"CCN" BMWMOC's Quarterly Newsletter

BMW Club
Motorcycle Owners
of Cleveland

Cleveland Club News

Fall 2018

Different Strokes for Different Folks

Speedster Jim Kieding goes for the high performance model while gentleman Don Poremski favors a custom classic style.

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BMWMOC

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland, Inc.

www.bmwmoc.org

President – Leo Buckon
buckon@sbcglobal.net

Vice President -- Paul Koontz
pkoontz@neo.rr.com

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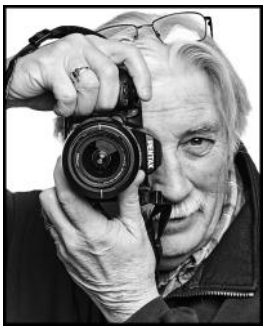
From the Editor

Pat Corrigan



Hello and Happy Fall!

Yet again, I find myself in that all too familiar position of wondering where the time has gone. As a relative phenomenon, I realize that the more time that I experience, the seemingly shorter the increments by which we mark its' passing. Nonetheless, it feels as if just yesterday, I was bemoaning how the long unrelenting grip of winter in concert with the late arrival of spring was contributing to the cabin fever affliction affectionately addressed as PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome) within the riding community. Added to that fact is the realization that my riding was quite limited this season, as much of my time was consumed with work on our new home (our "nest" as we like to call it). Now that Beth and I are celebrating our first year in our soon to be retirement home, it is beginning to look like the gem we envisioned when we first placed our bid on it. We still have a long list of projects ahead of us but the big ticket items have been completed – now it's time to add the finishing touches. Unfortunately, time is unlike money – you cannot bank it and save it for later. It is for this reason that we are looking forward to the club's fall rally; perhaps our last chance this year to spend some quality time with fellow club members.

It seems that for this year anyway, I will get my jollies by living vicariously through the shared stories and pictures of fellow riders, like those featured in this edition. That and the long process of research I engage in over the winter in planning my next adventure for the coming riding season.

On another time sensitive note, it is also that time of year when we as a club look to elect new officers. Count me among the first to express my gratitude for the fine leadership afforded us by our outgoing President, Leo Buckon. By my count, has served two two-year terms and yet, as much as we might like to elect him President for Life, a new position in his employment will keep him on the road more and able to lead the club less. Though he has raised the bar in terms of what we look for in our leadership, I am confident that the talent pool that exists within our membership will yield a competent cast of creative characters. You have heard it said before but it really is true; though the job involves effort, the rewards are well worth it. Give some thought to throwing your BMW MOC hat in the ring and join the long list of fellow members who have humbly served to make this club so special. Besides, it has been stated by many that these fall elections are probably the most important of our generation!

Pat Corrigan

CCN 2018

The CCN is published quarterly, at the beginning of each season. We welcome and encourage member submissions.

Deadlines for submissions are:

Spring CCN	**March 15**
Summer CCN	**June 15**
Fall CCN	**September 15**
Winter CCN	**December 15**

President's Message

Leo Buckon

We are at the end of another summer wondering how did it go by so fast. I hope you all had a great summer and riding season. I had a very nice year, but as is usually the case, I did not have enough time to do all the things I would have liked to. I find myself really looking forward to next week ends Rib Roast Rally at Whispering Hills Campground. This is always a fantastic end to the club riding season with great riding. The riding will be broken down into two groups. The rides will have road riders in one group and adventure riding in the others. The rides will be followed with games, food and gemütlichkeit.

Unfortunately, in a club with 187 members there will be just about 30 to enjoy the moment. That is not even 20% of the membership. Excuses abound for not attending, but those who find reasons to attend have a great time and come back year after year. If you don't like camping, come for the Saturday ride and dinner. Not into the GS thing, there are plenty of great roads to ride on. As my Grandmother used to say, "You make your own good time". Please join us for a great weekend in the beautiful Ohio fall countryside.

On to business. Elections are coming up and we need people who are willing to step up and make a difference for the club. As I mentioned at the past couple of meetings, changes in my job mean that I have to step down as President. After 4 years in this position, I think that it is time for a change anyway and I am term limiting myself. We can use new ideas and we need people to implement them. For example; one of the comments made to me was about having a system for connecting with other BMWMOC members at the national rallies. OK, please step up and take charge to get it done. The club officers and director work hard to put the events together so all club members can have a good time. But we can use help. It can be as simply as showing up early for a rally to set up or staying a little late to help clean up. How about helping set up some game, motorcycle riding and other wise to make the event more enjoyable. The member make things happen and the more hands involved, the less work for any one person.

I look forward to seeing you all next week at Whispering Hills.

Leo Buckon

Calendar of Events

(Visit the calendar on the club web site for updates.)

BMWMOC 2018 Fall Rally "Ribfest"
September 21 - 23, 2018
Whispering Hills Jellystone Park Camp Resort
8181 OH-514,
Big Prairie, OH 44611

BMW MOC Directors Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM, September 27, 2018
Harry Buffalo Restaurant
18605 Detroit Ave.,
Lakewood, OH 44107

BMW MOC Monthly Membership Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM**,** October 4, 2018
South East Gears & Cheers,
23333 Aurora Rd.,
Bedford Hts., OH 44146

BMWMOC - Marietta Appalachian Tour
October 12 - 14, 2018
Depart at 9 AM from Bob Evans Macedonia
266 Highland Rd,
Macedonia,, OH 44056

Ohio BMW RA Halloween Camp Out
October 19 - 21, 2018
Tappan Lake Park
84000 Mallarnee Road,
Deersville, OH 44693

BMW MOC Monthly Membership Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM**,** Thursday, November 1, 2018
The Oak Barrel Restaurant
5975 Canal Rd, Valley View, OH 44125

BMW MOC Directors Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM, Thursday, November 29, 2018
LOCATION TBD

BMW MOC Monthly Membership Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM**,** Thursday, December 6, 2018
LOCATION TBD

BMW MOC Monthly Membership Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM**,** Thursday, January 3, 2019
LOCATION TBD

BMW MOC Annual Holiday Party
Woodside Event Center at St Michael's
5025 Mill Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Progressive Intl. Bike Show - Cleveland
January 25 - 27, 2019
Intl. Exposition Center
1 I-X Center Dr, Cleveland, OH 44135

BMW MOC Bike Show Breakfast
9:00 AM, Saturday, January 26, 2019
Gene's Place (to Dine) Restaurant
3730 Rocky River Dr, Cleveland, OH 44111

The BMWMOC is Chartered Club #196 with both the BMWMOA and the BMWRA national organizations. The BMWMOC is a Not-For-Profit Corporation of the Great State of Ohio consisting of about 145 riding enthusiasts mostly in the Northeast Ohio Area. The Club is an active group with a common interest in BMW Motorcycles and the people who ride them.

BMW Club
Motorcycle Owners
of Cleveland

Ribfest

BMWMOC 2018 Fall Rally

September 21-23,2018

Whispering Hills Jellystone Park Camp Resort

8181 OH-514, Big Prairie, OH 44611

GPS Location N40°,38.554' W 82°,3.927'

www.whisperinghillsjellystone.com

Rally Fee $20.00 Per Person Due by September 14, 2018

$25.00 Per Person after September 14, 2018

Includes Friday Night Chili Dinner, Saturday Pancake and Sausage Breakfast and Rib Fest Dinner, Sunday Continental Breakfast, Coffee, Tea, and Pop all Weekend

CAMPING

Tree Shaded Water and Electric Sites

$20.00 Per Person for the whole weekend!

Whispering Hills has Cabins and RV Rental Units Available

Contact them directly at 330.567.2137 to make arrangements for these accommodations.

Make your Reservations and Payment on the BMWMOC.org Website

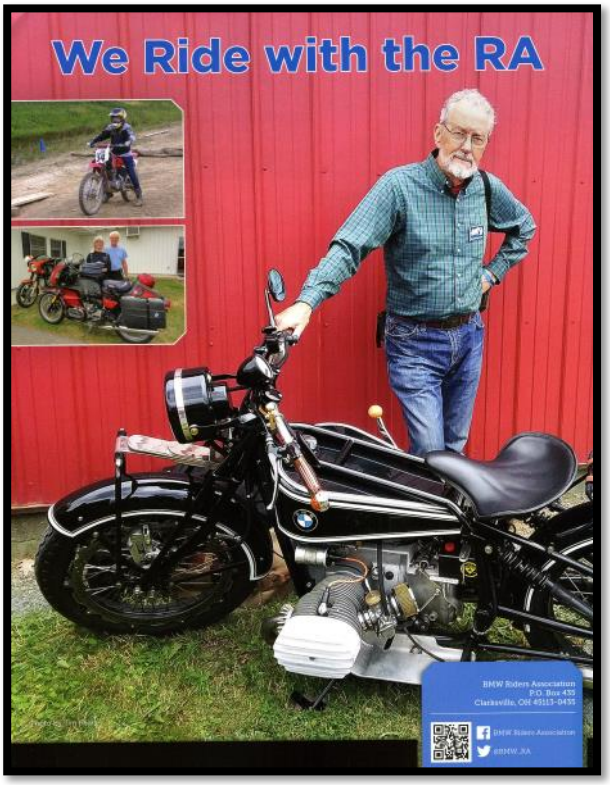
Questions about payment online—contact Roger Pivonka at rjpivonka@gmail.com or call 440.543.8704

Questions about the Rally—Contact Paul Koontz at pkoontz@neo.rr.com or call 330.242.0667

Member News

Kudos to club members Karl (with a "K") Hoffman and Paul Koontz who finished 1 and 2 as the top high mileage winners in Ohio in the BMW MOA annual mileage contest. Now if only Don Walker had signed up this year we could have pulled off a trifecta!

It seems the editors of the BMW RA bi-monthly rag OTL could not resist the distinguished mug of our own Don Poremski or the photo talents of Pat Corrigan when putting together their Sept. - Oct. issue. Pat's picture of Don graces the back cover while his shots of the GS Giants off-road competition are featured in the article of the same topic.



Club member Jessica Posa yet again demonstrated both the positive attitude and the ever present smile she is known for while sharing pictures from a recent accident she experienced. Both she and her bike took some serious licks but we are told the surgery went well and Jessica is home and already on the mend. Her fellow club members wish her a complete and speedy recovery but are advised to get out of her way once she is cleared to ride again. There seems to be no holding back this determined rider!

It's BMWMOC Election Time

The following is from the BMWMOC CONSTITUTION and BY LAWS

5. ELECTIONS

a. A summary of the election process will be published in the Club's newsletter serving as notice to the membership prior to opening the annual officers election nomination window. During the September membership meeting, the President will appoint a three member Election committee from the general membership and declare the nomination window open.

b. An individual must meet all applicable membership requirements, must have attended at least five monthly membership meetings during the 12 months prior to the September membership meeting, and must expect to be able to attend all Board and monthly meetings during the coming year to be eligible for nomination. Meeting sign in sheets will be used to verify the required attendance.

c. Nominations must be seconded by another member.

d. Individuals may be nominated for more than one position, but can only accept one nomination.

e. The Election Committee will confirm that each nominee is willing to serve. Nominations of unwilling nominees will be withdrawn.

f. At the end of the October meeting, the President will make a final request for nominations and then declare the nomination window closed. Additional nominations are prohibited prior to and on the Election Day unless there are no nominees for a particular position; then nominations will be accepted only for that position. The President shall appoint any additional directors as needed to address the growing membership per Section IV, Part 2.

g. In the case where nominees for all positions are running un-opposed, the election may be declared Moot by a membership meeting vote at the November meeting. If so voted, further efforts and expense to conduct an election shall be suspended. The new Board of Directors shall be announced at the January membership meeting.

h. The Election Committee will compile an Annual Election Ballot and a document containing optional nominee position statements. If a nominee chooses to provide a position statement, it must be received by the election committee no later than thirty days following the October membership meeting. The Election Committee will distribute electronically or by mail, one ballot per member and the optional nominee position statements at least thirty days prior to the January membership meeting. The ballot will provide: a list of nominees, a space for write-in votes, an address where the mail in completed ballot must be returned or instructions for returning the electronic ballots, and a deadline date (December 31st) after which ballots received will not be counted.

i. The results of the election shall be announced at the January membership meeting and following on the Clubs website and in the next Club newsletter.

j. Vote counts shall not be announced or posted. They will be recorded in the minutes of the January membership meeting and will be available to be viewed by any interested member. In any reading of the minutes at a membership meeting, the actual counts will be omitted.

Continued...

Continued...

k. Determinations:

(1) Except for directors, the nominee with the greatest number of votes for a particular position will assume the duties of that position at the February membership meeting. Nominees determined to have won the election for their respective positions shall endeavor to attend the January Board meeting along with the current office holders for that term.

(2) For directors, members vote for the mandated number of the director nominees as stated on the Official Ballot:

(a) If the out-going president is re-elected, elected to another position, or declines to become a director for the year following presidency, the highest tally of votes cast for director nominees shall determine the director electors.

(b) If the out-going president exercises the right to become a director for the year following his or her presidency; the past president and the highest tally of votes cast for director nominees shall determine the director electors.

If a member is elected to a position by write-in votes, the Election Committee will confirm that that member is willing to serve in that position before finalizing the results for that position.

During the September 2018 monthly meeting, club President Leo Buckon appointed volunteers Dennis Owens, Sandi Valois and Michael Nahas to serve as the nominating committee for the current elections.

Positions to be filled by Election

President **Vice President**

Secretary **Treasurer**

Road Captain **Directors***

***There is one director for every 25 members. At our current membership level, we will need 7 Directors.**

On The Road Again - Touring Central and Eastern Europe

Paul Mitchell

In December of 2017 Linda and I decided to travel Central & Eastern Europe by motorcycle but also combine a visit to a cousin she found on Facebook. Our tentative travel plans were to meet her relative near the capital of Slovenia (Ljubljana), do the tourist destinations for the remainder of the week (see link) and then join an 18-day Tour led by Adriatic Moto Tours visiting the major cities of Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic & Austria.

These destinations formed the core of the Warsaw Pact's Eastern Bloc of communist/socialist countries controlled by the Soviet Union after 1945 and the end of World War II. In the summer of 1991, communist control over these countries started to crumble with demonstrations and armed revolts within these countries after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

My initial concerns traveling in these countries were the languages and numerous currencies. However, after correspondence with Lea at Adriatic tours we were assured that English was widely spoken and only two countries on the itinerary were not using the Euro.

We chose lightweight clothing that could easily be washed and dried overnight since we would be traveling for almost a month on the bike as well as being "tourists". With June mountain riding and warmer lower altitudes, I packed two riding jackets, boots and all other gear into checked baggage with a couple of kilos to spare!

We were ready for our red-eye to Paris and then a 2-hour flight to Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was hard to believe that the car reservation for five days including a Garmin GPS amounted to $145. We had planned to meet Linda's relatives and then later join three other couples for our new Moto adventure.

We were surprised and pleased at the warm reception from Linda's relatives who wined & dined us and gave us a day-long historic tour of majestic mountains, an Austrian/Hungarian WWI fortress (Kluže Fortress started in the late 1400's by the Roman Legions), an Olympic Ski Jump training center, Vršič Pass (wish were we on a bike!) and many other historic sites we never would have experienced except for our generous guides.

For the remainder of the week, we explored Slovenia including the Ljubljana Castle built in the 11th century and used as a prison as late a WWII. Other destinations included the Salt Pens of Piran where "sea salt" is still harvested by natural evaporation, Postojna Cave (2nd largest cave structure in Europe) where a train takes visitors to almost 380' below the surface, Lake Bled (a beautiful alpine lake), Portorož a seaside resort on the Adriatic Coast and numerous other destinations.

On the weekend we met our new traveling companions from the US and Australia including Eric from Tasmania who was on our trip to Greece a few years earlier. There was a short orientation to the local highway laws and group riding techniques in the mountains as well as a short trip to the offices of Adriatic Tours to secure our bikes. Our Beemer of choice was a '18 R1200 RT for sport touring and pillion comfort.

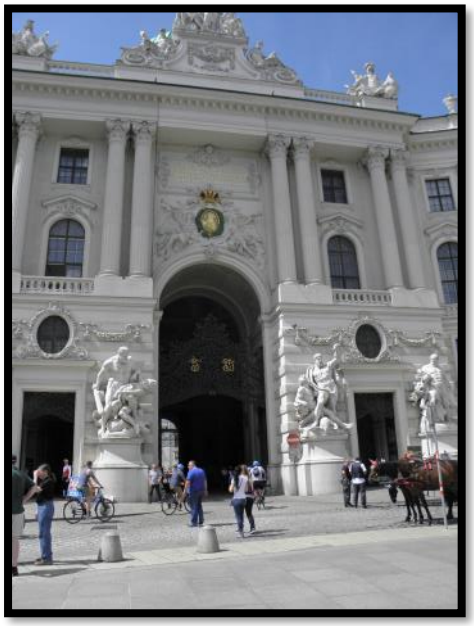
The next morning, we were off to Deutschlandburg, Austria and an overnight in a medieval castle! Based on the length of this trip, I'll summarize some of the interesting major destinations and the guided walking tours provided by Adriatic.

Vienna, Austria

The Palace of Franz-Joseph who's assassination was the beginning of WW1.

The Spanish Riding School is in Vienna home of the famous Lipizzaner Stallions. The horses are bred in Lipica Slovenia.

A canal of the Danube River passes thorough the middle of Vienna and is a major tourist attraction.



Budapest, Hungary

Budapest was actually two cities (Buda & Pest) which were merged in in 1873. Originally settled by Celtic tribes and then followed by seven tribes of peoples from Scandinavia and the Ural mountain regions. The Hungarian language is very difficult based on its tribal origins. The Parliament Building is the largest in Europe and contains 691 rooms, 29 staircases, 11 passenger elevators, and is built on the banks of the Danube River. On the opposite side is the Sandor Palace and Presidential Residence.

High Tatras Mountains (ACCIDENT!)

These mountains are part of the Carpathian Alpine Chain and rise to 8,711 feet. They form the natural boundary between Slovakia and Poland. Both countries consider them a natural resource and are protected through national parklands. These twisties were the location of our only accident. One of our riders missed a descending turn due to speed and *target fixation,* narrowly missing a steel guardrail but leaving the road and descending at a 60-degree angle down a lush vegetated embankment. The F800 GS hit a log and flipped 180 degrees landing uphill throwing the rider in the process. The rider's wife heard a series of expletives through their intercom system and then it went dead. She was able to safely turn around and find her husband climbing up the embankment with only soreness (later to have bruises and significant soreness). There was no evidence of the bike leaving the road!

After finding the rest of group waiting at the bottom of the grade, we all returned to the scene. It took seven men (two cars stopped to assist) to pull & push the bike back to the road. It was not rideable, and our guide found the bike to be in 5th gear which was not appropriate for that terrain. The chase van was summoned by cell phone and the bike was loaded on the vehicle. The rider was not allowed to ride the spare bike until it was determined that there were no serious injuries and significant financial arrangements were secured.

Krakow, Poland

My maternal grandparents immigrated from Poland although the church records state Poland/ Russia. I didn't know what to expect upon entering this country other than it was one of the first to break away from Russia after more than 40 years of Soviet domination. The roads were well maintained, the villages were clean and many of the homes appeared to be new. There were construction cranes in the larger cities and our hotel was modern and easily connected to the downtown hub by efficient mass transit trolleys. Approaching the city, we were able to visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine and descend over 440 feet to see chapels, restaurants, ballrooms with salt chandeliers and the original mining operations of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Upon arrival to the city, we decided to visit the Rynek Glowny Central Square with it's **Cloth Hall**, the world's first shopping center! The area is surrounded by sidewalk cafes, and other more modern shops.

České Budějovice , Czech Republic

The unique event here were our lodgings in a mansion associated with an athletic club and dinner at a tavern restaurant which featured Budweiser Budvar . . . the origin of the world-famous beer originating at a local brewery. There was a KISS Tribute Band playing outside and I attempted to order from the menu in my almost forgotten German with the waiter answering me in English!

Prague, Czech Republic

Another rest day for sightseeing with a local guide. We visited Prague Castle and witnessed the changing of the guard, crossed the 14th Century Charles Bridge, and wandered the cobbled streets of old town and were disappointed that the famous astrological clock was draped for major restoration. However, a video image was projected on the façade, so we were not totally disappointed. Prague did confront the Soviets in 1968 with violent demonstrations, but the Communists responded with hundreds of tanks and 200,000 troops to squash the rebellion.

Salzburg, Austria

In Salzburg our walking tour guide took us to Mozart's birthplace and later his residence where he was known as a lavish entertainer. We roamed the city center with its magnificent architecture and visited a catacomb next to a cathedral. The city was filled with tourists from the river boat cruise companies as well as bus tourists. Salzburg was a trading city along the Salzach River which was a main transportation link for salt barges from the mines throughout the country. Salt has historically been used as coinage ("worth your weight in salt") and the key to exploration of the New World by preserving fish, pork and beef for sailors/explorers on the high seas.

Our final riding day brought us back to Slovenia and its capital Ljubljana through the Wurzen Pass of the Karawanks Mountains [Click for video] We toasted our new friends and good fortune at the Adriatic shop and returned to a nearby hotel and dinner at a traditional Slovenian restaurant nearby. Over the 11 riding days (not including rest days) we rode a total of 3,073 km or 1,909 miles!

Things to remember . . . the peoples of these countries have been subject to wars and carnage over the millennia. Romans conquered these civilizations and Napoleon's troops came as well. Genghis Kahn (1162-1227) even made his way to modern day Poland. The brutality of two world wars and even the more recent Bosnian-Serbian conflict was fresh in the mind of our early 30's guide. As a child, he remembered hiding in his school's bomb shelter as jets circled Slovenian airspace on raids not far away.

However, the beauty of the region, the hospitality of its peoples and the new freedoms of democracies are a sign of more than hope but of accomplishments against the most atrocious oppression and ethnic cleansing attempts.

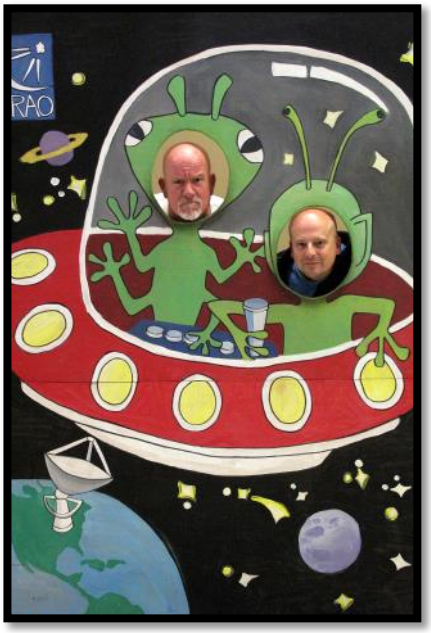
Four weeks was not enough time to truly explore these countries nor their cities, the museums, the cathedrals and cultures and our *Bucket List* just keeps growing with every trip we take!

What's next? Sardinia & Corsica, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, The Alps from Bavaria, Thailand, New Zealand? Come on S&P 500, keep climbing!

GS Giants Mountain Mayhem / BMW RA Rally

Pat Corrigan

In mid July, several members of the Black Sheep made their way to the GS Giants West Virginia Mountain Mayhem Rally in Springfield, WV. In addition to seeking out the largest and loosest gravel in the Buckeye State, they took on the twists and turns of the Midland Trail to Hawk's Nest, Fayette Station Road, the Highland Scenic Highway, Smoke Hole Road and Green Ridge Road to name a few, along with countless stretches of unknown and unnamed tracks of dirt and gravel across the states of WV, MD and PA. Stops included Hawk's Nest Overlook, the Fayetteville Bridge, the New River Gorge, the Glade Creek Grist Mill in Babcock State Park, the Cass Scenic RR, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV, and Seneca Rocks. In Springfield, they camped on the banks of the South Branch of the Potomac River along with 130 fellow Giants. The riding was awesome, the food was exceptional and the hospitality was abundant. After three days on mayhem, with the Giants in WV, the Black Sheep (Bob Larrow, Mike Kanczak, Peter Stokes and Pat Corrigan) headed to Wellsboro, PA for the BMW RA Rally, along with the Giants who gathered there for their annual track competition. The riding in the area was superb - with lots of places to see and things to do regardless of which direction you headed. The Sheep chose to take in a quick day trip to Watkins Glen.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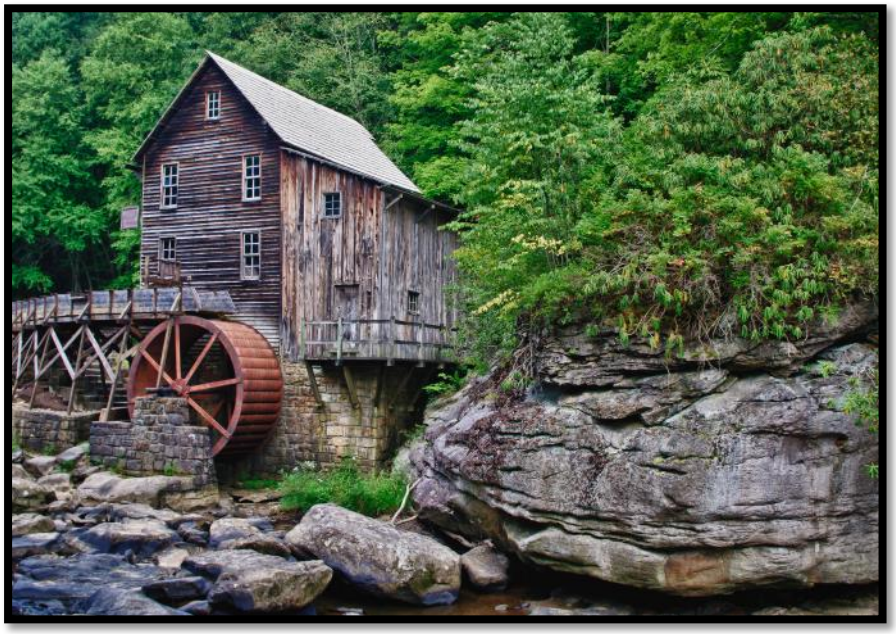


MAKE YOUR
MEMORY
HERE

Ed and Cris Desimone received tips from instructors at the BMW Performance School Off Road Riding Clinic at the RA Rally in Wellsboro, PA.

Ed and Cris then practice their newly learned skills under the watchful eye of the instructors. Looks like they are well on their way to join the ranks of the Black Sheep! Looks like a good class for Dottie!

Viva Spain!

Roger Pivonka

In May of 2018 I decided I needed to go for a moto tour so I started checking out the usual tour operators I'd heard of (and there are many). I also found a website that allowed me to look at tours from over 200 smaller operators and I found a couple that piqued my interest. I finally zeroed in on GS Motorcycle Tours from the Andalucia region of southern Spain.

Graham Swan (GS) seemed to have the variety I wanted and the time frame I was looking to fill at a reasonable cost. After several emails and a couple phone calls I picked some dates and options and sent money off to secure my place in his schedule.

I reserved two one week options, one week with four riding days and another week tour around to Seville, Ronda and Cordoba. Graham has about 10 one day loop routes that always come back to a Guest House where I stayed in Velez De Benaudalla so that was nice to stay in one place for the first week taking daily guided rides or a train or bus to some nearby town for some exploring on foot. It was the picture of the ride to Velefique that hooked me (Twisty roads) and I rode that on the fourth riding day of that first week.

The second week we left Velez with packed side cases because we would not be returning to the guest house for 5 days. We were off to wandering on the Classic Andalucian tour to Ronda, Seville and Cordoba and all manner of wonderful roads and scenery between them.
At the end of that ride I stayed two more days in Nerja on the Costa del Sol near where Graham lives.

Because I had Graham as my personal guide the daily loop rides were at MY pace and I could ask for almost any modifications I wanted. Stop here to take pictures, stop there to have lunch, take the long way or the short way back to the guest house if I wanted more twisties or less. This made me feel comfortable the whole time and the whole two weeks improved my riding skills. All in all, I made a great choice of time and place and guide. Many of the pictures I took can be seen on our club website under the "Pix Gallery" menu item.

Graham is originally from England and has been vacationing and riding in southern Spain for twelve years and recently moved there permanently, that's how he knows the area so well.

If you are thinking about riding in Spain, he's the guy who can show you around for one day or a couple weeks and/or rent you a moto. Find him **here**.

CURSO DE CERAMICA
INEM 1989-1990

Romeo Riders Recent Repasts

Eat to Ride!

Ride to Eat!

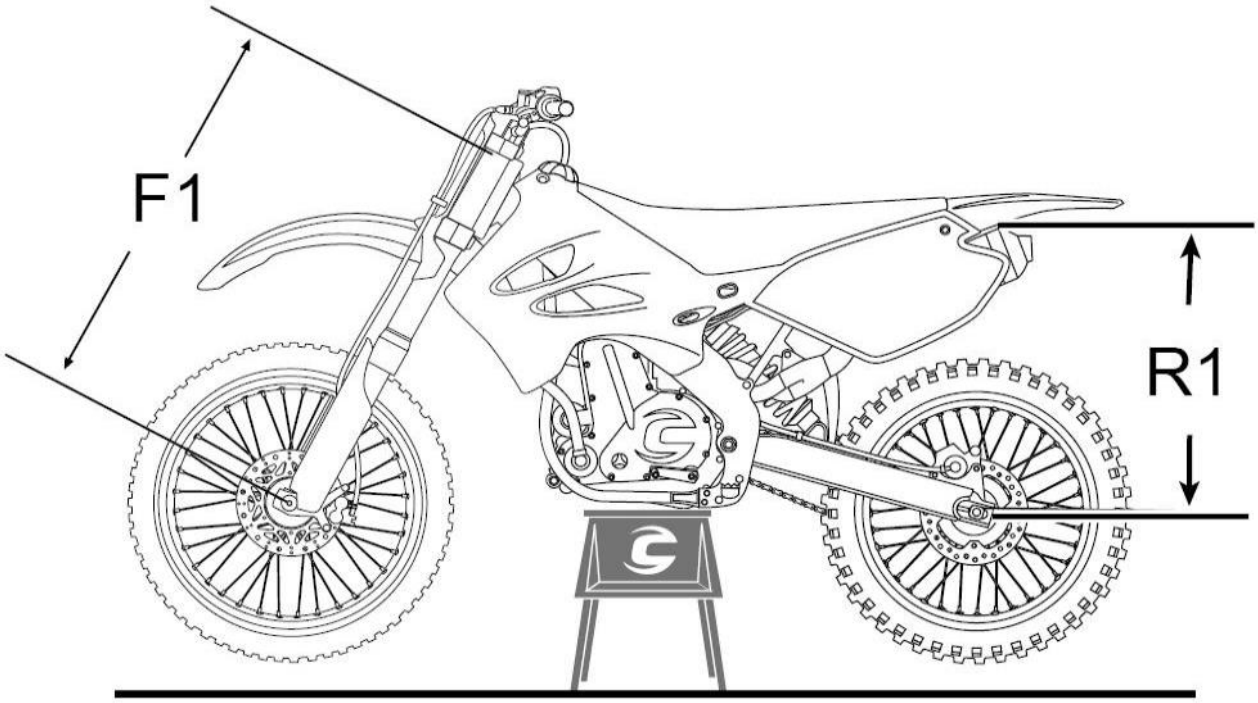
Suspension Tuning - Part 1: Why Bother?

Wally Gingerich

If you enjoy riding your bike just the way it is – the plushness or firmness of the ride, how it handles in the corners, how it does riding 2-up, then read no further. You are happy with it just the way it is and you can focus on your riding skills, trips you'd like to take, or farkles you've been wanting to add. Furthermore, given BMW's legendary engineering you might reasonably expect that the suspension on your bike is the best there is, or at least good enough for the kind of riding you do. There is something to be said for being satisfied with what you have, with "letting good enough alone" as my dad used to say.

On the other hand, if your ride seems harsh, "pogos" going over bumps, wallows in the corners, dives too much when you brake, or doesn't turn the way you think it should, your bike is a candidate for a suspension tune-up. Or maybe you are satisfied with the way it rides but you are curious if it could be even better, maybe with just some simple, no-cost adjustments. Or if you are like me you are curious and want to understand suspension better, to know and appreciate what it does to make your bike ride and handle its best. What kind of suspension does my bike have, how is it working, would adjustments make it be better, would after-market components improve things significantly? If any of these apply to you, read on.

I got interested in suspension and suspension tuning soon after I got my first bike, a used 1993 K75. I had read online that the suspension could be improved by installing stiffer springs in the fork and replacing the rear shock. There was a lot of talk online that stock suspension was too soft, sprung too light, and would be worn out in 20,000 miles. So I measured the sag on my K75, took note of how much preload I had used on the rear shock, and ordered heavier fork springs and a YSS rear shock from Klaus at EPM Performance. I installed them and took a ride, consulted Klaus for adjustments, read more, and was well on my way to learning more about suspension and enjoying improvements in the ride and handling of my K75.

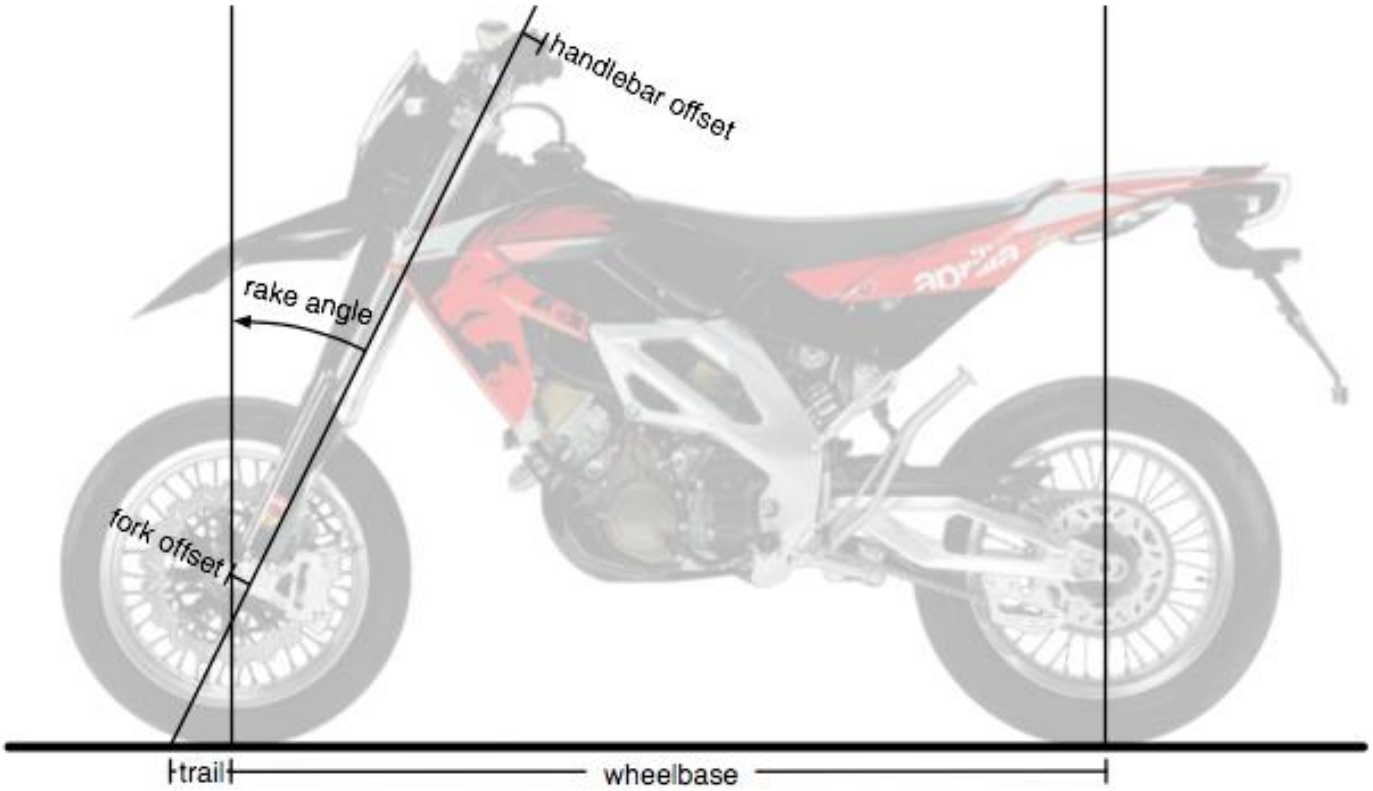


No doubt you have read that suspension is a highly technical topic and that tuning is an art, and you're wondering just what does Gingerich know about it. Good question. What I can say is I have learned a few basic things over the past 13 years as I have experimented on the various bikes I've owned, and I'd like to share them with you because I think they may help you improve the performance of your bike and the enjoyment you get from riding it. Actually, what I'd like most from this series is to start a conversation among those of us who are interested in suspension so we can learn from each other, and in the process develop our knowledge on the subject and get the maximum performance and enjoyment out of our bikes.

In the next issue of CCN I'll write about setting sag – the most basic step in suspension tuning and one that can produce dramatic results. In subsequent issues we'll tackle compression and rebound damping, discuss the interplay between spring rate and damping, and finally we'll tackle how to diagnose suspension problems. These latter topics are where the art of suspension tuning most comes into play, where experience is of utmost importance, and where I am focusing currently to improve my understanding and skill. I hope to add a little something to the discussion, and even more I hope to entice you to join me in the quest to make our bikes perform at their best.

Wally Gingerich

Motorcycle Geometry Diagram and Terminology



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Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

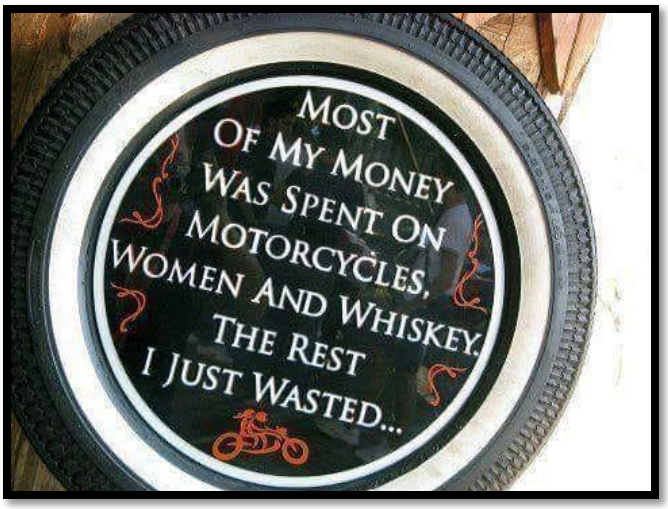
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

9. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

10. The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

11. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

12. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

13. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

14. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.