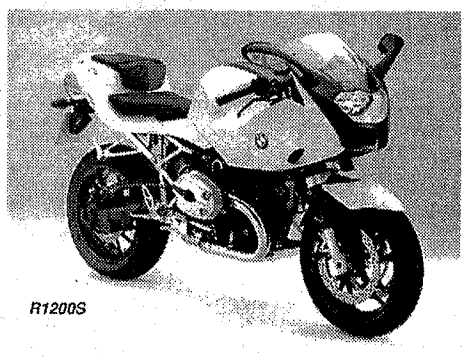
Cleveland Club News

The Official Publication of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland Spring 2006

BMW Entices the Sport Rider!

One of the saving elements of becoming CCN editor has been the continuous unveiling of new motorcycles by BMW. Each issue produced has featured some new addition from the "Werks". We start 2006 with a truly exciting update of a BMW favorite, the new RS.

It's possible that continuing attention to BMW enthusiasts' comments about ideal versions of the marque had their impact with this model. It could also be just smart market planning to appeal to the performance segment of motorcycling, especially in light of their competition from Italy and Japan.



R1200S

Close observers no doubt noted that there was no R1150S update to the R1100S. If you were waiting for that bike, you'll not be disapppointed with this arrival. It can be ordered to suit the owner's preferences in several areas. Want ABS? Get it without the integral servo boost, or skip it entirely. Like a really big "baloney" out back? You can select that option, too. Like to dial in your ride? Ohlins dampers front and rear allow you to do just that.

Those who sampled the unit at the recent Cycle World Show at the IX Center felt just how light this machine is, in the vicinity of 470 pounds! Yes, there are lighter sport bikes with similar power and handling characteristics, but the true believers will appreciate being able to have this mount along with those three inimitable letters, B-M-W.

Yes, that's the hex head motor with the six speed transmission. The motor features 12.5:1 compression ratio, 52mm throttle bodies with a progressive throttle system to give smooth power delivery. The factory claims 122 horsepower @ 8,250 r.p.m.

Light weight, strong motor, handsome, semi-naked styling all add up to a very desirable machine. Should be priced somewhere in the $14K range. Still a premium compared to the Japanese road burners, but you do get the re-sale value that BMWs enjoy. Not that you'll be getting rid of this beauty any too soon.

And from last issue to this there is an ST version of the very interesting F800. Pick up the last issue and imagine it with saddle bags. ■

Cape Breton TT News Update

Toronto, ON --The Cape Breton Festival of Speed is not dead yet, according to one of the event organizers, despite a press release from the Canadian Motorcycle Association saying it was withdrawing its sanctioning of the event. The CMA said that "due to delays in information" not being provided, the race scheduled for Sept. 20-24 was in jeopardy.

John Graham, project manager, admitted that his group had missed a deadline to provide an operations manual to the insurer required by the CMA. A meeting between the race director and the committee in February was hampered by a snow storm in Ottawa. It has been rescheduled and the insurer, Jones Brown, has agreed verbally to a new deadline of April 15th.

"It's our fault", Graham admitted. "We didn't communicate properly to the CMA and the insurance company that we had these delays. The CMA really had no alternative but to issue the release."

In an interview with Inside Motorcycles last Friday, CMA general manager Marilynn Bastedo said she hadn't finalized a new deadline schedule with the event organizers and Jones Brown, but didn't rule out the possibility of the race being saved for 2006.

"When we were first approached about this event we were excited about it," she said. "We still think it could happen in 2007, and we're not going to put up a roadblock to it happening in 2006."

A key concern, however, is a shrinking time frame to complete the necessary upgrades that will be required for the event to take place, such as repaving sections of the highway that will make up the course. ■

(**www.canadianmotorcyclist.com** for comments-ed)

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Editor
Donald Poremski

Contributors: Judy Gau, Mike Kiesel, Paul Mitchell, Roger Pivonka, Don Poremski,Lucy Potisuk

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The Pivonka Report

By President Roger Pivonka

Tune Up! Tune Up! Tune Up!Spring is here and it's tune up time!

Tune up your bike. You know, new tires, check tire pressures, brake fluid, coolant, oil + filter, transmission and differential fluids and battery water and charge etc.

Tune up your attitude. Shake off that cabin fever. Get out in the sunshine for a walk or run around the block. Plan which rallies you'll go to or big trips you'll take.

Tune up your riding skills by taking a few short rides and pay extra close attention to your riding and the traffic and the road. Re-read your favorite riding skills book.

OK. Now you're ready for another fun year of motorcycling!

See ya on down the road. ■

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Capt. Mike's Road Report

By Mike Kiesel

First, a thank you to everyone who took the effort to vote for me to be the new Road Captain. I'll do my best to fulfill the duties of my office.

I heard that everyone who took part in the trip to the motorcycle show at the IX Center, the Moon Rock bowling, and the Wine Train had great times. Thanks to everyone who participated.

I'm looking forward to a good and enjoyable riding season. I hope everybody joins with me in praying for the blessing of great weather for all our events this year.

The first group riding event will be the breakfast ride from the Bob Evans restaurant at RT 422 and 91 in Solon (6100 SOM Center Rd.) to the Packard Museum in Warren, on April 8th. We will be leaving Bob Evans at 9AM sharp so if you want to eat, come early. We'll be visiting a few motorcycle shops along the way (for the MoCal points), and ending at the Packard Museum in Warren. The museum opens at noon and costs $5. The museum exhibit this year will feature "Motorcycles from the Movies" sponsored by the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, Lake Erie chapter. Afterward we usually find somewhere to eat lunch. This ride has been great fun for all those who have attended in the past. It will be a rather leisurely ride on relatively straight roads; just prefect for sharpening those rusty riding skills that have dulled over the winter.

Just a reminder to everyone, the relationship between BMW riders and our local BMW dealerships is a symbiotic one. They need our support to stay in business and we need them to satisfy our desire to keep riding the finest brand of motorcycles made. I have read on the internet of several BMW dealerships across this country who have closed their doors for good. I have a friend in Indianapolis who has to go over a hundred miles to visit a dealership. We are fortunate to have so many dealers in Northeastern Ohio. If we want to keep them, we must support them. One of our first MOCal stops on this year's Packard ride will be at the new BMWMOC dealership in Aurora. It would be a good time to show them our support by spending a few bucks while we have the opportunity.

The very next weekend, starting at 9 a.m., April 15th, we are all invited to the annual Kirt Zautner Memorial Spring Tune-Up Clinic at at Cobb BMW and H-D Repair, 1301 Brownell Avenue, Lorain, OH. Turp will be hosting the event again this year. It's the perfect time to tune up the hardware for the new riding season, install those farckles that have been gathering dust, change the oil, or install those new tires, not to mention chowing down on some food. Turp is very generous with the use of his facilities and expertise. You'll find plenty of novice-pertese too. Be sure to get with Turp before hand if you need to order any parts or materials.

Check the Calendar of Events either in this publication or on the website, **www.bmwmoc.org** for all the particulars for this event, and others during the 2006 riding season. ■

Cat-Talk = Need for Spring

By Don Poremski

I'm at that point, perhaps a little early, that I'm in desperate need for spring to arrive. The most obvious indicator is, you guessed it, talking to my cats. There was the Cycle World International Motorcycle Exhibition which lessened my need for a couple of weeks. That's what slavering over new machinery and being rowdy with biker-types will do for a person, but that glow has gone. Did you notice, Bebe, that Triumph wasn't there...and Moto Guzzi was? Well, anyway, back to my dilemma.

So, I've received my monthly bonanza of motorcycle magazines for February and, while reading through them, it occurred to me that I'm in a full-tilt "jones" for a ride. Asking a cat which has curled onto your lap and into your elbow for opinions about the rah-rah megaphone exhaust on the Griso, or the entomological echoes on the front of the ZX-14, indicates a couple of things: one's wife isn't "into" bikes and it's too darned cold to ride. (Continued on Page 11)

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I learned about riding from that!

By Mike Kiesel

Mike starts a new feature for the CCN with this issue. The title says it all. Send in an example of an experience that taught YOU a lesson about riding that you now use every time you saddle up.

The school of hard knocks can be a very demanding (even deadly) one, especially when it teaches what not to do on a motorcycle. However, for the survivors the lessons learned seem to have a more lasting impression than those experienced elsewhere. I endured one of those lessons a few weeks ago.

It was a nice winter morning with clear skies and 30 degrees. There was no ice, snow, or salt on the roads. They were dry and clear. I decided it would be a good time to take my LT out for a short ride. Those of you who know me realize that I ride all winter and the cold doesn't stop me. I'm always looking for an opportunity and this one seemed perfect.

I have a 450 foot gravel driveway that still had some ice on it so I decided to cut across my lawn to the neighbor's dry concrete drive. I could feel the tires sinking in as I crossed the ground that wasn't quite frozen solid at the surface. I went to the end of the drive and gingerly turned onto the dry asphalt road. I was concerned that my tires may have picked up some moisture from the grass and figured I needed to be careful until it was worn off. I rode the quarter mile down to stop sign at SR 3 and waited for a couple of cars to pass.

Figuring I was good to go I leaned rather crisply into a right turn and twisted the throttle to make a rather aggressive turn into the traffic. It was something I do all the time, however this time it didn't work. The rear tire (with only about 1000 miles on it) broke loose and down we went. My LT laid on its right side and did a 420 death spiral so fast that I didn't even realize that I was going around. I had been wondering if I could pick up my LT after my heart surgery, but let me tell you, I don't think it remained on its side for more than 10 seconds. It's amazing what adrenalin can do for your strength especially in the middle of a busy intersection.

The end result to the bike was a hole worn through the right tip-over bar cover, some new scratches on the lower fairing, a bent brake lever, and flashing ABS fault light telling me that my ABS was no longer working. Sills reset my ABS computer for free which eliminated that problem and a new tip-over bar cover was $28, not too bad. I straightened the brake lever. As for the damage to myself; I had a hole worn through the right hip of my pants where my car keys were; a nice bruise and about 2 inches around of road rash under the hole, and a couple of half inch abrasions on my lower leg.

What I learned, or better yet, what I was reminded of by my little mishap was the following. I think that even though I was careful to take it easy until the moisture I picked up on my tires wore off from contact with the dry pavement, I neglected to remember that that same moisture was probably freezing on the side treads of my tires. When I leaned her over for the turn I was probably on a thin frosty layer with little traction. A similar thing could happen in warmer weather if I'd had mud on the tires.

So first lesson, remember that a different part of the tire contacts the road in a turn. Second lesson, always wear my riding pants no matter how short the ride may be. Third, don't put anything in my pockets that I wouldn't want to land on. Some of my keys actually got bent! ■

2005 BMW R1200 RT Owners Take Note

AeroFlow Corporation has announced the availability of a replacement screen for your vehicle. The new screen offers more protection by being wider, taller and closer to the rider than stock.

Because the screen mounts to the stock mounting brackets, it remains height adjustable, allowing the rider to see over the screen, while providing optimum protection.

Flares at the top and sides expand the envelope of protection. A large NACA-duct shape molded into the screen adds rigidity while speeding up and directing air flow up the center, for enhanced protection.

The AeroScreen is said to come complete with the three piece AirFlow Management Deflector Kit and retails for $399.95.

Check with your local dealer. More information available from **www.aeroflowscreens.com**. ■

Perfect Pyrenees-June '05

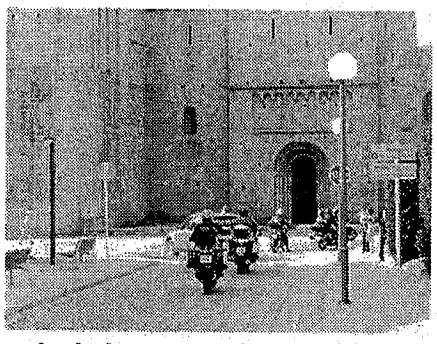
By Paul Mitchell

If you recall the first installment of this travelogue, we left off leaving Barcelona headed for a shakedown ride into the foothills of the Pyrenees.

The format for the week was: "When in Spain..."which meant meals were by Continental times: dining starting after 9:00 p.m., breakfast (always with some variety of Spanish ham) around 8:30 a. m. , load up by 9:15 and on the road not later than 10:00. Wow, it took some time to adjust to the shifting of priorities. Once on the road we would stop around noon at roadside cafes for liquid refreshments and nature's call. Lunch stop came at about 2:00 p.m. and we were always at the day's destination by 6:00 p.m.

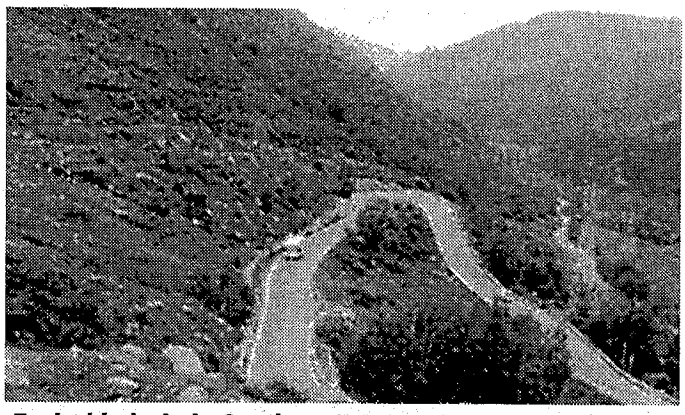
The first day brought us to a parador in the mountain village of Seo de Urgel near the principality of Andorra. Paradors are the government's plan to restore and maintain historic buildings such as castles, manor homes, monasteries, hunting lodges and other structures by converting them into 3 or 4-star hotels and conference centers. They are well-marked as you approach and are professionally staffed with a local chef who features the best of local fare and vino. The hotel was built around the remains of a 14th century Romanesque church convent to Santo Domingo and the impressive cloisters have been preserved.

The town lies in a fertile valley between the Segre and VAlira rivers and is surrounded by the Arcabell and Cadi mountains. The Cathedral of Santa Maria from the 12th century contained an interesting collection of relics. We traveled about 230 kilometers (143 miles) crammed with sweepers and meandering valley highways.



Cathedral Santa Maria.

Before dinner we zipped up to Andorra ten clicks away for a look at the duty free shops which included two motorcycle shops. However, due to the unfavorable exchange rates, there were no bargains.



Typical hairpin in Southern France.

For 715 years, from 1278 to 1993, Andorrans lived under a unique co-principality ruled by French and Spanish leaders (from 1607 onward the French head of state and the Spanish bishop of Urgel). In 1993 this feudal system was modified to retain the titular heads, but the government became a parliamentary democracy. Long isolated and impoverished, mountainous Andorra achieved considerable prosperity since WWII through its tourist industry. Many immigrants are attracted to the thriving economy with its lack of income taxes. An estimated 9 million tourists visit annually, mainly by its duty-free status and by summer/winter resorts.

Before dinner we had the day's riding critique and plan for the next day. Some riding techniques were discussed for the various BMW models on this trip as well as the degree of difficulty for the (Continued on page 6)

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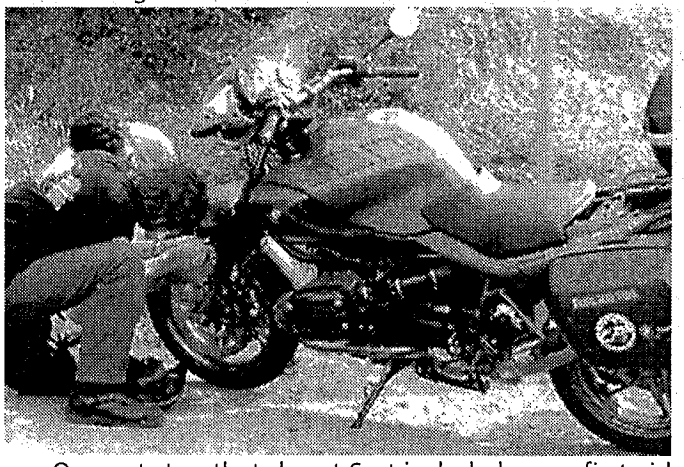
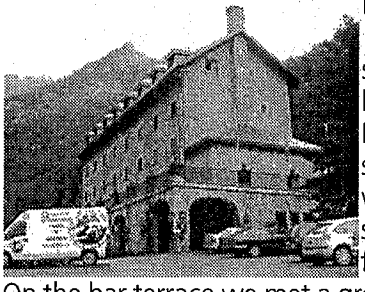
Perfect Pyrenees Cont. fm. page 5

next day's ride. The next day we would cover some of the Tour de France route that would start within two weeks of this trip. The locals and visitors for this event encourage their favorite racers with painted messages on the highway, very colorful and representative of their nation's flag.



Our rest stop that day at Sort included some first aid since our two-up couple from Jupiter Beach FL missed a turn and put the bike down on gravel before hitting the guard rail. No serious injuries, just a bruised knee and knuckles and a broken manicured nail. The bike was fixed with a hammer and some wire to keep the fender from rubbing the front tire. It was a good idea to pay the $200 for additional insurance as I did. These riders would be responsible for the repair costs.

Sort is a mountain village near a number of ski resorts and is famous throughout Spain as the place to buy winning lottery tickets. The views and mountainside homes were spectacular!



Our parador for the second night was a beautiful hunting lodge in Bielsa situated in a valley surrounded by fifteen waterfalls. A nearby stream provided the trout for our evening dinner. On the bar terrace we met a group of Brits who had their bikes shipped from the UK to France and were having a wild holiday touring Southern France and Spain. Their humor became raunchier as the evening developed, actually holding a mock court in the dining room complete with powdered wigs and more libations bought by the other patrons. A good time was had by all. (Would have been a good pic. ed)

The next morning was our only brush with inclement weather. There was a light rain and everyone suited up to greet the day. As we started to climb higher into the mountians the temperatures dropped and the wind picked up. We saw cyclists being pushed uphill by the wind. We were now above the tree line and there were patches of snow visible at higher elevations.

Next issue: Coming Down the Mountain, the Holy Grail and Running with the Bulls. ■

Paul's group on the Tour de France route at a mere 6,938 feet. Makes a person glad to have FI.

2006 Dues are Due!*

*** No Summer CCN unless current.**

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Sometimes the sun, the moon, and the stars all align and something happens that never has before. This is one of those times!

In July of 2006 there will be three excellent rallies within three weeks of each other spanning much of the United States. First is the **BMW RA "Discover Yourself In Idaho" Rally** in Boise, ID, July 6th through the 9th. The following weekend is the famous **Colorado BMW Club's "Top O' The Rockies" Rally**, July 13th though the 16th, and finally is the **BMW MOA "Vermont, It's Not Flat!" Rally** in Burlington, VT, July 20th through 23rd.

Even the old-timers can't remember such an alignment of national and regional rallies. If ever there was a reason bordering on a mandate to ride your BMW across the U.S., this is it.

To recognize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, all three rally sponsoring organizations are cooperating to reward those hardy souls who show the good sense to attend all three events with a special commemorative **"Peaks Of America Tour"** pin! After all, riding BMWs long miles and attending great rallies is what we are all about.

In addition to this pin, participants in this cross country adventure will also be eligible for some traditional awards presented at the 'MOA closing ceremonies, including a POA long distance mileage award.

Participation couldn't be easier: *1. Attend and register at each rally (beer optional). 2. KEEP WEARING your rally wrist band from the Boise and Colorado rallies until you register in Vermont. You must be wearing BOTH prior rally wristbands OR have complete registration paperwork to validate your ride. 3. As you pass through the 'MOA Country Store to get your 'MOA Vermont rally pin & patch your wrist bands (or paperwork) will qualify you for your special "Peaks Of America Tour" pin.* How easy is that?

This is a great way to take home a special reminder of the ride you wanted to take anyway, so don't miss out! Visit the respective web sites below for additional information. See you on the road!

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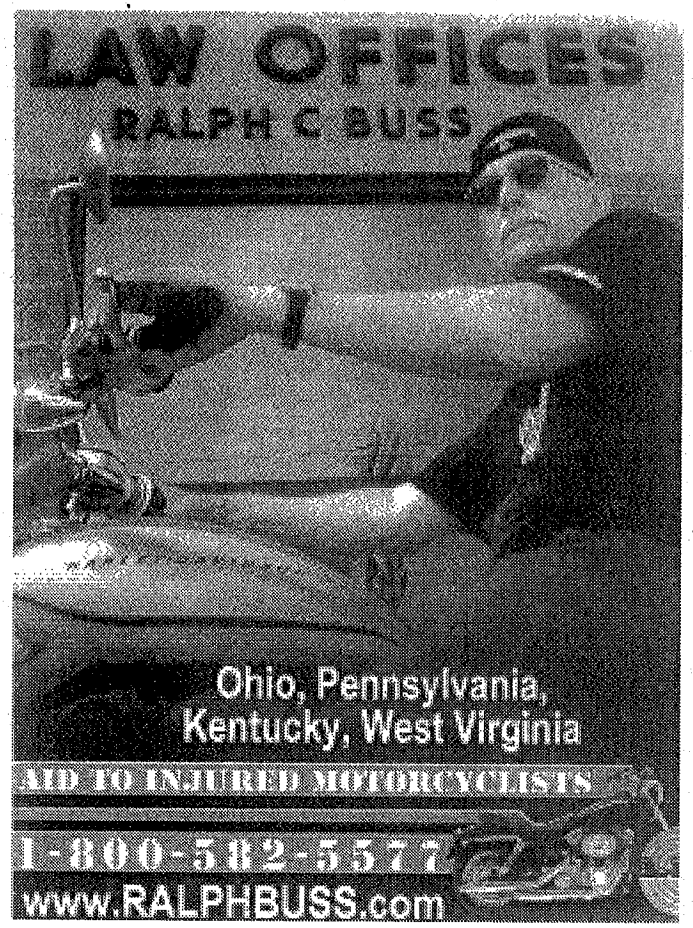

Nice tats, hey!? There are five (5) MOCal points waiting for the first person to identify the MOC member and body part starting with the nine o'clock position. Send entry to Don Poremski c/o the CCN, as per page 2.

Corner Market

FOR SALE: 1993 K1100LT, Blue, 76,000 miles. Equipped with CB radio, Mayer seat. Asking $4,800. Call Dan Frederick at 440-357-1101.

FOR SALE: 2004 R1100S/Boxer Cup Replica, 4,000 miles, new Metzelers, recently serviced. $9,250. Call Mark Weyls at 330-483-3100.

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MRF Seeks Members

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is growing quickly these days. Much of the new-found success comes from the organization's ability to quickly mobilize motorcycle riders when those who don't appreciate our sport are trying to limit our pursuit of happiness.

Serious riders are asked to join in order to swell the ranks thus giving all riders more legitimacy, and to help defray the costs of looking out for our right to ride. The most recent example was an effort to restrict availability of parts and specialized tools only to authorized dealers. This would have cut out many of the individual repair shops, some of which you and I frequent.

HR 2048, The Right to Repair Act of 2005, is something that the MRF watched closely and reported on to the motorcycling industry. It's probably a good Idea to support BOTH the AMA and the MRF. (I will. ed) ■

(If you save your CCNs, copy this page for use)

BMWMOC BREAKFAST RIDES

BREAKFAST - EAST Bob Evans Restaurant 6100 Som Center Road (Solon) Rts. 422 & 91	BREAKFAST - SOUTH Farmer Boy Restaurant 1324 Canton Road Rts. 224 & 91	BREAKFAST - WEST Steak & Shake 5300 Abbe Road Rte. 254 & 301
April 8th April 23rd	April 9th April 15th	April 16th April 22nd
May 13th May 28th	May 14th May 20th	May 21st May 27th
June 10th June 25th	June 11th June 17th	June 18th June 24th
July 8th July 23rd	July 9th July 15th	July 16th July 22nd
August 12th August 27th	August 13th August 19th	August 20th August 26th
September 9th September 24th	September 10th September 16th	September 17th September 23rd
October 14th October 22nd	October 8th October 21st	October 15th October 28th

Participants are asked to arrive early enough, fully fueled, to eat and depart by 9:00 a.m.

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METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRES

Cat Talk (Continued fm. page 3)

That's what would do it. Throw a leg over a machine and head for the Hocking Hills. Or gather with a couple of other bikes and review known twisting roads anywhere, especially route 26 south of Woodsfield OH. Discover what a Hall Sensor is and find out if that's what's causing your R80RT to idle fast after a sustained highway run or if you just need to lube the cables. Look at Lake Erie before it warms sufficiently to swim. Find Luigi's and see if the cooking is really that good. Investigate the availability of nearly-new camping trailers near Harrisburg, PA. Embark on the annual "Easter Ride" and see if it snows.

The tabby ducks under my arm as I review the Richland, Crawford and Huron county maps for a loop ride from The Pit in June, but the paw Peri uses to suggest routes is really just investigating whether that black spot in the crease is a yummy spider snack. And the purring that you evoke by stroking same tabby just reminds you of the hum of the road in cruise mode. But she has given me a positive nod that I should buy the new R1200S when I win the lottery. Hmmm. Wonder if she would like a set of goggles and a nice perch on the back of my bike.

(MEGASIGH)

Oh, hurry spring!! ■

Rally Without Taking Camping Gear!

If you just can't seem to get all the gear and your favorite passenger situated about your bike for that long ride to a prominent rally, there may be an answer for you. You may have already seen the "Sherpa" camping area at a national.

The service provides: a dome tent, air mattress, sleeping bag, chair, pillow and a clean towel each day of the rally. Tent for two runs either $80 or $90 depending on when you register. A three-man runs $120 or $135.

Call Ted Mayberry, 966 Harrison Cir., Alexandria VA 22304 at (703) 963-2521, fax (703) 963-2524. His eddress is ted@sherpamayberry.com.

There are also shade canopies and coffee in the mornings. ■

GS SPRING OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY
APRIL 8TH,15TH,22ND, & 29TH

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HOURS
Tue/Wed 10-6
Thu/Fri 10-8
Sat 9-4

Calendar of Events

April 8
Packard Museum Ride
First breakfast ride from East meeting site to Packard Museum to see "Motorcycles in the Movies". Departs from Bob Evans, 6100 Som Center Road at 9:00 a.m. Be fueled. Bring camera.

April 15
Annual Kirt Zautner Memorial Spring Tune-Up Clinic
9:00 a.m. until ?? at Cobb's BMW & H-D Repair, 1301 Brownell Avenue, Lorain OH. Hosted by former president Howard "Turp" Cobb. Coffee, soft drinks and grill available for you to burn. Spectrol oil, tranny and final drive fluids, Fram and K & N filters available for all bikes. Other needs? Get with Turp before hand to order. 440-244-6881.

April 21-23
Honda Superbike Classic
4th annual AMA Superbike Championship Series double header in Birmingham AL at the world renowned Barber Motorsports Park, also the site of the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. Call 1-800-240-2300 or go to **www.barbermotorsports.com**.

May 4
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. First outdoor meeting at Strawberry Lane Pavillion in the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Located in Willoughby Hills just east of SR91 about 1/4 mile south of intersection with Chardon Road.

May 5-7
32nd Sturgis Mini Rally
Hosted by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Battlecreek. Green Valley Campground. All the things you've come to know and love. Info at 269-965-1673 or bccaldwell@accessus.net.

May 7
2006 MSF Experienced Rider Class
Jerry Bruce will conduct a rider course at Lakeland Community College, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost $25. Both instructors are Beemer riders. Contact Deb to reserve a spot. 440-525-7331.

May 19-22
20th ABC Alphabet Bash
At Springwater Conservation Group Camping Area, St. Thomas Ontario. Up to three nights camping, continuous coffee & fire, showers. Interesting area rides of varying lengths. Fri. night biker stew (bring a can for the pot), Sat. Dice Run (super prize) & winery tour. BBQ and live band music. Kids welcome. $35 CDN, $10 under 12. For information, Hubert Laurin 519-633-0226 or hlaurin@allstream.net or sobrien2@execulink.com.

May 25
BMW MOC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Roger Pivonka's house, 17115 Abbey Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Phone 440-543-8704.

May 26-29
Cass Memorial Day Rally
Sponsored by the Mountaineer BMW Riders at the Boyer Station Campground on SR 28, five miles north of Green Bank, near Boyer WV. Soup and sandwiches Friday night until 11:00 p.m. Dinner Saturday. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate around the clock $35, $30 if pre-registered. Call 614-471-1418 days or 304-863-6206 evenings. www.mountaineerbmw.org. Motels call 304-456-4667.

June 1-4
AMA Suzuki Superbike Double Header
Road racing at Road America, Elkhart Lake WI. 800-365-7223 or visit www.roadamerica.com.

June 2-4
BMW MOC Micro-Rally and Membership Meeting
At The Pit, private campground just south of New Haven OH. $6.00 per person per night. Friday bean pot, continuous coffee, tea, pop and hot chocolate. Club membership meeting held Saturday 4:00 p.m. Weekend deal=$24 for two nights camping and Saturday steak feed. Field events, malt testing, bull throwing and nightly bonfire. Checks to Mike Kiesel, 4725 Sharon-Copley Rd., Medina OH 44250, 330-723-6479.

June 11
Ohio Ride for Kids
Start location: Rocky River HS, Detroit Rd. Rocky river OH. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m., closes 9:45 a.m. Rain or shine. Ride travels through scenic countryside with police escort. Celebration of Life program at end point features interviews with Ride for Kids "stars" the children we help. Award presentations to top fundraisers. Free coffee, doughnuts & light lunch. Grand Prize is a Honda Motorcycle.

June 23-25
4th Laurel Highlands BMW Campout
Pioneer Park Campground, Rt. 31 near Somerset PA. Exit 10 of PA Turnpike, motels and restaurants nearby. $20 per person plus $5 per night per person camping. Benefits Bakersville Volunteer Fire Department. Fri. evening dump stew (bring a can or two), Sat. evening meal, coffee, donuts & more each morning. Rally pin to first 125, door prizes, tech sessions, route sheets, GS ride, hot showers, pool, campground band Sat. night plus firewood. Same weekend as Thunder in the Valley in Johnstown PA. Info at 814-535-8669 or gsjay62@verizon.net.

July 6
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at the Snow Road Picnic Area Pavillion off Snow Road, Metroparks Big Creek Reservation in Parma OH. Come early and cook out before the meeting.

July 6-9
BMW RA National Rally
Held this year in Boise, Idaho. First leg of "Peaks of America Tour"which includes BMW RA, Top O' The Rockies and BMW MOA rallies. Go to www.bmwra.org for complete information.

July 9
Canton M/C Poker Run
Forms at the clubhouse south of Brewster OH on Rt. 93 and follows planned route. $5 for participation. Registration open at 11:30 a.m. Food available for sale in clubhouse.

July 13-16
Top O' The Rockies Rally
Second stop on "Peaks of America". Complete information at www.coloradobeemers.com.

July 20-23
BMW MOA National Rally
Burlington VT hosts this year's rally, third stop on "Peaks of America". Go to www.bmwmoa.org for details.

July 27
BMW MOC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Mike and Lucy Potisuks residence, 3750 S. Sunnyfield Drive, Copley OH 44321. Phone 330-670-9931.

July 28-30
AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days
MV Agusta this year's vintage marque. Held at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course near Lexington OH. Vintage road racing and motocross events and competitions on track and off, featuring some of history's best bikes and the people who keep that history alive. Plus guest speakers, seminars, new model domo rides, a swap meet and more. Call for more information at 1-800-MID-OHIO or www.midohio.com.

August 3
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Huntington Beach Park in Bay Village. Come early for a swim, to cook out and relax before the meeting.

August 4-6
Honda Super Cycle Weekend
Double race format for the AMA Superbike Championship. More information, same as Vintage Days.

August 18-20
40th Annual Four Winds Rally
Held at Red Bank Municipal Park near New Bethlehem PA. Really grand prize plus door prizes! Also GPS raffle. Rides, seminars, swimming, continuous coffee, Sat. meal, field events, entertainment. Info at 412-828-3413 or www.4windsbmw.org.

September 7
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Picnic Shelter, Chippewa Creek Drive, in Brecksville OH. Come early, cook out.

Septemnber 8-10
BS Rally "Puttin' on the Ritz"
Lake Snowden near Athens OH. More in Summer CCN.

September 14-17
Catskill Mountain Thunder
Held at Blackthorne Resort, East Durham NY 12423. Packages available. Fishing, Bocci Ball, Swimming, nightly entertainment, and more. Call 518-634-2541 or www.blackthorneresort.com.

September 20-24
Cape Breton Festival of Speed
Isle of Man tourist trophy-style roadracing in Nova Scotia near Sidney. Inaugural event. Stay tuned for details. For now, google Cape Breton Festival of Speed.

September 24
Canton M/C Another Dam Run
Meets at clubhouse on Rt. 93 south of Brewster. Registration open at 11:30. $5 participation fee. Food, drinks available for sale in clubhouse.

September 29 - October 1
AMA Superbike Championship Shootout
Held at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course near Lexington OH. Season finale. Superbike, Supersport, Superstock and Formula Extreme classes will be contested. Call 1-800-MID-OHIO for information or log on at www.midohio.com

October 5
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
Held at Gathering of the Clams, a.k.a. Fall Foliage Festival, at Whispering Hills Campground, Shreve OH.

November 2
BMW MOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Panini's, 480 West Aurora Road (Rt. 82), Sagamore Hills (Northfield) OH 44067. Call 330-468-6200.

November 28
BMW MOC Board Meeting
Details to follow.

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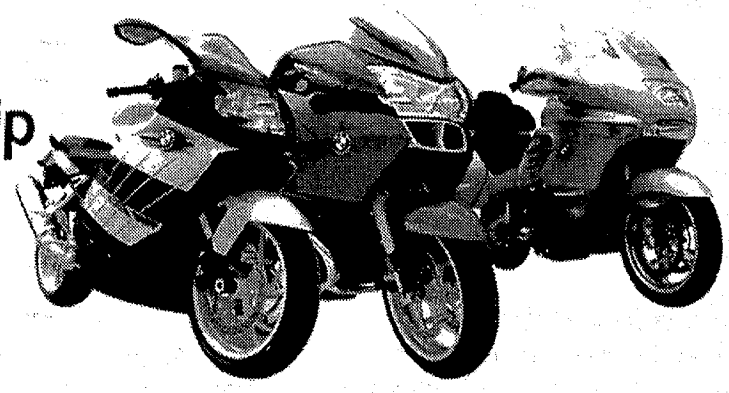

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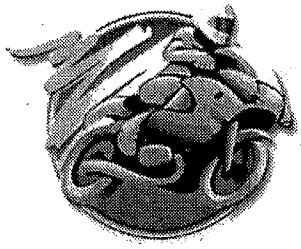

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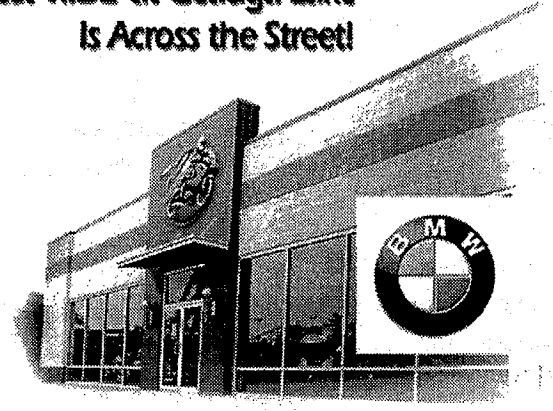
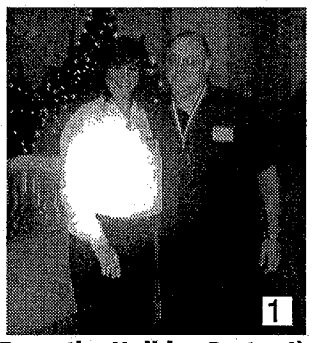
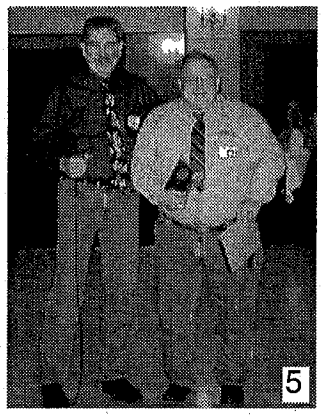
330-562-5200 www.BMWMOC.COM





From the Holiday Party: 1) Erica presents top Mocal prize to husband Ron Petras, 2) She takes 1st Runner-up, 3) Don Walker grabs 2nd Runner-up, 4)Barb Cowan got the Doer Prize and 5) outgoing Prez Turp got the "Golden Schwing" award from outgoing Road Captain Darwin W. McClellan. The Schoenbergers were also recognized for their "Pit" work.



All aboard...The Wine Train. Can't you just hear James Brown singing it now? 6) Ring leader Robin Moss holds up "the towel" with Rick Matisak while Gerry Evon and Diane Biddlestone beam. 7) Jerry Bruce and date Linda joined the fun and 8) George and Colleen Lopez were the chaperones. Yeah, right! A good time was had by all.

Hall of Fame Announces "SuperMann" Exhibit

Pickerington, Ohio - The Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum announces "SuperMann", an all-new exhibit honoring the legendary career of Dick Mann, one of motorcycling's most versatile and successful competitors. Mann, who was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 1998, will return as guest of honor on Thursday, July 27th, 2006 to personally cut the ribbon during the "SuperMann" exhibit dedication ceremony.

Mann was indeed a competitor with Superman-like qualities. He was the first individual in history to win every category of AMA Grand National competition, is a two-time Daytona 200 winner, a two-time AMA Grand National Champion and a 24-time AMA National race winner. Not only did Mann win more races in more categories than anyone else, he brought home the trophies for longer than most. Competing in over 230 AMA nationals, including dirt track, road racing and motocross, Mann was in hot pursuit of the checkered flag for over 25 years, scoring top ten finishes when other racers had long retired. Visitors will also enjoy artifacts and memorabilia from Mann's prolific career.

The goal of the Hall of Fame Museum is to tell the stories and preserve the history of motorcycling. Located on the campus of the American Motorcyclist Association in Pickerington, it honors those who have contributed notably to the sport. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Adult admission is $10.00 per person. More information available at (614) 856-2222. ■

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Whence Inspiration?

By Don Poremski

Suppose the Muse Erato applies for prose as well as love poetry, at least for this undeniable urge to communicate. Could be she is responsible, but maybe Erato is really just a circumstance, a waking moment following vivid and puzzling dreams. Dreams supposedly reflect situations or events that have recently occurred in one's life. Viewing The Fastest Indian the other night might be responsible, too. Close enough.

So it was the movie to blame for me dreaming about my first two-wheeled vehicle, a Cushman Eagle. And it was the movie that began the thought process about the commonality that motorcycle riders share. My first adventure, riding a scooter from Syracuse NY to Pittsburgh PA, wasn't exactly a parallel to bringing a streamlined motorcycle to the Bonneville Salt Flats from New Zealand, but so many scenes from the movie were evocative of that trip and many others experienced since becoming addicted.

Ol' Burt Munro was addicted for sure. During the movie I kept getting subliminal flash inserts of a similarly addicted fellow, Wayne Kelly of Kelly's Wheel Exchange, Pittsburgh motorcycling personality and former Harley test rider. The spontaneous challenges Burt faced during his trek to Bonneville in the movie could be matched by stories heard from and about Wayne, a man just as undaunted as Burt.

There was the time that Wayne volunteered to pick up a congoleum (forerunner of floor tiles) for a woman who owned a diner. He got the impression that it was a small piece cut to fit her kitchen, but when he arrived to pick it up on his motorcycle, he was confronted with a rolled tube fully twelve feet long. He toted it out to his bike, a Harley, leaned it against the bike until he had it fired, pulled it across his lap and started for the woman's home. Wayne recalled that he had to lean the bike while maintaining a straight line to avoid obstacles along the way...like oncoming cars and fire hydrants.

There was also the time that while riding a side hack along a short cut, he and the bike tumbled into a ditch cut across the road for a sewage line. He tacoed the front wheel, but luckily, all the wheels on that bike were interchangeable. So, he took the wheel off the "chair", put it on the front of the bike and got home by "flying" the side car the whole way.

I believe that story because I once brought two fellow airmen second class and a bicycle home from a kegger at Green Lake in New York on my Cushman. I sat on the tank, one passenger on the rider's seat, the second passenger on the pillion and the bicycle between them. There's never a camera around when you need one.

Another aspect of the movie that I, and others I'm sure, can relate to is the kindnesses that we have received from and provided to complete strangers. I've been towed up a steep Pittsburgh hill by another bike when my '61 "Trumpet" Bonneville threw a primary chain (instead of blowing another Zener diode). I've been summoned onto a person's porch while waiting out a summer thunderstorm in the days when I didn't own rain gear, then fed a ham sandwich. I've been allowed to follow a huge truck to get home when the Zener diode did blow and I lost my headlight. That only worked until the Forest Hills local police witnessed the situation. I then spent two hours in a bus stop shelter until it became light.

I have shared my gas with a stranded biker at least three times and received same on two occasions. There was a Harley rider who thought I could use one of his tires when I was limping home on a threadbare rear tire from Thunder in the Catskills. Might have been a good idea except for fit and style. The one he had was a white-walled sixteen incher.

It's motorcycles that allow us to exhibit shared humanity. It's the looniness of using a basically unsafe mode of transportation in a world of mostly unconscious cage drivers that elicits a need to trust and be trusted. It allows a show of sympathy in a largely callous society. Did Porgy have it right when he said, "Them wit' plenny o' nuttin' got plenny to share." Well, it takes more than nuttin' to be astride a lot of the equipment that's out there now, especially BMWs, but we can still imagine that we're bucking the tide, being individualistic, and we can appreciate anyone else doing the same thing as we, no matter what the livery.

That just about covers why I dreamt of the Cushman and Wayne, but why the crystal clear images of the "knockoff" spoked wheels on my '56 Austin Healey and the brass hammer used to get them off? That's probably a story for another quiet morning. ■