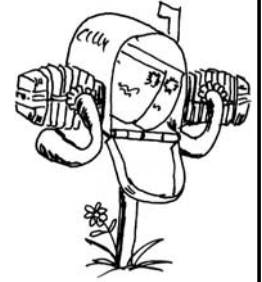


The Mail Boxer

July 2003

BMW MOA #7



The Prez says...

by Steve Huber

Why is it that at the start of a trip, usually a long one where you'll be away from the crib for a week or so, small noises that you'd normally ignore or hadn't even registered on your consciousness suddenly take on enormous significance?

It could be that I'm naturally paranoid (well, ok I am but ignore that), however, suddenly I begin hearing things that I attribute to imminent collapse. The clickety-clackety mechanical song that seemed so benign along the local roads now drowns everything else out.

After much thought, after all there's not much else to do along I-39, I've decided the reason for this is not spending enough time riding. That must be it: too much time spent in the office, or using the car to run errands. I need to get back out and put in some quality miles, re-associate myself with the mechanical cacophony of valves, tires, and the muffled sounds of cylinders firing.

Ok, that does it. I'm heading out for a trip. Maybe I'll see some of you in Paonia, maybe elsewhere down the road. Now, if only I could figure out where that ticking noise is coming from.

Club Stuff:

- There won't be a July meeting. Members attending the MOA national are trying to arrange a meeting there. Check TVH's space for any updates.
- The web site needs some new event photos. Those of you with spiffy digital cameras (and have photos of club rides and events) send them in to the webmaster (i.e. yours truly).
- Thanks to the Club for helping support the Atwood Community Center Pantrython. A total of \$30,202 was raised; \$15,202 from pledges and bids and \$15,000 in matching funds from Oscar Mayer.
- The club e-mail listserv needs a new caretaker. C'mon folks, step up and help out Matt. The duties are light, no heavy lifting required. Contact Matt B. for details.

I'm headed out to the garage to swat mosquitoes and change the oil, there's a road trip coming up where I can check out what new noises the RT is making. Have a safe and high-mileage July, see y'all in August!

Upcoming Events

7/10-7/13: BMW National Rally, Charleston, WV

8/8-10: New Vienna, IA ride
Leaving 4:30 pm Friday from Speedway on corner of Hwy 151 and Raymond Rd for steak dinner, camping and Perseides meteor shower. Field of Dreams or Amana Colonies possible on Saturday. Brunch at Timmerman's overlooking the Mississippi and return home on Sunday. Contact Ed Burington for more information.

8/22-24: Galena Campout. Palace Campground, Galena, IL. Make reservations with the campground, (815)777-2466.

8/22-25: Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Friday ride through Upper Peninsula Michigan to Canada. Saturday take the Agawa Canyon train tour. Sunday visit Mackinac Island and stop in Manistique, MI for the evening. Monday return to Madison. Contact Ed Burington for more information.

9/5-7: 33rd Annual Wisconsin Dells Rally at Chula Vista Resort. Contact Sue Rihn-Manke at (262)495-4163.

9/7: Ironman Wisconsin needs 60 motorcycles for support. Staging at Monona Terrace in downtown Madison. Contact Tom Wiesen for more info.

9/27: Dual-sport Ride in Wabeno, WI. For more information contact the Madison Motorcycle Club.

9/28: Dyersville, IA. A Sunday morning ride to Timmerman's, East Dubuque, IL for brunch. Continue to Dyersville for a Field of Dreams visit. Back home the same day. Contact Ed Burington for more information.

11/8: Club banquet at JT Whitney's. More information to come...

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V.P.'s Report *by Tom Van Horn*

Unlike previous years, the June picnic at Festge Park had fine weather, fine food (thank to Lums), and a fine fee (like, y'know, free?). We did okay \$\$ on the rally and elected to pass the savings on to you! Also on the okay \$\$ front, we voted to give funds to the Atwood Pantrython (which food pantry we also support in the fall—watch this space near banquet time), *and* to the BMWMOA National rally charity. The club has done well—we are fortunate. Many of us believe that what goes around, comes around...

There are a few new machines in the crowd—Roger K. traded the ex-J.T. R850R for an F650GS. I had the fortune to drive a new Ural 750 Patrol sidecar rig (select 2-wheel drive) at GR/3; John O. was so fascinated that he bought one! I'll bet that there are a few other new toys out there...

Some folks passed (pun coming) on the picnic—Todd E., Phil, and Derek at least were at Blackhawk farms race course instead, for Todds racing debut, aboard his R11GS(!). Don't know if he passed more that got passed, but the first step is the hardest—good on you, Todd!

On June 8th I taught an Experienced RiderCourse range—among the Harley riders was one Interceptor and our own Jim Low and Boyd W., whom I'm gratified (but not surprised) to say did very well.

I gather that some of you are going to the National rally in West VA; I also hear that some are taking the Top O' The Rockies in CO. In any case, as I said last issue, we voted to not have a July meeting. However, for those going to the National—those who just can't do without fellow members' sparkling company for two months—Madison Club members who want to meet at Charleston can do so.

I've reserved space for a group at ALLIE'S AMERICAN GRILL—this is in the Marriott Town Center hotel, right across from the civic center rally site(hotel's at 200 Lee St. East). We talked at the picnic, and decided to meet on Friday morning. I've got us down for 7:30am. I don't know how spendy or fancy the place is, but they were quite amenable to our meeting. If you're sure you can make it, let me know—If you're not sure, come anyway!

Barb's birthday was June 13th, and we went up to the Trempeleau area and biked around (i.e., those bikes that someone forgot to install an engine in!) the state trails. I hadn't pedaled my venerable Schwinn for awhile—seemed down on power... We popped in to the neat, restored old Trempeleau Hotel on Friday and met Lloyd McCabe and a pal having lunch—Beemer jocks, everywhere ya look (actually, Harley's were everywhere—I noted signs for a "Dorsai M/C" in one place—as a sci-fi reader, I found this interesting)...

A couple days after I write this, I'm heading up to the United Sidecar National rally in the LaCrosse area (June 19–22) small by national standards, but still a good time.

Next McFarland meeting is August 3rd - see you(and your rally stories?) there!

TVH

The Great Chicken Rally (a.k.a. Rocket City Rally)

By Mary Klopp



All the chicken you can eat! Twisty roads to ride! Friends to meet and re-unite with! Prizes to win! Music to listen to! Beverages to imbibe!

Steve has been to this rally before and left the following message on our answering machine 2 years ago: "You guys are missing a great rally - all the chicken you can eat - 24 hrs a day. If you get on your motorcycles now, you can get here in 13 hours. I'll save some chicken for you!" Well that pretty much put the Chicken Rally on our list of must-do rallies.

At 1:30 pm on Thursday afternoon, May 22nd, we (Steve Huber and Roger and Mary Klopp) departed for the South with visions of barbeque chicken dancing in our heads. After crawling along for the first 50 miles of construction around Janesville and Beloit, we started to make pretty good time, arriving in Salem IL around 9:00 pm for the night.

The next morning, we got up at half past the "crap of dawn" (I think that was Huber's term) to arrive at Ditto Landing Alabama around 1:30 pm on Friday. Registration was a breeze. They had a packet for each person which included all of the information about the rally - info sheet, door prize tickets, pin (actually a nice-looking pin - if you like that kind of thing), chicken key ring (way cool!), and last but not least - a garbage bag. I think our GR3 registration process should borrow from this idea. No confusion at all. The rally fee was handled by another person. They sold raffle tickets for a brand new R1150R. Since there were only about 550+ people at this rally because of the floods, we all thought the odds were pretty good and each bought a \$5 ticket.

After registration, we scouted the premises for dry land to camp on. Skeeter from MN greeted us as we surveyed the place. We were told that the entire place had been 6' under water 10 days earlier due to flooding. Steve found a dry spot in the glen (or as Roger liked to call it "Camp Swampy"). Roger and I looked around for higher ground and found some next to the marina warehouse - not quite as scenic as the glen, but definitely higher. Both were within easy walking distance of the flush toilets (something I always look for in a prime camping spot).

Within an hour or two, in ride Tom and Rita Hassall from Maryland. Many of you have met the parents of Meredith and Olivia. A few years ago, they received the high mileage awards at our very own GR3. We all set up our Kermit chairs and purchased our beverages of choice before completely settling in for the rest of the day. Vendors were plentiful and we all managed to find something to buy.

Of course, we partook of the chicken as soon as possible. And just as Steve had promised, it was fantastic. The spread included a buffet of grilled chicken with or without BBQ sauce, curly fries right out of the French fryer, cole slaw, roasted/grilled onions, potato salad, baked beans and sometimes cookies! Whenever you wanted! Sometimes they even put out hot wings.

Although a pancake and sausage breakfast is included in the rally fee, on Saturday morning we decided to find a café that served eggs as well (guess we wanted some pre-chicken). We found a great place called "Irene's Café" that served a complete breakfast buffet for \$4.99 - including coffee. Then we rode over to Scottsboro to see this "Unclaimed Baggage" mecca that Skeeter kept telling us about. Has anyone lost their luggage while traveling the friendly skies? Well this is where it ends up. Lots of deals to be found.

On the way back to Ditto Landing, we kinda got lost, but it turned out great because we found some lovely twisty roads. We'd "super slabbed" it on the way down, so were a bit needy for twisties. In our wanderings we rode along a huge scenic reservoir near Guntersville. The road numbers on the maps don't really match the actual roads, but eventually we found our way "back home".

The band on Friday night was a blues band. They sounded pretty darned good until I was ready to go to sleep and then I was hoping they'd quit. Saturday night's band was bluegrass music and they quit around 10:30, which worked out well for those of us who had many miles to ride on Sunday.

We packed up and left Ditto Landing at 6:00 am on Sunday morning. Except for about 3+/- hours of rain, and dropping temperatures, the ride was uneventful. We arrived home around 7:00 pm and had time to read the mail and newspapers before hitting the pillow. Because Monday was a holiday, we could sleep in - and we did.

If a person has a hard time with a 775 mile day, you can do it in 2 fairly easy days, like we did on the way to Alabama. You can take interstate highways all the way to Hunstville and except for that miserable 250 mile stretch in Illinois, the interstate is quite scenic. Of course, if you have time, I'm sure there are other more interesting routes to take as well.

Anyway, this may become one of our regular rallies to attend. Check with us next year if you're interested. "All the chicken you can eat!"

Secretary's Report

by J.T. Wagner

About 40 people showed up for the picnic. Some of us returning from the Hiawatha rally. Club business dealt with voting to donate \$200.00 for the charity at the BMW national rally, and to donate \$200.00 to the Atwood community center in Madison.

There will be an impromptu breakfast and meeting at the national for club members at the national in Charleston. TVH will try to arrange that, more info to follow. There will be no official club meeting for July in part because of the Fourth of July holiday and the national rally.

Classifieds

For Sale: Honda Express moped. 1978, orange. Footrests, not pedals! Milk crate and wind screen incl. \$350, let's talk. Barb at 238-5181 after 6pm.

For Sale: 2002 black R1150R, 2,300 miles, bmw bags, bmw touring windshield, throttle meister. \$8250. Contact Jeff Dargis at (608)873-6190 after 6 PM or leave message.

For Sale: 2003 black R1150R, 2,200 miles, bmw bags, bmw touring windshield, throttle meister. \$8750 Contact Jeff Dargis at (608)873-6190 after 6 PM or leave message.

2003 BMW Flea Market, Peconica IL



How many eggs does it take to soak up vast quantities of alcohol?



Why does your brain hurt, Todd?



Old Beemer pulls trailer and cannon!



When pulling a cannon you can get away with making Illinois jokes.

Memphis In May

By Ed Burington

The Memphis ride went well. Joining me on the ride were Karen Krukenberg, Jim Low, Jack Whalen and Libby Hofsteen. This was Libby's first multi-day ride and she earned commendations from all for her stamina and good cheer.

Memphis, at about 600 miles south of Madison, is well into summer by the end of May. It is not unusual to encounter very warm, even muggy conditions around Memorial Day. This year the conditions were near perfect. The week before Memorial Day is a big week in Memphis. They have a riverfront blues festival and the W.C. Handy Awards leading up to Memorial Day weekend. With all of the talent in town, I was impressed to see two of the acts had Wisconsin ties. Highlights in Memphis included ribs at the Rendezvous, corn meal breaded catfish at the Blues City Café, ducks and drinks at the Peabody, street performers working their hearts out for tips, trolley car rides past the river, BB Kings club and life on Beale Street, Memphis.

While in Memphis we stayed in the Holiday Inn Select at the airport. The hotel was nice and the rate was great but early Sunday morning, the fire alarm went off 3 times! We didn't get much sleep that morning. Later on Sunday morning, I had the weather channel on while we were packing to come back from Memphis. As the announcer was giving the overview of the national weather picture she said, "...and the best place in the nation to be today is Madison, Wisconsin". A rare beauty of a Memorial Day was had throughout the upper Midwest this year.

We rode the concrete slab (HWY 55) down, so when discussion turned to our route home we decided on a northwest course out of Memphis to Thayer, MO. On Highway 63. In Thayer we picked up highway 19 through the Ozarks. What a fun twisty road! The pavement was in very good shape (must have something to do with fewer frost heaves). Part of the highway goes through the Mark Twain National Forest. The trees were large and close to the road so for many miles the road was in a leafy canopy. I give Highway 19 from Interstate 44 to the Arkansas line a strong ride recommendation. We met a lot of riders from Wisconsin along the way. Some were coming back from the Memphis area and a few were taking the scenic route home from the Rocket City Rally in Alabama. We made a longer stop (about 3 hours) in Hannibal, MO on our way back and took in a little of the Mark Twain history and legend.



5

Drinking Rules *By P.J. Francis*

Well, here I am nearing the end of Lent and still refraining from the consumption of alcoholic beverages. I am not finding it a particularly difficult thing to do which may tell me I am not an alcoholic. No dependence—yet. The old liver still works.

On the other hand, I am not deriving any pleasure from the experience. It seems to be a somewhat pointless exercise. It reminds me of the guy who beat his head against a wall for the pleasure he got when he stopped.

I have used this time of temperance to devise a list of drinking rules.

Rule 1: Never drink and drive/ride. Seems obvious but many continue to do so judging by the large number of alcohol related accidents. Nobody should have to die because another person was operating a motor vehicle while under the influence.

Rule 2: Be careful of who you drink with. There are shrewd people who have the ability to fake companionship, joviality and even intoxication when they are really attempting to fool/trick/manipulate/coerce/interrogate. Beware of the false sense of security alcohol bestows on the consumer. I knew a man, who has long since gone to meet his maker, who signed over his small farm while being generously treated by his “friends”. My paternal grandfather was known to treat hangers-on to endless drinks after selling cattle at a fair much to the dismay of my father. I have made deals and agreed to arrangements I would NOT have done while sober. It is not necessarily the state of intoxication that gets you. It is the sense of friendship, conviviality and trust.

Rule 3: Never make romantic overtures to a member of the opposite sex while under the influence. (Editor inserts—romantic overtures to members of the same sex may not be a good idea either.) Alcohol has the same effect as wearing rose-tinted glasses. A person that one would normally not find attractive can become a ravishing beauty/sculptured hulk when viewed through an alcohol induced glaze. Hey, I heard of a single guy who woke up married after a night on the town.

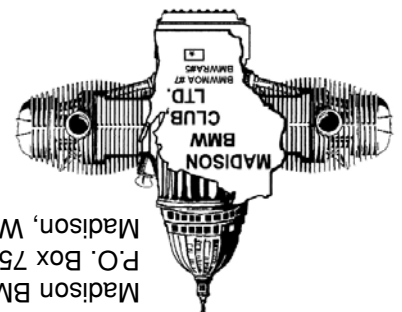
Rule 4: Never ride with a designated driver who “only drinks a few” or “knows his/her limit”. Their definition of “a few” varies with circumstances. A real designated driver drinks pop.

Rule 5: Pay homage to one’s own health. Beer is now good for one they tell us on the “Health & Fitness” segment of the TV news. Great. We knew that, right? Wait a minute. It is only the benefit to health when consumption is confined to one or two bottles/cans/glasses per day. Hardly seems worth the effort, does it?

Experts tell us that wine, in moderation, can enhance health. At the last count moderation meant up to 5 glasses per day. Wine glasses not large beer tumblers. A glass or two of wine definitely compliments a meal. Let us switch some of our 30-packs to a bottle or two of wine.

The rural residents of the Mediterranean region of Europe, who consume copious quantities of wine, have one of the lowest rates of heart disease in the developed world. They are also known for living to a ripe old age. I am not suggesting that we drink wine in place of other beverages but the facts cannot be ignored. The country folk of the Mediterranean benefit from low stress, absence of fast food, agreeable climate and active lifestyles. Their penchant for olive oil also contributes to their good health.

So there they are. My 5 drinking rules. I felt 5 should be enough for this year. Watch this space for more in 2004.



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