

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@comcast.net

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 Captain
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

President's Column

Plan to get more active in CRV club activities in coming months. There are ways to assure a successful year of motorcycling with friends. More members will show up for rides, meetings and other events starting with the next one. Maybe you haven't been active in the CRVBMW Riders for any reason or no particular one. Whenever members and friends get together we share common interests in riding, accessorizing, maintaining and repairing, buying and selling motorcycles. Most of us have something to tell about and everyone has something to listen to as we share our favorite interests, motorcycles and food.

The March Meeting /Swap Meet is a fine opportunity to bring someone to the brief meeting and to have a tantalizing glimpse of a member's workplace. The products at the site, fine art reproductions and home decor, will be worth viewing and you may walk away with the great door prize. You may want to stop in nearby for a meal after the meeting.

Look for details and directions in this issue.

We are looking for volunteers to plan or lead rides to interesting destinations or to wander along good roads. Good roads to an interesting location

Larry Friedman

would be the best deal.

A Spring ride to a motorcycle exhibit in Albany is being mapped out. CRV will have a booth at Don Clady's big new Super Ride on Mother's Day in Hartford. Several single day rides with a lunch stop as well as an overnight ride to Vermont will be on the schedule too. CRV members will be riding to Spokane and back in July for the BMWMOA national rally. That should be good for 6,000 miles or so. Some of us like to ride alone and others in small groups. Most are agreeable to gathering at day's end along the trail to unwind and resume the journey in the morning.

On our longer rides there are campers, modelers and those who alternate.

Motorcyclists in the CRV club, and riders in general, represent diverse life experiences, areas of expertise and financial means. Everyone seems to have a balance in these areas and mutual respect is the common attribute. Humility usually rules with rare exceptions adding comic relief.

Recent weeks have seen new members signing up. It is encouraging to see younger people, more women riders and a wider geographic representation.

See you at the next gathering where we will see an old friend you hadn't known before.

Recruit a Member

Do someone a favor.

Introduce them to our club and encourage them to join. Remember that membership in the CRVBMW Riders is not limited to BMW motorcycle riders.

From the Office of the Cat

Hard to believe it is time to start planning for the MDA Ride. 2004 will be the 22nd year. Thank everyone so much for the continued support. Ralph has offered the location and assistance of his staff at Canton Cycles of Winsted for the ride. If anyone has any ideas please let us know what they are. Hopefully we can collect input and start working on it before the next newsletter. The earlier we start, the easier it is. I have heard that theory anyway. In reality there is an 8-ball resting on

(continued on the next page)

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

- March 13 -- (CRV) Rally Meeting
- March 13 & 14 -- (CRV) Bobble's Annual Planning
- March 21 -- (CRV) CRV Meeting and Swap Meet
- April 17 -- Cliff's BMW 3rd Technical Event
- May 28-31 -- (CRV) 18th Charter Oak Rally

the shelf above the computer. Just a subtle reminder of being behind...

I was looking at Sunday, the first of August for this year's ride. Any input on that? Many are going to Spokane, WA for the MOA national. Some are going out or back on the Lewis and Clark trail for its bicentennial. Is there enough time to get back for those who are planning this adventure? The basic format has worked pretty well. Any comments or suggestions? If someone would like to handle pre-registration details it would be a huge help. I have some basic forms to work with. Would someone like to coordinate food? The simple way is to get it from the Winsted Super Saver. It has been suggested that Bozzuto's IGA in Cheshire can offer more as a wholesale source. Maybe we could do something different. Any ideas?

There is always discussion about starting and stopping in the same place or going from the start to a different destination. It is easier to set up, collect more funds, keep things organized and clean up all at one spot. It also takes fewer volunteers. With Canton's new location we can go further west and take in some new roads. People can come and go all day and with the prizes pre pulled it seems to go over pretty well.

Speaking of roads, would anyone like to set up some routes? Anyone interested in putting up and taking down signs? Anyone for checking the route and route sheets? Any ideas for some stops or points of interest in the area? We could always play connect the dots with roads.

Ralph responded enthusiastically to a recent email. This is an excerpt of his response: †"Canton Cycles will do whatever we can on the MDA ride as usual. We can meet here whenever needed. Dinner is optional. [at the meetings] Need all the help we can muster up, normal business requirements and family matters are draining me, but will do what I can. My crew is at your disposal too. Lets get Keith to start calling suppliers for door prizes. We can get a lot of people we know to put it on web site event pages. Need date first. As president of the CT. M/C Dealers Assoc., I can get it on everything from the DMV site, the MSF site, the DEP site, Don Clady's Super Sunday web site and his new magazine, the CT Cruise News, etc. etc. We can get it listed in all the magazines in New England and NY. Got good inside contacts with the local newspapers and town officials if we can use them. Winsted loves us here. Anyway, lets all brainstorm.

Let me know what's up...

Ride fast, take chances...

Ralph"

And from "pres. for life" Larry "Initial planning would be good. The event always goes well, but the turnout could always be bigger. My usual suggestion is to place a large emphasis on promotion and recruitment. There are marketing experts among us."

If you have any ideas please email john.badeen@snet.net or call 860-496-7074. I plan to

(continued on the next column)

have a meeting soon and start working on your ideas. Ed Mix has offered his humble abode yet again for a meeting. Particulars of the meeting will be posted on the web site with information in the next newsletter if the timing works.

Thanks
nh0J

2004 Grand Tour The Great White North Grand Tour

General Information

When: April 1 to October 31, 2004

Where: Anywhere USA

All entrees receive a Grand Tour pin and flag.
Ride to at least 30 towns having North in their name.

Proof of visit will be a photo of your bike and the GT flag next to a town limit or other official sign.

Finishers earn a jacket patch and eligibility for door prizes.

Tour begins 4/1 and registration remains open until 9/1.

Entries are limited, so reserve your place today!

Entry fee is \$22 (\$27 with a passenger) mailed to CRVBMW c/o J. Stiefel, 35 Saw Mill Road, Burlington, CT 06013. Check or money order payable to CRVBMW preferred.

Your tour packet with pin, flag, and rules will be mailed prior to 4/1. For more information, contact John Stiefel (860-404-8850 or john_stiefel@yahoo.com) or visit www.crvbmw.org for more information and forms.

Application on page 6

Rules on page 3

April Newsletter Deadline

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

The Great White North Grand Tour -- Official Rules

The Connecticut River Valley Riders would like to thank you for joining us in the 2004 Great White North Grand Tour.

1. You are allowed a maximum of seven months, from April 1st to October 31st, 2004, to ride to as many towns as you can. You will have until the end of August 2004 to enter but the sooner you sign up, the sooner you can start.
2. Towns must have North in the name. For example, North Granby or North Haven are acceptable, as are Northville, Northfield, and Northford.
3. A photo will be used as proof of your visit to a town. Required in each photo will be (1) your bike (or any portion of your bike), (2) your Grand Tour flag and (3) an official town sign such as a town limit, post office, police or fire station, school, library, or town hall. Quasi-government signs (such as train stations, water towers, community service organizations i.e. Lions Club, VFW) indicating the name of the town will be accepted if the name of the town is very clearly indicated. Signs should indicate that you are at the town, not just headed there, so signs with an arrow giving the direction to a town or the distance to a town are not acceptable. Signs on businesses are not acceptable. Digital cameras are permitted, but only printed photographs should be submitted.
4. The word "town" is used generically so townships, villages, hamlets, cities, etc. are acceptable. Counties are not acceptable. States are not acceptable (a variation for this year.) Naturally, signs for non-town place names like North Avenue or North Street Station are not allowed.
5. A town name cannot be used more than once (another variation for this year due to the large number of towns that fit the profile). Of course, this means the state is not required on the signs.
6. The town name must be as legible as reasonably possible in the photographs. The judges believe that the challenge of the tour is to identify and ride to towns, and then find an acceptable sign, so they will be somewhat forgiving with respect to photographic quality. If a photo is not perfectly clear to a viewer who might be rapidly reviewing a large number of photographs, please write helpful information on the back to guide the judge. These special notes should be written in pencil as ink can bleed into photo solution.
7. Riders may ride outside the U.S. borders to get their pictures, especially into the Great White North (beware of ice.) Photo rules still apply.
8. If entered as rider and passenger, the passenger should be visible in about half of the photos. Although not mandatory, try to get at least one photo with both of you in the photograph. Likewise, it is suggested that single riders try to be in at least one scene as well.
10. Do not lose your Grand Tour flag, as it may not be replaced. (Not that anyone loses their flag intentionally.

Replacements will depend on availability.) If you find someone else's flag, please leave it, as the owner may return for it. Please note its location and number and notify the judges ASAP and we will contact the rider.

11. To complete the tour and reach the Bronze achievement level, riders must ride to a minimum of 30 towns. Riders that visit at least 60 towns will move up to the Silver level. The Gold tier of achievement starts at 90 towns. Bronze finishers will receive a Bronze Presidents' Grand Tour of the Americas patch plus an entry into the door prize drawings. Silver finishers receive a silver Presidents' Grand Tour of the Americas patch and two entries toward the door prizes. Gold finishers receive a gold Presidents' Grand Tour of the Americas patch and three entries toward the door prizes. Additionally, there may be special awards for the top ten riders as special recognition of their accomplishment.

12. For ease of tabulation, please keep your photos together until you are finished with the Grand Tour and submit the photos in a single group. Also, please submit your photos in alphabetical order. If you would also like to submit your mileage from the Grand Tour, you are encouraged to do so, as well as any information you think the judges may find interesting. Grand Tour results, awards and door prizes (if you win) will be sent to Grand Tour finishers as soon as all photos are reviewed and the data compiled.

13. All proof-of-visit photos must be postmarked no later than October 31st. Send them to: CRV, John Stiefel, 35 Saw Mill Road, Burlington, CT 06013. Photos will not be returned unless prior arrangements are made (i.e. a note indicating your desire to have them returned ... postage when they are sent for judging). Connecticut River Valley reserves the right to use any of the photos submitted for our review, blah, blah, blah. (We may post some of the more interesting ones on our web site.)

14. Please provide the judges your email address, if you have one. Email will be used instead of USPS whenever possible to reduce costs. (Postage is one of the largest costs for the Grand Tour.)

15. The judges prefer that any questions or clarification be directed to the judges through the Yahoo Groups email list (Grand_Tour@yahoogroups.com) so that other participants may benefit from the answers. The list includes an archive of past emails, as well as a "Files" section that includes relevant documents. If you choose to email questions directly to the judges, they may copy the question and the answer to the Yahoo Groups list if others may benefit from the question.

16. Judges' decisions are final.

...and remember, have fun, ride safe and enjoy your summer!

CRV Web Site Address

Visit our CRVBMW Web Site at

<http://www.crvbmw.org>

More Words of Motorcycle Wisdom

Owning two bikes is useful because at least one can be raided for parts at any given time.

You'll know she loves you if she offers to let you ride her bike.

Don't do it and she'll love you even more.

Don't argue with an 18-wheeler.

Never be ashamed to unlearn an old habit.

Maintenance is as much art as it is science.

A good long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

If the countryside seems boring, stop, get off your bike, and go sit in the ditch long enough to appreciate what was here before the asphalt came.

If you ride like there's no tomorrow - there won't be.

Bikes parked out front mean good chicken-fried steak inside.

Gray-haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.

The best modifications cannot be seen from the outside.

Always replace the cheapest parts first.

You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.

From the book:

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

Written by Penny Powers and Chuck Hays

Murphy's Laws of Motorcycling

The farther it is to the next gas stop, the larger the bug that will hit your shield exactly on the sight line.

When you dry out after riding through some rain, it will start raining again just when you begin to feel comfortable.

The chance that your bike insurer will find out about that big ticket received in a non-reciprocal state is 100%.

If you run out of gas, no matter which way you decide to push, the closest gas station will always be uphill and in the other direction. Corollary: The likelihood of running out increases when all of the nearby gas stations are closed.

The chance of your helmet dropping hard onto a rough concrete or asphalt surface is proportional to its newness and expense.

You only realize the bike's keys are in your pants pocket after you've put on all of your riding gear.

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.

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.

Bobble's Annual Planning Party

Mark on your Calendar March 13th and 14th for The Bobble's annual planning party. It has been such a success that we had to add a second day to the venue. Spaghetti w/ Sunday gravy on Saturday night Around 6pm at Todd's house and Brunch at Amber's house Sunday morning. Now there is no excuse for missing it, so be at the Cross-roads of Connecticut, which if you didn't know is Cromwell. So, bring your pocket calendar a pen and don't forget your favorite **libation** in order to plan this upcoming riding season. Please Map Quest to Todd's House @ 23 Pleasant Street Cromwell, Ct and Art and Amber's house @2 Juniper Hill Court @Cromwell Hills Cromwell, Ct. For Questions and concerns please contact Todd @ 860-632-1047 or Amber @ 860-635-1983. **Please RSVP** to tgagnon@cromwellct.com or call and leave a message.

Todd Gagnon

Rally Meeting

I'll be having a Rally committee meeting on Saturday March 13th. The meeting will start at 4:00pm. It will end by 6:00pm. As it will be time to move over to the Annual Planning meeting which will be at Todd Gagon's house. A scant mile from my place where the Rally meeting will be held.

Hopefully we will have some questions and answers from the 1st meeting. It is okay if you cannot make it. But if you do have concerns let me know so we can discuss them and come up with what works best.

I live at 409 Main St. Cromwell CT. Just to the south of Greenhouses, center of the building apt.#4 ground floor and under the stairs. Give a call at 860-635-1173 or(e-mail brainfish@deadhorse.com) so I can be on the lookout for you

Don't be afraid, I won't assign much work.

see you Brian

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.

March

- March 13 -- (CRV) Rally Meeting. Details to the left
- 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 7.

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.

The Great White North Grand Tour



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 John Stiefel, 35 Saw Mill Road, Burlington, CT 06013. Please make checks or money orders payable to —CRVBMWR—. 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 (or April 1.) Registration is open until August 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 Grand Tour 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 Grand Tour, 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 Grand Tour and hereby waive any and all claims I may have against the Grand Tour, its organizers, agents and sponsors as a result of my participation Grand Tour. I further agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Grand Tour, its organizers, agents and sponsors any claims against them by third parties as a result of my conduct of actions during the Grand Tour. 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 _____



CHARTER OAK

Eighteenth Annual

Charter Oak Rally

May 28 - 31, 2004

Sponsored by CT River Valley BMW Riders, Inc.

Includes:

- * Saturday night entertainment
- * 2 Free dinners
- * Breakfasts included free, continental breakfast on Monday
- * FREE chili Friday night while it lasts!
- * FREE continuous coffee
- * Snacks available on the site
- * 3 nights camping and hot showers
- * Door prizes
- * Organized rides
- * Poker Run
- * Rally Awards
- * Modern enclosed pavilion and facilities
- * Cabins available for clubs for \$35
- * Rally pin, cup and dinners guaranteed to first 200
- * Other surprises planned

For Preregistration contact:

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

For cabin info contact Brian Fisk 860-635-1173
 or e-mail brainfish@deadhorse.com

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

Location: Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center,
 Marlborough, Connecticut

Registration: \$40 preregistration (prior to May 18), \$45 at the Gate. Children 6-15 \$23, \$28 at the Gate, 5 and under FREE.



Directions: In Marlborough Center, at the

intersection of Routes 2 and 66, take South Main Street. (The 4-H Outdoor Center is approximately 3.5 miles from Route 66.) After that you will come to a Y, South Road bears to the right. Take South Road. At the STOP, continue straight. The Hartford County 4-H camp will be on your left. Follow the "4-H" signs.

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: _____ Send me information on cabins: Y N

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 4-H Hartford County 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 2004
NEWS
CRVBMWR

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

Charter Oak Rally and Grand Tour Registrations are enclosed.