Cleveland Club News

The Official Publication of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland — Summer 2004

MicroRally Scheduled for "The Pit" June 11-13 2004

The BMW MOC will gather at **The Pit**, behind TJ's Cycle on Route 598 south of New Haven, Ohio for **MicroRally 2004**. CCN is told that still further improvements have been made to the site since last year. Those arriving on Friday, June 11th can set up camp and enjoy the bean pot, continuous coffee, tea, pop and hot chocolate.

Camping fee is $6.00 per night. A meal known as the famous "Steak Feed" will return at a cost of only $10.00, but *you'll need to reserve your meal as soon as you read this if you haven't already done so*. Checks should be made out to: BMW MOC and sent to Darwin McClellan, 5604 Franklin Avenue, Cleveland OH 44102. If you want to call in your reservation dial 216-631-0851.

There will be rides on Saturday after which we'll hold the field events that were so well received last year. A new event called "Loop-A-Hoop" will be added to the events held over from last year: the Barrel Wrap, D-Cup, Bagel Probe and the ever popular Slow Race. Be sure to bring your cameras and for three events you'll also need a partner. If you don't travel with one, there have always been willing volunteers from the onlookers. Prizes will be awarded.

The MicroRally is also the venue for our regular membership meeting for June. The meeting will start immediately following the field events.

There will be bonfires both nights for those wishing to indulge in tire kicking, reliving great motorcycling feats and recycling cans (to borrow an Airhead expression).

If you like your steak with a particular type of seasoning or sauce, bring it. Each person prepares their own steak to avoid critical comments about the cook. Side dishes of veggies and such are provided.

Pres and V-P Turp and Dale say they'll compete this year with only one eye and one spark plug. ■

Mike Kiesel Top MOCal Earner at Halfway Point

As the Summer CCN goes to press, last year's MOCal points runner up stands solidly in first place. Mike Kiesel has piled up 411 points. Many of his first verification shots show snow banks to either side of the **covered bridges**, the targets that replaced bicentennial barns and world capitals in 2003. George Lopez sits in second place with 334 points and last year's winner, Darwin McClellan is in third with 268 points.

One MOCal (a reflective decal for helmet or bike) is awarded for each 10 points earned. The top prize is $200 plus a medallion, first and second runners up get trophies, but having just one MOCal gets your name placed in the DOER prize drawing for a $100 gift certificate. Two MOCals, the name goes in twice and so on. Last year's DOER prize winner had just four entries in the bin. Ya gotta play to win, right!

Points are given out for other activities also. Lists on how to gather points are available at each regular club meeting. They are also shown on the club web site: www.bmwmoc.org. New members get a five point head start, so does the person who sponsors the new member. Attending the regular club meetings is another way, especially if you rode your bike to the meeting in a group of other members. Attending a rally and having your picture taken with either the club banner or the club bandana is also good for points.

Mike Kiesel led seven other members on a seven-bridge quest after the Packard Museum ride in April.

But the best reason for doing anything that gains points for you is that you are being an active club member. Ask any of those who do partake and you'll learn that they are having fun. Having fun on your motorcycle--seems like adequate reward to me. ■

Contents

The Turp Report 2
President Howard "Turp" Cobb pitches the AMA.

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

Capt. Darwin's Rev-olutions..... 3
Review of Packard day, Sturgis and Cass.

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

Easter Swoop.....5-7
The Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway and cops.

Dirt Bike School.....7
Roger gets to play in the dirt.

Blue Ridge Parkway Campground..... 8-9
Mark Hoskey finds a motorcycle haven.

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

Il Diavolo in Pirelli.....10
Editor vents on tire deal renege.

Late Braking News.....11
Once again into Janklow's closet.

Calendar of Events.....12&13

Rider Snapshot.....14
Don gets an unexpected history lesson and demo.

Photo Roundup.....15

K1200S Is a Reality.....16
More info and reaction to one hot bike.

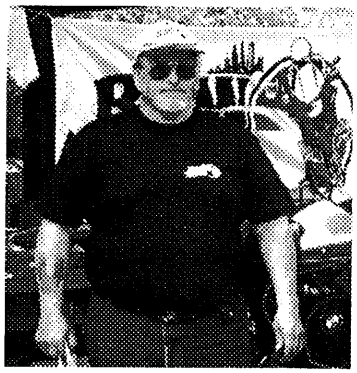
Editor
Donald Poremski
Contributors
Howard Cobb, Mark Hoskey, Darwin McClellan, Joel Pett, Roger Pivonka, Don Poremski, Rose Wood

A commercial advertising rate schedule is available upon request. All communications for CCN should be addressed to: Cleveland Club News, c/o Donald A. Poremski, 1290 Desert St., Uniontown, OH 44685 or call 330-877-0582.

The Cleveland Club News (CCN) is published solely for the entertainment and education of the readers. The BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland, Inc. (BMW MOC) and the publisher assume no liablility for the content or accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, nor do we necessarily endorse or agree with the statements, advertisements or opinions presented therein. The CCN is published quarterly by BMW MOC and is included with the annual membership dues. Ad revenues are used solely to offset publishing costs. BMW MOC is a not-for-profit corporation of the Great State of Ohio. All rights reserved. ©CCN, 2002.

The Turp Report

By President Howard "Turp" Cobb



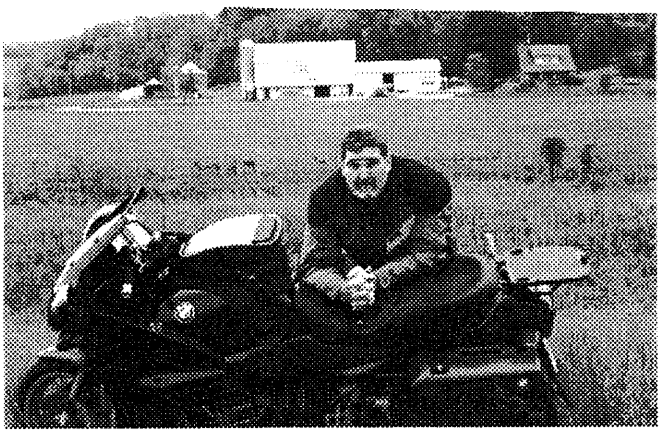
I would like to encourage members to join the AMA. Not just join, but sign up as an "extra mile" member. Why? Because I feel the AMA is the best voice we motorcyclists have in the political arena, keeping us aware of and opposing legislation that adversely effects us, maybe not now, but definitely in the future. While some of us may not see the connection to, for instance, public land closures to motorized vehicles in the western states and our use of road motorcycles, the two are connected because of the precedents that may be set for all motorcyclists.

By joining the AMA you and I help effectively fight for motorcyclist's rights so as to avoid using the words, "And then they came for me, and I called for help, but there was no one left to help me."

Hoping to see everyone at The Pit for the MicroRally the second weekend in June. ■

SCHIETS MOTORS
HONDA YAMAHA SUZUKI
Fremont, Ohio
Ph. (419) 332-9902 Fax. (419) 332-1437
Hours: M-W-F 10:00 to 6:00
Tue – Thur 10:00 to 8:00,
Sat 9:00 to 3:00 - Closed Sunday
WE SERVICE BMW's
Your 2004 BMW MOC membership entitles you to10% off any parts or accessories
We will gladly ship UPS
Certified BMW technician
Eric Kimple on staff
Call Kathy for an appointment
Take OH turnpike to Exit 91 (Fremont)-Take SR53 south-Just past the traffic light at Loew's (on your right) take US20 west-Get off at the next exit (Stone St./Oak Harbor Rd.)-Turn left (south) at the traffic light-Proceed to the second traffic light and turn right and right again.
www.schietsmotors.com

Capt. Darwin's REV-olutions



By Darwin McClellan

Ahhhh! **Springtime in Ohio**: gale force winds, torrential, almost-constant rain, and hail the size of golf balls! I have an idea! Let's get the club together for a motorcycle ride! And ride we did.

On April 10th thirty club members and guests gathered at Bob Evans Restaurant in Solon, the eastern breakfast ride location, for the season's first breakfast ride, a trip to the Packard Museum. The weather gods granted us the perfect day. After breakfast we split into two groups and headed for the museum in Warren using a route that happened to pass a couple of covered bridges for MOCal points.

As if we had planned it, both groups arrived at the last bridge within minutes of each other, which provided a great photo opportunity. We rode the remaining ten miles to the Museum together and had another interesting tour that featured "War and Work Motorcycles". You can't imagine some of the things they did with these bikes, like pull small cannons and heavy ammunition trailers! When the tour ended we all rode to the Hot Dog Shop for an artery-clogging lunch. After lunch most riders headed home but a group of about eight riders continued on, collected seven more bridges and returned home after dark.

I would like to thank George Lopez, Mike Keisel, for route planning, and Roger Pivonka, Russ Davis, George and Mike for leading the rides. We overcame the confusion nicely.

On April 17th (another beautiful day) we held another successful tune-up clinic at Turps Unauthorized Harley Davidson and BMW Repair. Again, there was a great turnout with a wealth of experience, technical knowledge and tomfoolery being shared. A couple of us pushed our luck after the Clinic and rode west to Toledo, got caught in one of those storms with hail the size of quarters, but still managed to visit five covered bridges and get home after dark. Thanks to Turp for the use of his facility and hospitality, and to all the members who volunteer their services or participate in these events, helping make them the success they are.

The weather caught up to us on April 30th at the Sturgis Mini Rally. We only had about seven members in attendance but those of you that stayed home were definitely warmer and drier. The real downer of that weekend was that Jerry Riha had an incident with a truck pulling a trailer on the turnpike. Jerry's hip was broken but there are no other injuries. He is recuperating at home and is doing as well as can be expected, considering that he is in bed, will miss most of the riding season, and has a broken motorcycle. Jerry is looking for / 6 parts. So if anyone out there can help him out, give him a call and let him know what you have, or just call, or send a card and let him and Mary know we are thinking of them. Take care Jerry, and get well soon.

The Cass Memorial Day Rally was a great time according to Deb Harbour. Deb arrived early to perform some duties at the RA National Rally location in the Canaan Valley. After some rain on Friday night Deb led a ride (on a gorgeous Saturday) back to the site to give everyone a chance to pick out a good campsite. Much to their delight there was also a barbecue going on so I guess we all know what happened then. At the award ceremony the club received the award for the largest club in attendance, cool. Wish I could have been there, I thought about you all the whole weekend.

Well remember to check the calendar of events for a summer of riding, fun and travel. And above all, stay alert and be safe. I'll see you down the road. ■

BMWMOC BREAKFAST RIDES

BREAKFAST - EAST
Bob Evans Restaurant
6100 Som Center Rd.
Rts. 422 & 91

April 10, 2004
April 25, 2004
May 8, 2004
May 23, 2004
June 12, 2004
June 27, 2004
July 10, 2004
July 25, 2004
August 14, 2004
August 22, 2004
September 11, 2004
September 26, 2004
October 9, 2004
October 24, 2004

BREAKFAST - SOUTH
Farmer Boy Restaurant
1324 Canton Road
Rts. 224 & 91

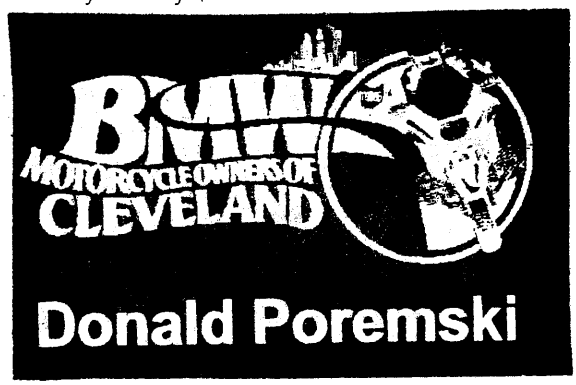
April 11, 2004
April 17, 2004
May 9, 2004
May 15, 2004
June 13, 2004
June 19, 2004
July 11, 2004
July 17, 2004
August 8, 2004
August 21, 2004
September 12, 2004
September 18, 2004
October 10, 2004
October 16, 2004

BREAKFAST - WEST
Steak & Shake
5300 Abbe Road
Rts. 254 & 301

April 18, 2004
April 24, 2004
May 16, 2004
May 22, 2004
June 20, 2004
June 26, 2004
July 18, 2004
July 24, 2004
August 15, 2004
August 28, 2004
September 19, 2004
September 25, 2004
October 17, 2004
October 23, 2004

Need Badges??

Get your name badge by calling Judy Gau.
They're only $4.00! **330-467-2620**



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,

My girlfriend and I are beginning our second season of riding together and, for the most part, it has been wonderful. We love the rallies and the new friends we've met along the way. My problem is that if the event doesn't run perfectly she complains the whole time and ruins my fun. "It's too cold. It's too muddy. The food's cold, blah, blah, blah." I try to come up with solutions to help her cope and find the good points of the experience, but that only worsens the situation. I don't want to go through another year like that. What should I do?

Plug It Up

Dear Plug It Up,

This doesn't sound like much of a motorcycle problem, but I'll try to help you out here anyway. Let's start with the basics of communication in the worlds of Venus and Mars. On Mars words are spoken: to convey, to contact, to make a point; very simple and straightforward. On Mars if there is nothing you can do to solve a problem... then there is no reason to talk about it. On Venus words are used to **share feelings**. I've underlined that because it is a very important difference. Here are a couple of quick examples.

1. When she says, "This weather sucks!", it could simply be a memo saying, "For your information only." A good response would be, "Yeah, it surely does." This effortless acknowledgement tells her, "I care.", "I understand." and "I respect you." That's it.

2. As a new rider, she may be fearful of bad weather conditions on the road. Think of women as waves. They build up fear then reduce stress by sharing it with another. On Venus stress is reduced by tightening a muscle first to relax it. When she says, This weather sucks!" you may want to respond with "Oh, it's not so bad. You can handle it." This, to you, may seem like an uplifting comment, but it will only turn up the heat in her effort to shed some anxiety.

3. Finally, she may not really know at all how she feels about all these new experiences. Women will just begin talking in the hopes of discovering what her true feelings really are. By expressing random thoughts and feelings it helps her focus and arrive at the big picture. When she says, "This weather sucks!", put in your earplugs, make eye contact and nod periodically. In her rambling chatter she will discover on her own that all is well and you didn't have to say a thing.

You guys don't always have to be the white knight to the rescue. When in doubt, take the passive stand over the controlling one. And, remember, if all else fails, just dump her. Life is too short, go for a ride!

Next issue we will learn to cope with male complaints also known as Grumblings from Mars.■

SILL'S MOTOR SALES
BMW • HONDA
MOTORCYCLES • POWER EQUIPMENT
Pick up your Holiday Accessories Catalog
1901 BROOKPARK ROAD
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44109
216-749-1363 • 216-749-5189
See our web site
www.sillsmotor.com
PAMELA HUMPHREY

"Easter" Swoop

by Don Poremski, photos by D.P. and S. Skupas

Changeable weather has always created hardship for motorcyclists here in the Northeast, especially when you attach the Good Friday holiday to an annual, shake-off-the-cobwebs ride. To avoid the cold, ice, fog and rain encountered in 2003, our Cumberland Curvemeister (whose name shall remain anonymous to protect his license) postponed the southward trek to the last weekend in April. We still got all those elements this year, but in lesser quantities and degrees.

One Pittsburgh participant wanted to explore Harper's Ferry, so he and one Ohio (guess who. ed) rider decided to tack on an extra day to visit the historic town John Brown made famous. That Wednesday started out cold from Ohio but developed into a passable fair day. It was the people and places that made for the most enjoyment. This won't be a review of every road and intersection because, truthfully, we were uncertain of where we were about fifty per cent of the time. Does it make for a better trip if you choose your destination but not an exact route. You be the judge, but that laid-back attitude led us to find a unique spot for the afternoon repast—French's Kountry Kwick Stop.

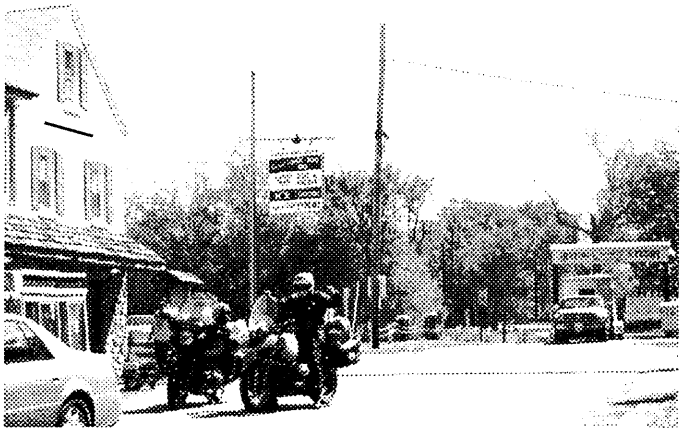
We had taken some promising county roads south from Hancock and stumbled upon the desired Route 9, east of Hedgesville. We weren't sure of that so we decided to stop and inquire. There was a 2004 Moto Guzzi Le Mans at French's and that may have helped with the decision to stop. The rider confirmed that we were on the right path but suggested we stop for a bite inside. "You won't regret it." was his final remark. So, down went the kickstands and off with the helmets. Not ten steps inside Hazel Jane Hedges-Whittington broke into a really decent yodel. That told us where the dining counter was located with its five chrome and vinyl, spinnable stools. She assured us that lunch was still available at 2:30 and our choice was the country ham sandwich and yes, we'd have it with cheese and some of that macaroni salad, please. As it turned out this place was a gathering spot for the amateur musicians and singers in the Hedgesville area, the town named after Hazel's family. She and Wanda Murray handling the cash register could whip up a duet on call, too. The diner/grocery store/one-time gas station had been featured on National Geographic once as one of Americana's hidden jewels. Hazel's husband the bomber pilot was retired, but I would venture that Hazel enjoyed surprising travelers too much to stay at home. We were the wealthier for it.

Hazel Jane and Trent recorded for posterity.

It took a bit of effort to find the AYH hostel in Knoxville, MD, but it was worth it. Clean, hospitable and later we built a roaring, warming fire and talked with one of the Appalachian Trail backpackers before turning in. We had already done some research in the town of Harper's Ferry and checked on the hotel accommodations for a possible future trip there. The next day we'd find our way through Poolsville and Martinsburg to historic White's Ferry for a ride across the Potomac guided by a sturdy cable. We thought it strange that (Continued page 6)

MATHIAS
BMW CYCLE SALES
Remember, after 28 yrs. we have moved to:
851 Commercial Ave. New Philadelphia OH 44663
Drive a little to save a lot!
Complete Service & Parts Dept.
Check Out Our BMW Accessories
330-308-8868

the ferry could block the river with that cable and asked about it. We were told that it sank below the water level after the ferry passed to let other water traffic proceed. Question answered, we were bound for Leesburg.



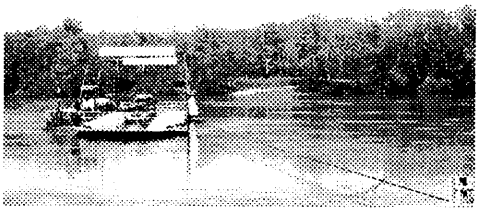
Waiting our turn to cross on White's Ferry over the Potomac. Superimposed line on building under the attic window is the high water mark for a recent flood.

We had plenty of time to make it back to our rendezvous with the other members of the group in Lavale so it was county roads again. Another interesting vignette came in VA. We had worked our way past some recognizable territory from attending the British Bike Fest and the races at Summit Point. Got to Rt. 522 and turned north on Rt. 45 at Gainesboro for one of those red squiggly lines that means road carving excitement. The day had turned plenty warm so we stopped for a cool drink at the Siler Country Store and a lucky horse in a nearby corral got one of our emergency apples. That road took us to Glengary back in Maryland where we turned left toward Shanghai and a myriad of county roads that thankfully brought us back to 522 just south of Berkeley Springs and a recommended lunch at Tari's. My friend guided us both to Cumberland and on to Lavale, so my description of the roads will flag a bit here. I remember town names like Paw Paw, Neals Run, Slanesville, Points, then route 28. Some were good, some were really rough, but we made it for pizza and conversation with our buddies on time. Now someone else would choose the roads for the balance of the ride. It was turn in early and be ready for breakfast at 7:00 the next morning, departure south at 8:00, and not a moment too soon for one weary rider

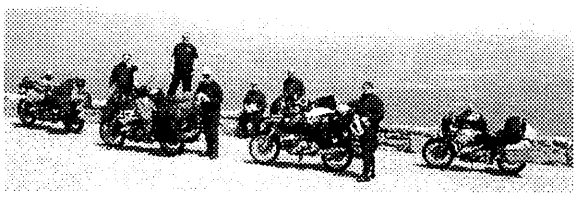
The horse is to the far right.

The goal the next day was to have fun en route to Front Royal where we'd get on the Skyline Drive. This we did with great gusto due to the clement weather and soon enough we had ponied up our entrance fee and climbed to the ridge to enjoy the lunches purchased for the occasion at the Subway in town. Man, it don't git no better 'n'at.

After lunch we proceeded and, as you might guess, the pace continued to edge upward. Perhaps if a person were astride the most ill handling motorcycle in the world he could ride the Skyline at the speed limit of 35 m.p.h. We weren't and couldn't. When the patrol car came toward us we were glad they aren't equipped with on-the-move radar. Checking the mirrors at first led us to believe it had not turned around for a better look. Then we lost two or our group of seven who had been bringing up the rear. We stopped at an overlook to let them catch up thinking it might be just an equipment adjustment, but minutes passed and still no one. We got a volunteer to retrace the route equipped with a cell phone and we waited some more. The upshot was that fellow Skyline users in cars had been calling in to complain about our zealousness. The last man in line got dinged for crossing a double yellow, a complete fabrication, but the message had to be delivered that we were now under close scrutiny. This was enough to convince us that the Skyline was not for us. We knew when we weren't wanted. Down to the valley we rode and alternate routes chosen to get us to Verona and the KOA, but be advised, you can't outpace a cell phone.



Ferry follows cable across the river, sinks after passing.



Seven happy (for the moment) Beemer riders on the Skyline Drive.

Cocktail hour and some grilled chicken helped dispel some of the bitterness, the hot tubs melted away still more, but up on the Blue Ridge Parkway the next day on the way to Peaks of Otter for breakfast, the resentment welled up again and we started writing this song.

"Transgression"

Lyrics by Don Poremski and Trent Denison
(Sung to the tune "Transfusion" by Nervous Norvus)

Ridin' on the Skyline,
Can't do thirty five.
Cagers with cell phones
All thinkin' we're jive.
Cross the double line
Man, you gonna get fined!
(Sound of siren)

(Continued p. 7)

Transgression, transgression
Without our fine dollars there would be a recession.
Never, never gonna ride the Skyline again.
Pass the paper to me Draper!

Usin' cruise control is mighty fine,
Specially after last night's wine.
Uphill or down it doesn't matter,
Engine keepin' that smooth patter.
Let the engine wind,
Man, you gonna get fined!
(Sound of siren)
Transgression, transgression
Assumin' the position for another inspection.
Never, never gonna ride the Skyline again.
Slip the summons to me Cummins!

I'm bidin' my own,
Just takin' my time.
Here comes the law
On down the line.
Check the speedo and surprised to see,
I'm doing an illegal fifty three.
(Sound of siren)
Transgression, transgression,
Gone and made another bad impression.
Never, never gonna ride the Skyline again.
Slide the tickee to me Mickey!

Oh, Skyline drivers are found in two classes,
Enthusiastic bikers and cager jackasses,
So, remember to avoid the Skyline Drive.
(as the music dies down)
Hey, Catherine. (one of the arresting cops)
Do you date civilians?

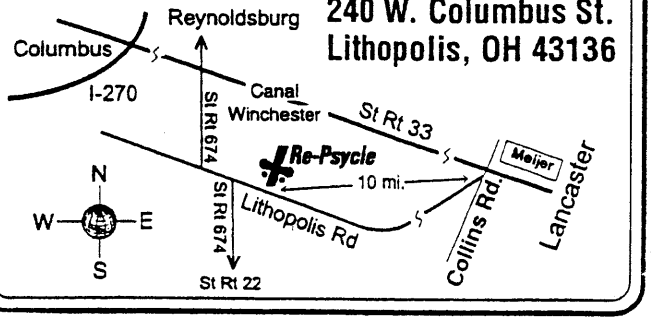
On the way to the restaurant we had encountered some really heavy fog so even the Blue Ridge had to be abandoned for lower elevations. We worked our way to Wytheville and another KOA for the evening. Cocktail time segued into some snacks available on site and another conversation fire. In the morning it would be Hungry Mother State Park near Marion, VA and Rt.16 North. That road is famous for being able to check your own taillights. Didn't do it all because the group headed east on Rt. 42 toward homes. The Pittsburgh and Ohio riders had slab in front of them for most of the day, and a little rain and cold.

Okay, so we didn't escape all the nastiness that can come one's way on a springtime ride, but there was too little of it to spoil the weekend. We had some delicious food, so-so beds in which to sleep and campfires to enliven the story telling. Seven guys with widely varying pasts and presents had two things in common: BMW motorcycles and a great time, ■

We have many QUALITY, reconditioned BMW's
ready for sale NOW - /2 through Oil Head
Used, reconditioned, NOS & OEM parts – UPS daily

Re-Psycle
BMW PARTS
614/837-1160
24 HR FAX: 614/837-0359

Service by Appt. • Rebuilding • Restorations
Fully Equipped • Exclusively BMW
SHOP ON-LINE NOW @ www.re-psycle.com
For all your BMW Parts & Accessory needs!
HOURS: Mon. - Tue. - Thu. Noon to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. - Noon to 6 p.m.
CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
240 W. Columbus St.
Lithopolis, OH 43136



Dirt Bike School

By Roger Pivonka

All little boys and little girls like to play in the dirt, and on May 22nd in Troy, OH six boys and girls got to do just that at Dirt Bike School. The school is equipped by Honda so we all had 230cc dirt bikes to play with. They also had helmets, goggles, boots if you needed them AND dirt, sand and mud to play in.

The school lasted about five and one half hours including rest breaks. After a basic classroom safety lecture we got familiar with the bikes. First we rode a big oval to the right then left. Then small circles, figure eights, over logs and through a cone-weave both ways. I did so well on the cone weave that the instructor said, "Roger, I want you to go back on the course because there are two cones you didn't knock over." We got to wheelie the bikes over double 6x6es, too. What fun!

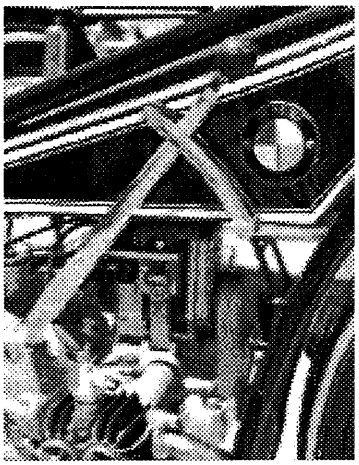
Most of the time we were standing on the pegs, a very important part of off-roading. It allows the rider to absorb the bumps and control the bike more easily by shifting weight around. It's also very tiring.

All in all we had a great time and learned new skills. Now I can trust those knobby tires to keep the bike upright in the dirt. Try it. You'll like it! ■

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. ■

Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground Review

By Mark Hoskey

As usual when motorcycle touring, it's the little surprises and unexpected events that add spice to whatever plans you've made. Our plan was simple. Ride the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) from Cherokee NC to Waynesboro VA, cross over into West Virginia and end our vacation at the Cass Rally. After spending our first night in North Carolina at the Hot Springs Campground and weathering a really nasty lightning and hail storm, we left for Smokey Mountain National Park to begin our journey up the BRP. The pictures, articles and books I've read regarding this road couldn't compare to the experience of viewing it first hand, especially from a motorcycle.

Considering the number of motorcyclists we saw and talked with during our three days on the parkway, we knew we were not alone in our appreciation. Within the first few hours while stopped at one of the overlooks, we met a young man named Eric from Charlotte. He was riding a Kawasaki Warrior that was packed for camping. (Continued on the next page)

He told us he was going to meet some other riders near Mt. Mitchell in a couple of days and that he was going to stay at a motorcycle-only campground he'd heard about near Cruso, just off the parkway. Motorcycle Only! That sounded interesting. After looking at Eric's map and seeing that Cruso would be an easy destination to reach by day's end, we decided to check it out.

Cruso advertises itself as "Nine Miles of Friendly People". Make that friendly and SOBER people. If you're looking for beer, keep going north for just a few miles. The Blue Ridge Parkway Campground is five miles north of the BRP on Route 276, just south of Cruso. A large wooden sign welcomes you and directs you to a plank bridge that leads into the camp. A parking area is provided for four-wheeled visitors next to the bridge. Just across the bridge you get your first view of the camp and you know you've made a good choice.

The camp area itself is approximately four acres of level ground with plenty of shade and two streams that border the front and rear of the property. In the middle is a trout pond, the shower/laundry house and the dining hall. The camp office is at the south end of the property. The grounds are nicely landscaped and well-maintained. Eighteen cabins sit across the back and side of the camp. Out of curiosity we asked to see the inside of a cabin and were surprised to find a full-sized bed with pillows, sheets and blankets. A ceiling fan with a light was a nice touch. For chilly nights an electric heater was provided. Gar, the owner's son, told us to set up out tent anywhere we liked and that the office would be open a bit later.

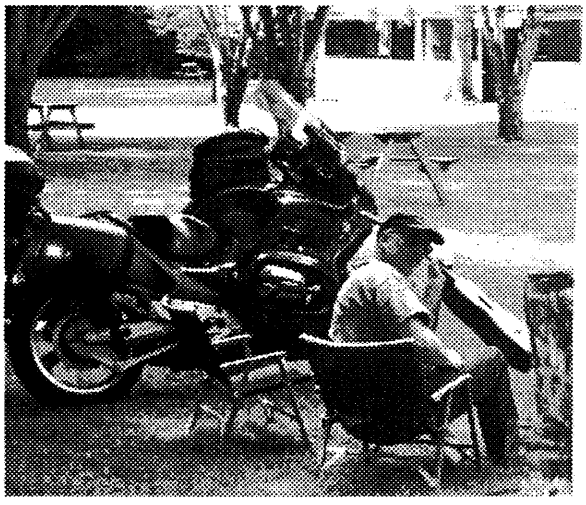
We chose a shady spot near the front of the camp with the stream behind us. After we set up the camp owner, Phil, showed up and checked us in. He and his wife Leslie are BMW riders and bought the camp three years ago from the original owner when he approached them about taking over. He wanted to new owners to keep it as a motorcycle-only operation. Churches and other organizations were interested, but he wouldn't sell to just anyone. Lucky us!

I killed the rest of the afternoon relaxing with my guitar while Cindy explored the rest of the camp. By evening eight other motorcyclists arrived including Eric whom we met on the parkway. At 6:00 p.m. Gar and his older brother announced that dinner was ready. I was amazed that they would open the dining hall for so few persons. The menu was limited, but good. On weekends they have a better selection which includes chicken and pork barbecue. In the morning breakfast was available. MMM. Pecan pancakes!!! Meal prices were very reasonable, too.

The evening's entertainment was a large community fire. Individual fires are not permitted. The fire pit is made of large stones and mortar surrounded by benches. The firewood was provided by the camp. Riding stories, tall tales and the like were provided by everyone around the fire. Most of the campers that night were family members from various states who gathered there at the camp and rode together during the day. By 11:00 p.m. we were ready for bed and had no problem sleeping with the stream flowing over the rocks behind us.

Based on the previous evening's stories and recommendations, we decided to visit the Wheels Thru Time Museum in Maggie Valley. I won't go into details, but the museum is interesting with a lot of emphasis on Harley-Davidsons. There are also rare cars owned by celebrities and other "wheel" oriented displays. I will mention the H-D powered roto tiller and the H-D powered snow toboggan. Curious? You'll have to see it for yourself. After very little discussion, Cindy and I decided to stay another night and enjoy the camp. Other riders came in that evening, among them two brothers on Moto Guzzis who mentioned that a large Guzzi club has an annual rally there. With such a gem of a campground and great roads nearby, it's little wonder.

The evening fire brought out more stories and comeradeship and, once again, it was time for bed. In the morning we packed up and headed north on the parkway knowing someday we'll be back. More information is available at the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground website: www.blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com. ■



How he gets all that stuff loaded onto his bike is a real mystery. Here's Mark at the Blue Ridge Parkway Campground pickin' and a grinnin'.

Il Diavolo in Pirelli

By Don Poremski

The motorcyclists' grapevine works very quickly in these days of the internet, so it wasn't unusual that I would hear about Pirelli's "Free Tire" offer. The deal was that if a person bought a Diablo rear tire, a free 120/70/17 Diablo front tire could be had for just the cost of shipping and handling, in this case, $20. Not bad! My ZX-11 (and many other sport-oriented motorcycles) could have new rubber for right around $170, less mounting and balancing. But perhaps I should have been skeptical of an Italian company calling their tire by a Spanish name for "devil". Hmm.

The coupon form that was to accompany my receipt for the rear tire was available on-line so next came the search for a rear tire supplier. Got that from Discount Motorcycle Tire and Accessories, also on line, and the whole package was sent to the indicated address for Pirelli Tire of North America, Motorcycle Division in Georgia. Cool! New tires for under $200. Too good to be true? Yes, pessimist breath. Too right.

Got my entire submittal back unopened with a form letter stating that the program was good through March 31st or as long as supplies lasted. So, being a marketing guy myself I'm puzzled. What was the thrust behind Pirelli's program? My submittal was made before the deadline. Two possibilities come to mind.

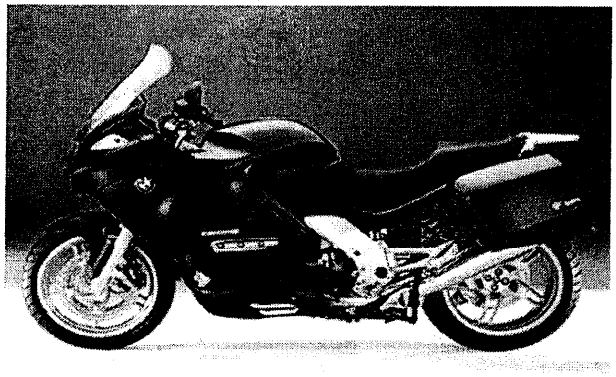
First, Pirelli had a lot of Diablo rear tires due to bad forecasting and they wanted to unload a bunch. If that was the case they achieved success. My rear tire has been purchased. But, now that I've had my paperwork rejected, I'm angry over not getting the free front.

Second, Pirelli thought that a customer wouldn't mix radials and their "stock-out" refusal would force the purchase of a Diablo front tire? (BUZZER) Wrong!

If Pirelli wanted to attract first-time buyers like me, they succeeded, but they have also raised my ire such that I WILL mix a Pirelli rear with anyone else's front and NEVER buy another Pirelli for either motorcycle or car. What? They don't make 120/70/17 Diablos anymore? Come on. They certainly would if I plunked down the retail price.

So, another great idea gets besmirched by corporate stinginess. Hey, if those Diablos performed as claimed, they probably wouldn't have been the last set on my bike, and there would have been the added plus of positive word of mouth...as opposed to this warning to all my fellow riders. Maybe el Diablo, the Spanish one from down there, got an Italian or American one to do some dirty work up here in Georgia. Grrrr. ■

Available for test rides. Are You?



K 1200GT— $18,205.00

All Seasons Sports Center

2700 Akron Road
Wooster, Oh 44691
330/264-7735
www.motorcyclesohio.com
E-mail allseasons@sssnet.com

BMW Motorrad USA

1-800-345-4BMW
bmwmotorradusa.com

*M.S.R.P for 2004 K 1200 GT. is $18,205.00 MSRP Includes destination and handling but excludes license, registration, taxes, title, insurance, and options. Actual price is determined by retailer. @ 2003 BMW Motorcycles, a division of BMW of North America, LLC.

Saddam Hussein a Biker?

Motor Cycle Industry magazine reports something we might find odd. Most of us have the image of Saddam's statue being pulled over in Firdos Square, Baghdad, Iraq. One man photographed with a sledgehammer pounding away at the statue was khadom Sharif Hassan, a former Iraqi weight-lifting champion. Well, Khadam is now in jail for looting the National Army Museum.

He used to be the chief motorcycle mechanic for a fleet of over one hundred bikes owned by the Husseins, Uday especially. But the bike he took was a fifty-year-old black Norton on which the young Saddam escaped to Syria after a botched assassination attempt on Iraq's then Prime Minister Qasim. Khadam claims that he bought it from a looter out of a sense of love and responsibility.

"I hate Saddam, but what he did wasn't the bike's fault. It is a special thing in Iraq's history.", he maintains. One only wonders about the present day situation if that bike hadn't been around. ■

To get the lowest prices on Metzeler tires, as well as all other major brands, along with all of your parts/accessories, and light service needs... CALL 4WS Inc.
Located in Valley City (Medina Co.) On Rt 303

Phone: 330 483 3100
Fax: 330 483 3851

METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRES

BMW MOC Club Dues are Overdue

If a fellow MOC member tells you he/she didn't receive a Summer CCN, it's because their dues haven't been paid. We have printed extras hoping that they'll pay up soon. When they do, a newsletter will be sent. ■

Norton to Ride Again?

MCI reports that Norton motorcycles may be available again as early as next January. Kenny Dreer of Gladstone OR plans to make two hundred Commando 952 Signature Series bikes for which he has already received the down payments.

His hand-built Commando VR880 recently graced the cover of Cycle World inspiring him to produce and sell fifty more. Production will remain low through 2006, but he expects it could increase to one thousand units by May of 2007, two thousand by May, 2008. Dreer is the owner of Vintage Rebuilds and specialized in restoring British and Italian motorcycles. ■

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

Late Braking News:

Why Am I Not Surprised Department::
Former South Dakota governor and state representative "Wild Bill" Janklow pardoned his son-in-law in 2002 for three drunken driving and marijuana possession convictions, according to state documents released April 29, 2004.

Janklow, a republican, was elected to Congress in 2002 but resigned last year after being convicted of manslaughter in a collision that killed motorcyclist Randy Scott. He served one hundred days in the local jail but after thirty days he was allowed to be away from the jail during the day. He also had his driver's license suspended for three years.

Janklow's light sentence and similar inadequate penalties from around the country have generated the AMA's new "Justice for All" campaign which seeks mandatory penalties for cases like Janklow's. Go with Turp and join AMA! ■

Roman Cycle Shop, Inc.
SINCE 1948
MOTORCYCLES

Large inventory of BMW parts /2 to present. Shipping UPS daily

- JOE ROCKET CLOTHING & BOOTS
- HJC HELMETS
- EBC BRAKE PADS
- MARSEE PRODUCTS
- DUNLOP -METZELER
- OLYMPIA GLOVES

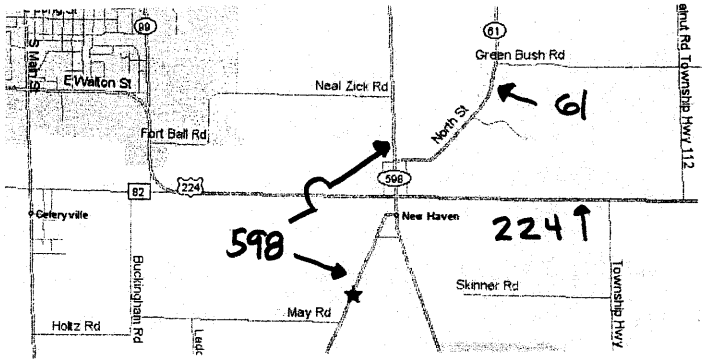
4494 MAHONING AVE.
AUSTINTOWN, OHIO 44515
PH. 330-270-BMWS
LOCATED ON RT. 18, 1 MILE EAST OF Rt. 11

HOURS
Tu,Wed,Fri. 10-6
Thur.10-8
Sat. 9-4

We Now Stock Gerbing's Heated Clothing

Calendar of Events

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.



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. 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.

June 26
AMA Flat Track Racing
Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima OH. Qualifications approximately 4:00 p.m. More information at 419-991-1491.

July 1
BMWMOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. in the Metro Parks Big Creek Reservation at the Snow Road Picnic Area Pavilion off Snow Road in Parma OH. Come early and cook out before the meeting.

July 11
Canton Motorcycle Club Poker Run
Participation $5.00. Meets at clubhouse 1/4 mile south of Brewster on SR 93. Registration 11:30 a.m. First bike out noon.

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.

July 30-Aug 1
Mosquito Lake Rally
Mosquito Beemers will hold their rally at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds in Cortland OH. Pre-registered $30, $35 at gate. Registration opens 9:00 a.m. Nearby attractions: Packard Museum, Amish working farms, Mosquito and Pymatuning Lakes. On site radio controlled airplane exhibition. Horseshoe contest, games, tech seminars and evening entertainment. Rally pins to first 150 registrants. 24-hour coffee, donuts, fruit. Friday chili, Saturday chicken dinner. Door prizes and rider awards. No phone contact available. Registration forms and more info on line at www. mosquitobeemers.com.

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 5
BMWMOC Membership Meeting
At beautiful Huntington Beach Park on Lake Road in Bay Village OH. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Come early, cook out, take a swim, stay for the sunset.

Calendar of Events

August 20-22
Four Winds BMW Riders Rally
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.bmwridersoftoledo.org

September 2
BMWMOC Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Picnic Area in Brecksville Reservation of the Metro Parks off SR 82. Come early and cook out and be sure to bring something for the racoons.

September 10-12
BS (Buckeye State) Rally
Held once more at Lake Snowden Campgrounds on SR50 six miles west of Athens, OH. Catered dinner, Saturday night entertainment, field events, self-guided tours, awards and door prizes. Pets and early admission welcome. More information call 614-444-9409 or go to www.buckeyebeemers.org.

September 16-19
BMWRA International RAlly
RA in the Wild and Wonderful at Canaan Valley State Park, 10 miles south of Davis, WV. This is a fantastic site in the high country of WV with excellent riding in any direction. The RA has the entire 6,000 acre park for this event. The resort is Triple Diamond rated by the AAA with 250 rooms, 23 cabins and cottages, 34 RV sites. Resort No. 800-622-4121 to reserve all but camping. See the BMW RA web site at www.bmwra.org for additional information.

September 17-19
BMW MOC 3rd Annual Pow Wow Rally
At Mohican Reservation Campground on Wally Road in Loudonville, OH. Call Stan Kain at 440-842-2960 for more details.

September 17-19
AMA Superbike Weekend
Double header racing weekend held at Virginia International Raceway, 1245 Pine Tree Road, Alton VA 24520. More information available at info!virclub.com or call 888-RACE099. Two points paying superbike races plus all support classes.

October 2-5
BMW RA Triple B's in 2003
BMW (1) rally at Barber(2) Motorsports Park in Birmingham(3), AL. Take exit 140 off Interstate 20, Leeds Exit. See RA web site for details at http://www.bmwra:org/rally_2003.htm

October 15-17 (Tentative)
BMW MOC Fall Foliage Festival and a Gathering of the Clubs
at the Whispering Hill Campgrounds, Shreve, OH during peak autumn color in one of the best riding areas in Ohio. All Ohio BMW clubs are invited to join in for a "farewell to the 2004 riding season celebration" hosted by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland. Camping fee is $8.00 per person per night. Cabins are available for $50 and up per night. For cabin and RV reservations and information, call 800-992-2435.

Saturday, October 16th, early evening, will be the 6th Annual "Gathering of the Clams". Clambake bouillon sampling begins around 5:00 p.m. Clambake dinners will be available with a prepaid ticket only! (Bake pricing to be announced later) Clam Bake dinner includes: one dozen Cold Water Rhode Island Top Neck Clams, 1 1/2 pound seasoned barbecued half chicken, sweet potato, ear of sweet corn, roll, butter and cole slaw. Extra dozens of clams will be available at the time of your order. Woody's Wicked Chowdah is still a buck a bowl, $1.00.

To purchase tickets e-mail Bob Wood at bmw01bob@adelphia.net or call 216-252-7933 after September 1st. Other food; breakfast, lunch and dinners will be available on site at the Ol' Smokehouse Restaurant. Continuous coffee and, of course, nightly bonfire and BS. Additional details to be announced as this date draws closer. Date and prices not yet confirmed.

October 29-31
2004 Ohio RA Haloween Camp Out
At the Trail Riders Campground, 4 miles north of Cadiz on SR 9. Primitive camping, pit toilets and paved road to campsite. Look for a Harrison State Forest sign marked Trail Riders Campground. All interested BMW riders invited. Debbi Harbour will be food coordinator. E-mail her after October 11th at dlhk75@isp.com for pot luck suggestions. Friday chili. Info at 216-252-7933.

Rider Snapshot

By Don Poremski

If John Roman is evidence of what a lifelong association with motorcycles contributes to longevity, I hope I can follow in his shoes. Saturday, June 5th was the date for a Swap Meet at his current shop located on Mahoning Avenue in Austintown, so I went there for several reasons. One was to check with Rich Roman, John's son regarding the ad he runs in the CCN. Second was to scout some /6 parts for Jerry Riha and third was to find out if Roman's carried a windshield extension I've been looking for. Well, I did all that with varying success, but got a few more things in the bargain.

The ad will run again, no one seems to make those extensions any more, and only one vendor may have parts for Jerry's rebuild efforts. BUT, while I was finishing up my transaction for a flat face shield soon to become my windshield extension, another customer came in saying he was there for a demo of the Rockster. Well, that sounded okay to me, too, so I waited around for his return. From a desk by the wall came a man who looked vaguely familiar, a man I hadn't seen for possibly fifteen years. John Roman came toward the front of the showroom to chat me up while I was waiting, and chat we did. John is now 91 years young and only stopped riding about six years ago. We talked about his decision to stop riding and, well, one thing led to another and time flew by.

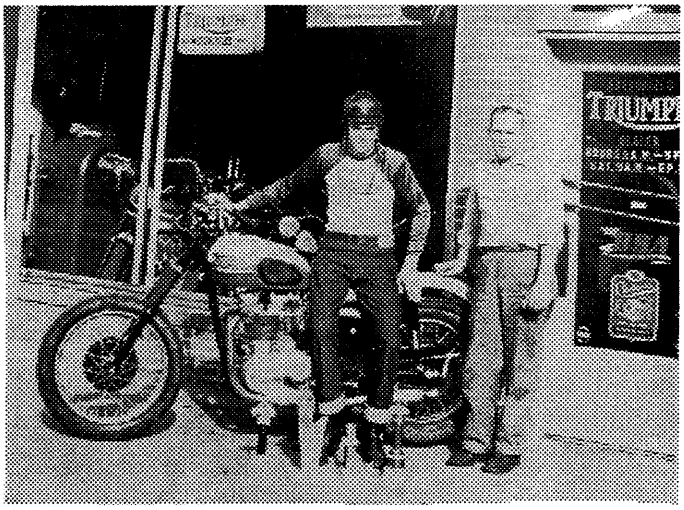
After talking about being in the service in Germany, he being a fellow Air Force veteran, we began exchanging motorcycling tales from Europe and wound up in the "museum room" of the current shop. Here John's history with motorcycles has been collected for the amusement and edification of interested customers. You might want to take it in when the upcoming Poker Run stops at Roman's this year. One of the bikes in that room is the one pictured in this article, a Triumph drag bike modified with a Bonneville head that accommodated twin carbeuretors in place of the stock single carb.

We also looked over the 1978 R100S which was the last bike John rode and chuckled about the very small saddlebags on the bike. They are the smallest I'd ever seen mounted on a Beemer and John told me he'd had a lot of fun at rallies describing what he'd carry in them. One was used for socks and underwear, the other contained...well, if you really want to know you'll have to get it from John directly. No doubt you'll see the same clear-eyed, twinkling, grin he bestowed on me when he told me. Motels made it unnecessary to carry a tent or sleeping bag and the areas behind the fairing on either side of the tank could be stuffed with baggage and held in with bungee cords. That and a tank bag was all that he needed for a coast to coast run.

John has some physical problems now that intrude upon his complete satisfaction with life, but he proudly gazes about the current showroom and upon his son Rich who now hefts the management responsibilities for the business. Mrs. Roman was there bustling about the food offerings for the Swap Meet and cheerful in spite of the fact that another outdoor event found cloudy skies and threatening rain.

Dave behind the counter reminded me that I had a Rockster demo waiting and would I sign the release and present a license? You betcha. The odometer had not yet seen one hundred and sixty miles when I threw my leg over the saddle. It was taller than either bike I now ride, but not a problem. The saddle has a very defined ridge that separates the front and rear. I thought it a little intrusive until I got the bike out onto Route 11 South. Grabbed some r.p.m. and some gears and learned that the ridge was there to keep the rider from sliding back to the pillion seat area. Smooth, six speeds, telelever and great brakes. What wasn't to like?

When I pulled in to the dealership after the ride, John Roman was there to greet me. He no more showed his age than any rider when I told him my impressions. So, John Roman is my hero. I'm going to continue to ride so I can be like him when I'm 91. Thanks for the hospitality John and Rich. ■



This shot was taken at the old shop on Market Street in Youngstown. That's John Roman on the right and Lou Burndt sitting on the shop-sponsored drag bike. The 650cc Trumpet would do a quarter mile in 10.52. Not bad for 1962. Note that John also sold BSA and Cushman before becoming a BMW dealer.

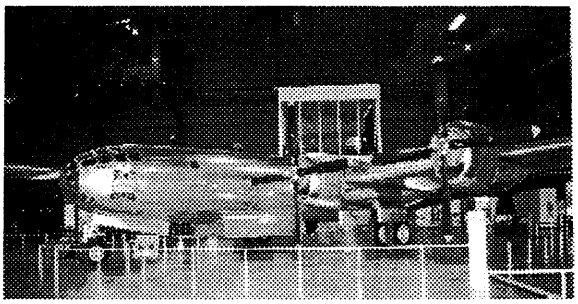
Seven motorcycles headed further south into the fog on the Blue Ridge Parkway toward the Peaks of Otter. There lies a resort hotel that serves an excellent breakfast buffet. Here also is where the beginnings of "Transgression" were born. Your newsletter editor felt a bit outclassed as the group entered the fog. His was the only motorcycle not equipped with flashers. Between the fog and the rain it just wasn't as much fun as it could have been negotiating the BRP.

When one of the riders brings a shaker and martini fixings, it's just good form to have a cocktail hour before dinner. Those olives were stuffed with jalepenos, too. The KOAs have added decks to their cabins. That and gas grills. Ah, roughing it. See Easter Swoop story on pages five through seven.

Vice-Commisar Dale Wrightsky proves he can fit into the cockpit of the MAPS MIG 15, but closing that canopy is another story.

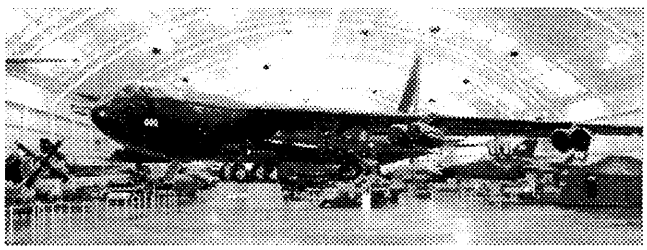
Fellow "swooper" Steve Skupas shows the scary results of mixing new gloves with fog and rain.

COBB
H-D REPAIR
(440) 244-6881
AMERICAN - EUROPEAN - JAPANESE
RESTORATION - PERFORMANCE - REPAIR
TURP COBB
OWNER
1301 BROWNELL AVE.
LORAIN, OHIO 44052



Above: Bock's Car dropped an A-bomb on Nagasaki. Below: Later model jet bomber. Both at USAir Force Museum, a recent 4W ride. How do you clear a 1991 Iraqi Bingo Game? Call out B-52.

FASTTRAX
Motorcycle Riding Schools
2004 Schools at:
Nelson Ledges
BeaveRun
$25 Discount on Performance Street Riders Schools for club members with this ad
Phone 330 494-8410
www.fastone.com

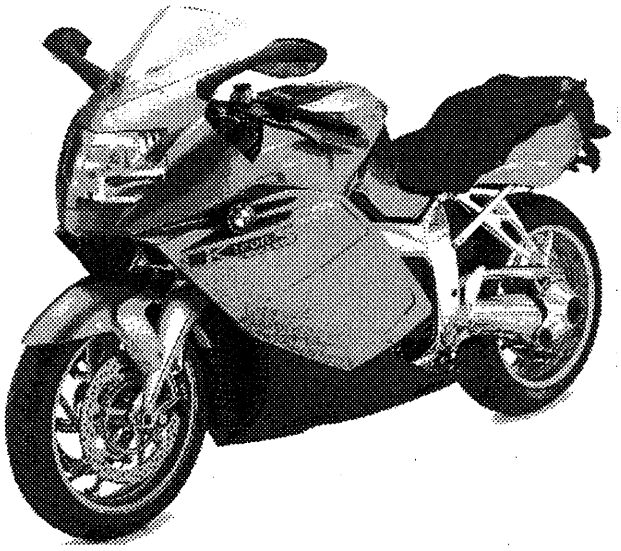


BMW Unleashes K1200S on the Cycle World

By Don Poremski

When Cycle World's July edition hit the newsstands recently it made two very impressive statements. First, calling any German-made machine a "Busa Beater" attests to just how special the new model will be. Then it also verified this model would be available as an early-release 2005 machine.

The BMW faithful had many earlier indications that the new "K" was coming and CW reinforced many of the conjectured features shown in RA reports, yes, and here in the CCN. It'll have MONDO horsepower (157 with 91 foot pounds of torque), red line at 11,000+ and standard lever-actuated-only ABS. It will also feature the Hossack-designed, no-stiction front suspension and be known as the Duolever replacing the current Telelever.



The styling of the K1200S is striking if reminiscent of the aforementioned Hayabusas or XX Blackbirds, GSXR's and Ninjas. Wind tunnel studies were used to obtain maximum placement of the pressurizing air intakes. Those studies also helped when it came to the creature comforts side of riding this beauty. V-shaped notches on the fairing channel rainwater away from the rider. A NACA vent in the front fender routes air to the radiator for cooling. Available colors probably won't be known for sure until the official debut at the Intermot Show in Munich this September but CW reports blue, silver and perhaps two-toned schemes.

Accessories will include expandable bags, lower seat, navigation and alarm systems. Price should fall

somewhere between $17 and 20, er, "K". That won't compete with the $11-12K tags of the Japanese super tourers, but BMW has always enjoyed being able to charge a premium for its machines.

Brakes and wheels are by Brembo, the latter made to BMW design and specifications. How cool is finding is the valve stem at the base of a spoke where it can be reached for service?

Those priveleged enough to have actually sat on the bike tell of its roominess and comfort afforded by low, rear-set footpegs, narrow tank and protective fairing. We should be getting more feedback on whether this is true or not after the official press introduction in July. CW reported that one of the riders of the machine, whose opinion they trust because of his experience in Boxer Cup racing, Dr. Braunsperger, maintains that the experience will be pleasant. "You're going to like it.", he said. "With Duolever the sensitivity is greatly enhanced and braking will probably set a new benchmark. The challenge today is not to make bikes more powerful, but to make them more rideable. We think the K1200S will make every rider a better rider." Hey, I thought the hollow rear axle was cool beans. ■