"CCN" BMWMOC's Quarterly Newsletter

BMW Club
Motorcycle Owners
of Cleveland

Cleveland Club News

Summer 2014

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From the Editors

Dominic and Kristin Cioffi

The summer riding season is officially here! We had a great time on our trip to the RA Rally and saw many familiar faces along the way. The weather could have been better, but for the most part was pretty good. Most importantly, we had a safe trip with no mechanical difficulties. Look for a write up in a future CCN issue.

As many of you know, we had a little down time on the bike once we got back from our trip, though. But, she is back in good health now and running great. We were even able to get a little time on her over the nice weekend.

This issue is filled with lots of pictures from fellow club members at events and on their own trips. We would like to thank everyone that has contributed articles for the CCN so far. Your submissions are what makes the CCN possible, and we encourage you to send in your pictures and/or articles about your summer trips.

Happy Travels,

Dominic and Kristin Cioffi

CCN 2014

The CCN will be 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**

Touring Tip from Gretchen Nahas

It is important to carry your id and cell phone on your person when riding. If you should happen to get in an accident, you may be separated from your bike. Keeping your id and cell phone in your jacket allows you to make an emergency call and enables first responders to be able to identify you.

President's Message

Marcial Ingal

Grub zu jeder!

We are rolling from Spring time in to full gear with the Summer riding season!

What a wonderful way to make that transition than with our Spring Micro Rally campout. This annual event was held the weekend of June 13 – 15th. What a great time. We had beautiful weather, nice campfires, a fun ride into the nostalgia of the fab 50s, field events and of course a delicious pig roast. Once again, a fantastic job by all those who made this event possible: Paul K., Pat C., Roger P., Don P. and especially Nancy and Phil N. Thank you to all those who helped out and everyone who came out to enjoy the great outdoors with you friends of the BMWMOC. I would also like to congratulate Pat C. once again for being given the well deserved President's award for 2013.

Since our last issue we also had a number of rides and events: the AMA/Iron Pony ride, the Tune Up Clinic, the Packard Museum ride, the Scoot n' Shoot. Thanks to all those who stepped up to lead club rides as our fearless Co-Road Captain Pat C. is still recovering from his injury. Special thanks to Tim G. as one of our newest members who led the ride to the Packard Museum.

We have a number of rides coming up including the Cave Run, Ride to Mid OH, ride to Moto GP and other impromptu rides. The Wednesday rides is also a new event that happens each week to have an opportunity to grab some breakfast and have a nice ride with friends. So be sure to check out our club's website calendar. Also, be on the lookout for changes in our membership meeting venues. These changes will be posted on front page of the website and reminders sent out via email.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe riding season. I look forward to seeing you at our next event or club ride.

Best regards,

Marcial Ingal
President

Calendar of Events

Visit the calendar on www.bmwmoc.org for an updated list of events

Membership Meeting
July 3, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Bradley Woods Metropark Reservation

AMA Vintage Days
July 11-13, 2014
Mid-Ohio Sports Course
Lexington, OH

Club Ride to Mid-Ohio Super Bike Races
July 20, 2014
Leave Bob Evans @ 8:00 a.m.
17011 Bagley Rd., Middleburg Hts

42nd BMW MOA International Rally
July 24-27, 2014
Minnesota State Fairgrounds
St. Paul, MN

Directors' Meeting
July 31, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Marcial Ingal's home, Rocky River

Membership Meeting
August 7, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Location TBA

Club Ride to Moto GP
August 11-13, 2014
Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Contact Mickey Skowronsky for details

Four Winds BMW Rally
August 15-17, 2014
Redbank Valley Municipal Park
Fairmont City, PA

Finger Lakes BMW Rally
August 29– September 1, 2014
Hidden Vallley Group Camp
Watkins Glen, NY

Membership Meeting
September 4, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Location TBA

German Car Show
September 14, 2014
8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
Lenau Park, Olmsted Township

BMWMOC Fall Campout
September 19-21, 2014
Whispering Hills RV Park
Big Prairie, OH

Wednesday Moring Rides

We meet every Wednesday morning at the Bob Evans in Solon at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, if interested The ride leaves at 10:00 a.m. Rides last 2-2.5 hours and we will have a different destination for lunch at the end of each ride. Anyone is welcome to join us– just show up and enjoy riding with a small group of BMWMOC friends.

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.

Views from the Spring Campout

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Costa Rica

Roger Pivonka

I went to Costa Rica for the first two weeks of February this year and rented a BMW F800GS to ride around a good bit of the estern half of Costa Rica.This "Self Guided" trip was set-up by www.costaricantrails.com and they did a pretty good job based on the little info I gave them about what I wanted to see. The trip avoided the eastern area of Limon province and that was fine by me because that area has a risk of malaria.

I started by flying into San Jose and kicking around there for a day and a half. Then I picked up the bike at San Jose BMW and was off to Turrialba where I rode thru a sugar cane field to get to my hotel. The next day I backtracked a bit and rode west over Cerro de la Muerte (Death Hill) on my way to Dominical along the Pacific Ocean. Then I made my way up the coast, stopping one day each at Manuel Antonio and Nosara. Two nights in Tamarindo gave me a chance to book a Conopy Tour (aka Zipline) then next day on to Rincon De La Vieja, Arenal Volcano, Sarapiqui Rain Forest and ending back in San Jose. I rode a wide variety of twisy and straight scenic paved, gravel, dirt and rock roads. I liked the F800GS except for the low seat which lacked enough padding to be 'all day' comfy. It turns out that the F800GS is the tallest bike in the lineup - who knew? They gave me the low seat to be sure I could get my feet down.

The directions I received from the tour operator were different than I expected but I think they were normal for Central and South America and Europe.

They always had me riding to the center of a town and then watching for signs to the Next town. So you navigate from town center to town center. Road names and route numbers are seldom used except within Major cities like San Jose where all streets are one way and every other street goes the opposite direction.

I had loaded a FREE GPS app on my cellphone and had also downloaded the maps for Costa Rica so I did NOT need a data plan in Costa Rica to use the GPS app. AND it worked. MapFactor Navigator has free OSM maps for almost anywhere in the world.

The roads were mostly pretty good, and if not good then challenging to me and the bike. The max speed limit I saw was 80kph so I never feared being run over or flying off some turn somewhere. Costa Rica is a beautiful country and I was glad I was there during the dry season. That allowed me a greater choice in the roads I used. I only saw rain on the last riding day as I exited: TaDa, the Rain Forest! That day's ride was up and down a twisty paved mountain road in the rain and heavy fog with no "turn outs" to get a break from it all.

I think I saw all of their major crops, sugar cane, coffee, banana and pineapple. AND enjoyed fresh juice of any darn fruit you wanted. You want pineapple juice - they cut up a pineapple and spin it up in a blender with some water or milk if you prefer. OH, watermelon too. Yummy.

Besides my usual cellphone I also took my OLDer smartphone along (in case I lost one of them). When I got to San Jose I bought a sim card for EACH of the phones with different cell carriers because each carrier was good in a different area. Each sim only cost $2 and came with 30 minutes of in country talk time.

I posted some pictures on the BMW MOC Shutterfly site under the 2014 heading. Check em out and make your plans for Costa Rica real soon.

Inside Track

Dominic Cioffi

Keep it Clean

Anyone that spends time with me knows I tend to be a bit quirky when it comes to the care of my bikes. I like to believe in the old adage an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Become familiar with your bike to anticipate common issues. Have an idea of how much engine oil your bike burns for every 1000 miles, this way you have a close idea of how much oil to carry on a trip. Know how much air do you typically loose in your tires in 1000 miles, and so on.

I am not an advocate that everyone should be turning wrenches on their motorcycles. However, I would suggest that everyone is capable of keeping their motorcycle clean. A clean bike is a happy bike. If a motorcycle is properly cleaned, many of the components are consequently, inspected as they are cleaned and polished. The owner can then notice if something is loose, missing or leaking. As far as specific brands; Motul, Motorex, S100 and Semichrome are tough to beat with a new microfiber cloth.

Keeping the exterior of the bike clean and in good working order can be as important as the interior. The fuel we put in our bikes is another important factor for a bikes well being. Some people go on sight-seeing rides, some for ice cream, some for MOCal destinations. I, however, ride for gas! Ethanol free gas can be hard to come by and I think it's important to find gas stations that sell ethanol free gas and give them business. The more business we give them, the fresher the gas will be and maybe more stations will start to sell it when they realize there is a good market for it. The closest station on the west side was found by Bret Rue a few months ago. The station is a Marathon at 12966 Prospect Rd in Strongsville. They have 91 octane, ethanol free on pump #14. Note the fuel must be prepaid, and the current cost is $4.79 a gallon. Other stations can be found on the internet via Pure-Gas.org or other data bases. Pure-Gas even has an app for your smart phone. If you come across an ethanol free station while travelling, be sure to added to the Pure-Gas site if it is not already there. Prices for ethanol free gas seem to vary from the same cost as corn based to up to a dollar more per gallon, in my experience.

My motorcycle has a nine gallon fuel tank. The bike is the "Milch Cow" of motorcycles. So it is easy to ride a fair distance out of my way to acquire the proper nectar my Uboat requires. I would recommend making an ethanol free gas your destination to keep the inside of your bikes fuel system clean and running properly. An added bonus is the extra mileage gained for using ethanol free fuel. I average between 2 to 6 miles per gallon better gallon then the corn fuel.

Remember, the key to a happy BMW is to keep it clean, inside and out.

European Riders Rally

Judy Gau

BURKSVILLE, KENTUCKY
May 16-18, 2014

The Nashville BMW Motorcycle Club puts on the European Riders Rally every year in May on the banks of the beautiful Cumberland River. I've been to this rally a few times, and always look forward to the next one. The rally fee includes a tee shirt, rally pin, breakfast, lunch and dinner, door prizes, tours, and live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The ride down was rainy and chilly, in the low 40s all the way. I had the pleasure to ride down following Cheryl Fallis and Robin Bova in Cheryl's jeep pulling her 250. We had great expectations of riding together on the back roads in Kentucky and Tennessee while attending the rally, but the weather was just as ugly down there as it was up north. Once we arrived, we ran into Turp Cobb, Don Walker, and Don Beal. Also, many familiar faces from past rallies, but not sure who they were.

On Saturday us gals and Turp took a ride in the jeep to Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee to visit Cyclemo's Motorcycle Museum. From their brochure "Nestled in the middle of Tennessee's most picturesque mountains is the town of Red Boiling Springs, home to Cyclemo's Motorcycle Museum. Every road leading to this quaint little mountain town, known for its historic bed and breakfasts, winds through rich farm land and beautiful mountain ranges. Not only is Cyclemo's Motorcycle Museum the only motorcycle museum in the state, the local riding is the best that Tennessee has to offer. Stay overnight and enjoy the hospitable accommodations of any of the three Historic Bed and Breakfast facilities in town." It truly is a picturesque place. Although they had the closed sign hung, we slipped in the back garage door with some of the owner's friends. Would not have been happy if we couldn't have gotten to see the museum, as I was sure the group would love it. And they did.

After we hung around the museum for awhile and took many pictures, especially the artifacts of the early days of flat track motorcycle racing, we decided to stop at the library to find out how the town got the name Red Boiling Springs. As far as we knew, we didn't see anything red, nothing was boiling, and there were no springs visible. Very interesting story where an early settler, Mr. Sheppard, came to what is now know as Red Boiling Springs, with both eyes infected and barely able to see. He stumbled across a spring which he described as red boiling water, to which he washed his eyes in. Instantly he could see, a miracle. So that is how this little town in the mountains of Tennessee received their name. Interesting.

After our scenic drive back to the rally, they had the door prize winners and dinner served. The entertainment was awesome. Our own club member Samantha McNamara was wailing on the violin with guitarist singer songwriter Chuck Jones from Nashville. The evening got even better when we told all those that were charging their phones and cameras next to us, not to check their pictures until they got home. We all got a laugh from that. We were bad. At the awards ceremony, I took the award for Longest Distance Traveled, Female. That was unexpected, but welcomed.

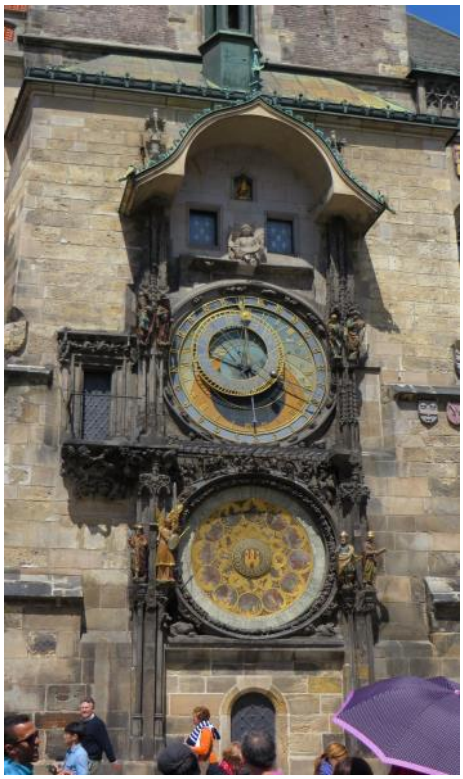
The trip home the next day was without incident. Turp and I headed north, while Robin and Cheryl headed, well, to a few wineries in the area before heading back home the next day. Took about eight hours to get home with quite a bit of construction on every major interstate, route and bypass. All in all, another great rally despite the colder temperatures.

Views from my Czechoslovakia and Hungary Tour

Roger Pivonka

Great Scenery in Slovenia

In the Welicka Salt Mine



Prague Astrological Clock

Water Bus on the Danube River

Budapest Parliament Building

Parliament Building at Night

Fierce looking Statues

Arpad, Leader of the Hungarian Clans Before Kings

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REMEMBER THE MOCal BMWMOC GRAND TOUR 2014

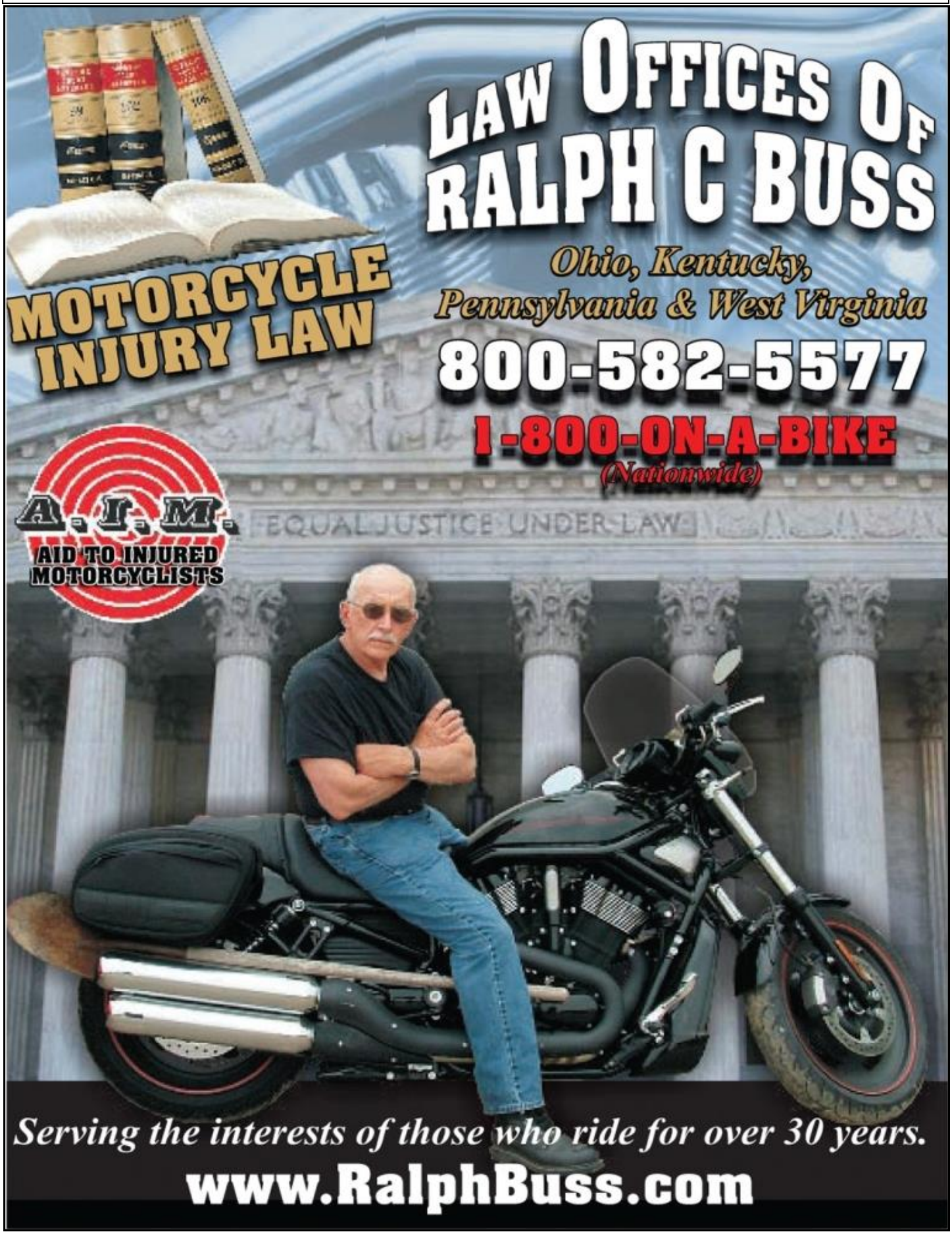
The MOCal, short for "motorcycle decal," program as sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland will continue each new year with new targets.

This year's targets: Public Swimming Pools

Turn in a picture of yourself or your motorcycle in front a public swimming pool in any state. Be sure your bike and the pool are clear in the picture. Points are awarded as indicated. Submit your pictures to the MOCal administrator, Don Poremski. If you submit a group shot, please be sure to turn in the names of all persons in the photo.

Helpful hints:

Public means water for swimming that is open to the general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