

# CRVBMWR 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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## If We Had Been Driving A Plymouth Voyager . . .

by Mike McGlamery

*This is the completion of the article begun in the October Newsletter.*

Once back on the bike, the rain returned and made its impact until around 4pm, when the sun abruptly presented itself. A motel west of Charleston, WV would help me dry out my riding gear. Eastern Kentucky was interesting because of its impoverished state and witnessing how these Americans live can be depressing. But, Lexington presented me with horse country, and trailer living gave way to grand estates where horses live better than many people. I stopped at the Woodford Reserve Bourbon Distillery for a break and a tour, which was instructive and interesting. Nestled amongst these beautiful horse racing farms, Woodford's property and production techniques are pretty much unchanged since its beginnings in the mid 1800s. Making whiskey is a lot like making bread, using similar ingredients but different methods and here most things are done the old-fashioned way. Barrels are made by hand, fermentation is a simple process and the "stilling" is done in ancient copper cookers. Time is

a big factor in producing a good whiskey and Woodford ages its bourbon in barrels for at least 9 years before bottling. Even this assembly line is "old school". A jigger of bourbon was given for a taste along with bourbon-infused chocolates with a pecan on top, finishing off a pleasurable stop. I met Steve around 5pm in historic Bardstown, KY, home of "My Old Kentucky Home" a federal-style house, said to have inspired Stephen Foster's song. We checked into a cheap motel and walked to the old tavern in the middle of town for dinner and you guessed right... bourbon.

The next four days would be spent mostly riding on the curvy and hilly terrain of these agricultural states, with views of many farms with workers harvesting corn and soybeans. We stopped at three Abraham Lincoln sites: his birthplace in Hodgenville, KY and the next two places the family would move to on the frontier in Kentucky and Indiana. These were very interesting and informative stops at National Historic Parks where huge tributes have been made to this man, with an opportunity to walk on the land that "Abe"

had trodded upon. After a failed attempt to visit my old "stompin grounds" at Fort Knox, we stopped in French Lick, IN, home of Larry Bird, where we paid a visit to one of the recently restored, ultra-grand hotels built around the turn-of-the-century because of the local mineral springs. Another stop was in New Harmony, IN on the shore of the Wabash River, where the town is a "living museum" with actual residents. We took a tour of the place and heard the tale of German scientists and intellectuals who came to this frontier in 1812, to build a perfect community with peacefulness. Of course they had a leader, who guided the group in the building of the town, gardens, orchards and production facilities and who established the rules. Living a life of hard work, prayer and celibacy, the town succeeded in being self-sufficient, even wealthy, making goods sold around the world, but it didn't last longer than 10 years. The town was bought by a couple of Scots who continued the "Harmonist's" concept, but

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

- November 11-13 -- "Misery Loves Company" Campout
- November 13 -- November CRVBMWR Annual Election Meeting
- November 20 -- Covered Bridge Attack Ride
- January 21 -- 2012 CRVBMW Riders Winter Banquet

## **If We Had Been Driving A Plymouth Voyager . . .** (continued)

with eased and more humane rules. The town today is made up of mostly retirees, people who had successful careers in higher education and the sciences, so the utopian pioneers sowed seeds that still bloom today.

A highlight of the trip was a brief stopover at Steve's farm property. The farm, begun by his grandfather and continued by his father, who was also a "traveling" circuit court judge in Illinois now belongs to Steve and his sister, and is farmed by the Duckworth brothers and sons. We watched as corn (lots of it) was deposited in an underground bin to be processed and stored in silos before taken to market. Ultimately we arrived at the Potosi Fairground to attend the annual Falling Leaf Rally, put on by the local St Louis "Gateway Riders" BMW motorcycle club. 800+ riders, many from far away places as well as locals, camp in tents and a few RVs, sit around campfires, go on guided or unguided rides around the area, spend money with vendors, eat together and generally commune around BMW motorcycles for the weekend.

I spent a night with Steve and his wife Janet in St Charles before spending another couple of nights with old friends in St. Louis, before starting the three-day trek home, with rain in the forecast. The weather had been perfect the whole time I was in the Midwest, with cloudless skies, daytime temperatures in the mid-80s and with little humidity. Given the weather predictions, I was fortunate to have mostly a dry ride with only mist, fog and light rain on occasion. The trip all-at-the-same-time was fun, interesting, relaxing but also fatiguing, as I rode 3600 miles in the two weeks.

Steve and I already knew we were compatible travelers, loving the bikes and the roads, but also enjoyed renewing our friendship with many conversations over meals, coffees and at stops along the way. We both love finding and eating at local out-of-the-way places and staying in the cheaper, more interesting old motels where the bikes can be parked just outside our door. He once marveled at how two guys from different backgrounds, one a midwestern conservative, the other a northeast liberal could get along so well. He likened it to a Harley rider and a BMW rider, such different brands and cultures, riding on the same roads. Yes, we discussed politics, religion and guns and yes, we disagreed...and we are still friends, planning the next trip together in 2012.

**Our CRVBMW Web Site**

**is located at:**

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

## **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 11-13 -- "Misery Loves Company" Campout. Mt. Misery campground in Voluntown, CT. Full details are on our web site calendar.
- November 13 -- November CRVBMW Annual Election Meeting. See details below.
- November 20 -- Covered Bridge Attack Ride. See details on the next page.

### **January**

- January 21 -- 2012 CRVBMW Riders Winter Banquet. See details on the next page.

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

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### **For Sale**

**Oil Filters Spin-on BMW OEM, Mahle OC91 OEM** oil filter BMW# 11-42-1-460-845. Fits K and Oilhead R bikes. \$10 each or 5 for \$40. Plus shipping. Contact Frank at [mrmrsp191@aol.com](mailto:mrmrsp191@aol.com) (Ad reposted 9/11)

**1992 BMW seat for R100RT.** Call Rick Arnold at 203-417-0771 for additional information. (Ad posted 7/11)

**1976 GL 1000.** Spare carbs -motor-rear end-tires & wheels. Call Rick Arnold at 203-417-0771 for additional information. (Ad posted 7/11)

**2002 R 1150 RT.** Very nice condition, 21000+ miles, Loaded with Radio/cassette, Garmin Mount, Russel Seats, Top Box and side cases, new Odessey battery, Highway pegs, Two windshields. Price flexible. If interested contact Don Rich at 860-460-3282 or [don\\_rich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don_rich@sbcglobal.net) (Ad posted 7/11)

### **Item Needed**

**BMW R50/2, R60/2, R69/2 or any airheads.** Project/runner/boxes/banded. Please let me take over your unwanted airheads. Contact Ching at [chiang6600@hotmail.com](mailto:chiang6600@hotmail.com) or 860-634-0248 (Posted 7/11)

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### **December Newsletter Deadline**

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

## October CRVBMW Meeting Minutes

The October 2011 monthly meeting of the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. was called to order @1:30 PM on October 23, 2011, Club President Larry Friedman presiding. 14 members and guests were in attendance at the Log Cabin Restaurant, in Barkhamsted, CT.

### Officers in attendance:

President	Larry Friedman
Secretary	Jim Montstream
Treasurer	Mark Altschwager
Road Co-Captain	Chris Jennings
Member-At-Large	Paul Clifford

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Altschwager reported on the status of the Club treasury.

**Secretary's Report:** The June meeting minutes were published in the Newsletter. Membership renewal notices will be sent out in early December. The new Club logo was submitted to the MOA for concept approval which was received. A new logo was required by BMW to comply with their corporate identity standards. The Club name will not need to be changed.

**Meal Subsidy:** A motion was made by Keith Olsen and seconded by Chris Jennings to provide lunch for the upcoming Covered Bridge Ride at a maximum expense to the Club of \$250. Motion carried.

**Winter Banquet:** The winter banquet will be held on Saturday, January 21st at the Polish National Homes, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, in Hartford as in the past. Social hour will be at 6pm with dinner at 7pm. Details to follow.

**Charter Oak Rally:** Several locations are available. However, no one has come forward to serve as Rally Chairman nor to fill key positions. If a large rally continues to show a lack of interest, then a smaller "camp-out" type event will be offered. This event will be a main topic for discussion at the next monthly meeting on November 13th

**Announcements:** Gengras is discontinuing their BMW franchise. It's unknown if the franchise will be acquired by another firm.

**Elections:** Club elections will be held at the November meeting. The current officer slate has accepted nomination for another term. Those officers are:

President	Larry Friedman
Vice-President	Lenny LaRose
Secretary	Jim Montstream
Treasurer	Penny Podgwaite
Road Captain	Ching Ching
Member-At-Large	Paul Clifford

(Continued in the next column)

Additional members may be nominated from the floor at the November meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at 1pm on November 13, 2011 at the Cypress Restaurant, 1265 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457 (on Rte 17 near the Durham Town Line).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM by Mr. Friedman.

Respectfully submitted,  
James N. Montstream  
Secretary, Connecticut River BMW Riders, Inc.  
October 23, 2011

## November CRVBMW Riders Annual Election Meeting

On November 13th, our election meeting will be held beginning at 1:00 pm at the Cypress Restaurant on Route 17 in Middletown, CT (near the Durham line). You may want to order your lunch when you arrive.

## Covered Bridge Attack.

Ladies and Gentlemen, clear up your calendar on November 20th!!

There are 8 known covered bridges in Litchfield area. The goal is having group pictures taken in front of each bridge by end of the ride. It's going to be airhead pace, and open for non-members. RSVP recommended, if you don't let me know you are coming, I won't be able to let you know if it's canceled.

**When:** on Sunday, 11/20/2011

**Leaving:** at 8 am

**Starting:** Dunking Donuts in Terryville, intersection of RT-6 and RT-8

**Lunch:** *As voted on at our October Meeting, the lunch for club members participating on this ride will be purchased by the club.*

**Who:** Anyone.

**Dress code:** Helmet, jacket, gloves, jeans, minimum. (You might need more than that in November)

**Contact:** Ching at [chiang6600@hotmail.com](mailto:chiang6600@hotmail.com) or 860-634-0248

Weather Permitted and come gassed up.

CRVBMWR  
NEWS  
November 2011

CRVBMWR  
c/o Keith Olsen  
53 Richland Road  
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Our November Election Meeting is on November 13. The Covered Bridge Attack Ride, with club subsidized lunch, will be on November 20. Details of both may be found inside.