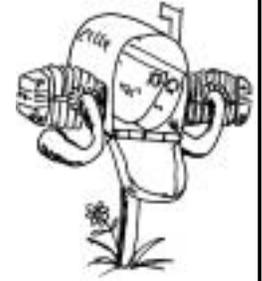


The Mail Boxer

October 2003

BMW MOA #7



The Prez says...

by Steve Huber

One problem I have with October is there's still time for at least one more road trip, however the last set of tires is getting down there, tread depth-wise. Being a cheap wanker I really hate to shell out the bucks for a new set for just one trip, but I also don't like to push my luck too far on questionable tires. It's a sick feeling to be 400 miles from home and see those tire carcass threads showing through.

I much prefer to have a new set of shoes put on over the winter, at my convenience, so I can start out the new riding season on good tread. Oh, the feeling of a new season with round tires. Makes you want to sing inside your helmet. Or something like that.

And while I'm on Fall-ish subjects, don't forget to watch out for those leaves on the roads. What with that wet stuff that's been falling from the sky recently, wet leaves can be slicker than the proverbial slimy stuff on a doorknob.

And speaking of slime, Oct 5 is the Slimy Crud Run. Whether or not you care to rise your hide sharing the road (and curves) with the go-fast group, swing on

out and get a glimpse of some great two-wheeled conveyances. My favorites are the single-cylinder Guzzi bologna-slicers.

Club Stuff:

- Banquet is November 8, J.T. Whitney's Brew Pub. Details and RSVP should be somewhere in this newsletter. Please, fill it in and return ASAP so we can get a head count.
- Along with the banquet is the Cherished But Insignificant Awards. Fill out the form and get your nominations in to TVH.
- And oh yeah, club elections are coming up.
- November is the Atwood Community Center's annual T-Day food drive. In the past the club has donated \$200 to help them out.

Well, I'm heading to the garage to check the tire pressure and tread depth. That and dig out my Visa for a new set. See y'all at the October b'fast.

Upcoming Events

10/5: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

10/18: Octoberfest at Beemer Hill

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

12/7: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

1/1/04: Madison Motorcycle Club New Year's Day Ride. For more information call John Troya at 271-0582.

Madison BMW Club
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(608) 441-8839

Mailboxer by E-mail!

Get your Mailboxer earlier than you would via snail mail!

Willing and able members can get their newsletter via e-mail.

The newsletter will come as a PDF attachment that you can view on screen or print out. If you are interested please contact

Derek Engelen at (608)588-7543.

Treasurer's Report

by John Ong

GR3 Estimated Income: \$4,980
Known Expenses: \$4,917
Estimated Profit: \$63

We generally break even on this rally.

Club Picnic: Attended by 38. Lunch ordered for 45, so everyone had plenty. The club picked up the tab.

Membership: It looks like we'll again end the year at 98, as we did last year.

Dues: Are for a calendar year. (January-December) Dues are \$20 for new and former members. Associate member fees are \$5. Do NOT pay 2004 membership dues at

the club banquet. Please at a breakfast or mail them in.

Donations:

Atwood Community
Center Pantryathon: \$200.
BMW MOA
National Rally Charity: \$200.

September Breakfast: We had 22 who ate and 6 who came to watch. About a half dozen rode in on their bikes in the rain. No October free breakfast or 50/50 drawing. Possibility of renting a post office box in McFarland, Oregon, or Monona—at less cost than we had been paying at Madison.



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V.P.'s Report by Tom Van Horn

October Stuff...

If you passed on the Dells Rally, you missed a frabjous good time—the weather was grand, the beer was fine, and the scene and fellowship were wunderbar as usual. Maybe it was just me, but I thought that the camping area was a bit tidier than last year...

I'm told that the Saturday meal was good again; I couldn't say, as I left earlier—I needed a better-than-tents-worth of sleep. Sunday early, I, Bert, Boyd, Steve, Tom. S., Dick O., Jack W., Todd H. (& Betty, later), and a bunch of others joined Tom Weisen at the Monona Terrace for our second try at being useful during the Ironman Triathlon. Hey, they keep telling us we are... The temps jumped more than expected, into the 90s by afternoon—I was dying in my lid and gear, and can only imagine what the competitors were going through (imagining made easier after watching the womens leader, Desiree Ficker, keel over face-first during the run and be removed by ambulance.).

The usual Neat Stuff attended, such as blasting through roadblocks and stop signs, down sidewalks and State St, and this year running down the UW lakeshore path. A long day, but fun.

The next meeting is October 5th, and please remember two things: One, for club 'MOA members, bring your finishing mileage forms (from the Oct BMW/ON) to the meeting, so an officer can sign them. I should have some extras with me. So see me even if you don't have yours. Two, Oct 5th is the fall Slimey Cruds' Cafe Racer Run, gatherings in Pine Bluff and Leland. These are always good bike- and people-watching venues.

Also, in this issue should be your club mileage-and-experience form—these are grist for the banquet awards mill. Please try to get them to me by, say, the 27th or 28th of the month.

Twelfth Annual OKTOBERFEST ON BEEMER HILL

Saturday ~ October 18, 2003

Beer starts at 3 PM - Food Starts at 5:00 (til Gone)



Featuring
The Annual Oktoberfest
Bonfire!

Lots of Good
German Food!



Lots of Good
German Beer!



Lots of Good
German Bikes!



*Sue Says,
"Bring your tents or RV's
& plan on camping...
Electric Blankets &
extension cords
welcome too!"*

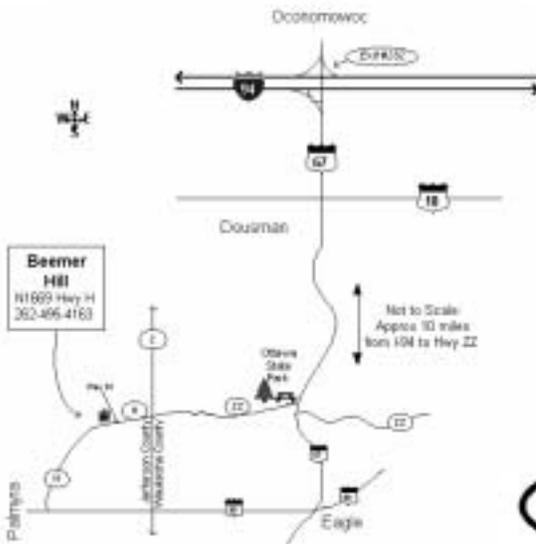


Hosted by
Brian & Sue Manke

~ ~ ~

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www.beemerhill.com



The Bridges of Madison County

By P.J. Francis

My family just spent 4 days in Winterset, Iowa. Yes, the same number of days Robert Kincaid and Francesca Johnson had together. But what days.

We dined at the Northside Cafe in which the diner scene from *The Bridges of Madison County* was shot in 1994. Autographed photographs of Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep adorn the wall. There are photos of John Wayne who hailed from Winterset. Oprah Winfrey visited once also.

We visited the famous Roseman Bridge in the afternoon. It was built in 1883 by Benton Jones and is 107 feet in length. It was renovated in 1992 at a cost of \$152,515.

There is a gift shop there now. Robert Kincaid would not have had to stop and ask Francesca for directions these days as the dusty gravel roads are well sign-posted. He would have just driven on by in his Chevrolet pick-up truck and the affair would never have happened. Robert James Waller would not have written a best-seller that got translated into 50 languages and there would have been no movie. Unthinkable.

The bridges were covered by order of the County Board of Supervisors to help preserve the large flooring timbers, which were more expensive to replace than the lumber used to cover the bridge side and roof. Of the original 19 covered bridges in Madison County only 5 remain. Cedar Bridge was burned down in the recent past. The perpetrator of this heinous crime has not been caught.

Holliwell is the longest of the bridges at 122 feet and was built in 1880 by Benton Jones. It was renovated in 1995 for \$225,000.

Roseman, Holliwell, and Cedar were featured in *The Bridges of Madison County*. Hogback, which is mentioned in the movie, was built in 1884 by Benton Jones and is 97 feet in length. It was renovated in 1992 at a cost of \$118,810.

Imes and Cutler-Donahoe have been moved from their original locations. The Cutler-Donahoe, built in 1870 by Eli Cox and 79 feet in length, was moved to its present site in Winterset's City Park in 1970. Imes is the oldest bridge having been built in 187. It is 81 feet in length and is now located in the small village of St. Charles.

Francesca's house in the movie is actually 20 miles from Roseman Bridge rather than the brisk two mile walking distance in the story. It took Warner Brothers some considerable



time to locate a suitable farmhouse. It was closed when we got there being after 5pm. The gravel road by the house is as the movie. We could almost see Robert Kincaid driving away in Harry as Francesca waved forlornly from the porch.

The roads to the bridges were extremely dusty in August. Vehicles left a cloud in their wake. Our Ford Escort required a good hosing down on its return to Machesney Park.

Winterset is a prosperous town of approximately 4,500 people. It was established in 1849 and almost got called Somerset. But Bill Combs, who is said to have been under the influence of "sod corn" at the time, suggested Winterset would be a better choice. It is believed to be the only town in the world bearing that name.

Our four days in Madison County flew by, as did the time Kincaid and Francesca had together. We would have loved Winterset and the surrounding countryside even if R.J. Waller had never written the book. But we may never have gone there. Like many people we believed South Central Iowa to be flat and boring. Not so. There are rolling hills, trees and rivers.

The countryside must look wonderful in the fall during the Covered Bridges Festival. Another visit may be in order then. Winterset is, after all, a mere six hours from our home on the interstate highway.

For more information about the bridges, contact the Madison County Chamber of Commerce at (515)462-1185.

Club Banquet at JT Whitney's

Please fill out and send this banquet registration form and your check to John Ong at 4725 Nora Lane, Madison, WI 53711 by October 28th. Hope to see you there!

Name of attendant _____

Dinner Selection (please circle) Rosemary Chicken Petit Filet Vegetarian Lasagna Beef Lasagna

Name of attendant _____

Dinner Selection (please circle) Rosemary Chicken Petit Filet Vegetarian Lasagna Beef Lasagna

Name of attendant _____

Dinner Selection (please circle) Rosemary Chicken Petit Filet Vegetarian Lasagna Beef Lasagna

Name of attendant _____

Dinner Selection (please circle) Rosemary Chicken Petit Filet Vegetarian Lasagna Beef Lasagna

Amount enclosed (\$10 per person) _____

Madison BMW Club

Cherished-but-Totally-Insignificant Awards Form

Members!! Please fill out all the blanks below and send this form to Tom Van Horn at: 302 Glen Hwy., Madison, WI 53705 by October 31. Estimate your BMW miles ridden between January 1st and October 28, 2003. (to the nearest 100 miles) You may use this form for more than one rider but please separated with different ink colors or a slash (/) mark.

Name _____ For 2003, Your Total BMW miles ridden _____

Divide your Totals into: Commuting Miles _____ Sport or Day ride miles: _____ Touring Miles _____

My Co-rider _____ was along for _____ miles.

My/our longest trip was _____ miles over _____ days.

Most miles in one day _____; two days _____

Number of nights in a tent: _____; in a motel _____

Number of states/provinces ridden in _____

Miles in the rain _____

Number of rallies attended (not club rides) _____

How many GR3 rallies total _____

Sidecar miles _____ Trailer miles (motorcycle on trailer does not count) _____

Estimate your total overall mileage on every BMW you have had _____

How many years riding _____

Share any unusual or memorable incidents you have had this year. _____

Who should this year's shafty character be? _____

Who should get special mention for service to the club and why? _____

Hard to be Humble 2003

by Betty Bruun

At the last minute Todd and I decided to go to the Hard to Be Humble in Pontiac Illinois. Having previously been to this rally (although I barely remember it) I knew that this was not a riding rally—unless you like straight roads lined with road kill and corn fields. We planned on hanging out at the rally site cooking breakfast burritos and participating in the field events.

The club members in attendance included Bert, Tanya, Roland, Gian (Roland's roommate), Todd, and myself. This year's theme was M.A.S.H. The Dinky Dozen put together a great rally, complete with costumed characters, the M.A.S.H movie showing, an authentic loudspeaker, and a machine gun, side car rig shooting blanks loudly throughout the weekend.

Bert, Tanya, Todd and I spent most of the day on Friday getting to the rally via the scenic route (with plenty of stops for ice cream—ride to eat ya know) in unbearably hot 90+ degree weather. Once there we easily located Roland and Gian and pitched our tent near theirs right between the registration and food buildings. We then proceeded to drink too much wine and eat jalapeno pistachios; the shells of which we pitched into Tanya's tent. (We thought this a funny joke, but the jalapeno seasonings did a pretty good job of keeping the bugs away.)

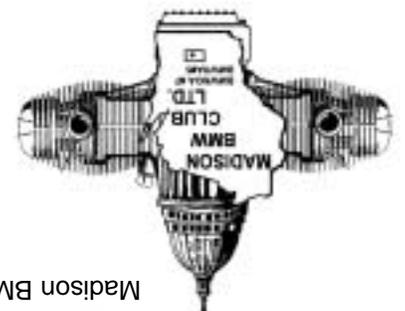
Saturday morning Todd Herbst and Tanya worked diligently to make us breakfast burritos while I procured bloody mary's and mimosas from a booze totin' tractor. A very brief sprinkling of rain promised us some relief from the heat. only to have the unrelenting sun push away the clouds and the temperature again reach well into the 90's.

In search of some relief from the heat we found Bob Orr's air-conditioned pick-up truck which he let us borrow to go to town. We went to Kmart and purchased a too little swimming suit for me, a baby pool, several super-soakers and a motocross slip-slide. Back at the rally we began to set up the goods and a crowd began to draw—mumbling “What the hell?”

We mixed drinks and climbed into the kiddie pool. We mixed drinks and soaked any passers-by with the super soakers. The guys even challenged the kids—who started coming from miles around—on the motocross slip-slide. Note, that there are no pictures included, if you wanted to see this I guess you should have been there!

In the afternoon, the field events were well attended. Tanya and I chickened out of taking on passengers for the weenie bite contest. But the few club members in attendance did muster up enough courage to enter the club event. This event consisted of 4 blind-folded club members carrying the highest ranking club officer (not blind-folded and giving directions) on a stretcher through an obstacle course. It was ascertained that the newsletter editor out-ranks the rally czar only because no one wanted to lift Bert! Our friends from the Iowa club volunteered our team to go first. We thought we did pretty good, navigating the course in just over 1 minute. But following teams learned from our mistakes and we finished last.

All in all it was a great rally. And it is just too bad that all of you missed seeing the 5 of us in bathing suits!



Madison BMW Club, Ltd.