Cleveland Club News

The Official Publication of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland Spring 2004

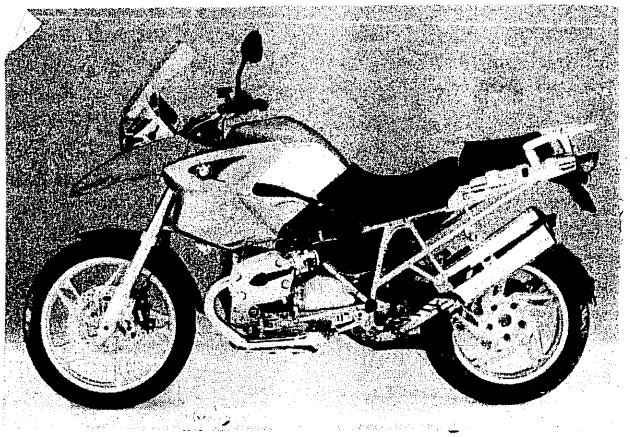
New R1200GS Available in Dealerships, March 2004

BMW GS riders may have even more reasons to be fanatical over their machines...if they are some of the first to purchase this more powerful, yet lighter version. Reports say they will be in dealer showrooms as the Spring CCN goes to press.

The first items to jump out at those prospective buyers is the tubular frame and more abbreviated body work. That visual impression is borne out by the loss of sixty six pounds from the earlier models. But scanning the specifications moves the focus of the new machine to the engine.

This will be the first 'boxer' engine in history to feature a balance shaft. This is driven by a spur gear at the same speed of the crankshaft, but in the opposite direction. BMW says the result is "supreme smoothness".

Smooth and putting out 100 horsepower at 7,000 r.p.m, the engine has a torque reading of 85 lbs./ft. at 5,500 r.p.m. Other goodies include: ultra-strong alloy wheels, new knock-sensing engine management computer and new drive train components. More details are available to internet users at **www.bmwmoa.org/features/newmodels/r1200gs.htm.** Those without will just have to go to our advertisers' showrooms. ■



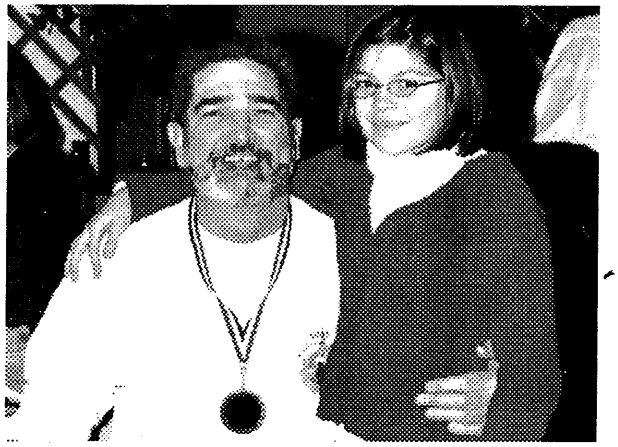
R1200GS, just 496 pounds with a full tank of gas.

Road Captain McClellan Earns Top MOCal Award

The competition heated up toward the end of the year, but Road Captain Darwin McClellan took top honors, and the $200 check, for piling up the most MOCal points in 2003. Darwin got all the barns and twenty one capitals, plus the points for rides, board membership, banner photos and more. He was presented the winner's check at the Holiday Bash and received the applause of his fellow members.

First runner-up was Mike Kiesel who also got every barn and twenty six capitals, but was hampered by the fact that he only started in August. Second runner-up was Larry Cardo. The 'Doer' prize also went to the McClellan clan when Margi's name was drawn. Somehow, after that Chloe got all the 50/50 tickets before the drawing.

The targets for MOCal points in 2004 will be covered bridges. It doesn't have to carry traffic. It doesn't have to be in use. You just need a photo of you and your bike, or just your bike with the bridge in view. Send that photo along with a description of where you found it to Don Poremski, 1290 Desert St. NE, Uniontown, OH 44685. Digital images can be sent to: strutguy@yahoo.com.



Darwin shows off the 1st place medal with Chloe.

Don will have lists of how points can be attained at each monthly meeting. They are also shown on the club web site: www.bmwmoc.org. Get an early start because I feel Darwin and Mike are set for a real battle of the MOCal points in 2004. ■

Contents

The Turp Report 2
President Howard "Turp" Cobb greets the club.

Breakfast Ride Schedule.....3
Dates for each location.

Capt. Darwin's Rev-olutions.....3
What you missed and what's coming in 2004.

Ramblin' with Rose.....4
Questions and answers with the Venus spin.

Club (Country)Store Line-Up.....5
Apparel for the stylish MOC member.

New Female Rider.....6
Judy Gau urges gals to get their own.

I-BMW.COM Rally..... 7
Mike Sexton is goin' to Virginny.

AMA Vintage Days 2004.....8
BMW to be Featured Marque.

A Beemer Rider in the Land of Oz.....8-10
Rick Matisak shares his "down-under" experience.

Taggart Cartoon Returns.....11
Janklow's wrist must be sore.

Calendar of Events.....12&13

Member Snapshot.....14
Don Walker names names.

Holiday Bash Photos.....15

BMW MOC is Coming.....16
Dale Kramer gives update on new dealership.

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Donald Poremski
Contributors
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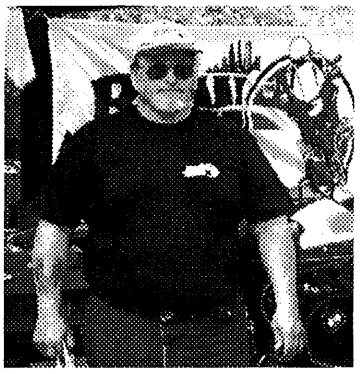
The Turp Report

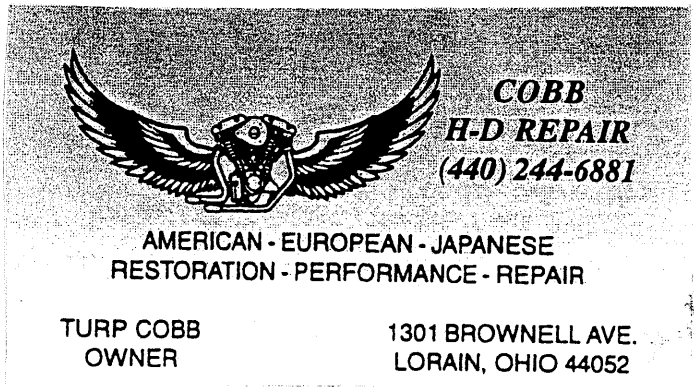
By President Howard "Turp" Cobb



I first joined a motorcyle club in 1958, when Dale Wright and I met Ken Claus. We rode and raced together for a few years, then Ken got into BMWs and Dale and I continued racing. In the 70s we joined the Amherst Meadowlarks where I served in several positions, including president. I continued riding and working on motorcycles, and in 1973 my brother and I opened a repair business. About 1976 I began operating Cobb H-D Repair and in 1985 bought our present location in Lorain and Ken Claus started stopping by. I got back into BMWs and Ken, Dale, and I rode a few places together. About 1998 Ken got Dale and I to join the BMWMOC by promising us interesting rides and good companionship. He was right about both. I served on the board,as v.p., and now I have been drafted to the presidency.

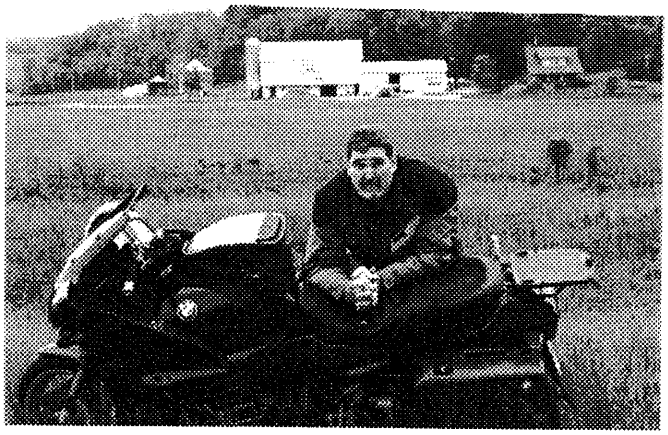
These are my thoughts on the presidents job and the BMWMOC. I believe my job is to conduct the meetings, keeping the agenda generally to the business at hand, and to help the various committees and offices by doing everything I can to help them function smoothly. I also believe the above includes addressing any comments or concerns, pro or con, the members bring to my attention. I hope you will help me do my job by sharing any suggestions you have with me.

We have a very dedicated group of people doing the many jobs that keep our club running smoothly. The amount of time they donate has made our club the efficient, yet fun organization it is. I am sure with their support the club will continue to do a great job of representing the BMW motorcycle owners of the Cleveland area. ■



Capt. Darwin's REV-olutions

By Darwin McClellan



Spring has sprung,
The grass has riz,
I wonder how my spark plugs is,
If this thought now is on your mind,
Then to the tune up clinic,
You must get your behind,
To Turps shop in Amherst,
For the meeting of minds,
And all sorts of useful mechanical finds,
With tools, tech tips, and helping hands,
We'll get the bikes ready to visit distant lands,
So come one and all, we've knowledge to bequeath,
Then doubt is replaced with bugs in your teeth!

OK girls and guys it's been long enough, let's turn down the covers and get ready to start another riding season. Actually it's been a good winter with: the Holiday Party in December, Lunch and Bike Show in January, MAPS Museum in February. The Holiday Party was fun as usual and the addition of the MoCal awards and Doer prize made the evening more interesting. One highlight I would like to mention was the presentation of the BMWMOA's Golden Schwing Award to Don Poremski. Don was recommended for this award because of his effort, enthusiasm, and endless dedication to our club. Thanks again Don!

The Motorcycle Show was another big hit this year, just coming in out of the cold, snow, and ice, seeing all those shiny new bikes warms the soul and makes the mind think of rides to come. One added bonus this year was that our club was awarded a $50.00 prize from the show organizers (Powersports Group) for being the largest group signed in at the show. See! Participation does pay. Way to go folks! Another highlight was the lunch before the show. Twenty seven members arrived at the Station Restaurant in Berea for great food, conversation and group photograph with the club banner. (Gotta get those MOCal pts.)

On February 28th about 25 members took part in the breakfast and trip to the MAPS Museum at the Akron Canton Airport. We were divided into groups of six and escorted through the facility by very knowledgeable tour guides. Included in the tour were planes from WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. My favorites were the P-51 Mustang and the B-25 in the restoration shop. The leader of our group was a gentleman that flew P-40's and P-51's in the South Pacific during WWII and was one kill short of becoming an ACE! He also (with some coaxing) told us of some of his exploits during his time there. I'm saving those for around the campfires. Many thanks to Norm Brunelle and guides Bryan Best, Simone Richardson and Bob Wither.

What a great day it was! So nice that at least a dozen of us rode to the event. Then after the tour, five of us rode to Lisbon OH, had a great lunch at the Steel Trolley Diner, and collected 4 photos of covered bridges. That's not counting the one we all got as a group on the way to the Museum. In all we rode 270 miles, had a great time, stayed warm and dry, and did it in February! I wish more of you could have taken part. It was one in a million.

Starting the spring season. We have our first breakfast rides scheduled to begin on April 10th with a ride to the Packard Museum in Warren OH for a display of vintage war and work bikes. Don't miss this one! It was a great time last year. As mentioned above, the spring tune up clinic at Turps will be on April17th. This is the place to get that ride of yours into shape for the season, bring parts needed with you or contact Turp ahead of time so he can order them for you.

We have seen some new members this winter but there are a lot of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet. Come to a meeting or event. Bring the spouse and kids. The worst that could happen is you might win the 50/50 drawing like young Patrick Sexton. How bad is that? I'll be looking forward to meeting all 160 plus of you this year and sharing a few miles, smiles, and bridges. Be safe!!!!!!!

Darwin. ■

BMWMOC BREAKFAST RIDES

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Rts. 422 & 91	Rts. 224 & 91	Rts. 254 & 301
April 10, 2004	April 11, 2004	April 18, 2004
April 25, 2004	April 17, 2004	April 24, 2004
May 8, 2004	May 9, 2004	May 16, 2004
May 23, 2004	May 15, 2004	May 22, 2004
June 12, 2004	June 13, 2004	June 20, 2004
June 27, 2004	June 19, 2004	June 26, 2004
July 10, 2004	July 11, 2004	July 18, 2004
July 25, 2004	July 17, 2004	July 24, 2004
August 14, 2004	August 8, 2004	August 15, 2004
August 22, 2004	August 21, 2004	August 28, 2004
September 11, 2004	September 12, 2004	September 19, 2004
September 26, 2004	September 18, 2004	September 25, 2004
October 9, 2004	October 10, 2004	October 17, 2004
October 24, 2004	October 16, 2004	October 23, 2004

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Ramblin' with Rose

by Rosemary Wood

The struggle between Mars and Venus crosses over in every aspect of our lives, including motorcycling. Regardless of your seat position, traveling with the 'other side' poses both challenging and humorous moments. BMWMOC has a large Venus contingent with many lady members riding their own machines. It is my hope to create a forum where the questions and queries of traveling couples can be addressed for both men and women. Questions or comments can be sent to ramblinrose@adelphia.net or mail to the CCN editor.

Dear Ramblin' Rose,
Last summer my boyfriend, Jim, finally asked me if I wanted to go to my first BMW Rally for the weekend. I was so excited I screamed YES! One week prior to the event, Jim stopped by my apartment and handed me one of those black saddle bags with the instructions that whatever I could fit in it, I could take-PERIOD. Well, to make a long story short, one thing led to another and the little black bag went flying out the window. We've made up since then and I'd really like to go to the rally, but how in the world do women pack for these things?

Needy

Dear Needy,
Packing for a rally is a very important test of your value system. Limited space on this mode of transportation allows a rider to bring only what they "need". Do you know what YOU need?

Far beyond jeans and sleeping bags, I've seen riders pack wine glasses, straw hats, carb stix, plastic skeletons, teddy bears, inflatable chairs-sheep-women, tv/computer/sound systems, dog cages (with live animals inside), plus a wide range of tools, spare bike parts and navigational devices. Each packing effort is very personal and unique.

The experience will help you define a hidden part of your psyche. You will leave the comforts of home for unknown adventures, with the wind in your face, depending only upon your keen instincts and the vital possessions you stow on your bike.

When you arrive at your destination and unfold your treasures, all these things that bring you comfort, you make a statement about yourself to all your fellow rally-goers.

This could very well be a life-changing decision for you. My advice is to meditate on it for a few nights and let your heart show you the way. ■

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Cleveland Club Store 2004

Description	Color	Sizes	Price
BMWMOC Sticker	Multi-color logo		$0.50
BMWMOC Reflective Sticker	Multi-color logo		$2.50
BMWMOC Embroidered Patch	Multi-color logo on white		$5.25
BMWMOC Bandana	Multi-color logo on white		$5.00
BMWMOC ID Badge	White logo on blue etched w/ your name		$4.00
BMWMOC Hat w/embroidered logo	Multi-color logo on Grey with black bill	OSFA	$12.00
BMWMOC Classic T-Shirt	White logo on black shirt	S, M, XL, 2XL* only	$10.00
BMWMOC 10th Anniversery Rally shirt	Special Edition Anniversery on Tan	S, XL, 2XL* only	$10.00
Special Orders			
BMWMOC Long Sleeve Denim Shirt w/embroidered logo *(special order only!)*	Stone-washed Blue Denim (Specify Mens or ladies sizes)	S-2XL*	$33.00
BMWMOC Short Sleeve Henley Shirt w/ embroidered logo *(special order only!)*	Heather Grey or Natural	S-2XL*	$18.00
Watch For New T-Shirts introduced at Micro-Rally '04!!			
* Add $2.00 for 2XL sizes			
Shipping charges for patches, stickers or bandanas is 50 cents. Shipping charges for all other items is $3.50 for first item, add .50 for each additional item .			

New Items in Club Store

Stock is low and Spring is here. So, to get the season rolling, we are offering new duds. Start by showing off our logo on a baseball cap. That will go well with a new denim shirt with the logo over the left breast pocket. Ladies' style now available. Short-sleeve Henley shirts with embroidered logos come in Cream or Heather Gray. Both are special order only, needed by 4/20/04 to make the first order. Hats, bandanas and the rest are in stock, ready to ship. Support your club and look good with BMWMOC gear! ■

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New Female Rider

By Judy Gau

Perspective on Motorcycle Riding- All you gals out there who have been thinking about riding, but have not yet taken the plunge to put yourself solo on two wheels, here's some encouragement. I became a rider at age 53 and I can't believe I waited that long. So, if you're wondering if you can do it, you can. It has changed my life totally and I look forward to every day when I can get out and ride.

Being in a motorcycle club also helps because there are frequent rides and outings throughout each year. Plus, the friendships and learning experiences are priceless. The bond with other riders is something you have to experience for yourself. It can't be explained.

After riding on the back of motorcycles longer than I care to admit, it became obvious I wasn't going to be satisfied until I had my own bike so I planned to make it a reality. My first step was enrolling in a Motorcycle Safety Foundation class. What a rush when the day finally came for the riding portion of the class. The temperature was 22 degrees with rain, winds up to 30+ m.p.h. and then came the snow. I thought I would freeze to death before my turn came to test out. I figured if I could learn to ride in this weather, I could ride in any conditions. The hypothermia was well worth it once I had my passing certificate in my frozen hands. If I had to take the test again, I would schedule it more toward the summer months with warmer temperatures.

My first bike was a 1997 Suzuki Savage 650. I felt I needed a bike that would allow me to plant my feet firmly on the ground, and also, a bike I could pick up should an incident occur. It's not "if" and incident should occur, but "when". I didn't really believe that statement until it happened to me. I have learned that you do not stop quickly in gravel using both brakes. And, it happened to be in front of a motorcycle dealer in a mud puddle. Thank goodness for the mud. Now this Suzuki Savage was a great learning bike, but I kept stalling out, and in the most inopportune places. I had to have it towed twice in ten days, and went two-up with my friend for trips out of state while it was being repaired. I felt the need to purchase a new bike and decided on the BMW F650CS. The new bike has a great warranty (my security), and I felt the fit was almost perfect. Purchasing a lower seat allowed me to have my feet planted on the ground and I knew I could pick it up when the need arose. In due time I may abandon the idea of picking the bike up myself and go with a larger model, letting someone else assist in righting it.

With over 2,000 miles under my belt, I was ready to take on the world. Several day trips and a few overnight trips prepared me for the ride of my life, a trip to Virginia for a BMW rally. I was so excited I could hardly sleep the night before. All packed and ready, my friend and I set out to meet others for our journey.

We planned to travel down to Wheeling, WV, pick up route 250 and cut across into the mountains for the ride to Sherando, VA. The trip was to take us about eight hours. Well, it ended up being twelve hours and, just to let you know, my rear was not prepared for such a journey. In the end, I found my Alaskan Leather seat pad was all I needed to keep the proper areas happy.

Being a new rider, I was confident I could handle the mountains with their twisting turns every 500-1,000 feet for hours on end. Let me say, I won't be upset if I don't take this on again any time soon, although it did improve my riding skills greatly. Next came some switch-backs , (initially I called them fish-backs until I found out the real name) which are 180 degree turns.

After a few of these I was confident I could master each and every one of them *until* the the granddaddy of them all appeared without warning. This "fish back" came up so quickly and was so sharp I was in awe and didn't use enough throttle.

This is a no-no for any rider, and I stalled. I had about three seconds to compose myself and get the bike moving or I was about to become a hood ornament on the Ford F150 coming up behind me on the blind corner. This definitely straightened me up and had by heart pounding. Being on a hill was difficult enough, but knowing about the approaching truck put me in survival mode quickly. I praise my friend for having me constantly train on hills when I first learned to ride. I complained then, but the experience paid off when needed. I now take each hill as a challenge and go looking for them to master further.

The Blue Ridge Parkway was awesome, but after traveling twelve hours, I was not anxious to ride any further until certain body parts had revived. One nice thing about the trip was receiving a trophy for Most Mature Female Rider (willing to admit her age). That made the trip worthwhile.

Would I travel such a distance, or farther again? Yes, that trip was just baby steps in a whole new world of riding. Special thanks to Roger Pivonka and Mike Potisuk for their patience, understanding, patience, encouragement, and more patience with me on my longest journey to date. This trip was about 850 miles.

As they say, "It's all about the ride." ■

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PAMELA HUMPHREY

I-BMW.COM Rally

By Mike Sexton

It's Spring and it's rally time again. Last year I attended the I-BMW.COM Rally in Staunton, VA and had a great time on some wonderful roads.

I-BMW.COM is an internet site for K1200 owners. The rally is hotel-based rather than camping-based. There is a very loose schedule with a group dinner put on at the hotel on Saturday night.

This year the rally will be held in Afton, VA at the Inn at Afton (where the Skyline Drive meets the Blue Ridge Parkway). The dates are May 6-9, 2004.

I will be leaving on the 6th, very early (and yes, I know I'll miss the May regular club meeting) and returning early on the 9th. I would like to ride there with other club members or Beemer riders from the area.

Any interested parties should go to I-BMW.COM for registration information under the rally forum section. Please contact me if you would like to go down as a group. Otherwise, see you at the June meeting. ■

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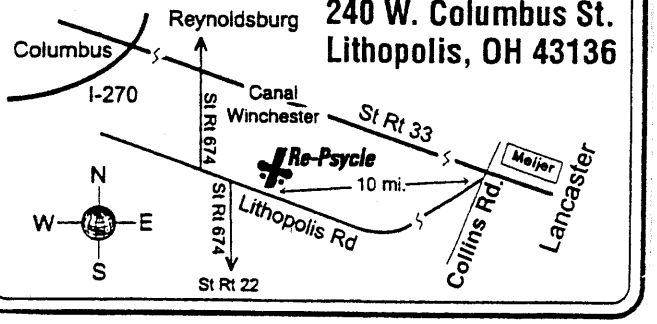


The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America Foundation was formed so that enthusiasts would have the opportunity to support a passion of theirs in a tax deductible fashion.

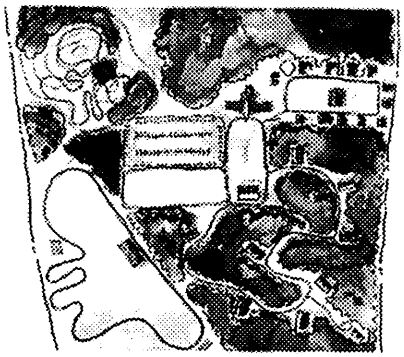
The BMW MOA Foundation is a non-profit educational foundation that meets IRS 501(c)(3) requirements. The Foundation's purpose is to carry out educational activities that celebrates the heritage of BMW Motorcycles and furthers the goals of safety and rider education among enthusiasts.

Current programs include:

ERC ***(Experienced Rider Courses)*** - This program offers riders a chance to hone their riding skills at the International BMW MOA Rallies.

Camp GEARS ***(Gaining Early Advanced Riding Skills)*** - This program offers younger riders (age 16-25) a chance to gather at the International BMW MOA Rallies and to learn more about good riding habits and their machines.

RIDE Center ***(Riders International Destination for Education)*** - The RIDE Center is to serve as a center for BMW Motorcycle enthusiasts to gather and celebrate the history of BMW Motorcycles. There will be facilities for people to learn more about the operation and maintenance of their motorcycles both on and off road, a museum, archives, classrooms, and lodgings.



Conceptual Plan of RIDE Center

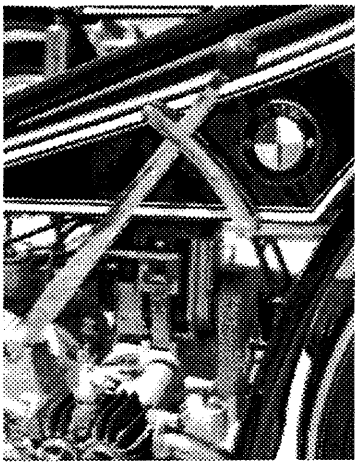
Programs under consideration include:
Educational Scholarships, an Injured Rider's Fund, and Technical Educational Materials.

To learn more about the BMW MOA Foundation, visit:
Website: www.bmwmoafoundation.org
Public Forum and RIDE Center Poll: www.bmwmoafoundation.org/forums

AMA Vintage Days to Feature BMW

Taken from AMA Direct Link

BMW will be the "Featured Marque" at the AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004, to be held July 16-18 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.



In celebrating the 81-year-old marque, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004 will benefit the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum and will feature an exhibit of classic motorcycles and memorabilia. The traditional "Grand Marshall" of the event will be announced soon.

The legendary Mid-Ohio circuit will again host American Historic Motorcycle Racing Association (AHRMA) roadracing throughout the weekend; two days of AHRMA motocross, plus observed trials and dirt track racing, also will be on the schedule. In all, the AHRMA racing events are expected to attract more than 1,100 competitors.

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2004 also will feature two vintage bike shows; the traditional all-brands AMA Swapmeet, North America's largest; a slate of guest speakers, including renowned designer Craig Vetter; demo rides offered by BMW, Buell, Harley-Davidson, and Moto-Guzzi; an array of vendors featuring new products from top manufacturers and dealers; the annual Motorcycle Hall of Fame Auction of motorcycles and memorabilia; and the return of Rhett Rotten's original 1941 "Wall of Death" drome, with vintage Indians and Harley-Davidsons defying gravity on its hardwood walls.

This year marks AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days' tenth annual event at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Motorcycles previously honored with the Featured Marque distinction include BSA, Honda, Norton, Penton, Vincent, Indian, Spanish motorcycles and, most recently, Harley-Davidson.

Spectator tickets for the event are available from Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course at 1-800-MID-OHIO or www.midohio.com. ■

A Beemer Rider in the Land of Oz

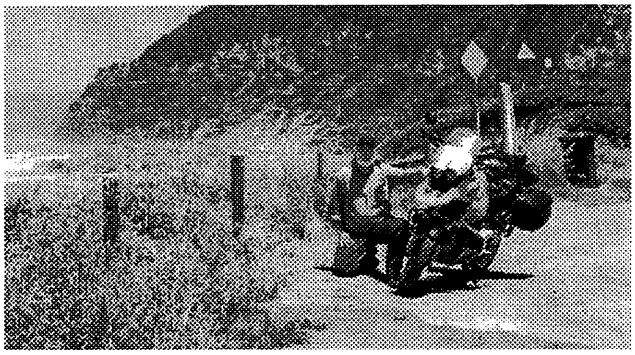
By Rick Matisak

This past Fall I had the opportunity to travel to Australia as part of a team of lay ministers from my local church. As someone who had just reached the ripe old age of fifty, I felt like this was a chance to take a trip of a lifetime, to look back and assess where I've been and where I was going; sort of a sabbatical. Since my commitment to the team was limited to a week in Canberra, I had plenty of time available to explore the country and myself. My itinerary had me arriving in Sydney and staying there for five days. Following that was a week in Canberra where I stayed with local church members; and finally, I flew to Melbourne where I rented an apartment for two weeks.

When planning the trip to Australia, part of it always included renting a bike. By the time I was halfway through, I wasn't really thinking much about riding. There was just so much to see, it was expensive, and you had to ride on the "wrong" side of the road. By the time I got to Melbourne I had rationalized it away as too extravagant and possibly not safe.

I do always try to find the local BMW dealer when I'm traveling to bring back a trinket and, since I had the use of a friend's car, on Monday I drove over to BMW

Southbank, the Melbourne BMW dealer. I got a shirt and hat and hung around a while just enjoying being with the bikes and chatting up the staff. Of course, the subject eventually got around to whether I was going riding while I was there. I expressed some hesitation but confided that it really would be nice. The parts manager gave me a card from Garner's Hire Bikes and encouraged me to go for it. I noticed they were located right off the main tram line from where I was staying and the more I thought about it, the more I thought that if I didn't ride, even one day while there, I would always regret it.



So, I drove over to Garner's and checked them out. They had a nice selection of bikes of all sizes that looked well-cared-for and the staff was friendly and encouraging. I looked over the various F650 and SV650 bikes, then noticed the bright yellow R1150GS, a bike I've always wanted to ride. Hiring a bike in Australia is not cheap; AU$245.00/day, but that included insurance and gear. It worked out to be $170 US, so I decided to splurge and treat myself to a ride. The weather that week was threatening rain off and on, but Tuesday looked absolutely perfect, and Wednesday looked good as well, so I reserved the bike for the morning with the option of an additional day and went home to plan the route. The best ride in the area clearly was the Great Ocean Road (GOR) which runs along the southern coast of Victoria for about 270 Km.

The GOR was constructed after WWI by returning veterans as a monument to those lost in the Great War. The road follows the contours of the southwest coast from Geelong in the east to Nelson in the west. Work officially started on the road in September, 1919 and the final seventy five kilometers between Anglesea and Apollo Bay were completed in 1932. Various sections were opened up as toll roads as they were completed (the toll was fifteen cents). The road was hewn by soldiers wielding picks, crowbars and shovels. It offers some of the most spectacular vistas from beginning to end. Sites of interest vary: world famous surfing beaches, lighthouses, shipwrecks, natural stone outcroppings, rain forests and many quaint and welcoming towns along the way.

My trip started in Melbourne. First thing in the morning I jumped on the tram for the inner city. Got off at Queen Victoria Market (sort of like Cleveland's West Side Market on steroids) and took the short walk to Garner's where Lex the proprietor had my bike ready to go. I completed the paperwork, chose a helmet, gloves and jacket, got directions to Geelong and was off.

The sixty or so kilometers to Geelong were typical expressway fare - dodging cars and trucks trying to make time while watching for the local constable. I arrived at Torquay, which is where the GOR actually starts, and stopped in at the visitor center to check the weather and pick up a souvenir or two. The center employee I spoke with indicated there might be some rain coming later that day, but judging by the bright sun and gentle breeze, it looked like a great day for a ride.

The first attraction I passed was Bell's Beach, the heart of the Surf Coast and famous for its huge waves and "optional dress" beach. (No, I didn't stop.) The road was fairly unremarkable at this point, staying somewhat off the coast and skirting the hills leading to the beach. Further south towards Anglesea, the road got closer to the water and developed a more motorcycle-friendly path, not unlike the Blue Ridge Parkway. It followed the rugged coastline with sweeping turns, short straights and some rather technical hairpins. It would occasionally turn up into the hills to run through the rain forest. Just beyond Airey's Inlet and the whale watching outposts (the whales weren't there) I stopped to see the Split Point Lighthouse which has been lighting the way for ships navigating Bass Straight since 1891. While the lighthouse and view from the bluff were interesting, it was getting warmer and the GS called.

I headed back onto the GOR with sights set on Apollo Bay and lunch. The GS was the perfect bike for this ride. It felt as if it were half the weight of my K1200LT; the riding position was comfortable and it handled the twisting roads with ease. Its quasi-off-road capability came in handy when the roads got rough and at the many scenic turnoffs that were more beach sand than paved road. I now know why the GS1150 is known as the "Swiss army knife" of motorcycles. It does it all.

It seemed around every corner there was another spectacular view of the blue-green ocean breaking on the rough coast and wide beaches. One stop was a scenic walk through a rain forest of gum trees, palms and all manner of exotic flora. Another deep "bush walk" revealed a hundred-foot waterfall. I spent time exploring the tidal pools that teemed with life. I watched giant waves crashing against the rocks and was mesmerized by the rhythm of the ocean and felt rather small in a large universe.

The ride continued toward Apollo Bay with more of the sweepers, tight turns and scenic overlooks. Speed enforcement was light and I kept up a brisk pace. One of the things I liked about the Australians was their courteous driving style. Along the way there are many pull-off areas specifically designed to be used by slower traffic to let guys like me pass. And the slow-moving caravans (campers) and other (Continued on p. 10)

Beemer Rider in Oz (Continued)

sightseers routinely saw my approach and let me by. Try that on the Blue Ridge! I pulled into Apollo Bay, originally a whaling port, about midday and had a lunch of local fish, then took a stroll on a white sand beach.

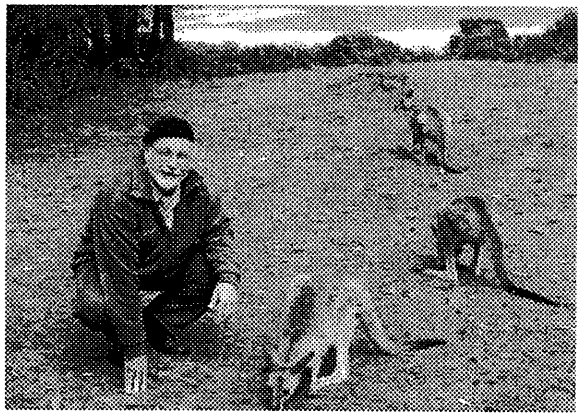
After a bit of a power nap in the sun I geared up, mounted the GS, and headed inland towards the Otway National Park where the roads got even more challenging. The GOR here wound through a forest and provided a shady, cooling effect as I attacked some of the best curves on this ride. They rivaled some of the best I've ridden in the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. Just beyond, the road dipped back down toward the coast at Glenaire before it headed back up into the forest at Fern Hill. Another cool, winding, forest run and I came upon the real highlight of the GOR, the Twelve Apostles.

The Apostles had their beginnings about twenty million years ago with the forces of nature attacking the soft limestone of the Port Campbell cliffs. When the sea retreated, the limestone was exposed. The relentless,

stormy southern waters and blasting winds gradually eroded the cliffs forming caves. The caves were in turn eroded into arches which then collapsed leaving vertical islands. While the cliffs rise two hundred thirty feet from the water, the highest Apostle is one hundred sixty five feet from base to tip. Where once there were twelve, only seven Apostles remain. And changes continue. In the '80's, a formation known as the London Bridge to an overlook collapsed while a couple witnessed its demise. They had to be rescued by helicopter.

Having seen this highlight, I tooled into the city of Port Campbell with my stomach growling. Things were quiet in this resort town since summer was just starting. I found a restaurant to have an Australian steak and reflect on the day. There was still a bit of the Great Ocean Road left, but it was getting late and something made me think that maybe I shoud just head inland and grab the Prince's Highway straight to Melbourne. So, I headed back to the city by the direct route and arrived sometime around 10:30 p.m.

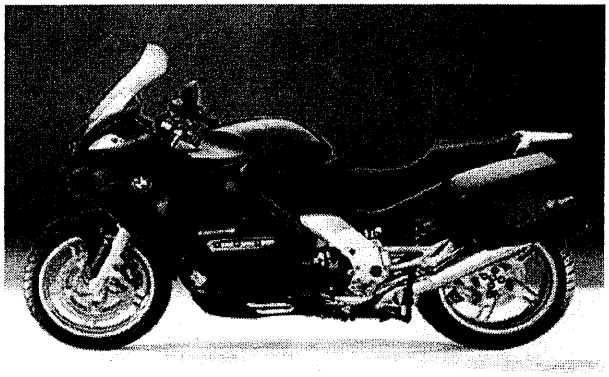
Somebody must have been watching over me because I wasn't back in my apartment more than a half hour when the skies darkened and I witnessed some of the heaviest rain, thunder and lightning I have ever seen.



Weather reports indicated that the state of Victoria got rain at the rate of two inches per hour and broke records. I was glad to be back in my dry apartment watching the show through the window. The rain also cleaned the GS so that I only had to wipe it dry in the morning when it was time to return it to Garner's.

My visit to Australia was really a trip of a lifetime and my ride on the GOR was one of the highlights. I had a chance to relax and reflect on the first fifty years of my life and I came back refreshed and invigorated to live the next fifty years to the fullest. I am hopeful the next fifty will include a return to the "Land Down Under" and an opportunity to spend some time visiting places and people that are now familiar, and to discover new routes in that exciting and fresh landscape. After all, that's why we ride, isn't it? ■

Available for test rides. Are You?



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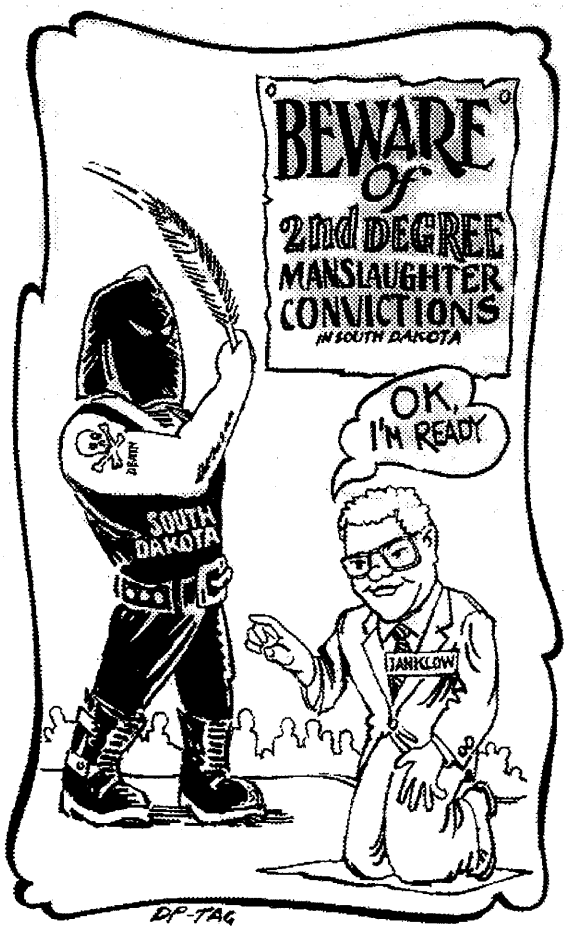

BMW MOC Club Dues are Due Now

Members are reminded that 2004 membership dues were supposed to be paid by the end of March. Please send your payment to Judy Gau to stay with the group and continue receiving the Cleveland Club News! ■

Remember!
When visiting our advertising vendors, mention that you saw their ad in the CCN!

Late Braking News:

Donor Bill Quashed- There was a second attempt to make organ donation mandatory for cyclists, but San Berdo's John Longville pulled CA Assembly Bill 1200 when he learned such language had been included by consultants.

$70 Fine for Iowa Killer of Three- Gary Lee Butler, 49, let his van cross into oncoming traffic and hit six cyclists. Three died, Another lost a leg above the knee, one spent four months in a coma, the last had minor injuries. A jury found him guilty of three counts of vehicular manslaughter. The judge fined him $35 each for two traffic violations. The state's attorney general is asking the supreme court for a review. Civil suits are pending.

China Considers Banning Motorcycles- The nation that manufactures the highest number of two-wheeled vehicles is considering banning motorcycles from its larger cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. ■

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Calendar of Events

March 25

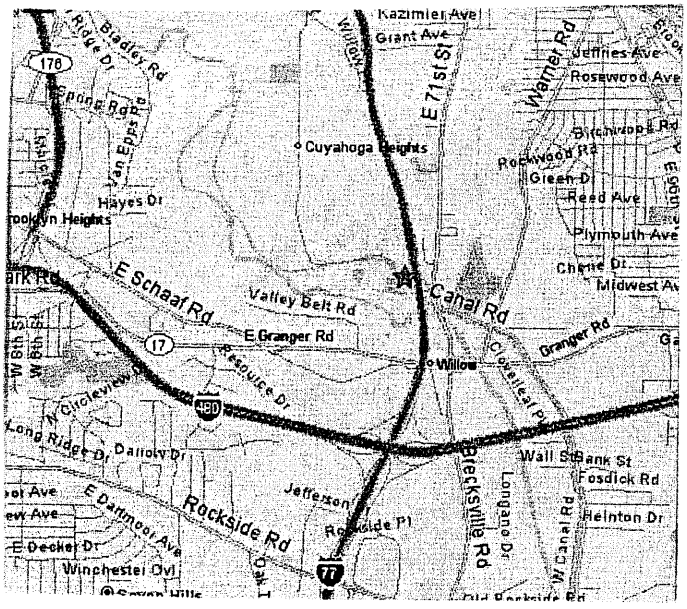
BMW MOC Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. at Bob & Rosemary Wood's residence, 4257 W. 130th Street, Cleveland, OH 44135. Phone 216-252-7933.

April 1

BMW MOC Membership Meeting

Held at Champp's Restaurant & Bar, 5989 Canal Road, Valley View, OH 44125 in the "Fireplace Room". 216-328-0083. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.



April 10

Packard Museum/Breakfast Ride

Meet at East Breakfast Ride location, Bob Evans Restaurant, 6100 Som Center Road (Rts. 422 & 91) at 9:00 a.m. Ride will be to the Packard Museum in Warren to see the "War Bikes" display. This will be the **first 2004 Breakfast Ride.**

April 15-16

National BMW Open House Dates

Contact your favorite BMW dealer for demo rides.

April 17

Kirt Zautner Memorial Spring Tune-Up Clinic

Hosted by Pres "Turp" Cobb at his business, Cobb BMW and H-D Repair, 1301 Brownell Ave., Lorain, OH. 9:00 a.m. until ?. Same set up as last year. Coffee, soft drinks and grill available for folks.Spectro oil, tranny and final drive fluids, Fram and K & N filters for the bikes. Help available for tuneups including carb balancing. We have tools and lifts. Those wishing to order tires or accessories, get your orders in two weeks before event. Members may bring their own tires, parts and supplies. Restaurants nearby. Kibitzers, helpers, advisers welcome. Call 440-244-6881 with questions.

April 23-25

RA Mt. Vernon Campout

Season operner at Kokosing Valley Camp, 1/2 mile west of Millwood, OH (US 36&US32). Go to Area "B". Many welcome amenities, restaurants nearby. $5 per person per night brings water and electricity to each site. Adult beverages permitted. Come and enjoy. Camp phone 740-599-7056.

April 30 to May 2

31st Sturgis Mini Rally

Hosted by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Battle Creek at Green Valley Campground, Sturgis, MI. $12 at gate, no pre-registration, includes coffee, donuts, tea, hot chocolate all weekend. Subs and pizza sold on grounds or can be ordered for dinner. Good restaurants in the area. Door prizes and awards. Sun. morning pancake breakfast fit for a king/queen. Hot showers, inside and outside eating areas, firewood and $1 miniature golf. Motels for non-campers nearby. Located 1.25 miles south of US12 on Hwy. 66. Lake Fawn River Road (2 mi. north of Lake Rd.). Campground will be 1.5 miles west on Fawn River Rd. Info: Carol Blackmore 269-965-1673 or Sandy Lincoln 269-966-6660, sanlin2k@aol.com, or Joyce Baines 269-979-1969, or Connie Cadwell bccadwell@accessus.net.

May 6

BMW MOC Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m. at the Strawberry Lane Picnic Area in Metro Parks North Chagrin Preservation off Chardon Road (US6) east of SR91. BYO.

May 14-16 (Tentative)

BMW Riders of Toledo Spring Camp Out

Addl. info: www.concentric.net/~bmw01bob/ra-ohio.htm

May 27

BMW MOC Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. at the Mike & Lucy Potisuk's residence, 3750 S. Sunnyfield Dr., Copley, OH. Tel.330-670-9931.

May 28-31

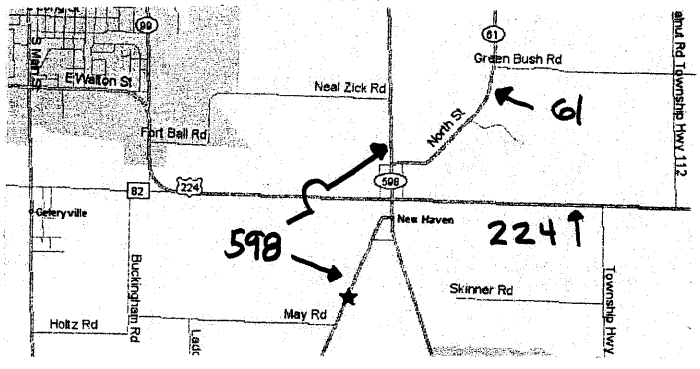
Mountaineers BMW Riders Cass Memorial Rally

Boyer Station Campgrounds, 5 miles north of Green Bank, WV. Addl. info:www.concentric.net/~bmw01bob/ra-ohio.htm

June 11-13

BMW MOC Micro Rally and Membership Meeting

At "The Pit", a private motorcycle campground just south of New Haven, OH. Camping $6.00 per person per night. Friday bean pot, continuous coffee, tea, pop and hot chocolate. Club membership meeting at 4:00 p.m. Saturday in pavilion. Primitive camping, portapotties, fishing pond, bonfire, field events. Weekend package includes two nights camping and steak feed on Sat. night for $22.00. Feeds need to be prepaid. Call Darwin for more information at 216-631-0851.



Calendar of Events

June 18-20

RA Summer Camp Out "Appalachian Foothills Adventure"

Peebles, OH- SR73 approximately 3 miles south of SR32. Swimming pool, horseshoes, showers, Port-A-Potty, plenty of sunny or shaded free camping areas. Friday beef-veggie soup pot, Saturday dinner menu to be announced. Continuous coffee, Saturday post-dinner festivities with door prizes and more. Flyer forthcoming. RSVP Kris Phipps 937-587-3443.

June 25-27

Laurel Highlands Rally

2nd Annual Laurel Highlands BMW Riders Campout coincides with Johnstown, PA's famous "Thunder in the Valley" Rally, where BMW, Kawasaki & Suzuki have offered demo rides in the past. Campout returns to Pioneer Park Campground, 30 min. south of Johnstown. Rally fee $15.00 Camping $5.00 per night per person payable at the campground. Second Annual rally pin for the first 150 registrants. Self guided tours to Flight 93 Memorial crash site and Johnstown Flood Museum. Dump stew, hot dogs and snacks Fri. & Sat. evenings. Sat. & Sun. coffee and doughnuts. Info: Jason Kaplitz 814-535-8669 or George Blackham 814-266-9573. Pre-registration appreciated. Send check payable to LHBMWR, c/o George Blackham IV, 230 Dowling Rd., Johnstown PA 15904 by June 15, 2004

July 15-18

BMW MOA National Rally

Info at www.bmwmoa.org/rally04/index.htm & 636-394-7277.

July 16-18

AMA Vintage Days at Mid-Ohio

Probably the largest collection of vintage BMW motorcycles ever gathered in one place. International participation. See article page eight.

July 23-25

AMA Superbike Races at Mid-Ohio

Premier road racing event returns to the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, OH. Tickets and information at 1-800-MID-OHIO or visit www.midohio.com.

July 29

BMW MOC Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. at Roger Pivonka's residence, 17115 Abbey Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Tel. 440-543-8704.

August 1

Bikers for Babies (March of Dimes)

Start location: the New Liberty Harley Davidson, 334 Hines Hill Road, Boston Heights, OH 44236. Finish location: The Lake County Captains Stadium, 35300 Vine St., Eastlake OH 44095. Sanctioned by AMA. Register or purchase raffle tickets at 1-800 686-2323, ext.27 **or** www.modridecleveland.org.

August 20-22

Four Winds Rally/Roadrunners Campout

38th Annual Four Winds Rally to be held once more at the Red Bank Municipal Park near New Bethlehen, PA. Longest continuously held BMW rally in America. Rides, tech seminars, swimming, Sat. meal, entertainment, field events. Visit Four Winds web site www.4windsbmw.org. Info: Call Tom Primke at 412-828-3413 or e-mail to tomprimke@juno.com.

25th Consecutive Roadrunners Meeting will be held at Paradise Park Campground, 4150 Cross Road, Reading Center, NY 14876. Tel. No. 800-726-4546. Camping $4.00 per person per night. Sat. spaghetti dinner $3.00. Six cabins available at $39.95 per day. More info: Derek Bird, 4112 Tartan Ct., Murraysville, PA 15668, Tel Nos. Res. 724-327-3414, ofc. 724-387-7269.

August 27-29 (Tentative)

Toledo BMW Riders Summer Campout

To be held at the East Harbor State Park Group area. More information available at www.concentric.net/~bmw01bob/ra-ohio.htm

September 10-12

BS (Buckeye State) Rally

Held once more at Lake Snowden Campgrounds on SR50 west of Athens, OH. More information in Summer CCN.

September 16-19

BMWRA International RAlly

To be held at Canaan Valley State Park, Davis, WV. Great riding roads in high country of WV. Resort is triple diamond rated by AAA, has 250 rooms, 23 cabins, 34 RV sites. Resort No. 800-622-4121. No reservations needed for tent camping. More details in Summer CCN or http://www.bmwra.org.

September 17-19

BMW MOC 3rd Annual Pow Wow Rally

At Mohican Reservation Campground on Wally Road in Loudonville, OH. More details in Summer CCN.

September 27

BMW MOC Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. at Bob Shelton's residence, 1596 Center Road, Avon, OH 44011. Tel. 440-937-6329.

October 15-17 (Tentative)

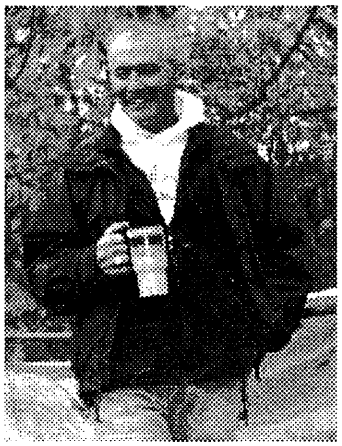
BMW MOC Gathering of the Clubs

(and clams) once again at the Whispering Hill Campgrounds, Shreve, OH. More details in Summer CCN.

Summer CCN Deadline
June 3, 2004

Member Snapshot

By Don Walker

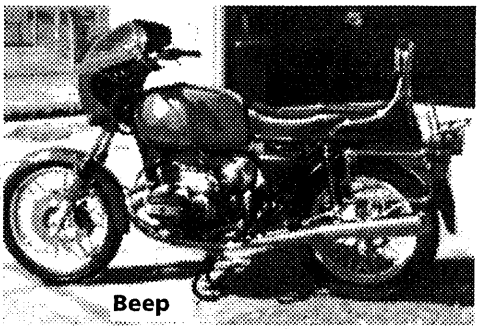


My BMWs Earn Their Names: The following is how my motorcycles got their names. I've been riding for thirty five years and thirty of them have been on BMWs. I have ridden over 300K miles on those Beemers alone.

My first BMW was a 1972 R75/5 which I bought in February, 1974. When looking at bikes I was not planning on buying a BMW. The shop I went to sold Yamaha, Kawasaki and BMW. The salesman asked what kind of riding I did and what kind of bike I was riding at the time. I told him a 750 Yamaha and that I took weekend trips to West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. He said the bike for me would be a BMW, gave me a helmet, heavy coat, gloves and boots to take a test ride on a 30 degree day. Well, one ride did it. SOLD!

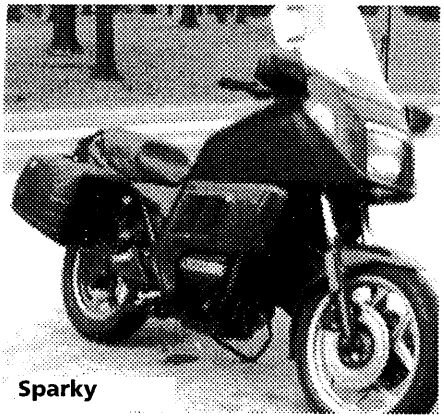
One week later my brother took me back to the shop so I could ride it home. He made comments like, "What is that? Look at those heads hanging out. What are Bing carbs? Why did you buy that? (My brother, Sam, rides a Harley) My new bike was now named "Bing". I rode that bike for two years then bought a 1974 R75/6 with 3K miles on it. I rode that bike 103K miles all over the USA. It's name was "Bing II" and, you guessed it, brother Sam was still making fun of them.

My third BMW was a 1979 R100T with 11K miles, just broken in. My kids named that bike. Every day when coming home they would hear the turn signal beep, beep, beep. So there came the name "Beep". The fourth BMW, Sparky, a 1992 K75T, is the most aptly named. This bike earned its name the hard way.



Beep

After every weekend ride, my daughter would ask, "Well, what did you name it?" I had the bike five months before it got its name. Returning from a rally in Harrisburg, PA, I was on the turnpike in a heavy rainstorm. Lightning struck nearby and I felt a jolt across my arms and chest. I had the thought, "So, this is how it ends?", but luckily my riding partner had the presence of mind to reach around me and keep the bike under control until I was able to once again take over. When we got home my daughter asked once again about a name. "Sparky" was perfect, but it took quite a while before I told anyone about the incident or revealed the name.



Sparky

The next BMW is my present 1995 K75RT. I named this one during my trip to Alaska while riding through road construction, mud, dust, loose gravel and rough roads. I decided that "Klondike" would be a good name.

All of my years of riding have given me some of the best experiences and have taken me all over the USA, most of Canada and once to Mexico. I have a trip planned to New Zealand in the Spring and plan a lot more travels. ■

Klondike

New Members:

Carl and Rosemary Bork

Ben Craighead - Mark Davis

Larry Faunt - Geoffrey Gilway - Daniel Luciano

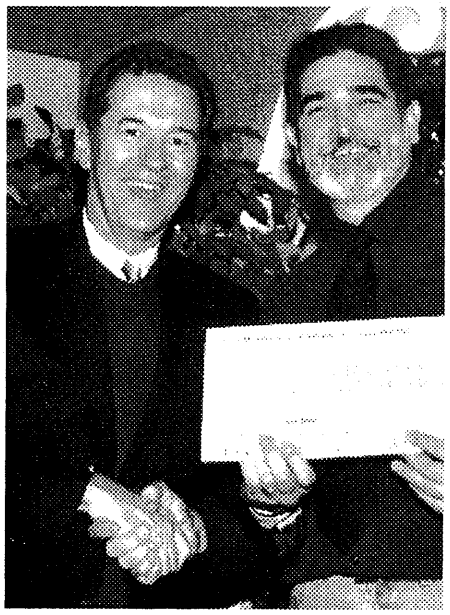
Robin Moss - Jim Reith - Jose Rosa

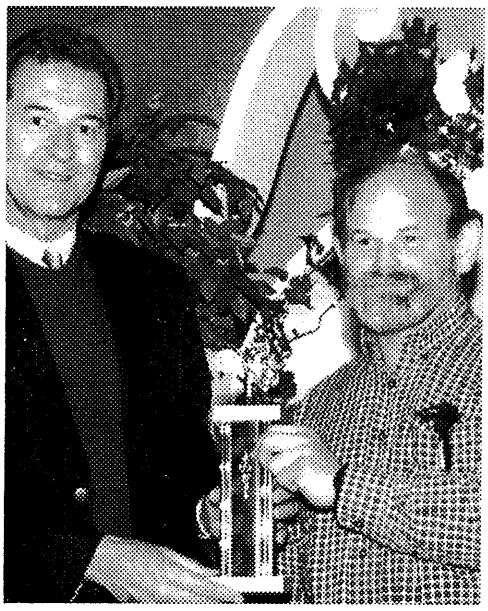
Judy Schiefer - Bill Ticherish - Judi Tursic

Jim Walkuski - Bill Wassilek

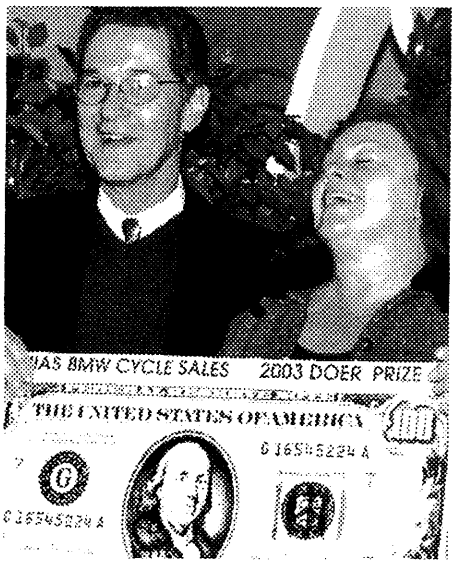
Welcome to the club!

Holiday Bash attendees show off the new club bandanas they received for being on hand. If you missed the party you can get your very own from the Country Store for $5. They are handy to have when out and about at BMW functions, especially since they will be considered a 'banner' for photos...and three MOCal points.

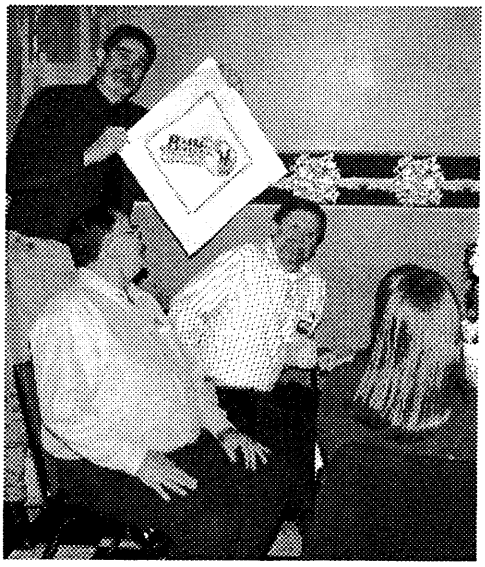




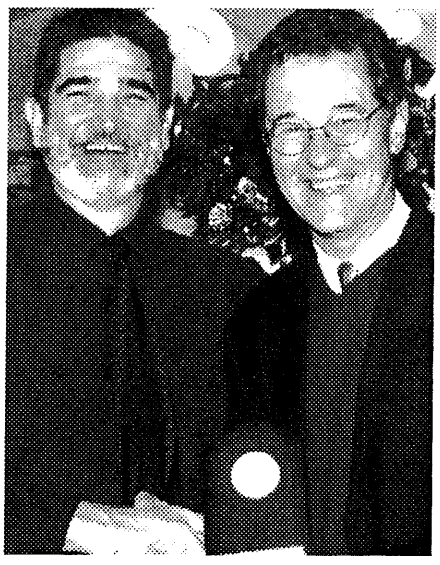
From left to right, MOCal points winners Darwin McClellan with 426 points, Mike Kiesel with 378 points, and Larry Cardo with 315 points. Candy Dousseau gets an honorable mention with her 307 points.



Margi McClellan is the 2003 DOER!



Darwin helps two members get points.



Darwin bestows the "Schwing".

BMW Motorcycles of Cleveland Still Coming

By Dale Kramer

I am pleased to announce that I have finalized negotiations for the location of the new dealership. I am moving forward at the Aurora Road site (located directly across from Six Flags). I will take possession of the property no later than March 31, 2004 and then promptly start remodeling the facilities.

For those of you who are familiar with that site, the house in the foreground will be demolished. The large building in the background will be remodeled and serve as the parts department, service department and storage facility. It will also incorporate washroom facilities and a lunchroom/conference room for employees. Present plans call for our used cycle department to encroach into this building. This section is 6,000 square feet.

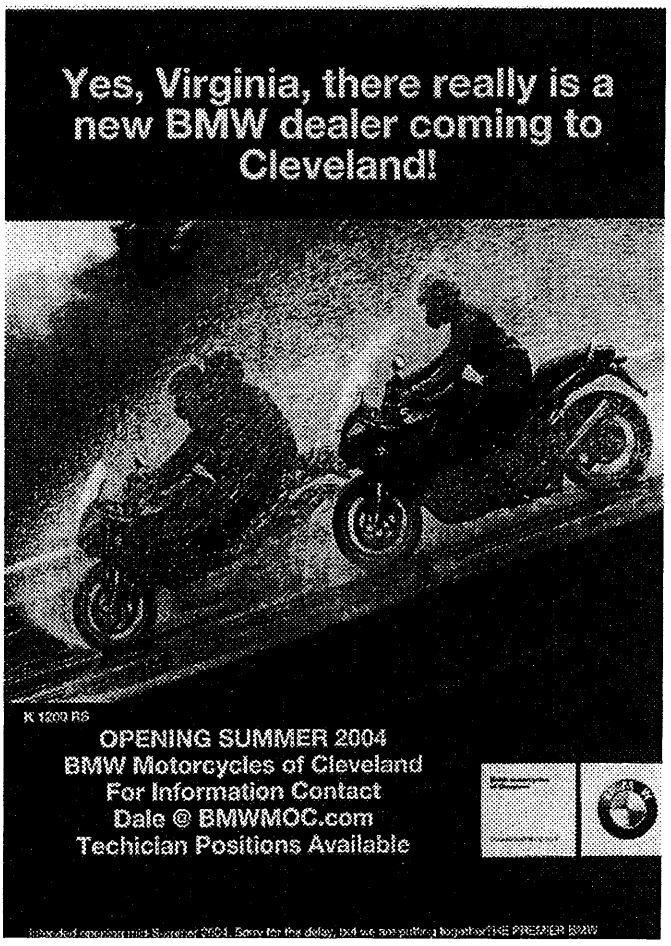
The building in front (red facade) is being evaluated. My original plans were to demolish this section and replace it with a 5,000 sq. ft. addition. This would serve as showroom, office, washrooms, dressing room, customer lounge and service write-up area. Due to the scope of this project, I may need to scale back the size of this addition. My website, www. BMWMOC.com will be where I'll post progress and information about the dealership.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and help during this past year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the opening of the dealership in the very near future. ■

Sell Parts at Vintage Days

Club members who would like to **sell parts** at the AMA Vintage Days at Mid-Ohio can do so by contacting our president,"Turp"Cobb who will have a booth in the swap meet area. Get the items to be offered to Turp at least two weeks in advance.

At the last meeting there was a suggestion that members who wanted to clean out the garage, yet have a means of supporting the club, could provide items to be sold, the proceeds of which would go into the club coffers. If you are so inclined to have your generosity serve two purposes, set those items to be contributed aside now and we'll give you more directions in the Summer CCN. Small items can be transported by Turp, but you'll need to make arrangements with him for larger items. ■



The Corner Market

For Sale: 2001 R1200CM, Pacific Blue, w/out passenger seat, passenger pegs. 19K miles, accessory socket, Hyperlites, Moto-lts, engine guards, wool/gel seat. Warranted until 12/04. $9,200. Call Mike Potisuk at 330-670-9931.

BMW MOC CLUB STORE

CLUB BANDANAS (76)	$5.00
CLUB ID BADGES (see note p.3)	$4.00
BLACK T-SHIRTS (Small-9, Med.-1, Lg.-1, XL-1,XXL-3)	$10.00
MICRO 10TH ANNIVERSARY T's (Small-3, XL -1, XXL - 6)	$10.00
PATCHES - 8	$5.25
STICKERS - 378	$1.00
REFLECTIVE STICKERS - 80	$2.50

Wanted: Motorcycle camping trailer, used, hitch too, if it will match an '83 R80RT. Call Don Poremski, 330-877-0582