



The Mail Boxer

No matter what/where/how often/far/fast you ride, we welcome you to join us in motorcycling fellowship.

Madison BMW Club
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Meetings (usually) on first Sundays
of the month at 9AM

Next meeting:
Club Picnic
June 3 at noon
Brigham County Park,
Blue Mounds, WI

The Prez Sez:

By Steve Huber

Well, the GR3 is now behind, the club picnic is looming, and the summer riding season stretches ahead. As I write this, the 10-day weather forecast (www.weather.com) says Bagley will be sunny and warm. We all know how dependable those forecasts are.

Well, they were right this time.

It was a glorious May weekend. Humidity was low, the sky was sunny, and we had a great turnout. Final attendance tally was around 254 or so. We gave out all the rally pins and several members gave theirs back so other rally attendees could get one. Rally Czar Bert will have a final report Real Soon Now. Preliminary figures indicate we're in the black on this one.

Thanks to all the members who volunteered their time to make this run smoothly!

We're still looking for a 2002 location. If you have a location to suggest, we need a campground name, location, address, and comments on the facilities. Check a place out

and get back to us! Generic suggestions along the lines of "let's find a place north/south/east west that has a waterfall, shaded camping, and a gourmet French restaurant" are not useful and will likely get you a sarcastic reply from the prez...

We have several current club items to deal with:

Club picnic: The club will provide pork ribs, chicken and soda. Remember to bring a dish to pass (veggies and dip, potatoe salad, three-bean salad, you get the idea) and any other beverage of your choice.

Club T-shirts: Thanks to J.T. we now have another supply of those elegant and stylish club T-shirts. See J.T. at a club function or e-mail him at secretary@madisonbmwclub.org to get yours.

Fall Banquet: Yeah, I know it's only June but hey, let's think ahead here! We've been at the China Palace for the last couple years; do we want to try somewhere else? You have any suggestions on where and want to do the legwork to find out costs?

Bicycle Race Marshalling: The race date is Saturday, June 23. Two to four motorcycles

Prez Sez continued:

are needed for duty (no more). Races start at 9:30 am, we need to be there no later than 9 am, a bit earlier is better. They race rain or shine, so bring your rainsuit. Please e-mail or call me if you're still interested.

I'm heading out to the garage to hose off the bug splat from the past weekend (yes, I do wash the bike off, occasionally). See you all at the picnic.

Prez Steve

VP's Report

By Tom Van Horn

The May 6th b'fast? Well attended, lots of folks rode (including Jeff Dean - back from his Arizona winter exile - on his new R115ORT), GR/3 business attended to, etc.

Etc included our rally drawing for a helmet and such - my hope to offer a new Schuberth Concept helmet to the winner was dashed by the popularity of the new lid. There just weren't any to be had at the time. Jason at Mischlers came through anyway with two different Nolan helmet types and some Tour Master jackets...

After the meeting, Bert led a group up via the ferry to Leland for the Slimey Cruds meet. Others, including Yerz Truly, went first to the Now Officially Defunct departure point at Pine Bluff. Buut first, I stopped and switched to my old low-barred

cafe thumper. And, while at it, switched to a period open-face helmet with split-pane goggles (call me Nigel, cafe-racin' rocker boy!)... A short visit was followed by my leading the Brothers Jutz, J.T. and another chap up to Leland - where my getup left Bert speechless.

The usual neat machinery was present - Peter Egan had a spotless H.-D. XLCR, another guy rode in on a Triton that didn't look two weeks old, Dave Manthey on still another Munch, many many others - if you've been there, you know. If not, you should. The next one's October 7th.

Speaking of been there, you WERE at GR/3. WEREN'T you?

Out 27th rally is now a wrap. We couldn't have had better weather, which likely accounts for the great turnout - we had more people in by dinnertime Friday than we had total last year. We cracked 250 attendance.

Among which were Hassalls from near and far, here to celebrate Meredith's PhD (-and no, I don't mean a big gas tank for her 'GS): parents rode in from Maryland, sister (club member Olivia) flew in from Colorado, and aunt and uncle from LaCrosse. She ran out to set up Thursday, ran back to graduate in Madison, and returned to celebrate with all of us.

We also had a Klopp Klan gathering - Roger's brother Paul (on his new R11RT) and his other-brother (club member Stuart) rode HIS new R11GS up from the Colorado high country.

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Bert had to run to the rescue of a rallygoer who broke down in LaCrosse, so the door prize sorting landed on me, for which a mea culpa. When packing up Sunday morning, I found another box of prizes overlooked the day before. Ooops... Well, next year, I guess...

I launch (stand clear!!) a huge THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in to work the rally and to those who contributed door prizes! And let's all remember the dealers and shops who gave us prizes:

- *Mischlers - as usual, they were VERY generous!!
- *Madison Motorsports - ditto!!
- *Torque Center
- *Sharers Cycle
- *Gina's

The next meeting is June 3rd, at Brigham County Park, outside of Blue Mounds - this is a NEW location! - gathering around noon, food around 2. Come and enjoy Todd's, Bert's and Lloyd's culinary skills! And while yer at it, bring a side dish to pass.

And while we're at THAT, lets all congratulate Lloyd on HIS new PhD!

Secretary's Report

By J.T. Wagner

We had 46 people at the breakfast this month and 4 guests.

Rally business was brought up. We had a transport van and trailer for use. The club voted to reimburse the owner for gas. We are still in negotiations with River of Lakes for next year's rally. If any of you know of other campgrounds in the area that might be suitable, let the board and club know.

The club picnic will be held Sunday, June 3rd. The food entree will be ribs and chicken. Also a dish to pass by club members. So bring something. Cost of the meat and rental of a cooker is \$150.00. The club also paid extra for a beer permit so we can bring our own beer in. We will be at shelter number 1.

There will be no June breakfast because of the picnic. Jim Dickey told the club about CycleGadgets.Com and the medical info tag that they are offering for free.

Also, the club voted awhile back to have more shirts printed. They are ready. So contact J.T. Wagner if you want to order any. We have assorted sizes in long and short sleeves.

The 50/50 was won by Carl Schmidt. And the two breakfasts for July went to Dave Bancroft and Todd Herbst.

Trail of Tears Rally

By John Stiefel

Last weekend, I attended the Trail of tears Rally in Grassy, MO and had a rope-swinging, river-swimming, turtle-swerving good time. I wholeheartedly recommend this rally. The rally site (located at 37.237989 degrees North and 90.19823 degrees West) is located next to the Castor River and is well shaded.

My trip began Thursday morning. From where I live in the Kansas City area, the rally site is 278 miles as the crow flies, but I am not a crow and I was riding a BMW, so the trip is more like 390 miles due to road curvature.

I began by heading east on US 50, a 4 lane divided highway. As I was approaching Sedalia, about 90 miles from Kansas City, I caught up to a R110ORT and a K120OLT. At a series of red lights, I learned that this was Leo and Rich, also from the Kansas City area. Every light always seems to be red in Sedalia. I rode with Leo and Rich for the next 30 miles until I turned off on my planned route. Six hours later, I passed Leo and Rich as they waited to turn on to the main road, just few miles west of the rally site. Many possible routes wind southeast from US 50. Most are pretty nice roads through National Forests or State Parks.

On Friday, I rode with Leo and Rich to Cape Girardeau to visit Grass Roots BMW, the local dealer. The route was easy: take MO 34 east and turn left just before the bridge over the

Mississippi River. Grass Roots is a few blocks down on the right. The dealership is not large, but has a large service area. Next to the dealer is a nice café/bar with a deck, but I did not stop there as we had other plans for lunch.

Upon leaving Grass Roots, we returned to MO 34 and crossed over the Mississippi River into Illinois. Gas in Illinois was \$1.79 for regular versus \$1.45 on the other side of the river. Illinois must have high taxes.

We followed the river south into Kentucky and passed through Cairo. Cairo looked like it must have been prosperous at some point, maybe back in the days of the river boats. There were many large, old houses that were now rotting away. Every corner seemed to have a used furniture store.

We left Cairo heading toward Hickman, KY to take the ferry across the Mississippi River to Missouri. As I had not yet been to Tennessee today, and it was only a few miles further south, we dipped in to Tennessee before arriving at the ferry.

The ferry was slow in coming and we waited for 45 minutes, even though the sign said 15 minutes. Some folks in a car said they had already been waiting 30 minutes when we arrived. By now, the day was getting rather warm and was up to 90 degrees. The ferry ride was nice, although the rates were not motorcycle friendly: \$8 for a car or "car sized spot," \$5 apiece for motorcycles. With your receipt, the return trip is half price, unless you are

Trail of Tears Report continued:

on a motorcycle, then it is full price.

We then headed back north, stopping for lunch at Lampert's in Miner (exit 67 on I-55.) Lampert's is the famous home of throwed rolls. It is really quite a place. They say the wait for a table can be long, especially if you arrive after a tour bus. The ferry delay meant that we were arriving at 3:00, so we were seated right away. The place is really an experience. Napkins/placemats are a roll of brown paper towels, which you need right away. Someone immediately comes around ladeling out deep fried okra from a big pot, followed by the guy with the rolls, (He really does throw them to you. If you feel adventurous, wait till he gets to the other side of the room and stick your arm up in the air.) followed by another fellow with a big bowl of taters. This is all before you order. Soft drinks are in huge 30 ounce mugs. (I finished two iced teas after the hot, dry wait for the ferry.) Entrées came with two side dishes from a list of about 15. I had fried chicken accompanied by turnip greens and cucumbers with onions. Then the roll guy came around again, followed by the tater guy, followed by a gal with macaroni and tomatoes . . . I don't think anyone leaves there hungry.

Leaving Lampert's, we scooted the remaining 50 miles back to the rally site. I was still pretty hot so I went for a swim in the Castor River. You might think that it would be cold, since it was still April and the

temperature at night was in the 40s, but the water was only a little cool. There was even a rope swing over the river.

Steve Lemke and Steve Huber were also there. On Saturday, Steve Huber went for a ride and nothing happened.

Many animals were sighted. Numerous turtles were crossing the road (I imagine that they were seeking another turtle to get a ride on their back), a turkey (flying across the road), a turkey vulture (it was chowing on road kill), and a pair of vultures. The vultures look like crows, only bigger, and were also munching on roadkill. I hope that was not turtle roadkill!

Road conditions in Missouri were good. I did not see much spring sand and gravel in the corners. The pavement was relatively smooth, with only a few rough spots that might some day become potholes. Almost all of the roads that show up on maps are paved. Total mileage for me was 1070. If I was travelling from Madison and had the time, I would go 151 south to Davenport and then follow the Great River Road along the Mississippi River all the way to Cape Girardeau, then take MO 34 west the remaining 30 miles to Grassy.

Highway 131 Farewell Ride

By Betty Bruun

Wow, we had quite the turnout on Saturday April 14th for the

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 1-3, Fri-Sat: Hiawatha Rally, Money Creek Haven Campground near Houston MN. \$25 at the gate includes Friday night soup and Saturday night steak dinner.

June 3, Sun: Club Picnic, Noon at Brigham Park. Food will be served at 1pm. Please bring a dish to pass.

June 7-10, Thur-Sun: Iowa Rally. Special 25th Anniversary door prize! Pre-rally hog roast on Thursday night, chili supper on Friday night, steak BBQ dinner on Saturday night. Fee is \$30 at the gate.

July 8, Sun: Club breakfast meeting @ 9 AM. The Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

July 19-22, Thur-Sun: BMW MOA Rally in Redmond OR. Do we need to say more?

July 20-22, Fri-Sun: British Biker Coop Motorcycle Rally and Show. Located at Eagle Cave Natural Park, pre-registration fee by 7/1 is \$30 or \$35 at the gate. Featuring the British Single cylinder engine. Activities include road kill cafe, poker run, motorcycle show and live music.

farewell to Hwy 131 ride. Todd and I appreciate the enthusiasm. There were 23 bikes that left Cross Plains with us. (Sorry Tom, I was having too much fun eating and talking to write down the names of everyone in attendance.) If you've never been on a ride led by Todd, he has a map that contains every single road in Wisconsin regardless of size or condition,

Hwy 131 Farewell continued:

and of course, he selected the curviest, most obscure little country roads in existence. For that reason, I decided that it was in my best interest to be a passenger on this ride. Early in the season, those roads were going to be just too challenging for this beginning rider. Also for that reason there were only 9 bikes to complete the all day ride. (some people have lives and obligations outside motorcycling...)

We left Cross Plains at 10 AM in beautiful sunny weather, perfect for riding (not too hot to wear all the protective clothing but not so cold that you got frost bit fingers either). We headed up Hwy 14 where we encountered some minor road construction, not even enough to separate the group. After Spring Green we headed up county road G where we encountered some aromatherapy in the form of a manure spreader! The roads after that also became progressively more curvy and despite heavy rains the prior week some of them still had considerable amounts of gravel in the corners and at intersections. To give Todd credit, he kept his speed reasonable allowing everyone to ride within their limits (I know this was sometimes painful for him).

Our first stop was at Pier Natural Bridge Park in Rockbridge (Hwy 80) where we had an opportunity to use the restroom and do a little sight seeing. And where I had a brief opportunity to ride my dream bike, the F650GS, when Chuck so kindly



Despite strong local opposition, road destruction started early and cut off our group from its real objective - Highway 131.

offered to give me a ride from the bathroom to the parking area (which was actually a fair distance). Whew, it was a short but sweet ride. The park is at a point where the Pine River has carved it's way through a bluff to form a natural bridge/tunnel. Another tunnel was blasted through the rock for a hiking trail so that you can see the river from both sides of the bluff or, if you feel like climbing some stairs, from the top (which none of us were willing to do wearing our riding clothes). After some sight-seeing, picture-taking and visiting had been taking place for awhile, Roland complained loudly of hunger. Lest Roland pass out we thought it best to head out, however we did need to stop in nearby La Farge for some to fuel up before continuing too far.

After departing from the gas station we should have made a right turn onto Hwy 131 in order to continue on to Rockton where we would stop for lunch. As you might have guessed

Todd missed the turn to everyone's amusement as we did u-turns a few miles down the road. By this time the need for speed was overtaking and Todd opened it up a bit on the straight stretches of 131. Thank goodness, there were no cops to witness this and everyone seemed to enjoy the brief departure from the law.

Our next stop was at The Rockton Bar (in Rockton, obviously) where we had lunch. Fortunately for Todd's aforementioned need for speed we made it there quickly and Roland did not waste away to nothing. The burgers were excellent and the locals were quick to inform us that the worst (or best depending on your perspective) part of 131 had closed the previous Monday for the bridges to be replaced. The good news is that the road will reopen Memorial Day weekend and remain open until the rerouting is complete in the summer of 2002.

AIM/NCOM Motorcycle E-News Service

Submitted by Tom Van Horn



One of the swoopier and higher speed curves on the ride. The going got tighter on the Kickapoo area back roads.

Hwy 131 Farewell continued:

After leaving the Rockton Bar we added Rustic Road #56 into our route to make Tom happy. This was a wonderful addition, there were a lot of Amish along this road and it was neat to see them out plowing their fields using horses. Inevitably, they stopped what they were doing to stare at us. I liked to wave at them.

This road ended on Hwy 131 past the construction near a little farm house. We stopped and offered to take people's pictures next to the Rustic Road sign. We then continued by turning South on 131 toward the construction that we had just circumvented. You've probably guessed by now, Todd pleads temporary insanity. He took off down that road at speeds that I can only guess at (but choose not too). He had that bike leaned over so far in the corners that instinct told me to pick up my feet. After a short way we came to a road closed sign where we had to wait for nearly everyone (except Steve Lemke) to catch up. Then we turned around and rode it

again at high rates of speed. The people at the previously mentioned farm house apparently were on to what we were doing and kindly waved the checkered flag (a baseball cap off someone's head) for us as we went by.

We stopped once more for fuel in Ontario before heading home. The trip home started off on Hwy 33 which goes past Wildcat Mountain State Park. This road was curvy enough to meet Todd's standards but well paved with beautifully engineered corners that were clear of gravel. Oh, and the scenery was great too! (note from Betty's chauffeur: the only thing scenic I saw was solid yellow and solid white.)

The trip home was quick. We stopped at the Kwik Trip in Sauk Prairie where we would part ways - but as usual not without sitting there and discussing the highlights of the last leg of the trip first.

Stay tuned, Todd wants to do it again...

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ: BMW of North America, Inc. has continued its winning streak for calendar year 2000 and surpassed all previous U.S. sales figures. Their motorcycle sales are up even beyond 1999 figures, not to mention auto and sports activity type rigs.

According to a May 1999 survey conducted by Progressive Insurance (a group founded in 1937 that bills itself as the largest insurer of motorcyclists and their bikes): Lawyers who ride motorcycles dedicate four times as many days to charitable causes (eight per year), compared to lawyers who don't ride (two days per year). They also found that lawyers who ride motorcycles were the group least likely to say that they need money for happiness!

AIRBAG VEST FOR MOTORCYCLISTS TO GO ON SALE! A motorcycle clothing manufacturer in Italy has dreamed up this device that supposedly instantly inflates all three of its "PROTECTIVE" bags in the event of a crash and envelopes the rider in a cocoon of safety. The thing is monitored by miniature computers on the bike and the rider.

Enduraid 2001 Second Annual Upper Midwest Dual Purpose Motorcycle Rally June 8-10, 2001 Black River Falls

and county motorcycle trails are accessible from the campground.

Fantastic door prizes provided by Aerostitch RiderWearhouse, Happy Trails, Dennis Kirk and more!

for the Saturday cookout - donations for the meal will be expected. All riders must get a Jackson County Trail sticker at the Arrowhead Lodge (follow the orange moose) or nearby gas stations.

What is it?

- Guided Street and Trail Tour, Trail-ride Extravaganza, Offroad riding clinic, Enduraid cookout.
- Enduraid is a motorcycle rally designed for dual purpose motorcycle riders. You'll see Transalps, GSs, XTs, DRs, KLRs, and everything in-between.

Where is it?

- Crawford Hills Motorcycle Park, 14 miles east of I94 and Black River Falls WI on Hwy 54. 100 miles of state

For more information:

- Web site: www.geocities.com/enduraidrally
- Enduraid Co-Organizers:
 - Jay Riggs, St Paul MN (651)698-7937, transalper@yahoo.com
 - Jon Riggs, Eau Claire WI (715)834-5499 jriggs@spectrumfurniture.com

This is an unsanctioned, informal gathering. There is no registration form or fee, however please RSVP so we know how much food to prepare

For Sale:

1997 BMW R850R. 22,700 miles. Mystic Red. National Cycle Plexi windshield. Heated grips. BMW saddle bags with Kathy's Cordura bag liners. Transmission replaced under warranty last year. New tires last season. BMW throttle lock. Possibly throw in Technics tank bag. \$6,000. Contact J.T. Wagner at (608) 222-3758.

Member Profile: Roland Thompson

When/how did you become interested in riding motorcycles? My father bought me a bike to ride around the farm I grew up on. It also was basic transportation. I was 12 or 13 at the time. Except when in college, I've had a bike around ever since.

How long have you been a member of this motorcycle club? About 1 1/2 years. I've been going to BMW rallies for maybe 5-6 years.

What is/was your first motorcycle? A blue 1966 Yamaha 80cc

What is/was your favorite motorcycle? My R1100RS, a close 2nd is a Honda VFR I just sold.

What is your current motorcycle? '96 R1100RS and a '94 Concours

What kind of riding do you prefer (e.g. long distance touring, dirt roads, day trips)? Touring for sure. Day runs and weekend camping getaways are great too. This area has so much to offer.

Briefly describe your most memorable experience(s) on a motorcycle (good and/or bad): In about 1984 a buddy (who I



still occasionally ride with) and I took a 17 day ride from Minneapolis to the Oregon coast. Then we headed down the Pacific Coast Highway to Big Sur, CA. We visited San Francisco, Laguna Seca, Monterrey, Rocky Mtn National Park. It was fantastic. Bad experience? Well, I crashed once.

What do (or did) you do to support your motorcycle habit (e.g. occupation)? I'm a sales rep for New Holland Credit. It's a financial services company serving the farm and heavy construction equipment business.

What are some of your other interests/activities unrelated to

motorcycles (hobbies, volunteer activities, etc)? I like to cook, collect, study and drink wines (mostly drink), putter around in the garage. Occasional hacker golfer.

Other information you'd like to share with fellow club members (family info, favorite foods, pet peeves, etc.): Still single (nobody will put up with me). I'm a transplanted Minnesotan, so still like the Vikings, but am warming up to the Badgers. I detest left lane blockers on the freeway.



**Belle City Beemers 20/20 Riders
Invite you to Picnic in the Park!**
Saturday, June 30, 2001
3725 Nicholson Rd., Franksville, Wis.
(Unico Inc. Backyard, I-94 south exit Hwy. K east, follow the BMW signs)

• Beer • Food • Music • Campfire
Camping around this beautiful pond!
If you missed the party last year, don't miss it this year!!
(Camping is encouraged • Donations appreciated)

The background of the flyer shows a scenic view of a pond with a waterfall on the left and a fountain in the center, surrounded by greenery and trees under a cloudy sky.