multi-day event is covered chronologically the interviews make it feel like eternity. Having attended many large motorcycle events I know that there must have been thousands of attendees in Bavaria who had something interesting to say. Sticking a microphone in someone's face often replaces personality with formality and takes the true spirit out of an event.

Three worthwhile conversations were the extras after the main video. There was Jean Pierre Goy the famous stunt rider, Fred Jacobs the BMW Historian, and David Robb the Chief designer for BMW. They had interesting

information to share and did so with style learned from experience.

The Ultimate Biker Party is a well produced commercial for BMW and should be given out by dealers to prospective customers and current riders. If you would like to purchase it you can do so at www.gearheaddvds.com. You would enjoy watching it with a six pack of German beer and pretzels.

Keep the remote handy to replay a few good riding scenes and to zip through some interviews.

Larry

I have recently been presented with an opportunity to have positive reflection of friends, rides and riding in general. First I would like to express my appreciation for all the club members who consistently make our club what is was, is, and will be. I think back and realize that I have just completed my tenth year riding. For those of you who do not know my first bike was an 87 R65. Over the years I have talked with the select few that have one of the few R65's and we agree it is a great bike. I had only ridden a dirt bike once or twice when I was a teenager. I found my bike a couple of weeks before my safety course was scheduled to start. I enjoyed the class a great deal and in the future hope to return to take a refresher. Many many points that helped my riding over the years. The discounts on my insurance due to the bike and safety class doesn't stink either.

I recall going to the shop in Canton and being greeted by friendly faces and a comfortable atmosphere. I knew nothing but was provided with info as to parts, service and our club. John Badeen was the person who provided positive info that included the club as I joined. Not so much as an active member as my work schedule included weekend shifts. I was about 25 at that time and take no offence, a baby within the club, riding skills and age. I was accepted by the club and listened to numerous stories from many persons. I started to attend the regular yearly functions. I then expanded riding to rallies several hundred miles away. Riding with other club members or solo and meting up with the crew at the rally site.

As a few years passed, I sought out a second bike, 83 R100RS. "Mad Dog" aka Jim Faucher's RS and two other friends of mine not affiliated with the club have this style of bike and this was the inspiration for my purchase.

One of the best rides I participated with was with Michael Vinette as we traveled to one of the big rallies in North Carolina. We planned on a two-day trip down to the site in Greensborough and the day we left was

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March Newsletter Deadline

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

beautiful as was the second day's travel. On the second day Michael had me take lead for a while as still being a new rider I at times lagged behind while on the Blue Ridge Parkway. I was loaded pretty heavy with old camping gear as my tent was large enough to fit one biker and one bike. After Michael allowed me to take the lead I got into the groove of the road. I overshot the rally site by over thirty miles, it was a great day for a ride. Prior to making the rally, Michael asked me about my speed on a portion of the ride. It was slightly over the speed limit from what I was told, but I still do not believe it! Great rally as the hurricane hit the edge of the rally on the last day. Michael went a separate way to visit relatives in southern locations.

I made my way back to CT prior to going to the RA in Canada the following weekend with my wife. On the way back I met up with club members Sherry and Rick Z. Never met them prior to that day and we have remained friends since that day. We have a bike in common as he has an 86 R65. The running joke is that mine looks older than his only because I use mine. Some of the ride back to CT was in the rain and Pennsylvania is really boring on the highway and it was great to have another bike to ride with.

At the following rally, the RA in Canada (aka the mighty flood) I was having minor mechanical difficulties. There was a person that greeted me with a gruff sentence about the sound of my bike. The next thing I knew we were in one of the barns with this person having me, not showing me, how to complete a valve adjustment with limited tools in my bike pouch. My wife fielded the questions from the crowd of over 20 people that gathered. She stated that this was not a tech session but a nice person helping me out. The sky soon opened up with the tail end of the hurricane greeted us in Canada. The rain did not stop as 4-5 inches of standing water was on the entire rally site so they opened up the horse barn for tents. Dry inside and only one restaurant across from the rally site made our stay short. In 50 mile an hour winds, mid 50 degree temps in July, two up with all the stuff that goes with it we traveled to mid New Hampshire. Just over the border in Vermont it took over 30 minutes of sweet-talk with my wife for her to get back in the saddle. The weather was terrible, but she was able to get back on the **bike and did** not make me call a cab for a 200-mile ride. To this day my wife will remind me every once in a while that I still owe her. I did learn how to adjust my valves!

I have always enjoyed attending the MDA Ride. I will admit in addition to enjoying the charitable donation,

door prizes, selected ride and great food. The best reason I have continued to attend is that John Badeen and the other good friends remain involved with this event. For the first time I missed the annual club campout this year. Time did not permit, as my wife and I have two wonderful children and time on the weekend is rare.

I have made it to my point of the reason why I have had time to reflect this past week on my motorcycling history. I was planning on taking my R65 to the Larz Anderson European Bike Show in Mass. I spent a little time the day before polishing and rubbing the bike with a cloth diaper. The day of the event it rained and I opted to not attend. Not many days remain in the month of October to ride and this is when I take the R65 off the road. The RS is in need of a new rear end so my riding season was near over. I had Columbus Day off and went for a ride in the afternoon. On my way back home I traveled on Route 82. About 1 mile from the intersection of Route 11 is where it happened. It was about 4:30 in the afternoon and it was cool with the sun setting. I had been on this road countless times as I worked and lived in that area for 8 years. I was cornering a turn and with no reaction time a turkey flew up from the side of the road and out paths met. This bird appeared to be about 30 pounds hit me square in the headlight. Glass shattering and feather flying I maintained the bike upright. I slowed down with brakes and bad language to turn around to see the damage. Many vehicles stopped who witnessed the incident and wanted to make sure that I was okay. On my return to the spot of impact a passer by had taken the bird that did not win the game of "chicken" in hand by the neck. He first asked if I was fine and it appeared that I escaped injury. He asked me if I wanted the bird and I said that I had enough of the bird and that he should have a great dinner.

I went out to Canton Cycles the next day for the estimate for repairs and they were not too bad as the only area damaged was the headlight itself, but the fork bracket ears were pushed back about an inch or more. Ralph and Don came out to see the damage and Ralph's response was classic. With soda in one hand and cigarette in the other he placed the soda on the picnic table and

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\$ \$ \$ So You'd Like To Save \$ \$ \$
\$ \$ \$ Some Money \$ \$ \$

As the Newsletter Editor, there are times when I receive information that may lead to money savings for club members. By newsletter policy, ads may only appear in the newsletter from club members for personal sales offers. To allow you to hear about any offer that I receive, I have created a new link on our CRV Web Site titled "Savings Opportunities" Though I do not receive a large number of offers, it is hoped that this link may be of benefit to you.

Keith

CRV Web Site Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site at

<http://www.crvbmw.org>

took a drag from his cigarette and laughed. The lens shattered but several long turkey feathers remain as a badge of honor. I wanted to attend John Borella's pizza ride the following weekend but the weather was wet and I did not want to ride the bike in the wet weather with the electrical exposed.

The response from all that I have shared this story with all asked the same question and had a similar response. Yes the bike remained upright and that if the bird hit any other area of the bike or my person the results might have been significantly different. I suggest that if you hit a turkey to hit the turkey square in the middle of the headlight.

I have written a story for the newsletter just once before. It was my way of taking the time to- be actively involved with our club in some way. I would like to hear from others in the club first or second hand of stories of this nature. I have downtime with no bike to ride till the spring. I would like to thank those mentioned above in addition to others that I have met over the years for the comradery with club members et al.

See you all on the road in the spring as I enter into my Winter Hibernation.

Travel safely and often. As many have said, ride safe, ride often and always keep your rubber on, the road.

Jeff Brown

More Words of Motorcycle Wisdom

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.

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 @ 70 mph can double your vocabulary.

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

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

You have to be smart enough to understand the rules of motorcycling, and dumb enough to think the game's important.

Don't lead the pack if you don't know where you're going.

Sleep with one arm through the spokes and keep your pants on.

Practice wrenching on your own bike.

Everyone crashes. Some get back on. Some don't. Some can't.

Beware the rider who says their bike never breaks down. Some bikes run on 99-octane ego.

From the book:

"Sit Down, Shut Up ... Hang On!"

Written by Penny Powers and Chuck Hays

February CRVBMW Meeting / Lunch

When: Sunday, February, 29

Time: 2 p.m.

Where: Chute Gates Restaurant

372 Main St. (Rt. 6)

Terryville, Ct. 06782

860-585-0704

This is the leap year day. Once every four years you have an extra day to spend with friends.

Let's get together for a meal and talk about motorcycling. Bring someone along. This is a great opportunity to introduce a new member to the club.

This new meeting spot is easy to find and has a surprising decor.

A full menu will be available from sandwiches to prime rib.

CRV Swap Meeting

When: Sunday, March 21

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: The Masters Collection

40 Scitico Rd

Somers, Ct. 06071

860-749-2281

Start looking for all those items you never use and make a pile of motorcycle parts and accessories, tools, camping equipment, yard items, books and more. Swap-sell-give away. We will have plenty of indoor space.

Bring your family and motorcycling friends. Encourage all members and potential new members to attend. Load your biggest vehicle and plan to bring home something new. If you come on your motorcycle bring money.

CRV member John Leo is hosting this meeting at his business. You will have an opportunity to view a showroom of fine art reproductions and home decor items. John has offered to donate a painting (value \$400) to be raffled off to a person who attends the meeting. Look at his business at : www.Masterscollection.com

We will share our plans for rides and events to take place in coming months.

Directions: I-91 to Rte. 190 East (exit 47E) - 6 miles to Somers - Right on Maple St.- go .5 miles and right on Scitico Rd.

Bobble's Annual Planning Party

Mark your calendar for March 13 and 14 for The Bobbles Annual Planning Party. Its been such a success that we had to add a second day to the venue. Spaghetti w/ Sunday gravy on Saturday night at Todd's house and brunch at Amber's house Sunday. Now there is no excuse for missing it, so be at the Cross-roads of Connecticut, which if you didn't know is Cromwell, and plan this coming riding season. Further details to follow. For Questions and concerns please contact Todd @ 860-632-1047 or Amber @ 860-635-1983. Be there or be squared or both.

Todd Gagnon

And Now For Something Completely Different

Bingo in Bristol. Tuesday, February 17, St. Stanislaus Church [basement below church], 510 West Street, Bristol (corner of Routes 6 & 69). Doors open at 4:30, first game starts at 6:45. \$10 get you in the door and bingo sheets for 14 of the 23+ games. Another \$6 will get you 1 sheet for every game played [dabbers available for \$1.25] snacks available or bring your own NO alcohol or smoking in hall. Mark it on your calendar Be there.

Matt Strus

Items For Sale or Wanted For Sale

1994 BMW R100 Mystic, BMW hard bags 28K miles asking \$6k. Contact Clyde Pratt 607-725-7011 or E-mail qwak@juno.com (ad posted 1/04)
69/2 conversion, '79 R100 motor and Ural sidecar, asking \$8k Contact Clyde Pratt 607-725-7011 or E-mail qwak@juno.com (ad posted 1/04)

Some additional bikes for sale, owned by non-club members, may be found on our web site. Check the "For Sale" listings located there.

2003 and 2004 Calendar of Events

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.

February

February 17 -- And Now for Something Completely Different. Bingo in Bristol. Details to the left.
February 29 -- (CRV) CRV Meeting. Details on page 4.

March

March 13 & 14 -- (CRV) Bobble's Annual Planning Party Details to the left.
March 21 -- (CRV) CRV Meeting and Swap Meet. Details on page 4.

April

April 17 -- Cliff's BMW 3rd Technical Event, "BMW RIDERS APPAREL TECH DAY" with special guests from W.L. Gore (maker of Gore-tex) and BMW North America's product development manager. Held at Cliff's BMW Motorcycles of Danbury. Visit: <http://www.danburybmw.com>

May

May 28-31 -- (CRV) 18th Charter Oak Rally. Current details are on page 3.

June

July

July 9 -12 -- Top O' The Rockies Rally. Paonia, Colorado. Check out the web site for info and a registration form www.coloradobeemers.com

August

August 13-15 -- [B]⁵ Gathering in Montrose, PA. Details to follow or currently on our CRV Web Site.

February 2004

NEWS

CRVBMWR

CRVBMWR
c/o Tracy Smith
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It's been an icy winter, watch for pot holes and sand on your early season rides.