

CRVBMWWR NEWS

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

AMA #05636
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President
Larry Friedman
413-562-3164
lfrdmn@comcast.net

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

Treasurer
Mark Altschwager
860-693-6460
maltschwager@comcast.net

Secretary
Linda Combe
860-257-4285
lincombe@cox.net

Road Captain
Chris Jennings
203-368-9281

Co-Road Captain
Marshall Robinson
203-271-2378
mkrobinson@cox.net

Member-At-Large
Keith Olsen
203-531-6447
crvbmw@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Keith Olsen
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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 06830-6012

Solo Rides vs. Group Rides

by Chris Jennings

It is my observation that most BMW riders are lone wolves, unlike our Harley riding brethren who travel in packs. I suppose I am as much a product of this phenomenon as anyone else. For instance if I'm going on a long trip I usually ride by myself. That doesn't mean that I don't occasionally enjoy a group ride. Each type of riding has its advantages and disadvantages.

When one rides by one's self decisions can be made on the fly: camp or motel, take a break or keep going, Burger King or the local BBQ joint, the choices are endless. Freedom is a good thing.

When one travels with a riding partner or a group, one has to take the needs of others into account. However this can also be a good thing. You don't usually have to search for a restaurant or motel or a comfort stop because the knowledge of the group outweighs the knowledge of the one. That reminds me of a quote from Mr. Spock, but I digress . . .

The reason I raise these points is that I notice a low turnout on most group rides. I am curious as to whether other ride leaders are experiencing the same thing. Granted I know people have

other things to do. People who ride motorcycles work, have families and are also involved in other past times. Hey some sunny days I'm out working in my garden rather than putting miles on one of the bikes. However I think that a club, like CRV, is a bit like life. You get as much out of it as you put into it. On that note I would encourage you to go on an occasional group ride. You might see some nice roads you wouldn't have seen otherwise. You might stop at that great little restaurant you didn't know existed. You might hang out with some people who share something in common with you that you wouldn't otherwise stop to talk to. Corpe Diem . . . That's Latin for "seize the fish" or something like that!

Ferry and Long Island Ride

On June 3, Road Captain, Chris Jennings, finally succeeded in leading his ride on Long Island. Four riders enjoyed the day. Chris timed things perfectly (or with a lot of luck) and we boarded each ferry minutes before they were underway.

Chris led the route, on the north side of Long Island, from Orient Point to Port Jefferson.

The day was shortened because of the threat of late afternoon storms. A scenic route, lobster salad for lunch and making it home before the storms made it a great day.

Keith Olsen



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

- June 30 -- CRV Meeting
- July 19 -- R Bike Service Seminar. Cliff's Cycle Revolution
- July 22 -- Ride to Weir Farm National Historic Site
- July 27-29 -- Sweaty Boobs, Andover, CT
- Aug 17-19 -- B5 Rally at Bob Naramore's, Montrose, PA
- August 18 -- Helge Pedersen. Cliff's Cycle Revolution

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.

June

June 30 -- CRV Meeting. Details to the right.

July

July 12-15 -- MOA Wisconsin

July 13 -- NY State Hog Rally

July 19 -- R Bike Service Seminar. Cliff's Cycle Revolution. 6:00pm. Join us for a technical overview of the R series BMW bikes. Light refreshments. RSVP to service@cliffsbmw.com

July 22 -- Ride to Weir Farm National Historic Site. Details on page 3.

July 27-29 -- Sweaty Boobs, Andover, CT

August

August 3-5 -- Elk Mountain (Chet's place)

Aug 10-12 -- Lisa and Jeff's Shelton, CT

Aug 17-19 -- B5 Rally at Bob Naramore's, Montrose, PA

August 18 -- Helge Pedersen. Cliff's Cycle Revolution. In-store, all day. Join us with renowned bike touring expert, Helge Pedersen, for two daytime seminars, GPS for Beginners and Tire Change and Repair. In the evening, he will present his multi-media presentation "Best of World Touring". Refreshments will be served. RSVP to sales@cliffsbmw.com

August 24 -- K Bike Service Seminar. Cliff's Cycle Revolution. Join us for a technical overview of the R series BMW bikes. Light refreshments. RSVP to service@cliffsbmw.com

Aug 23-26 -- Four Winds, Johnstown, PA

August 26 -- Dream Ride 2007 in support of the Special Olympics of CT. Details on the CRV Web Site.

August 31-September 3 -- Finger Lakes Rally

September

September 7 -- Ducati Service Seminar. Cliff's Cycle Revolution. In-store, 6:00pm. Join us for a technical overview of Ducati bikes. Light refreshments. RSVP to service@cliffsbmw.com

September 30 -- Oktoberfest. Cliff's Cycle Revolution's Open house 10:00-3:00. Please join us for our annual open house. Plenty of discounts, great food, attractions, and good company.

June CRV Meeting

The June CRV Meeting will be a breakfast meeting on Saturday, June 30. The meeting will be held at the Log Cabin, on Route 44 in New Hartford, beginning at 9:00am. Members should proceed to the back dining room and order as they arrive to avoid overwhelming the waitress and cooks. There will be riding opportunities following the meeting.

Motorcycle Etiquette

Here's a link to an informational and helpful web site that was emailed to me by Marshall Robinson. It suggests signals and procedures to be used when group riding. You may want to bookmark this link:

<http://www.njmc.org/etiquette/>

Items For Sale or Wanted

For Sale

2003 K1200LTC Silver: 11K miles, regularly dealership maintained, passenger floor board and arm rests plus bag liners. All standard features intact: cruise, AM/FM/CD, etc. Always garaged. Looks nice, runs great. Priced to sell \$10,500 Call Forrest at 860-873-8712 or email to ama_rep@sprynet.com (ad posted 5/07)

1983 60th Anniversary, pearl white R100RT with 97K miles. New Bing rebuilds. One owner with 20+ years of misc. parts, regularly dealership maintained. Always garaged. Looks nice, runs great. Priced to sell \$2,500 Call Forrest at 860-873-8712 or email to ama_rep@sprynet.com (ad posted 5/07)

July Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, July 30, is the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter.

CRV Web Site Address

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

Ride to Weir Farm National Historic Site

What is Weir Farm? It was the home of American Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir. There is a visitor's center with a short videotape, guided tours of two art studios and walking trails crossing the close to sixty acre property.

Why are we going there? It is Connecticut's only National Historic site. I've never been there and I bet most people reading this haven't been there either.

How are we getting there? We're riding our motorcycles. That's kind of a stupid question . . . Why are you asking me? Seriously . . . we shall start from my usual starting point, which is the breakfast meeting place in Guilford, at 9:00AM on Sunday, July 22. That's Sunday, July 22, for those of you that need a reminder. We shall ride north a bit and then take a meandering and hopefully scenic ride through southwestern Connecticut. There will be a lunch stop. We may also have breakfast with the breakfast crowd because this is not a long ride. We may also stop for ice cream if it's hot. I know a couple of places where you can get ice cream and eat it in close proximity to the cows that gave it to you. This is not so bad as it may sound.

Anyone who is interested can give me a call at 203-368-9281. Please leave a message and I will get back to you if you indicate you would like me to call back. If you don't call, you're more than welcome to just show up. There will be a small fine if you do this . . . I'm kidding. I hope to see you there.

Chris Jennings
Road Captain

Jeff Rose and I rode for a couple of hundred miles in CT, Dutchess and Columbia Counties in NY and then into Mass and down to Salisbury and home. It was a great day!



Where in Connecticut were Marshall and Jeff nearly attacked by the monster in the attached photo? Guess it right and you win the opportunity to vote for the Republican of my choice in the next election.

Marshall

Today started out as a great ride. Al Fletcher, his wife, and myself met at the usual place for breakfast and took a circuitous route through Kent to Amenia (amnesia). After that we rode straight up Rt. 22 to Rt. 2 near the north border of Mass. We took Rt. 2 East and stopped to admire the view from an overlook that is at the North end of the Taconic mountain range.



We then rode down Rt. 7 to the Mt. Greylock area where the rain started. We pulled into a gas station, gassed up, and donned our rain gear. In Pittsfield, we went east to Rt. 8 and took that to Winsted where we parted company. I went down Rt. 8 and Al and his wife took Rt. 44 East. Back in Mass, we stopped at a well-known chicken "farm" for afternoon snacks. If I said Chicken Ranch how many of you would know what I was referring to? At any rate, the rain was some of the worse that I've ridden in during daylight hours. It rained all the way to my home in Cheshire, 101 miles. I put on a total of 262 miles and Al put on more.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of good rain gear and waterproof boots. After 101 miles the only thing wet on me was a small spot on the front of my shirt collar. One thing I will tell you about riding in the rain that's kind of nice is that all the straight-piped two cylinder American bikes are nowhere to be seen or heard. They all find cover. I guess rain gear isn't macho.



We rode through an area in CT known as Macedonia, not the Macedonia in Greece. Without looking at a map, guess where it is?

Ride safe,
Marshall

Ride to Washington and Deals Gap

Four of us left CT on Friday, 5-11-07 and rode to Falls Church, VA, which is inside the beltway. On Saturday, we participated in a ride in Virginia and got rained on. We also got rained on on Friday in Conn. Sunday was the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Law Ride. There were over a thousand cops and retired cops from all over the US. Rt. 50 and one of the interstate roads are shut down for us. We rode 2 abreast to RFK Stadium and from there rode 2 abreast through the city streets of D.C. (which were also shut off for us) to the Law Enforcement Memorial for services.



After that we headed to Front Royal, VA to begin our ride to North Carolina and the beginning of the Tail of The Dragon

Dragon ride. We chose to ride Rt. I-81 South instead of the Blue Ridge Parkway because of time constraints. We spent Sunday night in Roanoke, VA and Monday night in Murphy, No. Carolina.



On Tuesday, May 15th, we rode the Tail of The Dragon twice and also rode the Cherohala Skyway. I can't tell you how beautiful East Tennessee and West North Carolina are. The scenery is beyond description. The Tail of The Dragon, Rt. US129 is challenging and really not all that bad. The difficulty of the ride is directly proportional to your speed. The major hazard is the nitwits on their "rice rockets". They are insane and very reckless and a danger to all the other motoring public on that road. I had one pass me on a blind curve. One of them passed a lady who was in our group and ran her off the road. She crashed her bike and he disappeared - what a man! She didn't get injured and was able to ride her bike.



If any of you ever do this ride you must ride the Cherohala Skyway, it's one of the most awesome rides I have ever done. After riding the Cherohala Skyway, we rode Rt. 143 East out of Robbinsville to Rt. 28 which took us back to Deals Gap and we rode the Dragon a second time because it was the most direct way for us to head to Knoxville, TN. We then rode to Roanoke, Stroudsburg, PA and home. I got home today at around noon and put 2202 miles on the bike. Marshall

Spring Camping in Connecticut

Some of us CRV members found a glorious weekend in April to camp at Housatonic Falls Park in Ct. In attendance were Jon Stiefel, Brainfish, Harley (Buell) Joe, Lauren, Jeff



and Lisa- with a few kids, Voyle, me, and another guy- I forget his name. Joe Newinski stopped for the afternoon. The weather was great- and one person even came in a car with some firewood for the cool evening. Riding was spectacular- as some of us headed down to Cliff's vintage days in Danbury- stopping for lunch on the way back in Kent.



Some of us even went up to the top of Mohawk Mountain to take in the view.

Breakfast at the Wandering Moose on rt. 128 by the covered bridge in Cornwell is always good. They make their own hash!! Everyone brought some kind of food or munchies, and a cool back roads trip to the supermarket rounded out the grilled dinner that fed everyone Saturday night.

As an extra benefit, I discovered a new use for the miles of polypropylene strapping that I have for my small



business (www.dwapickle.com). It can be used as a handy dandy carrying handle for fire wood! Our own John Stiefel is showing us the correct way to use it.

Get out there and ride!!!

By Siouzzanne Harris

Submit your articles and images for the next newsletter. Share your rides and activities with other CRV members.

Keith
Newsletter Editor

June 2007

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CRVBMWR
c/o Keith Olsen
53 Richland Road
Greenwich, CT 06830-6012

Enjoy all the riding opportunities shared by other members.