Club #196 News

BMW MOA Charter Club #196 Cleveland, Ohio Spring, 1992

Club Wins First Award

by Rosewood

Congratulations!! BMW MOA Charter Club #196 is proud to announce the acceptance of our first rally award... Most Members in Attendance! (kind of)
Our story begins at a small, quiet rally site in Parkhill, Ontario, Canada on May 16, 1992. The Forest City BMW Alphabet Fund Raiser Rally had attracted nearly 100 members and guests. The "Cleveland Club" begins to browse over the awards' sign-up sheets. Hmpff.. forget oldest bike Chris, this 1964 /2 has got you beat. Longest distance? How many kilometers is it from Cleveland anyway?? Not far enough. But beeey lookkee here... there are 7 members from #196 and only 2 from another club. Aha.. we can taste it already!! That afternoon we discussed how the club should be addressed when the BIG announcement was made! "BMW MOA Club #196 from Cleveland", was a good choice.

(Continued on page 2)

From the President's Desk

by Ralph Crider

As I sit here, rewriting this again, (trying to update this for the newsletter), my mind draws a blank...let's try again. Welcome to the first newsletter of Club #196, the renewed, reformed and rejuvinated version of Clevelands' own BMW MOA chartered club. I'd like to thank everyone for their interest and support in getting this going especially, Bob Wood who's doing this newsletter, Munch for her yomans work as secretary/treasurer, Gabe for helpful insights and an occasional push. Also, all the committee members including Dave, Donna, RJ (get well soon) on Name/Logo, Chris (good party guy!) on Membership, and Bob and Rose

(Continued on page 2)

You're Invited...

Who: BMW MOA Club #196 members, guests, & interested parties
What: 1st Annual Summer PICNIC / MEETING (it'll be short)
Where: Pam & Dave's house rain or shine (see map)
When: Saturday, May 30, 4 pm - meeting
5 pm - PARTY!
What to bring: call Pam or Dave at 1-667-2496.

Be there or be square.

* Special Meeting *

The May 30th meeting will be kept short so we have plenty of time for picnicing and fun; glug, glug, glug. (overnight camping permitted) It is important that members review the Code of Ethics, Club Constitution, and By-Laws which you received at our last meeting, so we can intelligently discuss and vote on adopting these documents at this meeting. This will be our only major business for this gathering. Please attend and participate.

Club Interim Officers

Ralph Crider, President . . . 476-1408
Gabe Gumuscian, V.P. 226-1937
Stephanie Oliver, Sec./Treas. 228-6430
Bob Wood, Road Captain . . . 252-7933

First Award *Continued from page 1*

Hidden from view, our unique award would easily fit in a saddle bag we were told. That evening at the ceremonies, we all sat patiently waiting through the presentations of some very beautiful (acid-etched glass) and unusual (welded pieces/parts) awards. At the very closing, (with a reminding nudge from Munch) we were finally presented the important award for "the club whose attending members is closest to 26" (like the letters in the alphabet--get it?) And there we have it!! A 12 oz. can of Alphagetti artistically labeled with our proud accomplishment. Stephanie, who accepted the award on the club's behalf, will bring it to our next meeting, May 30, (see front page for details) for all to gaze at. This will serve as a reminder to all members to sign in at all the rallies--under Club #196!!

President's Desk *Continued from page 1*

on Newsletter.

Your executive board has been hard at work trying to formulate a workable set of rules so that we can enjoy the riding season and have fun (which is the primary purpose of this club). Remember, the club is only as good as it's members (boy, what an old cliche'), so tell your friends about it; the more the merrier. At the next meeting we are going to vote on adopting the constitution, code of ethics and bylaws, so.....BE THERE! (Or at least mail in your vote.)

I heard we had a good turnout in Sturgis, Michigan for the Mini-Rally, let 'em know we're out there. Make sure you put down your club affiliation on your registration forms at all rallys and maybe we can win a club prize for members, miles, etc... Get involved in field events, drink beer (or wine), but most of all, be safe and have fun.

Auf Dem Strasse---Ralph

RALLY REAR VIEW

by Bob Wood

They said it was about average attendance. But, with the best weather I've seen in the last five years, there should have been triple the people. I refer to my traditional season opener...the Original Mini-Rally hosted by BMW Charter Club #14 of Battlecreek, Michigan. Usually rain, sometimes snow, but predictably always cold. This year no rain, snow, or cold. Just the best springtime weather anyone could imagine. Seven Cleveland Club #196 members were present.

This year the rally featured BMW of Grand Rapids providing demo rides on Saturday afternoon. They brought the two new models, the K1100LT and the R100R Roadster, plus a K75S were provided just for the asking. One vendor, R&L Trailer Sales, was present who tours with a K100LT, two up, while trailing his wares from rally to rally. Their selection of goods was excellent, pricing fair, but the best part was watching them scientifically pack it all up for travel. As in the past the 100-mile self-guided tour, detailed area map of restaurants, stores and motels, putt-putt for $1.00, and their always unique t-shirt graphics make this rally one not to miss. Mike's Pizza and Subs provided

(Continued on page 3)

Kick'n tires and tell'n lies at Battlecreek (photo by Munch)

No Name BMW Club

by Bob Wood

We are still searching for a club name. At our March 28th social event, several flyers were circulated with the top eight names presented by the name search committee along with some logo sketches. No lights came on. No bells rang. There were no reports of lightening or even sparks. Listed below is a more complete rendering of the committees work. Please let us (the Executive Committee) know if any of these strike your fancy. Otherwise, the search will continue. I truely believe we will need a season of rallying before our identity will emerge...and when it does it will be as obvious as that scratch on your tank.

Acme BMW Club

Auf Dem Strasse (on the road)

BMW Riders of Cleveland

BMW Riders of Ohio

Cuyahoga Valley Beemers

Dirty City Riders

Emerald Necklace BMW Club

Fur Das Wind (for the wind)

Greater Cleveland BMW Riders

Jug-ger-Naut

Lake Erie South Shore BMW

Northcoast BMW Owners Group

Schnitzel Kickers

South Shore BMW

Tower City Beemers Club

_____

(you fill in)

Rally *continued from page 2*

their usual tasty menu with delivery to rally central. Saturday evening awards, 50/50 raffle, and a birthday surprise for "Tillie" of the host club, who was celebrating fifty years in a special way, began the Saturday nite fun. It was so nice to have a campfire for something more than heat. Clear skies prevailed both nights producing a blanket of stars above.

Sunday morning under a cool cloudy sky I wished the event hadn't gone so fast. The Battlecreek Club put on their usual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Noone ever leaves their rally hungry. I wonder how they do all this for only $8.00 per head. Something our club could do? Mark your calender now for the first weekend of May 1993 and hope for a carbon copy of weather for next year's rally.

Ohio Calender of Events

May 22-24 Rubber City Rally, Randolph, Ohio

May 30 Club meeting at Dave & Pam's

June 6, 7 Nelson Ledges, Riders School, 2 Hour Enduro, Sprints

June ?? Club meeting / ride T.B.A.

July 11, 12 Nelson Ledges, WERA 24 Hour Enduro

July 12 Pro Hillclimbers Assoc. Logan, Ohio AMA Sanctioned

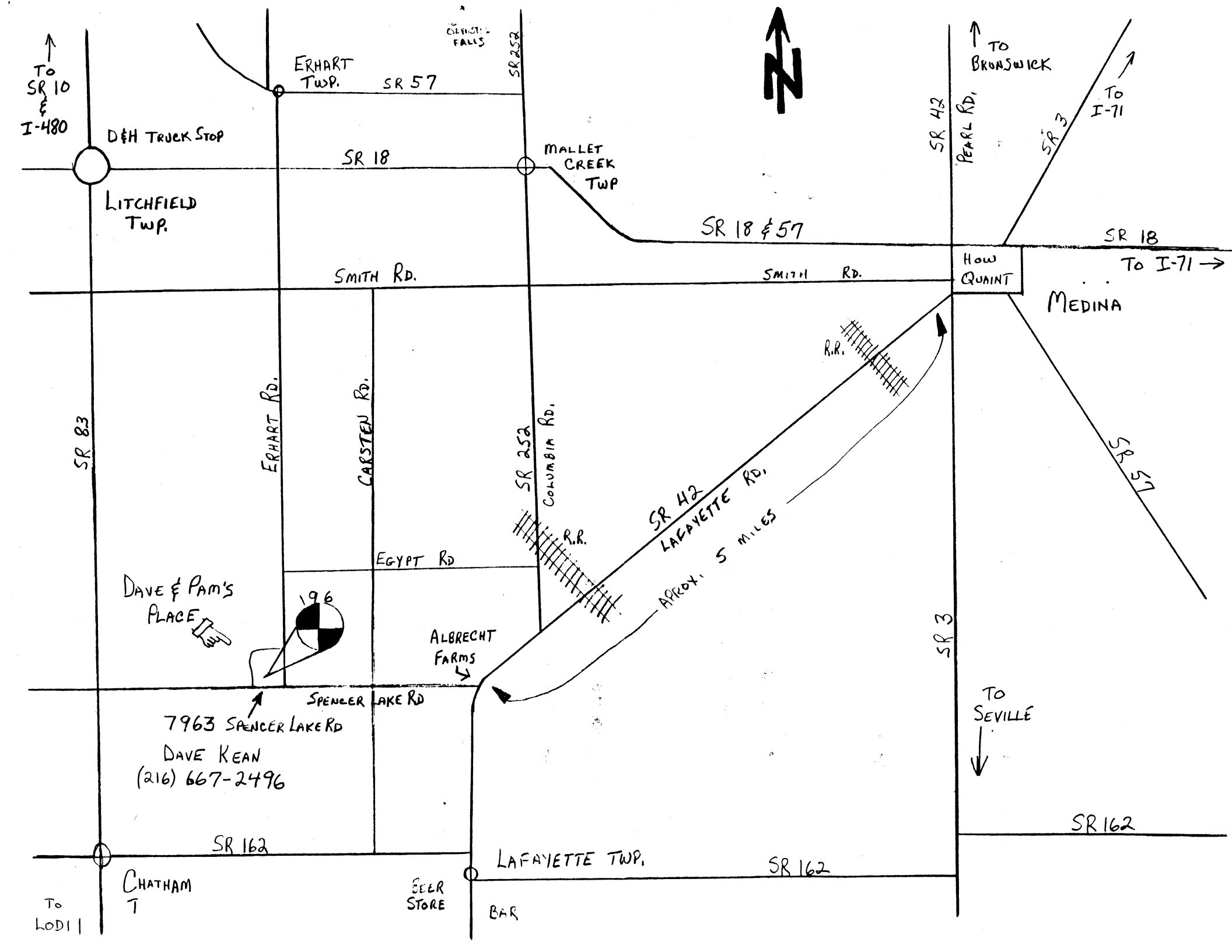
July 17 Reg Pridmore's CLASS at Mid-Ohio

July 25, 26 Vintage Motorcycle Days, Motorcycle Heritage Museum, auction, parts/serv., classic displays.

July 31-Aug. 2 Mid-Ohio Camel Super Bike Weekend.

Classified Section

'71 R60/5, 24k new Conti's, brakes, clutch, final drive. $1800 or offer. Windshield $75 265-4838 after 11 pm


To SR 10 & I-480
D&H Truck Stop
Litchfield Twp.
Erhart Twp.
SR 57
SR 252
SR 18
Mallet Creek Twp
SR 18 & 57
SR 42
Pearl Rd.
To Brunswick
SR 3
To I-71
SR 18
To I-71
How Quaint
Smith Rd.
Smith Rd.
Medina
SR 83
Erhart Rd.
Carsten Rd.
SR 252
Columbia Rd.
R.R.
R.R.
SR 42
Lafayette Rd.
Approx. 5 miles
SR 57
Egypt Rd
Dave & Pam's Place
196
Albrecht Farms
SR 3
Spencer Lake Rd
7963 Spencer Lake Rd
Dave Kean
(216) 667-2496
To Seville
SR 162
SR 162
Lafayette Twp.
SR 162
Chatham T
To Lodi
Beer Store
Bar

Cleveland Club News

The Official Publication of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland Summer 1992

from the President's Desk -

Geez! Three months already! Well, I guess I'd better get busy and summerize our activities of late. The Micro-Rally at Pam and Dave's was a great success. Thanx for having us out for a very good party and meeting. We've picked up a few more members since then, which is a good sign. As our club grows and evolves, it's good to see that some of our members are stepping forward and taking the bull by the horns and coming up with ideas and energy to keep us in the wind.

The National was a great success for as we had almost 80% club attendance along with a few guests. Bob also led a group ride on Saturday to one of the scenic areas that was enjoyed by all.

The club now has membership cards and a handbook for all members, but, in order to get one, you gotta join! Members, invite friends, relatives and loved ones to be part of the fun.

The executive board is looking into a winter meeting place which will give all members a chance to socialize, bench race, B.S., etc...after monthly meetings during the cold months in the not-too-distant future. We're also working on incorporating as a non-profit entity for liability purposes.

A lot of progress has been made in the last six months and more to come. The next newsletter will have election ballots for our first open elections, so come to the meetings and voice your views and meet everyone so that you know who you're voting for. Speaking of elections, there's a very important national election coming up, so register and vote!

AUF DEM STRASSE !
RALPH

P.S. The doctor is 80% sure it's a girl!!

Special Club Event . . .

Who: BMW MOA Club #196 members only
What: 1st Annual Autumn Bridge Tour
Where: Starts at Downtown Cleveland's Inner Harbor
When: Sunday, October 11, 8:30 am, (rain date October 18th)

Maps of the tour will be given out to registered members only. This is a 'fun ride'. Don't miss out on the premier of what could someday be a great event.

Interim Club Officers & Officials

Ralph Crider, President	671-1847
Gabe Gumuscian, V.P.	671-4825
Stephanie Oliver, Sec./Treas.	961-1362
Bob Wood, Road Captain	252-7933
Dave Kean, Director	1-667-2496
Eric Graydon, Director	226-1937
Chris Lance, Membership	228-3689

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4-Winds '92

by Ralph Crider

The 26th Annual Four Winds Rally was held August 21st - 23rd. Acknowledged as the oldest organized BMW rally, this year it was held in a new location (10 miles west of Bedford, PA). As usual, the Pennsylvania backroads were nice and easy on the suspension. Even though I didn't take the tour ride, I was told that all the roads were outstanding.

The campsite itself was surrounded by trees, but there weren't any in the camping area which made for a lack of shade. Even though attendance was down this year (approx. 270 people), probably due to the new site and an advertised 'no alcohol' policy, the grounds could have easily accomodated more. The facilities were even better, with 2 bathhouses, larger dining area, several bunkhouses and a good sized pavillion. There were no campfires allowed, but there was a community fire that was the focal point of after dark B.S.-ing, bench racing and comraderie.

The field events were interesting, with a couple of new twists. One was a bike push, where you pushed a bike down the slow race course. Of course, the slow race was won by a boxer. Another was where you wrapped a rope around a barrel while circling it. The Saturday dinner was a very good meal to compliment the overall atmosphere, followed by a 8-member jazz band.

All in all, a nice intimate rally which allowed one to make new friends, renew old friendships and have fun. All this and no rain !!

Cleveland Club T-Shirts

Anyone interested in a Cleveland Club T-Shirt? We are going to run a small batch this fall. Maybe for the Autumn Bridge Tour. That might be a nice shirt. The $12.00 cost of the shirts will of course benefit our club. For more information call Pam Yek.

days - 476-9700 evening - 1-667-2496

"Chunx" Vol.I

by Sir Eric of York

My monicre or title was given to me by my friends and associates of Club #196. They are familiar with me and understand my credentials to carry such a title. Far be it from me to argue.

At any rate, this is Vol. I of "Chunx" and at this writing the "Chunx" Award has two recipients; myself and the "famous" Karl Hoffman. We shall share the plaque this quarter.

For those of you who don't know how to win this award, let me say this, "the night has a thousand eyes", and anyone can win. You needn't be shy, you needn't be outrageous, but at the last meeting of Club #196, before the quarterly publication, someone will be elected for "Chunx" status.

As most people know by now the "Chunx" column will probable deal with the topic of overindulgences in their diverse ways. I will try to promote safe riding and also take a look at the consequences for "not".

Remember, fellow bikers, motorcycles are not equipped with seat belts, airbags, or training wheels as either standard or optional equipment. So "keep the rubber on the road" and stay out of the ditch. Till next time---safe riding.

Bits & Pieces

Rider Magazine's July issue ranked BMW's current ABS braking as dead last, third place against it's small field of competition. The only other bikes currently available with an antilock system are the Yamaha FJ1200A, and the Honda ST1100 ABS-TCS. The TCS which only the Honda has, is a traction control system. What else will they think of.

RA's QTL reports seeing BMW's new 4-valve type 259 boxer on an all-new GS frame with a wish bone front suspension. The picture says it all. Could the new Boxer really bear current technology? Speculation is that an 800cc and an 1100cc version of this

Continued on page 3

Bits & Pieces - *continued from page 2*

new engine will be available.

September Rider Mag published a very favorable article on the new K1100LT beemer. They also agree that the trick windshield is great!

Americade '92 will run September 7th thru 11th in Estes Park, Colorado. About 5000 motorcycles are expected. Demo rides from Honda, H-D, and Guzzi will be offered.

Maggie Valley 17th annual Rally (Sept. 18-20) will be held at an all-new location at the Asheville West KOA. This is a special rider's rally.

Virginia Beach and BMW. What a great combination for the SURF AND SAND RALLY Sept. 11-13. For the small fee of $25 you are promised a great weekend at the beach and touring the historic Hampton Roads area. For more info contact Donna Grunkmeier at 804-498-0637.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Paul Shaver, Alex Rossborough, and Tom Wintering. Paul brings new enthusiasm to the club and his American dream. Alex is a former moto-circuit rider and owns quite a collection of machines. Tom is the proud owner of a fine slash five (/5s) steed he calls "Rock N Roll" and will take responsibility for printing the newsletters. Welcome one and all!

Brainless Nomenclature

Hello Everyone!!.... Well, I'm not exactly sure what to write about here, but as it happened, I stopped by the Wizards' Pad while he was putting together the club letter. For the past few months I've been telling the Man that I was going to put something together...in fact, I even started some sort of strange dissertation, but what the @!&*'="% ...

So here We go...

Is it just me, or did Summer cook by, or what! I mean, this baby is over. Have you

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Ohio Calendar of Events

Aug 30 Northwood, OH, Glass City Motorcycle Club Poker Run.

Sept 5-6 Nelson Ledges, Rider's School, 2 hr. Endurance, National Qualifier Sprints.

Sept 11-13 Shreve, OH, Buckeye BMW State Rally Club #196 meeting following Sat. night dinner at rally.

Sept 13 Dayton Motorcycle Club, Poker Run.

Sept 13 Hicksville, OH, Yankee Poker Run.

Sept 19 Temperance, MI, Blackhawk MC Poker Run.

Sept 20 Columbus, OH, Capitol City MC Club Poker Run.

Sept 20 Toledo, OH, Travelers Poker Run.

Sept 27 Canal Winchester, OH, Buckeye Beemers Benefit for A M H M.

Sept 27 Defiance, OH, Steel Steeds Poker Run.

Oct 2-4 Logan, OH, BMWRA Fall Camp Out, tour the Hocking Hills Area & Steam Railroad.

Oct 3-4 McArthur, OH, Baby Burr National Two Day Trial Ride.

Oct 4 Fostoria Golden Eagles, Bratwurst Run.

Oct 11 Cleveland, OH, Autumn Bridge Tour - Details to be announced. (this is a closed event for members only this year) Oct 18 rain date.

Oct 11 Dayton, OH, Professional Hillclimb Championships at Fritz Powel Farm.

Oct 11 Kenton Lightning Riders, Hi Point Run.

Oct 11 Columbus Capitol City MC Club Poker Run.

Oct 18 Knights of Tiffin, Toy Run-Charity.

Oct 25 Blackhawk Chili Run, Temperance, MI.

Nov 8 Greenville, OH, Treaty City MC Enduro National Championships.

Classified Section

Your ad could appear here. Members get one free ad per issue. Contact the Editor for more information

Brainless - *continued from page 3*

started to see all the little yard apes walking up and down the avenues lately? Sit down, Waldo, school's in session! I'm not sure that I can recall one real memory of this PAST summer, at least one that sticks out in my mind. Shit. last season, that is riding season....any more, I get into the riding schedule. You know, during riding season, after riding season, and before riding season, but last season, it was rallies, the beach, the flats, the Tribe, the valley, my frisbee, my R69S, the porch, golden spectro, a screamin'sea hag, and so the story goes...

I'm really enjoying my new 1960 R69. It's a fine old ride.....real fine! I think I'm gonna put a sidecar on that crazy bitch and have fun. Pretty soon I'm heading up to Vermont for what always is the finest of all the rallies...the Green Mountain Rally!

Well, that's all for this short compilation...

Tighten It Up,Baby...

Chris Lance.

ED: Check your knee for a scar and I'm sure a minor reflection of summer past shall faintly appear.

Rally Rear View

by Bob Wood

I've learned each rally is a totally different experience, even when held at the same location. Time and motorcycles do not stand still. Like a magnet, the Smokey Mountains continue to call to our K-bikes and we oblige them.

For the past several years I have been trying to discover the mystique of the Maggie Valley Rally in North Carolina. My guess is that the time is right, the people are right, and you can't go wrong if your Attitude is Right. I've been told that's what the **RA** stands for, not Riders Association.

Rose and I packed our steeds and left Cleveland early Wednesday. Echoing from my previous trips to this North Carolina area, only two things were on my mind: how much Parkway can we ride, and where is the legendary Deals Gap?

South out of Cleveland down I-77 to Charleston, West Virginia we headed. The direct, due south route I knew would not satisfy our hunger for the road, so we navigated our bikes to a due east heading toward Lexington, Virginia. Back on the road Thursday morning we found ourselves at milepost 46 on the BlueRidge Parkway. Yah! ! Our goal was to make the RA Rally at milepost 312, but fog, too thick to make speed, slowed morning mileage. Part of the mystery... Smokey Mountains. I wonder.

Comfortable, campsite set, and cold beverage in hand we browsed vendors and the like during sunset. Area niceties such as smoked trout and daily BBQ roasts enhanced the usual rally menu. The scene was set, all the actors ready and the script... well. We would write as we go.

Of all the roads in the U.S. we have ridden, the BlueRidge Parkway is hands down the best. Clear and accurate signage, nearly flawless asphalt surface, long and

Continued on page 5

Election Information -

Club #196 elections are coming up soon. The following is a brief procedure synopsis. All elected officers positions are up for grabs, they are: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Road Captain, and two Directors.

To be elected you must: 1) be a member in good standing. 2) have attended at least 3 meetings. 3) have the most votes. At the October meeting, I will appoint a Nomination/Election Committee and declare the nomination window open. At the November meeting, I will ask for final nominations. Your ballots will be included with the Winter Newsletter. Please take the time to read the candidates position articles and cast your vote.

If you need more information on the procedure, please consult your handy Membership Handbook that you keep in your tankbag !

Rally Rear View - *continued from page 4*

short radius sweepers with perfect banking on each, short cut grass berms (to easily spot small animals), and the scenery. The concept, of traveling along on a 470 mile curling, black satin ribbon stretched across the southern Appalachians was a wild idea. Thanks to the National Park System in 1933 and to Woodrow Wilson who signed the Congressional Act to create all our National Parks back in 1916. Enough history.

Field events, BMW NA demo rides, tech seminars, mucho vendors, great foot stomp'n music, and all three miles from the best motorcycle road in the country. Life don't get any better than this. But where is Deal's Gap ? The legendary road with all those twisties. Some 318 in eleven miles. I felt confident a local would reveal the location if questioned.

We spent the next few days touring the Pineola area. On average about 100 miles per day. Places like Grandfather Mountain, which has a walking suspension bridge at one mile above sea level, and Mount Mitchel, the highest peak this side of the Mississippi where memorable. Numerous museums, observation areas, picnic areas, and camp grounds can be found along the Parkway. I estimate one could spend all summer and not see all the attractions.

Sunday was goodbye to Beemer friends and time to move further south on the Parkway to the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. We arrived in time to pick one of two remaining tent sites. The only problem up on Balsum Mountain was the last parking spot was next to the bear trap. I slept lightly that night. Can this wild place expose your inner fears ? More of the mystery.

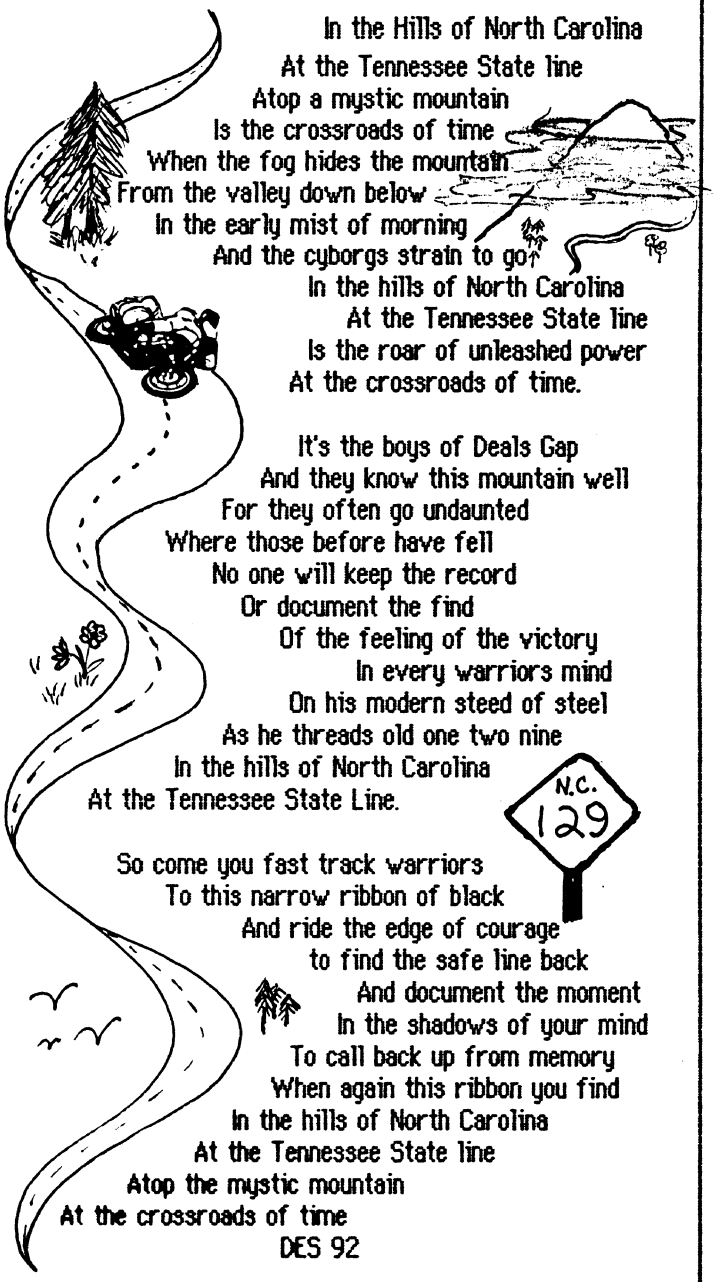
Is it raining, or is this fog ? Many mornings, including this one I wondered. Deer images plague my point position and, as if to be an illusion, vanish but may not have really been there. Down into Cherokee for lunch. Always an adventure here. A barbequed alligator sandwich for me and a roast pheasant salad for Rose.

Maybe it was someone with 'that' T-shirt, or a local (MC) club member, or his wife who told us about the gap. But it was the single task of my day. Along the Nantahala River, among hundreds of rafters who's screams of excitement we could easily hear, we traveled. In the city of Topon, which is very unoccupied, I found the road sign which I had dreamed of. It read, "N C. 129, North". This would , in 29 miles, put us at Deal's Gap.

Somewhere around mile 23 I lost the focus of my single task of the day as our bikes entered a wall of water traveling horizontally. We sought only a semi-dry spot with a wind break, but the highway

Continued on page 6

Crossroads of Time



In the Hills of North Carolina
At the Tennessee State line
Atop a mystic mountain
Is the crossroads of time
When the fog hides the mountain
From the valley down below
In the early mist of morning
And the cyborgs strain to go
In the hills of North Carolina
At the Tennessee State line
Is the roar of unleashed power
At the crossroads of time.

It's the boys of Deals Gap
And they know this mountain well
For they often go undaunted
Where those before have fell
No one will keep the record
Or document the find
Of the feeling of the victory
In every warriors mind
On his modern steed of steel
As he threads old one two nine
In the hills of North Carolina
At the Tennessee State Line.

So come you fast track warriors
To this narrow ribbon of black
And ride the edge of courage
to find the safe line back
And document the moment
In the shadows of your mind
To call back up from memory
When again this ribbon you find
In the hills of North Carolina
At the Tennessee State line
Atop the mystic mountain
At the crossroads of time

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Rally Rear View - *continued from page 5*

department hadn't thought of that. With watersoaked leathers, we parked on the roadside and quickly strung a tarp. At odds with the Gods. More of the mystery.

Beginning to feel a bit violated by nature we stopped in at Cheoah Dam. Man made but a beauty of it's own. The map said two miles to the 'Gap'. On we rode.

Like an oasis in front of me the sign read, "Deal's Gap", and on the building, "The Crossroads of Time". I gazed at a corner gas station with a deli-like convenience store as I motored in. Almost attached was a nice trailer or two and a row of motel rooms wandering up the hilly grade in a line. Beyond that a small Shangri-la like park, some new construction and grading. Later I found out the far-end area is to be a motorcycle campground. (I'm sure I'll be back for that.) The fellow in the shop, Pete, told me tonight was not a good time to sample the legendary road. The morning would give way to a dry surface and fresh outlook.

A dry room, hot shower, and a one-channel TV were in order. Deli-cut tenderloin, greek veggi-mix, and an alcoholic beverage brought it all into perspective. Out to the charcoal fire and gazing up at the roadway of lore, my thoughts wandered.

Not a road for beginners. Forewarned, and anxious our trek began. I think I'll count each turn. Five, six, wow, that was tight, where was I. Wow another tight left. I need work on them. Eight, where's Rose ? She's known to ride very cautiously. My left mirror caught her silhouette. Ok, let it go. Just a little scrape. Probably the center stand. Ok, be cool and chill out. The first run thru a new stretch of road is not the time to let it go. Many more experienced riders have lost their way here. Some, never to reveal their tale.

Eleven glorious miles. 318 curves all on a scenic path over the top of a mountain and across the Tennesee state line. Highway 129 flows toward Knoxville, and is now just a memory. The adrenalin still pounding my heart, another safe and thrilling ride under our belts, and a sunny day to make Kentucky at the Natural Bridge State Park. The thought of a repeat performance raced by. Is this part of the mystery ?

NEXT MEETING

PAY ATTENTION ! **September 12** at the Buckeye BMW State Rally in Shreve, Ohio. Meeting will follow Saturday night's dinner. Look for the president (he's easy to find) and don't be late. The rally awards' ceremonies are soon to follow.

Cleveland Club News
4257 West 130th Str.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Cleveland Club News

The Official Publication of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland Winter 1992

...from the President's Desk

Hello again! Welcome to the Winter Newsletter. As I write this it's snowing outside, which is a good indication that the riding season is over for most of us. Now is the time for those little projects we have in mind (you know, new seat, bags, maybe some paint) or even some new rally gear.

As for our club, now is the time for reflection on what we have accomplished in the past riding season. Those of us who have been here since the beginning know that this year was a pretty good one. We got organized, developed a workable structure for group activities, started what willl hopefully be an annual traditiion (the bridge tour) and we are developing a sense of comraderie amongst BMW riders (and others) in the Cleveland area. Even though we got alot done, more work remains.

With election time here, it's time for the membership to speak up on the issues that they want addressed and set the tone for the coming year. Make an effort to attend meetings (club or board) invite interested friends and speak up with your ideas and comments. Even though its cold outside doesn't mean that our wheels have to stop turning. Now is the time for a winter tune-up on our plans, activities and membership growth.

The executive board has some interesting ideas that we are working on that will be presented to the membership soon and we hope you like them. Until then, enjoy your winter activities: skiing, sledding, curling, sliding down the highways or even hibernating.

Stay warm,
Ralph

... Winter Meetings Notice...

During the winter we will meet at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Bellaire Tavern. The owners have been kind enought to donate this space to us and we appreciate that. In return a few common sense rules have been estabulished. 1) We will leave the meeting room in the same condition or cleaner than it was found. 2) No children in the tavern after 9:30pm. 3) Park all motorcycles in the rear parking lot. 4) Turn off lights and close up the meeting room when finished. The owners extend a welcome to all to remain and spill a few suds after the meeting.

Next Meeting:
Annual Election of Officers and Directors
7:30pm, January 7th, 1993
Bellaire Tavern
11026 Bellaire Road
Phone 671-1347

(from I-71 & W. 130th follow the signs to Bellaire Rd, northeast past W.117th street)

If you can not attend, please mail your ballot!

Interim Club Officers & Officials

Ralph Crider, President	671-1847
Gabe Gumuscian, V. P.	671-4825
Stephanie Oliver, Sec./Treas.	961-1362
Bob Wood, Road Captain	252-7933
Dave Kean, Director	1-667-2496
Eric Graydon, Director	741-7646
Chris Lance, Membership	521-8273

Ride, Don't Shoot

by Karl Hoffman

Have you ever picked up the newspaper and read about the guy who lost his job, went home, got a gun then went back to work and started shooting? Not me. I got on my bike and started going to rallies that I've never been to. The most recent being the Falling leaf Rally in Potossi, Missouri, 65 miles south of St Louis.

The ride to the rally took two hours longer than the ride back as my machine started doing a slash two imitation. The right carb was leaking all over my right foot! By the way Chris, please don't park your /2 next to mine. Thanx. The rally grounds were at a the Lion's picnic grounds with all the atmosphere of a fairgrounds. Not being one to set my tent up unless I have to, I set out to look for a building to crash in. It was like hitting the lottery to find the "cabin" I found. It had electricity, running water, stove, refrigerator - all the comforts of home. All at no extra cost! The $14 rally fee was for two nites camping, door prize tickets, endless coffee, cocoa, and a southern rock band Saturday nite that was excellent. Five hundred people had registered and all got their money's worth.

The highlight of the rally was an airplane ride for eight bucks. A 1957 Piper Apache twin-engine took me up for about 20 minutes above the rally site and surrounding area. The town of Potossi is the county seat for Washington County. Founded in 1763, it has a population of 2,700. Big enough for a Hardees, but too small for McDonalds. The long-distance rider came from Lima Peru - over 7,000 miles. The rally was 638 miles from Cleveland. I had a BLAST!!!

ED: We hope to have a review of Daytona from Karl in the spring issue.

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"Chunx" Vol. II

by Sir Eric of York

Fellow BMW Riders/Members of Club #196. Its that time again. The quarterly newsletter is ready to make its appearance, and "Chunx" must make a quarterly appearance also. To those of you familiar with the award, as you know, it has to do with the overindulgence or excessive use of drugs or alcohol and its results.

None this quarter that I know of is really eligible for "Chunx" so we have expanded "Chunx" to encompass drug and/or alcohol related mishaps. We really are running out of eligible recipients. As most of us know, Karl and myself shared it last quarter, but this quarter we are turning back the pages of time to award "Chunx" to Mr. Chris Lance, for his unfortunate, yet I believe "Chunx" related accident at the National Rally. Chris missed the path we were traveling and found a grassy ditch. Congats Chris!

Anyhow, 'tis the season, so please everyone--do not drink excessively if you are driving or riding. If you are not riding or driving, "DO IT UP!!" We need more "Chunx" recipients.

Bits & Pieces

Bellaire Tavern will graciously host our winter Club meetings from January thru April. We will meet on the first Thursday of each month until weather permits our usual outdoor meetings. See MEETINGS for more details in this issue and mark your calender.

AMA Membership dues will increase from $20 to $29 after the first of the year. If you're planning to join or renew you could save 45% by doing so before December 31st.

Motor Cyclist Magazine's December issue features Yamaha's all new RADD suspension GTS 1000A. The bike has an Omega frame, 20 valves, EFI, & ABS. Could this concept change motorcycle design? Yamaha

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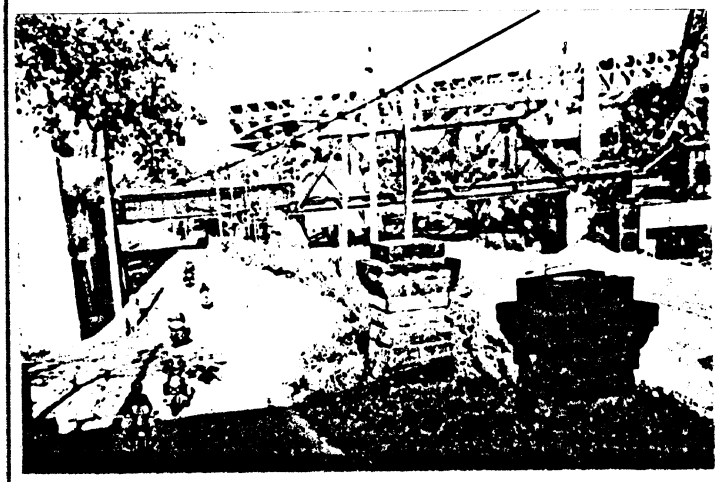

Rally Rear View - continued from page 4

in Cleveland's own historic Flats. It was less than one-half mile before we rode our first bridge by the Cleveland Municipal Stadium. I wanted to keep track of the number of bridges we rode over and how many could be seen during the tour leg . . . NOT! Although this was a self-guided tour, we traveled as a group. Through committee work, each leg of the tour had a planned route which that committee member was responsible to lead. Ralph planned our first stop at an old abandonded railroad bridge which we could walk on and inspect. At least a dozen other bridges could be seen from there. Detailed history of the area and bridges was in the pamphlets provided. What a variety of bridges we have.

The eastern leg was next as our touring group paused at the high level bridge ramp. I took the point and accelerated up the ramp and onto the bridge. The view of bridges from here was spectacular in any direction. Part of touring is the scenery enroute to your destination. When I attend a rally, especially in a new area, one of my favorite things to do is tour that area. The drive out of Cleveland followed the lakeshore line as the day began to warm-up. About 40 minutes out of downtown, we found ourselves on County Line Road.

The road continued to decline in quality until the moist gravel surface wound down an inclined trail to a steel girder structure. This was the first bridge of the leg. With a steady throttle I climbed the road out of this valley to the sweet smell of grapes. Vineyards? This area supplies many of the grapes for Ohio wines and we were smack in the middle of several vineyards.

The eastern leg of the tour contained primarily covered bridges. Our first stop was the famous Harpersfield Covered Bridge. Our entourage arrived around noon. The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival just happened to coincide with our arrival. We were met by vendors of food, entertainment, souveniers, horse-drawn carraige rides and black powder muzzle loader demonstrations. The festivities abounded as the weather warmed and the sun peeked out from behind the clouds.

On to Ashtabula along the lake to a scenic vantage point by the Great Lakes Marine and US Coast Guard Museum which overlooks the river basin and the Bridge Street Lift. A quick tour of the facility and back to the covered bridges.

As we approached the Benetka Road Bridge, a man dressed in period clothes fired a muzzle at an elusive balloon target. This must have been our welcome.

The day began to produce some light rain as we reached the Mechanicsville Bridge for a planned stop and lunch. We had a great day thus far, with good friends and an excellent adventure. The southern leg was about to begin.

If time would have permitted the southern leg could also have been as excellent, but as Dave lead us into range, Old Man Darkness began to steal our daylight. Next year we plan to offer some new routes and put the southern leg on the front burner.

All in all a fair turn out, good weather, the best of company and an excellent adventure sums up our First Annual Autumn Bridge Tour. By the way, any club member who would like the self-guided tour packet and could not attend is welcome to one. This tour could be done any time of the year, but is best done on your Beemer.

Bits & Pieces -continued from page 2

hopes so. In the same issue a review of horn effectiveness ranks BMW's KLT as tops.

Whitehorse Press offers a catalog for the motorcycling enthusiast. They list hundreds of titles covering touring, care and maintenance, histories, technical info, buyer's guides, restoration aids, and more. Call toll free 1(800) 531-1133, and request your copy.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: John Coulter, Marsha Wacker, and Kirt Zautner. John just returned from a cross-country tour on his Milwaukee Iron and has many a tall yarn to tell. Marsha brings us diversity with her Guzzi and sidecar. Have fun skiing Vail this month. Kirt who is the principal of the famous 'Biker Buddy' products, brings us his expertise in BMW custom accessories and stainless fasteners. Also, a special thanks for the Autumn Bridge Tour photos in this CCN issue. Welcome one and all!

Classified Section

Windjammer II fairing with bracket for R Bike. A little rough but solid. Needs TLC. Free to a good home. Call Dave Kean at 1-667-2496.

Harley-Davidson Panhead, chrome, muffler/pipes. One piece construction. Karl Hoffman at 651-9099

Saeng QS3 Fairing, excellent condition, all brackets, boots, and hardware included $275. Call Ed at (216) 961-1362 or leave a message.

84 VW Vanagon for parts. Originally from North Carolina. No rust. Front end damage. Make offer as is. Call Ed at (216) 961-1362

Wanted: One pair of Hippo-Hands. Call Chris at 521-8273 eves.

Election Position Statements

In accordance with the election procedure, the following position statements have been received from the nominated candidates listed below for these offices -

Nominee for President

Ralph Crider - I am pleased to accept the nomination for the office of President of Club #196. If the membership honors me with re-election, I will try to continue the work we have started and help us become a larger, better club. I feel that in this past year we, as a group, have gotten a lot done, and that as we grow we will accomplish more. I would be pleased, and honored, to be a part of our growth in this coming year as we work to establish a viable club in the Greater Cleveland Community, dedicated to advancing motorcycle visability and acceptance.

* * * * *

Nominee for Vice President

Eric Graydon - Fellow members of Club #196. As most everyone knows that attended the October meeting when the window was opened for nominations for the upcoming elections, I was nominated for the position of Club Vice President. Thank you for the nomination; I gladly accept. If I am elected, I will give the club and club members my best shot. At the present time, I am on the Board of Directors. I have tried to be present at all board meetings and have, to the best of my knowledge. I was on the Autumn Bridge Tour Committee. I partook of a position on the Audit Committee for the club. I also have a column in the quarterly newsletter named "Chunx" and am a charter member of our Club #196 "BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland" and having been around in "the beginning" I believe I have grown with the club and can help it grow also in the direction we all hope to see as the best it can be. I would like to see more of the new members participate and together, if I am elected Vice President, we will build Club #196 to be one of the best of the finast. Thank you in advance.

Ed Gumuscian -

* * * * *

Continued on page 4

Election

- *continued form page 3*

Nominee for Secretary /Treasurer

Stephanie Oliver -

* * * * *

Nominee for Road Captain

Bob Wood - My interest in riding began at a very early age as did my mechanical skills. From pieces-parts at age 15 I had built and licensed a homemade mini-bike. Many machines followed as did numerous miles both on and off the trail. Twenty-six years in the saddle with the last five on a BMW being the best so far. My enthusiasm for the club drives me to an above average desire to perform as your current Interim Road Captain. I wish to continue strengthening our public image and goodwill, provide opportunity for more club involvement in group rides and activities, and begin a rider safety program within the club. I will also commit to leading our club in the Adopt-a-Highway program if it is your wish. I look forward to a full year in the Executive Board position of Road Captian.

* * * * *

Nominee for Director

Dave Kean -

Chris Lance - Greetings and salutations to fellow club members. I hope that everyone is surviving so far this winter. Sometimes I think that I would rather go five months without showering than five months of not riding. Albeit, this short blurb is my position statement. If elected to the Board of Directors, I will continue to attend all meetings and functions as per usual. If I'm not elected, I will still attend all meetings and functions. Thanks for your time. Godspeed.

Donna Schettine -

* * * * *

Bellaire Tavern
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Phone 671-1347

Ralley Rear View

by Bob Wood

Not far from the beaten path, our saga begins at the end of East 9th Street on a crisp Sunday morning in October. The First Annual Autumn Bridge Tour is about to become a reality. This is not a rally as known to most Beemer riders but an event similar to a poker run. My column normally provides you with a feel for a multi-day BMW happening with enroute tales. However, this issue shall rear view our own "Cleveland" style of rally. We may have found a unique nitch of our own.

Facility and landscape resources provide each club with an opportunity to share their part of this country with others. Who wants to spend a weekend camping/rallying in downtown Cleveland? A nice place to visit... but. One of the greatest obstacles our forefathers had to overcome when preparing the roadways for

our motorcycles was deep valley and river crossings. We sometimes take for granted the presence of the bridges we traverse.

Bikes arrive at the Cleveland Inner Harbor around 8:30 a.m. B-r-r-r-r ... it was a chilly start. Each bike received a packet containing several brochures, maps, area history, and instructions. An overview was provided with suggested routes. Three major areas in Northeast Ohio were outlined for touring, beginning

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