

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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Trip to the Southeast USA

by Mike McGlamery

When I retired from teaching, I promised myself that I would take a fall trip each year while school was in session. The South has been a mystery and beckoning me, so last year I took 10 days and rode to Birmingham, AL for the Vintage Races at Barber Motor Sport Park, incorporating Deals Gap in the ride. This year's trip was to be a slow, back roads ride through the coastal environs of the Delmarva Peninsula, the Carolinas, Georgia and Northern Florida. Stops and highlights would be stay-overs with my sisters in Lancaster, PA and Asheville, NC and a cousin in Palm Coast, FL, and stops at National Historical Monuments and Sites. The first and last days were dominated by the "slab" to and from Lancaster, PA (I-84, I-684, I-287, I-78). The rest was on the so-called "Blue Highways". My intentions were to camp as often as possible, eat very little from restaurants, to go slow and see the sights, to spend at least a night with a view of the Atlantic Ocean and to geocache along the way, with coordinates downloaded to my GPS. My first sight of water was in Virginia Beach and my first and only night of camping occurred in Chesapeake, VA, pitching my

tent in the dark and packing it up in the dark. With the exception of 5 nights spent with relatives, I had to resort to staying in motels because campgrounds did not present themselves to me when the sun began to set and it set FAST. Too bad, because for the most part the weather was great and warm.

So, I visited the Wright Brothers National Monument, which was pretty cool, with a beautiful new sculpture of the "first flight" to behold.

We have all seen photos of the first flight at Kitty Hawk, and at this place, with a vivid imagination, one can actually "see" the event as it might have taken place. I also visited the Lost Colony on Roanoke Island, and then rode past the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge on roads as straight and desolate as you might find in Wyoming, finally settling for a motel in the shadows of Camp Lejeune, NC. The fence bordering the Marine Base is covered with hundreds of makeshift signs welcoming home loved ones. I read many as I rode by with one heart shaped sign on a bed sheet emoting "We Love You, Mommy" with names and drawings from the

kids, standing out from the others.

My first ferry ride was from Ft. Fisher, a Confederate Stronghold at the neck of land in southern North Carolina near the mouth of the Cape Fear River to Southport, NC, a beautiful and historic little beach town. Most of the time was spent on the bike, covering ground, taking in the scenes with my eyes, but every so often I would remember that I had a camera. Suffice it to say, my pictures are just a small sample of the beautiful sights I enjoyed. On both of my trips to the South, I was amazed to see cotton fields and this time I passed many, with cotton balls blowing around on the highway. I also passed rice and tobacco "plantations" and saw the ocean more than once. I found myself in Beaufort, SC, with Parris Island close by. Beaufort is a very nice Southern Coastal town, north of Hilton Head Island and Savannah, GA. On Monday, my motel room was \$59. When the marines graduate from boot camp and the families come in for

(continued on the next page)

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

November 8&9 -- Fall Campout

November 16 -- November CRVBMW Election Meeting

January 17 -- CRVBMW Winter Banquet

the festivities, rooms cost \$109. “Country First” translated means “Money First”! I rode around Savannah and decided it needed a multi-day visit, with WJ, but I did ride out to Tybee Island, a wonderful and funky beach town on the Ocean. I also spent some time visiting Fort Pulaski a Confederate and ultimately Federal fort east of Savannah. Robert E. Lee planned the construction of this fort, which was taken by the Union, following a terrific artillery battle. The old fort still shows the battle marks. Savannah and in fact throughout the Coastal South is adorned with beautiful old trees laden with Spanish moss, blowing in the wind. Just beautiful . . .

I also crossed the Intracoastal Waterway or the ICW, as it is called, many times, which was always a treat, with some of the causeways architecturally beautiful. One of my wishes came true, as I stayed in a Day’s Inn, behind the dunes, right on the ocean, on Jeckle Island, GA, \$59/night, including breakfast. To stay true to my “restaurant challenge”, I bought a Swanson roasted turkey microwavable dinner and a king-sized Red Stripe for \$7 total and ate in my ocean side room.

Florida was my ultimate destination, to visit a cousin who lives in Palm Coast, just south of St. Augustine. The weather in Florida was warm (87 degrees and humid) and rainy during the afternoon/evening hours. There was even a tornado warning! My cousin lives in Marina Cove, a gated community, where you can park your boat in your back yard. The folks here seem to live very well, but with a “fortress mentality”, as I passed MANY of these highly secured neighborhoods with the prevalent MCCAIN/PALIN signs adorning the roadsides. Even some schools are fenced and gated with a security guard. Speaking of forts, I visited the British Fort Frederica, on St. Simon’s Island in Georgia and the Spanish forts Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas in Florida. In the early 1700’s, the British and Spanish had good relations with the Indians, but were afraid of each other, protecting and fighting over their newfound possessions and wealth. Hmmm, was I witnessing the roots that spawned the present day fear and paranoia that makes people feel they need to live in an extremely secure environment?

Believe it or not, I had a nice visit with my cousin John and his wife Shari, . . .and yes, we did spar a little over our different views on the election, politics and religion, but we had fun together and I look forward to our next reunion. But, not wanting to wear out my welcome, I said my farewells after spending two nights, and began the long ride home. Shortly, about 30 minutes northwest of Palm Coast, I thought I felt ‘something not right’ with the bike, a sense of a very slight vibration. At first I thought it was the road surface, a tire issue or maybe a disk brake issue and I got off the bike to take a look. Everything seemed normal. Five minutes later, as I was going over the causeway into Palatka, FL, the vibration was now a pulsating grind, and I immediately came to a stop, to discover my rear tire drenched in oil. “Oh &#@\$!” The rear drive unit was not just leaking, it was hemorrhaging. I made

calls to AAA, Daytona BMW Motorcycle Service Dept., my cousin, and 45 minutes later I was traveling to Daytona in a tow truck. It was around noon when I got to the shop. The service manager put me at the front of the line and told me that they would have me back on the road by closing time. I also found out that this “failure” was a common occurrence on “oilheads” and they were prepared with all of the parts.

Here’s where the tale gets good . . . I removed my gear from the bike and stowed it in the service area, got what I would need for an overnight stay and phoned my cousin, who was accompanying his neighbor aboard his boat to a Daytona Beach Yacht Club for a Columbus Day weekend outing. The neighbor’s wife would join them later on, and my cousin would drive their car back home. We talked about each of our locations and as fate would have it, the boat was traveling on the ICW within view of Daytona BMW. We waved to each other! And after a ¾ mile walk to the Halifax Yacht Club, I was sitting aboard neighbor Bob’s boat with a beer in my hand. Life can be so good! Next morning, John drove me to Daytona, the GS had been test driven and deemed ready for adventure. The rear drive had a new bearing, seals and oil, new rear brake pads, as the old ones were spoiled with oil, a cleaned tire—(\$637) and I was back on the road, riding from sunrise to sunset, heading for home . . . But not before a stay over with my sister, Molly, in Asheville, NC and a visit with my sister Nancy in Lancaster, PA.

I had hoped to ride in the Okeefinokee Swamp, visit an old Southern Plantation and tour the Andersonville Civil War Prison Site, but rain changed these plans. Maybe next year! It was a super trip, with 3600 new miles on the bike and some good memories and stories to tell. It was wonderful to be “out there” experiencing this slice of America and visiting family. It is glorious to be back home with my family, my wife, my neighbors, my community . . . and the bike is washed and ready for the next trip.

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.

November

November 8&9 -- Fall Campout.

November 16 -- November CRVBMW Election Meeting.
Details on page 3.

January

January 17 -- CRVBMW Winter Banquet

**Additional activities and details are on the calendar
found at our CRVBMW Web Site**

November CRV Meeting

The November Meeting, held on November 16, will take place at Central Pizza in Berlin, CT. Central Pizza is located at 96 Mill Street, west of Route 9 and the Berlin Turnpike, at the junction of Mill St. and Webster Square St. in Berlin, CT (adjacent to route 9.) Telephone: 860-828-0133.

Come for lunch at 1:00 and the meeting will begin at 2:00P.M. Elections for 2008 CRV Officers will be held at this meeting.

2009 CRVBMW Officer Elections

The current candidates on the ballot for 2009 CRV officer positions are:

President: Larry Friedman

Vice President: Lenny LaRose

Treasurer: Mark Altschwager

Secretary: Linda Combe

Road Captain: Chris Jennings

Co-Road Captain: Marshall Robinson

Member-At-Large: Keith Olsen

Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting. Voting will occur during the November meeting described above.

December Newsletter Deadline

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

Our CRVBMW Web Site

is located at:

<http://www.crvbmw.org/>

AAA Road Insurance

Don't know how many members are aware of this feature with AAA. In Connecticut there are at least two AAA road insurance companies operating. There is the Connecticut AAA and the Hartford AAA. Hartford offers towing coverage for two and four wheeled vehicles. Connecticut AAA is only for four wheeled vehicles. Both, I believe also covers RV's. Well Duh, Which one do we want?

Now, if you go on line to apply for coverage they direct you to which ever plan your ZIP code directs them. I physically stopped in the Cromwell office (Hartford jurisdiction), told them I was a member of the CT AAA. A lady there said she would apply for a waiver from Connecticut and transfer me into Hartford. She did all the work.

I'm making an assumption that this will work for anyone wishing to transfer to the Hartford as I did this a year ago.

Good luck,

Mike Snowden

Items For Sale or Wanted

For Free

If anyone is interested in some "classic" Charter Oak Rally mugs, they're free on a first-come first-served basis. I have:

1993 - plastic - granite looking (2 of these)

1994 - plastic - greenish grey

1995 - ceramic - green print on white background

1996 - clear glass - um, clear

If interested, call or email (cchorney@snet.net) to arrange pickup in the Meriden. Chris Chorney (ad posted 11/08)

For Sale

None currently listed.

Items Wanted

None currently listed.

Minutes from the October CRV Meeting

The October monthly meeting of the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. was called to order @ 2 PM on Sunday, October 19, 2008, Larry Friedman presiding. 25 members and guests were in attendance at the Time Out Taverne in Durham, CT. 2 members were attending their first meeting.

Officers in attendance: (* = present)

President Larry Friedman *
Vice-President Lenny LaRose *
Secretary Linda Combe *
Treasurer Mark Altschwager *
Co-Road Captain Chris Jennings *
Co-Road Captain Marshall Robinson
Member-At-Large Keith Olsen *

New members Lucas Fernandez and Carl Dye introduced themselves.

Treasurer reported how much money is in our treasury.

Secretary reported we currently have 185 members; 66 of them renewed their memberships at the September picnic.

Club votes:

- Club voted to donate \$200 to Stanley Park.
- Club voted to begin giving the AMA Legislative Action Committee \$500 a year, beginning with 2008.
- Good and Welfare: club voted that the executive board will use their discretion to decide what should be sent to or in the name of members who have a personal or family event, such as illness, surgery, etc. It can be donations, flowers, gift baskets, cards, etc.

Club Officers: there were no new 2009 nominations; all current officers agreed to run for the same offices for 2009.

Chris Jennings will be Rally Chairperson for 2009. He wants to be able to start planning for the rally early. Keith will be looking to see if MOA had digitized magazines from past years online so he can view some of our past advertising.

Larry's friends Jean and Russ Kopus have traveled extensively around the world and are currently in either India or Nepal. Larry will post the link to their blog on the CRV list.

Larry said we will get more cards that say, "You have just met a member of CRVBMW Riders" so club members can give to people as they meet them. The new card will add the CRV website link. Keith will be looking into Kinko's.

Matt Strus reported there are stickers and tee-shirts available. He ordered 50 embroidered hats that will sell for approx. \$15 apiece. Also ordered one man's and one woman's golf shirt with the CRVBMW logo so we can see what they look like. He should definitely have them by the Winter Banquet.

Few members have expressed interest in the Crash Management course. If more people don't sign up, we will have to forgo having a course for our club.

Larry gave out some BMWMOA applications to those who were not already members that give the applicant 3 free months membership (3 free magazines).

Matt Strus announced he and Jim Haggerty are planning a CRV cruise to the inland passage of Alaska in summer or 2010. Going with Norwegian Cruise Lines because they have the freestyle meal plan. Example of a fare would be around \$1500 pp for a balcony room with extra savings for early bookings.

Winter Banquet will be the 3rd Saturday in January (Jan. 17) at the Polish National Home in Hartford.

We will be voting at our next meeting at the meeting since no one is running opposed. There will be no emailed or mailed voting ballots.

Pat McGinley was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. He won \$40.

Our next meeting will be November 16th at Central Pizza in Berlin, CT.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM by Larry Friedman, President.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Combe, Secretary
Connecticut River BMW Riders, Inc.
Date: 10/19/08

(continued in the next column)

A Ride to Rhode Island

In early mid-October, four of us met at the Aero Diner in Willimantic (many prefer to say Windham) for a nice



breakfast. Al Fletcher then led us on a very nice, spirited, ride to Jamestown, Rhode Island and Beavertail State Park.



The attached photos are of the lighthouse and a seascape at Beavertail. It was a great day and a great ride. I rode 237 miles.

Marshall Robinson

CRVBMW Winter Banquet

It may be hard to believe, but plans are already in full development for this year's CRV Winter Banquet. For your information:

Date: Saturday, January 17

Location: The Polish National Home in Hartford

Cost: \$28 per person

Full details and registration information will be coming in the December Newsletter.

The Importance of Learning to Ride Slowly

Recently, I had the chance to watch my town's motorcycle patrol teach, learn and practice the skills used to maneuver a motorcycle at a slower than walking speed and in tight quarters. This was not an event that was meant for observation, but I happened to see it occurring in the back of a large public parking lot.

It was very educational . . . and gave me a challenge to try to duplicate some of the skills they were working on learning. I wanted to ride my bike onto their course and try it myself. Though this was only training and it appeared to be the initial training for some, they were not using smaller, more easily maneuverable bikes, but their large, fully loaded Harley-Davidson bikes.

I watched in awe as the most experienced riders were able to move smoothly and maintain full control while doing multiple turns in a space I did not think was possible for them to complete one turn, yet they did multiple turns and without stopping were able to reverse the direction of their turn and continue doing more turns while riding in the opposite direction. Some were able to ride; slow their bike; stop and maintain their bike in an upright position, without ever dabbing their foot to the ground; and after 15-20 seconds smoothly and quickly accelerate forward.

On the other hand, the beginners were having major difficulties. Foot dabs to the ground were constantly seen. The town taxpayers would surely be glad that these bikes had strong and properly placed crashed bars . . . because these bikes were crashing to the ground consistently and loudly.

What did I consider while watching this training . . . that a lot of the ability to ride slow has to do with the rider's confidence in his or her self and his or her confidence in the capabilities of their bikes. We all know the importance of riding a bike slowly . . . but maybe we all need to review and practice to get a little better at this valuable skill.

Keith Olsen

November 2008
NEWS
CRVBMWR

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The November CRVBMW Election Meeting will be held on November 16.